

NPSEN-PL-RP

3 June 1979

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Skagit County Commissioners and Residents of the Sterling and Samish River Areas

1. The subject meeting was held at 3:30 p.m. on 25 June at the Skagit County Administration Building. The following persons were in attendance:

Forrest Brooks	Regional Planning Section, Study Manager
Don Soderlind	Regional Planning Section
Don Nelson	Skagit County Flood Control Coordinator
Bud Norris	Skagit County Commissioner, Chairman
Howard Miller	Skagit County Commissioner
Jerry Mansfield	Skagit County Commissioner

About 40 residents and property owners of Sterling and Samish Basin areas.

2. The meeting began with a presentation by Forrest Brooks summarizing the modified design and ramifications of the proposed alternative 3e as it relates to primarily the Sterling area and the Samish River Basin. The primary modifications to alternative 3e affecting these areas are the deletion of the weir, the addition of two erosion control sills, and the addition of a levee along District Line Road.

3. Following Brooks' presentation, the subsequent discussions and questions centered on several main topics:

a. Many residents from in or near the overflow channels near Sterling Hill questioned the need for erosion control sills, the logic underlying the need to have overflow of floodwater into the Samish in greater than a 50-year flood, and the change caused by the downstream project levees on the severity of flooding in the Sterling area and the Samish Basin.

Brooks stated that the erosion control sills were necessary to avoid a possible channel change from the Skagit Channel into the Samish Basin during a very large flood. The Samish Basin would receive 50-year flood protection under the with-project condition, a slight

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improvement over the existing condition, and slightly less flooding for floods of greater than 50-year magnitude. Brooks stated that the reason for designing only 50 year-protection for the Samish was to maintain consistency with the remaining agricultural land in the delta which generally would be provided 50-year protection by the project. The improvements in the overflow area near Sterling Hill would probably have to be relocated or raised. Also discussed were the planned nonstructural measures which should minimize impact on those property owners not protected by the project.

b. Several residents of the Sterling and Samish Basin areas requested that they be informed of either the exact locations and dimensions of the structural components of the proposed project and/or be given accurate estimates of the water surface elevations which would result from greater than design flood event.

Brooks stated the current phase I level investigation for the project upstream of Mount Vernon did not necessarily generate information of such detail or accuracy to make as accurate an estimate as these residents were requesting. Rather, this information would be made available during next year's phase II level investigations which are more detailed in scope. However, the Corps could provide the information from the phase I studies to the people. After the meeting, Mr. Don Nelson made a list of persons who wished to be contacted regarding the project effect on their property. He said he would contact and talk to them, and refer to us any who were still not satisfied.

c. The issue of the Sauk containment structure alternative surfaced again with a large proportion of the property owners attending the meeting favoring the alternative. Brooks informed them of the problems involved with pursuing this alternative, including obtaining an exception to the Wild and Scenic Rivers designation to the Skagit River in Congress, economic problems, and environmental problems.

4. Brooks, Soderlind, and Nelson meet with Jack Straatlof, resident of the Clear Lake area, at his residence to discuss the proposed levee alignment as it relates to his property. All those present at the meeting agreed that Straatlof should maintain coordination with

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*Skagit County Public Works Dept,*

Don Nelson, <sup>v</sup>over the next couple of years so that when the levee  
alinements become finalized in phase II level investigations, the  
alinement through Straatlof's property can be more accurately defined.

SODERLIND

cc:

*JB*  
Des Br (Cook)

Brooks/Soderlind

ERS (Northrup)

~~WP, Engrg Div (2703E)~~

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