

MFR 93-2-00504 Skagit County Public Works

Meeting with Dave Brookings (Skagit County Public Works), Ron Malmgren (CENPS-EN-HH-HF), Ann Uhrich (CENPS-OP-RG), Evan Lewis (CENPS-OP-RG).

Date: 8/27/93 0900 hrs.

Floodplain considerations: Excavated material from the Skagit River will be placed on the back side of the levee at two places: a levee adjacent to the RR track and into a borrow pit formed when the original levee was constructed. The fill would allow these dikes to be monitored better during a flood. Brookings stated that the project meets the current flood plain regulations in Skagit County (will not cause a 1' rise in flood elevation). Malmgren stated that the effects of the fill placement are not calculable in his model. Due to the large floodplain, a very large amount of fill would be needed to result in a 1' rise in flood elevation. Even the existing growth in all of Burlington would not cause a 1' rise because the floodplain is so large. Brookings agreed with letter from Larry Kunzler that cumulative effects of growth need to be looked at but said that this project would have a minimal effect since it is so small.

Purpose: Legal counsel will not allow Brookings to address Nookachamps plaintiffs, only project specific information. Purpose of the project is not to save the Nookachamps but to remove the restriction caused by the sand bar and improve flow under the RR bridge. Currently, during a flood, debris gets caught on the bridge and adds to the restriction. Project will take material from the floodway and place it in the floodplain. The project will help in all situations smaller than a 30 year event. Once that is exceeded, the levee system would start to fail.

Public Hearing: There have been public hearings before the Shorelines Hearing Board and County Commissioner (funding approval). Additionally, there was a SEPA review and a 30 day review for the Department of Ecology.

Downstream effects: There is no calculable effect on downstream velocities as a result of the excavation. Brookings and Malmgren feel that there would be no negative effects on downstream levees.

Methods: The model used to evaluate the rise in flood elevations and changes in downstream velocities is in the "reconnaissance" stage. It is the best available at this time. A more detailed model is being planned by Noel Gilbrough of the Corps for the future.

Evan Lewis 8/30/93