

THE COURIER-TIMES

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Progress Reported on Plan To Stop Erosion on Skagit

Up river erosion control progress was reported, a study of the dike and drainage district problems was instituted, and a rather complete summary of the 35 years of change on the Skagit river was reported by Captain Forest Elwell, at the first meeting of the County Planning Commissions' new committee on the Skagit river and water resources, held in the Mount Vernon Junior college last Monday evening, September 27.

Frank Muceus, soil conservation service engineer, reported that the necessary engineering was progressing satisfactorily and County Engineer H. Walberg reported that the county was now making minor repairs on their pile driver preparatory to going to work and was searching for piling.

A detailed study of the dike and drainage district problems was undertaken with R. V. Welts volunteering to handle the interviews with all the officials of the dike and drainage districts and to se-

cure from them maps of the engineering installations within each unit. It is hoped that coordination and eventual strengthening and unifying of the dikes can be had.

Captain Forest Elwell, long time Skagit river pilot, outlined 35 years of change on the river from Marblemount to the mouth. The gradual elimination of more than a dozen ox-bows including the big Sorenson bend and Sterling bend has reduced the rivers length by 25 miles, Captain Elwell estimated. He pointed out that the river has been increased in velocity by the shortening process until increased silt in the lower reaches of the river is steadily reducing the rivers capacity between already restricted dikes. The present diking system is far from adequate, competent engineers have stated. In Captain Elwell's opinion the Avon cut-off will relieve the flood problem on the flats but he raised the question, "For how long?"