

THE COURIER-TIMES

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Skagit Flood Control Work Starts Soon

County Gives \$5,000.00 Warning System Is Being Prepared

With engineering studies nearing completion, piling purchased, and a \$5,000 appropriation from the county commissioners, flood control work in the Utopia area will be started soon, according to a report made by County Engineer Walberg at the meeting of the water resource committee of the Skagit County Planning Commission held in Mount Vernon on Monday night.

Captain Forest Elwell of the Parker Tugboat company, reported that he had dynamited a log jam on the Wolfe place which should release the erosion both above and below the jam. Frank Muceus, engineer for the Soil Conservation Service, reported that their ground water men had started a cooperative program with a Skagit county well driller, A. Moody, who in fu-

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FLOOD CONTROL IS MAKING PROGRESS

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ture will log conditions and collect samples of soil as he puts down new wells. Moody plans to put down 10 to 12 this year.

Plans for the flood warning system which the U. S. weather bureau, Seattle, has offered to set up were described and the committee learned that no local expense will be involved. The committee's job will be to find cooperative and competent persons in the upper Sauk, Suiattle, Cascade and Baker River areas to report rainfall and river conditions daily during a potential flood period. City Light offices in the Upper Skagit and the Forest Service at Darrington already have offered their support.

A local agency interested and willing to act as the discriminating body when a warning should be made over the Skagit flats that a flood is on its way must be found also, and three have been suggested: county engineer's office, the Soil Conservation Service or the State Department of Forestry with offices in Sedro-Woolley.

Progress made in the study of dike and drainage district problems was reported for Robin Welts, and ground water problems in the county were described by Frank Muceus of the Soil Conservation Service.

He said that their geologist would do little more in this matter since the U. S. Geological Service had appropriated money and is waiting now for local groups to act before a detailed 2 year survey can be started. The committee proposed then that the county planning commission of the P. U. D. reopen negotiations with the U. S. Geological Service regarding ground water study which is badly needed on the Skagit flats. Farmers have experienced much trouble securing domestic and farm-stock water and have been disappointed also in some areas along the bay front in irrigating crops. The survey would take about two years to complete and would cost the county or the P. U. D. or both combined

about \$5,000 with the U. S. Geological Service putting up another \$5,000. If such a survey revealed that ground water was not available at economic depths then the P. U. D. would be justified in developing a water delivery system in some of the farm areas on the flats.

Members of the committee in attendance at the Mount Vernon meeting were: Harold McFarlane, A. H. Ward, Capt. Forest Elwell, Frank Muceus, Grover Duvall, H. Walberg, C. C. Morrison, Millard Splane and John Nordmark.