

Meeting - Avon Bypass

Minutes of the Skagit County Flood Control Council Meeting with the Skagit County Engineers, Skagit County Commissioners and Representatives of the Corps of Engineers.

The meeting was held at Max Dale's Restaurant at 1:30 P.M., July 12, 1962.

Mr. Earl Hanson, President of the Skagit County Flood Control Council, called the meeting to order.

Mr. Frank Gilkey, Skagit County Engineer, introduced Mr. Ray Holmes who is in charge of Planning and Reports, Branch of Engineering Division for the Corps of Engineers in the Seattle District Office.

Mr. Holmes gave a history of the Corps of Engineers, stating the Corps assumed responsibility of flood control by the Flood Control Act of 1936. The Avon Bypass was recommended along with other various projects to Congress in 1937 under this Flood Control Act of 1936. The flood damage study now being made by the Corps of Engineers justified this Bypass with a very good cost benefit ratio.

Mr. Holmes introduced George Hopkins, Chief of Reports Section, who further clarified the operations of the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Hopkins in turn introduced Mr. Ray Skrinde, Project Engineer for the restudy of the Skagit River.

Mr. Skrinde told of the old proposed Avon Bypass with its sixteen hundred foot width and compared it with the new proposed three hundred and forty foot bottom width and its new entrance location upstream from the Great Northern Railroad bridge. The dikes on this new Bypass would have side slopes of three to one and a top width of at least twenty feet. This project would have seven million cubic yards of excavation and would be between seven and eight miles long, from the Skagit River to Padilla Bay, costing a total of about nineteen million dollars.

Annual costs and annual benefits were explained as to their determination. This project shows an annual benefit of over one million dollars.

Other than flood control, uses of the Bypass were discussed such as fish farming, recreation, irrigation, drainage and navigation. It was generally agreed that the grazing rental revenues should cover most of the future maintenance costs.

Mr. Skrinde explained that the Flood Control Law of 1946 gave the Corps of Engineers the authority to construct the two railroad bridges, which were originally part of the local participation.

It was also explained that the bottom elevation of this Bypass would be ten to fifteen feet below the natural ground level. The intake weir would be three hundred and fifty feet long, equipped with controls to regulate the water intake from low water stages to high water stages.

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The downstream weir would also be controllable. This weir would act as a gate to keep the salt water tides out and also an effective device to keep water velocities down to five feet per second at low tides, thus avoiding rock riprap through the Bypass.

Mr. Skrinde explained that the total local participation for right of way and bridges, if all bridges were installed at severed roads, would be three million, nine hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Lloyd Johnson then explained how this participation could be reduced as much as one million dollars, if the County Commissioners should care to postpone or eliminate some of the discussed structures. Mr. Lloyd Johnson also reported that he had asked Mr. Skrinde to consider combining a State bridge with the downstream weir. Mr. Skrinde replied that this proposal had been considered and about one hundred thousand dollars could be saved by such a move.

Mr. Johnson stated that preliminary investigations with the County Assessor showed that a 1-mill assessed against the entire County for twenty years would bring in about one million dollars. The directly benefited area from Sedro Woolley downstream would have to pay 5-mills for twenty years to produce about one million dollars.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Skagit County Diking Districts were leveeing nearly one hundred and fifty thousand dollars annually, Skagit County was leveeing about fifty thousand dollars annually and the State of Washington, Department of Conservation was spending in excess of fifty thousand dollars annually, making a total flood control budget annually of about a quarter of a million dollars. Using a portion of this current levee to pay for the local participation of the Bypass seems very justifiable. Chapter 153 of the Laws of 1961 gives the County the ability to levee a bond issue in any designated flood control zone.

It was discussed how the State might assist with our local participation. The State of Washington paid one million dollars and King County fifty thousand dollars for the local participation on the Howard Hanson Dam in King County.

Mr. Noble Lee, Commissioner for Diking District No. 2, remarked that he liked this project because it would be built soon and would be completed in his lifetime. Mr. George Dynes, Commissioner for Diking District No. 20, felt that the recreation benefits from the Bypass could surpass our participation alone. It was brought forth that a flood of the 1951 magnitude or larger would cause damages of more than twice the amount of our local participation for this project. Many people expressed favor of the project and there was no criticism of this project or the necessary participation required for the project.

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A motion was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to have the President of the Flood Control Council appoint a committee to work with the County Commissioners on this Bypass proposal.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lloyd H. Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer
Skagit County Flood Control Council

LHJ/vy

*Minutes of those attending the meeting
are attached.*

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Carl Hanson	Road 2 MV.	District 17
Ray Skrinde	Seattle District - Seattle, Wash.	Corps of Engngs
Ray Holmes	" "	" "
George Hopkins	" "	Dike 3
Quinn Lundquist	Rt 3 Mt Vernon	" "
Leo B. Johnson	" "	" "
John Petter	Rt 4 Mt Vernon	Dike 20
Leona Richards	Anacortes	Co. Comm.
Wm. M. Dwyer	Mt. Vernon	Dist # 20.
Paul Jensen	" "	" "
Ben Tjerkstrand	Mt. Vernon -	Dike Dist # 1
Walter S. Best	" "	" " # 21
J.P. Kee	" "	" " # 13
Lucille Axelson	Rte 6 Bx 263 Mt. Vernon, Wa	Dike Dist # 13
Mike Lee	Rt 3 Bx 365 Mt. Vernon	Dike Dist # 2
Hans E. Jensen	Mt. Vernon	Dike - - 21
Bert Beck	" "	Dike = 12
Waggoner Johnson	Rt. Mt. Vernon	Dike Dist # 3

NAME

ADDRESS

REPRESENTING

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Ernest Nelson	R. 3. Mt. Vernon	Dike Dist no. 2.
Thomas Phares	Rt 6 Mt Vernon	Dike 1.
Max Dace	Mt Vernon	Dike 17
Pete Nelson	Mt Vernon	Dike 15
Jay Barber	Burlington	Co. Chem.