

6 January 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Record

SUBJECT: Skagit River Conference

1. A meeting was held in Colonel Young's office 5 January, 10:30 a.m., with the following listed Skagit County representatives and Mr. Fred Veatch, USGS, of Tacoma, Washington:

Don Bordner	1011 Riverside Dr., Mt.	Dike Dist. No. 17
Owen Tronsdal	Conway, Wash.      Vernon	Dike Dist. No. 3
R. H. Schinder	Mt. Vernon, Route 6	Sec. Dike 12
Carl Kallstrom	"                      "	Dike Dist. No. 1
Noble Lee	"                      3	"                      No. 2
Tom Koffel	"                      4	"                      No. 4
Magnus Johnson	"                      6	"                      No. 3
H. Tronsdal	East Stanwood, RFD 2	"                      No. 16
Lloyd H. Johnson	Mt. Vernon, Route 3	Assoc. Co. Engr.

2. The delegation were interested in a resurvey of the flood problems on the Skagit River. One subject on which they requested consideration concerned the slough closures which were constructed by the Corps of Engineers under the authorized project for navigation on the south fork of the river. They claimed that these closures caused an increase in the water surface elevation during floods by diverting a greater portion of the flow down the north fork. They were asked to submit their request to this office in writing so that we would have the opportunity of investigating the problem before making a decision. (Since these closures were a part of an authorized navigation project it would appear that the destruction of the closure structures would require a modification to the project and could not be done under our normal O&M operations.)

3. The second subject covered was the presentation by the engineer for the Port Districts concerning the installation of gage boards on the north and south fork, for the purpose of obtaining data on distribution of flows. Mr. Veatch stated that he would contact this office on this subject within the next two or three months to determine whether we were interested in participating under our cooperative stream gaging program.

4. The third subject discussed concerned the overall flood control problem of the entire river basin in which they expressed a considerable amount of interest. The history of the investigations that have been made by the Corps on the Skagit River and, in general, the conclusions that were reached was explained to them. It was also explained that we anticipate a new Congressional resolution authorizing the Corps to make a restudy of the Skagit River flood control problem and that we would initiate work on this as soon as Congress saw fit to make funds available.

5. The delegation was also advised of the present navigation study which is underway on the river and of the recent interest in improvements for navigation on the river above Mount Vernon. It was explained to them that they could look for very little help in flood control from improvements for navigation.

6. Mr. Johnson stated that a collection of snags had formed in the river above Mount Vernon which they considered jeopardizing one of the river systems and requested whatever assistance the Corps could give in the removal thereof. He was advised of our capability in this connection under Section 208 Emergency Authorities and advised that they should submit a request in writing for our determination of eligibility under this authority.

  
HOLMES