

29 SEP

3 October 1978

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit Levee and Channel Improvement Project - Fourth Biweekly Review Meeting

1. The subject meeting was held on 29 September 1978 in the large Engineering Division conference room. The following were in attendance:

Walt Farrar	Ch, Reg Plng Sec
Neal Hanson	Ch, Civil Des Sec
Vern Cook	Des Br
Clyde Jump	Des Br
Linda Vert	Real Estate Div
Jack Morris	Real Estate Estimator
Larry Merkle	H&H Br
Les Soule	H&H Br
Don Thompson	Econ & Soc Eval Sec
Bob Vogler	Econ & Soc Eval Sec
Forest Brooks	Reg Plng Sec
Walt Robinson	Reg Plng Sec
Rich Worthington	Reg Plng Sec

2. The meeting began with a review of the status of the "Omnibus Bill" which contains the authorization to extend the Skagit levees. It was noted that the bill had not cleared the House and that even if it clears, the President has promised to veto the bill. It was concluded that from the point of view of our ongoing work, the critical decision time would be February when the EIS is to be circulated and the public meeting announced. At that time we would have to state the status of the project authorization. Therefore, the immediate decision was to continue on the present schedule with the current assumptions on project authorization.

3. The meeting continued with a review of the study schedule by work element with the bulk of the discussion on three problem areas outlined below.

a. Burlington Levees - Preliminary economic evaluation using only the costs for the 100-year levees indicates that at a 6 7/8 percent interest rate the 100-year levees would not be justified although they might approach feasibility above a 100-year level of protection. The 100-year levees are justified at 3 1/4 percent interest rate but maximum net benefits would be achieved at a higher level of protection. Maximization studies could not be made since water surfaces and costs are only available for the 100-year flood with three alternative alignments. Hydraulics is currently running the 50-year water surface for Samish weired Avon closed and downstream levee improvements. These would be followed by runs for the 100 and 500 year floods. Appropriate costs for these levels would then be developed for the 500-year project and we would be

P004652

NPSEN-PL-RP

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in a position to run a maximization for the urban levee system.

b. b. Preliminary Selected Plan - The modification of Alternative 3b with the Samish weired is now the preliminary selected plan. As noted, water surfaces for this plan are being developed and costs will follow. The height and design of the weir would then be determined along with residual flood depths and areas and any induced flooding problems in the Nookachamps area.

c. A/E Contract for the Downstream Levees - There are three primary problem areas. The first concerns additional information the A/E needs to continue his work. Les Soule will furnish Clyde Jump information on the downstream limits for the levees (beginning of tidal control) and the location by station of additional height for super-elevation. The second problem area is protection for Stanwood from Skagit flooding through raising of the crossdikes and levees downstream of the crossdike. This has not been included in the work negotiated with the A/E and economics has not included benefits for Stanwood in their formulation. There are several alternative engineering approaches to protecting from Stanwood flooding and a level of protection must be selected in advance of the formulation for the Stanwood 205 study. Hydraulic Design, Economics and Regional Planning will meet to formulate an approach to this problem. The third problem is Fisher Slough backwater and related railroad relocations. This is related to the Stanwood problem since it may be feasible to incorporate crossdike protection for Stanwood into the solution for Fisher Slough. Hydraulics, Design, Economics and Regional Planning will discuss this problem and formulate an approach for arriving at a solution.

4. The meeting closed with a discussion of the next biweekly progress meeting. It was noted that the meetings have proved very valuable in surfacing problem areas and should be continued. The requested Skagit briefing for the District Engineer was tentatively scheduled for 13 October with the possibility of combining the next progress meeting with the briefing to be explored.

*Worthington*  
WORTHINGTON

cc:

ATTENDEES

Ch, ERS

Ch, Econ & SE

Ch, FPMS

Ch, Plng Br

Ch, F&M Br

Ch, H&H Br

Ch, Des Br

Ch, Civ Des Sec

Ch, Real Estate Div

Ch, Prog Dev

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2

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P004653