

Department of Conservation

H. MAURICE AHLQUIST, DIRECTOR

335 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
OLYMPIA

DIVISIONS

RECLAMATION
FLOOD CONTROL
WATER RESOURCES
MINES AND GEOLOGY
COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT
POWER RESOURCES
WEATHER MODIFICATION
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
COMMITTEEDANIEL J. EVANS
GOVERNOR

May 17, 1966

District Engineer
U. S. Army Engineer District, Seattle
Corps of Engineers
1519 Alaskan Way South
Seattle, Washington 98134

Attention: Mr. Robert H. Gedney, Chief
Basin Planning Branch, Div. of Engineering

Dear Sir:

Knowing you and your staff are interested in the affairs and activities relating to flood control in the Skagit River Valley, I am pleased to report on a meeting I attended May 11, at the office of the Port of Skagit County in Burlington.

In an effort to develop and present a united position on a flood control plan and program, which plan may be that of the Corps of Engineers now tentatively proposed, a flood control advisory committee was selected from the total number of diking districts on the valley floor to represent the full community interested in and likely to be affected by floods and their control.

The committee invited me to join it in its first meeting and to assist in the discussion of possible ways and means of meeting the local requirements of sponsoring a project or projects in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers. Mr. George Dynes, member of the Port Commission and Diking District No. 20, was elected chairman; Mr. Stanley K. Bruhn, Attorney for the Port of Skagit County, was elected secretary and attorney, and the balance of the committee, all in attendance, consisted of Noble Lee, Diking District No. 2; Magnus Johnson, Diking District No. 3; Pete Walker and Bert Beeks, Diking District No. 12; Robert Reedy, Diking District No. 15; Earl Hanson and Chester Dutton, Diking District No. 17 and Lloyd H. Johnson, Skagit County Engineer.

Upon a general discussion of the proposed Corps' project (a. levees and channel improvement; b. Avon Bypass; and c.

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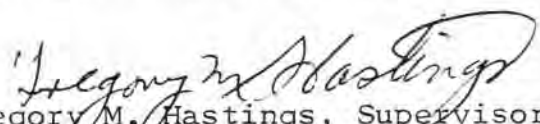
upstream storage), consolidation of the sixteen diking districts was quite thoroughly explored. Either a flood control district (86.09 RCW) or a flood control zone district (86.15 RCW) appears to be a superior, legal vehicle over reorganization under their present diking district laws (Title 85 RCW). Under 86.09 RCW, the organization proceedings are carried out by our Department of Conservation. The County Commissioners organize the district under 86.15 RCW. Timewise, 86.15 RCW seemed to be favored by the committee. However, it was decided that Attorney Stanley Bruhn would thoroughly review both statutes and brief the committee on his review at an early, future date.

The committee fully recognized the difficult public relations and salesmanship job that lies ahead in order to sell reorganization. They realize that a Federal project (Unit "a" a must and Unit "b" most necessary) cannot be carried out by sixteen separate districts. They believe that such project possibilities makes the time right for attempting to reorganize into a stronger and more efficient, legal vehicle by which a comprehensive plan for flood control can be carried out. The accompanying broad base for levying assessments also appears to make reorganization most attractive, as weighed against some present and high district tax levies.

This newly formed flood control advisory committee will closely coordinate its efforts with our department and your staff at all times and keep both our offices informed of its activities and progress. In turn, and on behalf of Governor Evans and Director Ahlquist, I was directed by Director Ahlquist to advise the committee of the State's continued support and assistance in developing and carrying out a plan for flood control in Skagit County.

Very truly yours,

Department of Conservation


Gregory M. Hastings, Supervisor
Division of Flood Control

GMH:kf

cc: Mr. Lloyd H. Johnson,
Skagit County Engineer

Mr. Stanley K. Bruhn, Attorney
Port of Skagit County

Mr. Richard D. Ford, Secretary
Wash. Public Ports Association

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