

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Wednesday, October 27, 1993**

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Discussion - Army Corps of Engineers - Flood Control Assistance Program.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, October 27, 1993, with Commissioners Robert Hart, Robby Robinson and Harvey Wolden present.

**DISCUSSION - ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS - FLOOD CONTROL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

Dave Brookings, Division Manager, Flood Control, stated that each year as part of the County's annual Flood Fight Exercise during Flood Control Awareness Week, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers visits Skagit County to review Skagit County's flood preparedness.

Mr. Brookings introduced Ernie Sabo, Steve Foster, Eric Winters and Ed O'Leary, Army Corps of Engineers representatives, to the Board.

Mr. Brookings explained that during this past week, the Corps representatives and County staff have been meeting with dike and drainage district officials, city and town representatives and others to discuss flood preparedness.

Tomorrow night at Skagit Valley College a meeting for the public will be held, where Corps of Engineers representatives will discuss various flood and drainage programs; county flood and drainage problems and concerns.

Mr. Foster stated that he is hopeful that the Corps can assist the County in formulating a plan that can alleviate the County's prior difficulties with catastrophic flooding.

Mr. Brookings stated that cooperation between the Corps of Engineers and Skagit County is very good. He stated that an earlier proposal to adopt an early warning system for Skagit County was not met with enthusiasm from the Corps; however, as recently as last week, the Corps has reversed its earlier decided to assist the County with the formulation of an early warning study for Skagit County.

Mr. Foster stated that the Corps is addressing Skagit County's flooding problems with three studies. The first, currently underway, will be attempting to create an overall, comprehensive plan for flood control. This study may take several years to complete. A West Mount Vernon flood facilities study will likely be completed much sooner, and the proposed early warning study will be the third item in the overall flood protection measures.

Discussion then centered on the comprehensive flood study currently being conducted for Skagit County by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Chairman Hart responded, stating that the Corps has a long history of assisting Skagit County, the first reconnaissance study being completed in 1906. Chairman Hart admitted that earlier studies have not been supported by the County's residents; and, he stated, he remains concerned about the public's support of an extremely expensive flood control proposal.

Chairman Hart stated that he would like to see the Corps pay particular attention to river modeling, topographical mapping, and contributions to the County's GIS mapping system, as well as combining work on the Skagit with projects being proposed by the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Tribes.

Mr. Foster assured the Board that all of these issues will receive attention in the three studies earlier mentioned.

Mr. Foster stated that he believed that Noel Gilbrough, the Corps' Study Manager for Skagit County, is cognizant of the cost concerns held by Skagit County's residents, and is addressing those concerns.

The Board then discussed various flood control issues in Skagit County, and Mr. Foster emphasized the need for the Corps to work along with the County in a partnership to develop solutions to flood control issues. Mr. Foster also noted that the Corps will be assuring that the Board is satisfied with Mr. Gilbrough's plan before it is released and further studies continue. Mr. Foster stated that once Skagit County and the Corps determine that the study provides a reasonable cost/benefit ratio, and that Federal funding is available, then the Corps will develop cost estimates for the flood measures identified in the plan.

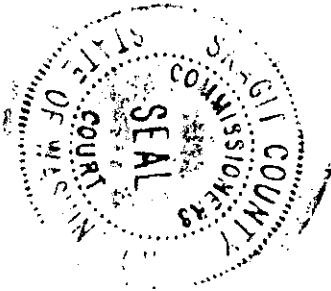
Tom Sheahan, Emergency Management Director, discussed the local emergency response network's experiences with Skagit County's 1990 flooding disaster. He indicated that the primary responsibility of local emergency responders is to assure life safety.

Commissioner Wolden also shared some of his experiences.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Wolden seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

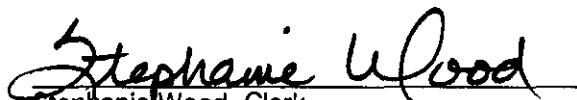


  
Robert Hart, Chairman

  
Robby Robinson, Commissioner

  
Harvey Wolden, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Stephanie Wood, Clerk  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners