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New Dike Withstands 8-Foot Wall Of Water During Last Weeks Flood

Local officials, particularly the members of the dike commission, are very happy over the way the new dike withstood the recent battering of flood water. According to Robert Schroeder, dike commissioner, the dike withstood an eight foot wall of water in most places and although a few places were roughed up slightly and sluffed off there was no apparent damage to the dike itself.

Possibly the main reason why the new dike came out in such good shape is the fact that some \$7000 was spent in a packing process. This process consisted of the use of an 18-ton grid roller and a sheep foot pulled in tandem. These huge machines were used over and over again until the dike earth was packed to a density required by the engineer's specifications.

Previous to and during the flood conditions considerable comment was heard concerning the removal of the old dike. Some people were very indignant over its removal. But these same people can now be assured that it was a good and sensible plan.

The dike commissioners urge all of those who have been critical of this removal of the old dike to consider these items.

First, if they will only take the time and trouble to go out, now that the waters have receded, and see what good condition the new dike is in they will see that there is better protection than the old dike ever gave, even when new.

Secondly, had that new dike broke an the old dike remained in place, people and property between the two would suffered much heavier loss than they would have with the old one removed because the water would have been that much deeper.

Thirdly, the dike commission saved the taxpayers, according to Schroeder, considerable money by using dirt from the old dike. Had they had to buy dirt and possibly haul it a considerable greater distance, the cost would have been several thousand dollars more than the plan used.

But whether you agree with the statements of the commission or not it will help your peace of mind just by getting a close-up view of the new dike now. There was no wash of any serious nature and although there is still work to be done on the project, such as sodding, getting vegetation growing, and some spur building to control currents there should be no anxiety felt by the public now that the new dike has withstood this first test, Schroeder concluded.