

OCTOBER 3, 1935

Flood District Is Approved At Public Meeting Here Today

Election Date Will Be Set As Soon As Necessary Field Work Is Completed, E. F. Banker Tells Group—All Of Skagit Except Islands Included

Skagit River flood control took a long stride forward at noon today when the Washington State Planning Council at the conclusion of a two-hour public hearing in the courthouse gave official approval of the district as proposed by the petition and announced that a date will be set for the election as soon as the necessary field work required by the enabling act has been completed.

E. F. Banker, state director of conservation and development, told a gathering of about 150, mostly farmers, that as soon as the date of the election has been fixed all the data relating to Skagit river flood control will be turned over to the county commissioners, who will have complete charge of all future steps. His department will after that have no more authority in the matter.

The district will comprise all Skagit County except the islands. All the land within this area, both bottom and high land, would be levied upon to finance such a flood control project as may be adopted. When a rising vote was called for by Mr. Banker, A. G. Moser of Sedro-Woolley was the only objector. He thought the drainage area in the district should include only the Skagit and Samish rivers, that the Nooksack and Stillaguamish, which are separate projects and outside, ought to be eliminated.

Name Is Selected

When it came to the selection of a name for the district Mr. Banker called upon Senator W. J. Knutzen to do the christening. The senator suggested Skagit County Flood Control district as the official title; and so it was written in the minutes.

Discussion of the proposal to form a flood control district brought out a number of individual experiences with high water and some varying viewpoints on how to obtain relief. There was, however, no objection made to the proposed boundaries.

Objection Heard

E. R. Pierce, representing Blodell-Donovan timber interests, asked permission to enter a protest against the inclusion of certain timber lands in the district. To this Commissioners John Mason and Hugo Bauman took exception. Mr. Banker interposed with the opinion that to exclude any special areas within the district would cause confusion and would complicate the running of the boundary lines. He said that the tax would fall lightly on timber and that there was nothing to fear by timber owners. The method of taxing timber would be based most likely on the product when logged.

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