

THE COURIER-TIMES

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Petitions for Flood Control District, Ready

Board Will be Asked to Start New Project On River

Petitions for the formation of a Skagit river bank revetment maintenance district, were circulated this week, and sent to state authorities at Olympia for final approval, before calling for an election to vote on the matter. As prepared by Attorney A. H. Ward, after conference with a farmers' committee, the petition asks for the formation of the district as provided in the 1935 state law, which limits the amount of money which can be assessed at 2 mills, except for a special vote of the district voters, and even then it cannot exceed 5 mills.

On the average farm, it is estimated that a 2 mills tax will raise less than 10 cents an acre. The proposed district as petitioned for, has as its east boundary, the east city limits of Hamilton, and extends west through Burlington to the Pacific highway. The Skagit river is the south boundary and the north line extends along the foot of the hills on the north side of the Skagit river. The cities of Burlington and Sedro-Woolley and Lyman and Hamilton are included in the proposed district. It is hoped by the committee that the mill levy will raise between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year, the estimated cost of the maintenance of the revetments.

With this first step towards the formation of the district taken, the county commissioners will be asked Monday to keep their word to purchase the new dragline as required by the U. S. army engineers in charge of the revetment project. If this is done, work can be expected to protect all remaining danger spots along the river.

The Utopia farmers whose land is being threatened, believe that if some immediate action is not taken, at Utopia and east of there, that there is danger the river will go into Minkler lake, from which it might go through Sedro-Woolley and Burlington, or in a new channel next to the hills to the north. State engineers have said that the river formerly flowed in the Samish river channel, after running along the foot of Dukes hill.

Lars Langloe, state flood control engineer, who recently spoke to a group of farmers here, said that the formation of the district was the only way to finance the protection of the revetment work. His approval is necessary for forming of the district, but this is believed to be certain. As soon as this is accomplished, details of the holding of the election and final plans will be published. Frank Goodyear is chairman of the Utopia farmers' committee, which is working on plans for the district.