Soil District Favors Aid on River Erosion

Local Farmers to Ask For County Help Program Needed

The Skagit Soil District supervisors at their regular monthly meeting last Saturday approved participation by the district in the river erosion control program being developed for the Lyman-Skagit-Woolley stretch of river.

Supervisor Fred Martin, chairman of the district supervisors, insisted that "the soil district's participation hinge upon a long term agreement for continuous control of the river as new problem areas develop in the years to come and for maintenance of work done already." Mr. Martin felt that the soil conservation district should not rush into this emergency and correct the Utopia-Skitou Slough danger spots only to have the money wasted by lack of long term maintenance.

Grover Duvall, supervisor, stated that if the river is allowed to go through the new Wiseman creek course it is now developing, down stream siltation may become an immediate serious problem to the farmers on the flats. Mr. Duvall cited from his own observations the effect of the cut through the Sterling bend some years back. First, he noticed that the river at his farm suddenly started to cut a deeper channel as the speed of the water increased. The water table on his farm dropped sharply with the result that he had to lower his well pumps six feet all over the farm. Mr. Duvall's second observation was that the river at this same time developed the present gravel and silt bar between the Great Northern and Mount Vernon-Riverside bridge. If the river up-stream is allowed to cut a new channel between the Buchanan and Reece farm down Wiseman creek the diking districts on the flats and navigation interests may be immediately affected.

The Soil Conservation District (Continued on Page 5)