

Nookachamps Group Backs Avon Bypass

Committee to Study Joining
Forces With Dike District

Residents of the Nookachamps basin moved for flood control development of their area at a meeting called in Clear Lake last night by the commissioners of Diking Dist. No. 20.

The 70-some citizens attending voted unanimously in favor of the U. S. Engineers' Avon bypass plan and named a committee to work toward possible expansion of Dist. 20 to include the area east of the Nookachamps.

The Dist. 20 commissioners have suggested that the Nookachamps basin be protected against the Skagit river by dikes from near the new bridge at Sedro Woolley to Hoag hill east of the Great Northern bridge north of Mount Vernon.

Named as a committee to consult with the diking commissioners in the next two months were James Christofferson, William Moore and J. W. Wallace. Dist. 20 commissioners are Dr. Robert Thompson, secretary; George Dynes and John Petter.

The Corps of Engineers will consider making a study of giving the Nookachamps lands flood protection if residents of the area want it and funds can be obtained, the meeting was told

by Ray Skrinde, who is directing the Skagit river flood control planning. He said the Engineers hope before next fall to have their plans for the Avon bypass project and bank protection-channel work on the lower river completed.

Bolstering the Nookachamps area against floods hinges on the Avon bypass, the meeting was told.

Superior Judge A. H. Ward said he would not favor the Nookachamps plan until the Avon bypass is built because, otherwise, the rest of the Skagit valley would be endangered. He made the motion to support the bypass project.

The 1951 Skagit flood covered 4000 acres in the Nookachamps area with backup waters from the main river, Tony Harms of the Skagit Soil Conservation service said. The Nookachamps was described by speakers as a dumping ground for Skagit flood waters.

Speakers estimated 3500 acres of good farm land lay in the Nookachamps area subject to flooding.

Legal mechanics of enlarging Dike Dist. 20 were explained by its attorney, James G. Smith.