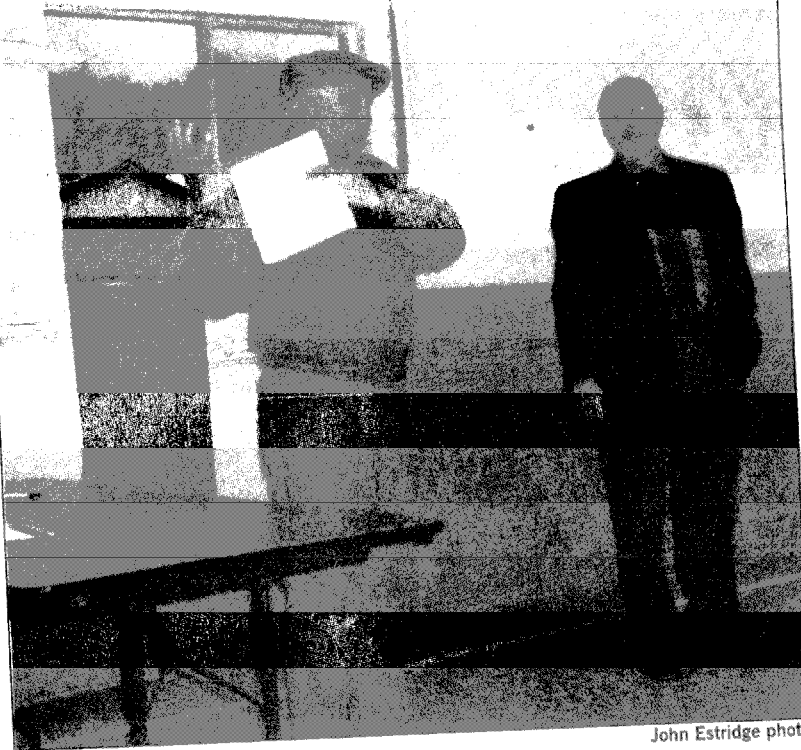


By Jo
Editor



John Estridge photo

Amos Schwartz (left) makes a point about decision making and cooperation during a public meeting in the Metamora Firehouse concerning Indiana Department of Natural Resources plan to pump water into the Whitewater Canal instead of using the historic Laurel Feeder Dam. DNR Director John Goss is beside Schwartz. Schwartz reconstructed much of the current-day canal in the early 1970s.

Well, DNR pumps up new water plan

By John Estridge
Editor

One of the reasons Indiana's canal system failed was the continuing maintenance problems associated with canals.

Uppermost in those problems were siltation and erosion.

With the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site, those problems are still present.

To counteract the siltation process, the Department of Natural Resources plans to drill wells and pump water into the canal northwest of Metamora. This water source will be used instead of the historic source, the Laurel Feeder Dam on

the Whitewater River's west fork. DNR representatives met with Metamora residents and shopkeepers as well as historically minded people Monday afternoon at the Metamora Firehouse.

According to Whitewater State Historic Site Curator Jay Dishman, the siltation problem is so acute there may be times the canal boat operation must be shut down.

There are several reasons for the siltation problem, according to DNR officials and Amos Schwartz, one of the contractors who reconstructed the canal system in the early 1970s.

Foremost among the problems, according to officials, is Haspin

(See "PUMPS," page 18)

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