Partners for Progress with Alaska's Communities

RurAL-CAP ACTION REPORTS

Mailing Address: Drawer 412 ECB | Telephone 279-2441 | Anchorage, Alaska 99501

RurAL CAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET HERE

AFN Housing

George Irvin, Trainer and Conrad Baines, Program specialist of RurAL CAP, recently attended the board meetings of the Inupiak Regional Development Corporation and the Bering Straits Native Association April 6 - 9.

Mike Jones, Housing Specialist, State Economic Opportunity Office, gave an excellent presentation about housing programs, with emphasis on the Alaska Federation of Natives housing program and how regional organizations could assist the AFN in implementing such a huge project.

He outlined specific ways in which regional people could and should assist AFN.

John Tetpon, Deputy Director, AFN Housing Program, gave a one-hour presentation with questions and answers, on the AFN Housing Program, concentrating mainly on those Inupiak villages slated for construction during the next two years: Gambell, Unalakleet, and Teller for construction this year; Savoonga only site improvement this year and construction next year; and various other villages for next year.

Tetpon emphasized that the AFN intends to build good housing with excellent engineering and materials.

Mary Hartzell, Executive Director, YUT Housing Development Corporation in Bethel, gave a presentation on the experience of the YUT Corporation. She answered questions about her activities in Bethel, the composition of her board, its relationship to the regional development corporation and Native association.

The Inupiak Board concluded its business on Friday morning, April 7 and immediately, thereafter, Jerome Trigg called the Bering Straits Native Association meeting to order.

Newly elected officers of the Bering Straits Native Association were: President, Jerome Trigg; 1st Vice-President, Martin Olson; 2nd Vice-President, Fred Katchatag; Secretary, George Ashenfelter; Treasurer, Joe Pungowiyi; and Sergeant-At-Arms, Clarence Katchatag.

NANA BOARD POSES FOR PICTURE AT AMBLER — Standing Left to Right: Willie Goodwin, Sigwein Savok, Wilson Tickett, John Schaeffer, Jack Penn, Tommy Sheldon, Stanley Custer, Emerson Moto. Sitting Left to Right: Roland Booth, Robert Newlin, Lena McClellan, Vincent Schurech, David Swan, Grant Ballot.

Kikiktugruk Corp.--

And NANA Hold Meet at Ambler

Mike Harper, RurAL CAP Planning Developer, was recently invited to attend the meetings of the Kikiktugruk Regional Development Corporation and Northwest Alaska Native Association (NANA) April 8 and 9.

The Kikiktugruk portion of the meeting and one NANA session was held at Ambler. The other sessions were held at Shungnak and Kobuk.

The importance of the Citizen's Participation Conference (CPC) was discussed at length. Roland Booth will be the Kotzebue region representative for the next meeting with Vincent Schurech as alternate.

A motion was passed that possibly two or three members of the NANA board would represent the Kotzebue region in Juneau in an attempt to gain passage of bills directly effecting the region.

This will present an opportunity to learn the legislative processes and will provide village input toward future legislation.

Newly elected officers to the Kikiktugurk Board of Directors were: Robert Newlin, Noorvik, re-elected President; Stanley Custer, Shungnak, Vice-President; Wilson Tickett, Kobuk, Secretary; Jean Geffe, Kiana, Corresponding Secretary, and Sig Savok, Buckland, Treasurer.

The Saturday evening session of the meeting was devoted entirely to land claims analysis in in a question and answer period. The following day was devoted to wrapping up land claims questions and getting into committee meetings in education, health and family services, land selection housing,
tion, housing, and regional government.

Robert Schaeffer, regional director of the Kikiktugruk Regional Development Corporation was given a vote of confidence by his board in the form of an above-average yearly evaluation.

Mr. Harper observed a close cooperation between RurAL CAP's Kikiktugruk Development Corporation and the Northwest Alaska Native Association.

The combined effort is resulting in effective village hearings on the explanation of the land claims.

New Deputy Director Replaces Nels Anderson

FAIRBANKS — The RurAL CAP Board of Directors met April 26 and 27 in Fairbanks for their second meeting of the year. An important item on the agenda was the hiring of a new deputy director to replace Nels A. Anderson, Jr., who resigned to return to his hometown of Dillingham as director of the Bristol Bay Native Association.

Mike Harper, Planner on the RurAL CAP staff, was hired by the Board to fill this key position in the agency. Elmer Armstrong, chairman of the 24-member board, expressed their very sincere regret in accepting Anderson's resignation and commended him for his work and dedication to the agency.

Regular business was conducted and resolutions supporting bills in the Legislature were passed which included HB224 to allow regions and local communities to plan and operate their own health and social services programs; Senate Bills 421, 422, 423 and 424 regarding bi-lingual education.

Also passed was a resolution to endorse and support the efforts of the Alaska Federation of Natives to acquire Wildwood Air Force facility for an educational center.

The board voted to endorse a resolution passed by the Bristol Bay Native Association regarding supplemental funds for the State Human Rights Commission; a resolution on a pending Senate Bill to appropriate funds to the regions to help form regional native corporations, and also a resolution supporting HB549 which would provide tuition assistance to Alaska students.

Father Frank Muller of the Roman Catholic Church, Fairbanks Diocese, speaking as vice president of the Alaska Christian Conference, addressed the board and offered support to the agency.

He said they represented a great many people and were ready to assist RurAL CAP to achieve its aims and goals in any way they could.

Other visitors included Don Peterson and Linda Ledbetter from the office of Economic Opportunity regional office in Seattle; Bill Davis, vice president of Alaska Methodist University and Rosemary Davidson with the Head Start program at the university.

Head Start Schools End

With the coming of May, Head Start's 38 villages are preparing for the close of school and three months of vacation before school resumes in the fall.

Although the Head Start centers will be closing, the Parent Child Centers in Hoonah and Kotzebue remain open year round.

While the children are out playing in the summer sun, some of their teachers will be attending training in Anchorage.

Due to an unfortunate cut in training funds, only 20 Head Start staff members will be traveling to Anchorage as part of the summer training program.

The Head Start central staff in Anchorage will be kept busy with the Supplemental Grant which allows for building repairs to Head Start programs, and the construction of 5 new centers. Rural Development Administration funds, combined with funds from RurAL CAP will assist in building centers in: Nunapitchuk, Emmonak, Kwigillingok, Noatak and Noorvik.

The people of Nulato, headed by PAC Chairman Bill Ambrose, are undertaking the project of constructing their own building with no outside assistance.

All 6 of these buildings are expected to be completed by this fall.

Rubeola Grant-

To Aid Investigation of Disease

Frederick McGinnis, Commissioner of Health and Social Services, today announced the recent grant by the Federal Government of an additional $27,000 to the Alaska Immunization Program.

These monies will enable the Department to intensify epidemiological investigation of all reported cases of both rubeola (hard measles) and rubella (German measles).

A campaign is under way to determine if the measles can be eliminate from Alaska.

Alaska already ranks number one in the nation in the percentage of children immunized against rubella, number seven for rubeola, and number three for polio. The Commissioner gives credit for this fine performance to the Division of Public Health's Section of Public Health Nursing, which has given special attention to rural and bush areas of the state.

ANCHORAGE
Hotels - Motels

Roosevelt Hotel
539 H. St. 277-5541
Ave. Sgl. with bath $15

Hotel Venture
441 E. 15th Ave. 279-1482
Ave. Sgl. with bath $12.00

CATS AND KITTENS
Hundreds of unwanted and homeless cats and kittens are killed in Fairbanks every month. Don't be guilty of contributing to their pathetic picture. If you are concerned or would like to adopt a lovely neutered or spayed cat, call your local Pet Pride representative for information. Phone 456-7198.

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