

Shareholders seek management shift

From Our Anchorage Bureau

Anchorage shareholders of the Bering Straits Native Corporation want to have more say in how the corporation does business.

The Bering Straits Inupiat Association representing 1,100 Anchorage shareholders met Tuesday to discuss corporate activities with candidates for the Board of Directors.

Of 13 candidates for directorship, 3 attended the meeting, all were from Anchorage.

"It is no secret that Bering Straits isn't doing the best it can," according to Clinton Gray who heads the Anchorage group.

Gray explained that Anchorage shareholders hope to change the course that Bering Straits has been following at the general shareholders meeting April 2. Besides supporting incumbent directors from Anchorage, the association is putting forward two new candidates for the regional corporation's board of directors.

"With the election of the board coming up they are trying to get their weight felt," Gray explained.

Although declining to point fingers, Gray suggested Bering Straits has made some "unfortunate investments."

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"We've suggested several times that like Sealaska they just put money in the bank and sit on it," Gray said.

The two incumbent Bering Straits directors from Anchorage are Barbara Trigg and Vern Olson; the two new candidates supported by the Bering Straits Inupiat Association are Bill Vierra and Micheal O'Connor.