

TCC delegates consider contracts, financial state

(Editor's Note: Fiscal difficulties mentioned during the TCC Convention and referred to in the following story are by no means unique to the Tanana Chiefs. The Bering Straits region non-profit is undergoing a Chapter 11 reorganization. Other regional non-profits, such as the Cook Inlet Native Association and Tlingit and Haida Central Council, are able to absorb operating losses from outside sources of income. Lack of standardized contracting policies and procedures on the part of Federal agencies such as the BIA are often blamed by corporation officials as a large part of the problem. Restrictive interpretation by agencies often result in "audit exceptions" for which Native non-profit corporations have no means of absorbing costs also contribute to financial problems. The Tundra Times does not in any manner wish to convey the impression that financial problems in non-profit corporations throughout Alaska, and in particular the Tanana Chiefs Conference, are due to improper management by elected officials and hired administrators.)

By MARGIE BAUMAN

FAIRBANKS A combined management and corporate review of the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) will be conducted within 90 days. The delegates Thursday approved a resolution to that effect, stating that the study should be treated as a priority item and performed within 60 to 90 days.

The resolution cited current financial problems of TCC.

TCC is a corporation designed to deliver health, education and social service benefits to Native villages in Alaska's Interior. The Tanana Chiefs hold nearly \$3 million in contracts for service from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, in areas ranging from housing to employment assistance and natural resources. Those contracts were renewed in October.

TCC President Al Ketzler was traveling on business Monday and unavailable for

comment. Comptroller Bob Taylor said nothing would be decided until Ketzler's return.

Whatever the decision of management, the resolution gives the executive board of the Tanana Chiefs final approval rights over the management consultants chosen to perform the study.

Delegates claimed this right of the executive board "as emissaries on behalf of member villages."

Executive board members, elected during Thursday's session, are Judy Rosander, McGrath; Woody Morrison, Shageluk; Andy Jimmy, Minto; Issac Juneby, Eagle, and Steve Ginnis, Fort Yukon. Jerry Woods, Fairbanks, the only incumbent trying for re-election, was not chosen.

The Tanana Chiefs decided to close to news media portions of the convention related to finance. When the convention began with a finance report and president's report March 15, two journalists were asked to wait outside.

"If they want me to tell the world, I would, but they haven't indicated that," Ketzler said.

Ketzler said much of his own report discussed finances and such information was for delegates only.

The resolution demanding a management and corporate study, which emerged from the convention two days later, indicated delegates were much concerned by what they heard.

Delegate Troubles

Before the Tanana Chiefs could begin their convention they had to pass a resolution allowing them to do so, because of a fluke decision at last year's meeting.

In trying to streamline the bylaws, "what they did was eliminate the delegates," Ketzler said. "The delegate bylaw was deleted and we had no delegates."

Given such short notice, there was no time to amend the bylaws again. Thirty days notice must be given for such action. Instead, the convention passed a resolution allowing it to conduct business as scheduled.