

Alaska

Plan Makes Progress

ANCHORAGE — The Alaska Plan took a big step towards eventual implementation as a result of the first organizational meeting of the Alaska Plan Policy Committee held last week.

Robert Willard, Executive Director of the Alaska Human Rights Commission has been unanimously elected chairman with Clifford Black serving as vice Chairman. Black is the Deputy Director of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Work has begun to draft plans to employ an executive director and additional staff as needed and notice is to be served on Alaska's Governor, the Congressional delegation and federal officials that the Policy Committee is now duly established with representatives from the Alaska Native Associations, Associated General Contractors, specialty contractors, building and construction unions and other minority group organizations.

The meeting, held last Thursday, laid the ground rules as to how the Committee would function and virtually all items on an agenda prepared by chairman pro-tem Willard were approved.

The chairman said that the Committee will now wait to see if Governor Egan will issue an executive order requiring State (of Alaska) projects to be aligned with the Alaska Plan before electing a ninth member to the Committee. As now written, the Plan allows the Committee to elect the ninth member. But, if Governor Egan issues the order, the Committee may allow him to appoint a member to the Committee, which means that the Committee would have to modify the Plan itself—as only the Committee may do so.

The next meeting will be called three days after a subcommittee that is working on job specifications of the executive director is drawn and presented to the Committee. Willard said today that he plans to call for a meeting of the full committee later this week—possibly by Friday.