

RurAL CAP BOARD OPTIMISTIC FOR FUTURE

Group Feels as Long as Poverty Exists There's Room for Action Prog.'s

At their December meeting, the RurAL CAP Board of Directors spoke optimistically of the agency's future, strong in their belief that as long as poverty exists in Alaska, there will always be a need for community action programs.

John Shively, whose resignation as executive director was effective December 15, spoke on the relationship of the Office of Economic Opportunity to the poverty program and the need for change in CAP programs if they are to survive.

The Board met December 13-15 and hired Michael C. Harper to fill the executive director position. Mr. Harper has been deputy director of RurAL CAP since May, 1972.

New members seated on the board included Clarence Katchatag from Shaktoolik representing the Inupiak Development Corporation; Victor Alexie from Nulato for the State Parents' Advisory Committee; Don B. McCallum from King Cove for the Aleutian Planning Commission; Wesley M. Howe from Palmer for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Inc.; and Leonard Stickman from Nulato for Koyukon Development Corporation.

With the addition of the Aleutian Planning Commission, two slots were opened, and State-Operated Schools and the Alaska Consumers' Federation were seated, making a total of 27 members on the RurAL CAP Board.

The Board also voted to create an associate membership category, with those members having full participation with the exception of voting privilege. Agencies such as Bureau of Indian Affairs, Community Enterprise Development Corporation, and the Alaska Native Foundation would be invited in this category.

A video tape on the Land Claims Settlement Act which was prepared by RurAL CAP and the Sky River Project of Community Enterprise Development Corporation, was viewed by the directors.

Narrated by Nils Sara, Program Specialist of RurAL CAP, the tape was made for the Northwest Alaska Native Association to show how the Act applies specifically to their region.

The feasibility of other Native corporations using this means of dissemination information about that very complicated piece of legislation to their people was discussed.

After hearing a report from the Aleutian Planning Commission Director, Dimitri Philemonoff, the Board adopted a resolution requesting and for the residents of St. George Island to have their airport upgraded for commercial purposes, to allow more frequent delivery of mail.

Also, they voted to inquire the reason for lack of social services from the State Health & Social Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and requested that services such as food stamps be made available to needy recipients of the Island.

Chairman Elmer Armstrong, President of the Board, commended Mr. Shively for his excellent performance and dedication to the anti-poverty effort in the state.

The next meeting was set for Juneau in February, the date to be determined by the executive committee.