

# Jackson re-elected president at RurAL CAP annual meeting

Gorden Jackson was re-elected as board president at the recent Rural Alaska Community Action Program Inc. annual meeting held in Anchorage.

Also elected were Jonathon Solomon of Ft. Yukon, vice president, and Z. William Barr of Shishmaref, secretary-treasurer.

Major issues that the board considered and took action on included a recommendation for a gradual phaseout of the Power Cost Equalization program. Power Cost Equalization provides support to rural people for high energy costs. Due to reduced state revenues it is feared that the subsidy to rural Alaskans may be cut.

The RurAL CAP board recommended a plan which would end PCE in a way that does not create excessive hardship for those who have come to depend upon it. The plan recommended by RurAL CAP calls for a gradual reduction by establishing a comprehensive rural residential energy conservation program.

Also recommended was distribution of Exxon and other oil overcharge restitution funds, and that the state have a planned method of distributing those funds in a way that would reduce "pork barreling."

The recommendation seeks the creation of an advisory team, composed of government program administrators, conservation technical experts, representatives of Native regional non-profits, conservation "activists" and

---

---

*RurAL CAP, which has been in existence for more than 20 years, advocates the interests and concerns of village people.*

---

---

rural and urban utility representatives, who would evaluate the use of funds through a criteria checklist. The criteria recommended include:

- Direct measureable reduction of energy consumption for the least cost.
- A study of the impact on consumers most affected by overcharges.
- A listing of the number of state residents who will receive direct benefits.
- Return on investment to the state of Alaska.
- An examination of the number of local jobs created.

RurAL CAP, which has been in existence for more than 20 years, advocates the interests and concerns of village people. RurAL CAP operates programs in energy, child development, alcohol/drug abuse prevention, weatherization, subsistence and village community development. RurAL CAP provides training and conferences in a variety of areas in villages.