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CAP TO INITIATE LAND SELECTION TRAINING

CAP, PAC Discuss Head Start



HAWAIIAN TREAT — Children in the Head Start program at Hoonah share a juicy pineapple. Head Start programs in the rural areas of Alaska close in May for the summer months.

The RurAL CAP Board of Directors met with the State Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) in a day-long session on May 15 to discuss Head Start programs in rural Alaska.

The PAC met May 14 with the Vice President, Thomas Pungalik from Noorvik, opening the meeting for the 17-member group.

In conjunction with RurAL CAP staff, they reviewed the Head Start grant application for 1973-1974, new Federal Performance Standards, and a monitoring report from the regional office.

The PAC then prepared recommendations to be submitted to the RurAL CAP Board the following day.

In order to comply with regulations in the Federal Performance Standards regarding the minimum number of children required to maintain a Head Start program, it was necessary to close eight centers throughout the State.

Programs which did not meet these Federal requirements are located in Nulato, Hydrburg, Kwigillingok, Angoon, Napakiak, Pilot Station, Holy Cross and Kivalina.

The monitoring report stressed the desire for quality programs, to include more training for the Field Training Supervisors, and this will be accomplished under a supplemental grant received by RurAL CAP from the Office of Child Development, Health, Education and Welfare, and contracted with the State Training and Technical Assistance Office (STATO) at the Alaska Methodist University.

Also, salary rates for the Field Training Supervisors and Head Start personnel in the villages were to be brought into line with comparable positions in the State.

Accordingly, the State PAC recommended a raise for those

employees, using the money acquired by the closing of the eight centers not meeting enrollment criteria.

The RurAL CAP Board voted to accept these and other recommendations as presented by PAC.

The State Board was greatly concerned over losing the Head Start programs and gave direction to the RurAL CAP staff to immediately give all possible assistance to these villages in seeking funding from other sources.

A resolution was passed to request that kindergartens in villages not qualifying for Head Start programs be opened by any agency that could do so, such as the State-Operated Schools, Bureau of Indian Affairs, or the State of Alaska.

This is the first time that the State PAC which has been in existence since 1967, has met with the RurAL CAP Board.

They hold a seat on the Board, and are represented by Victor Alexie from Nulato. In the future, the PAC will meet with the RurAL CAP Board at their quarterly meetings.

Regular business was conducted by the RurAL CAP Board on May 16-17, and members voted to approve the merger of AVCP CAP (Association of Village Council Presidents Community Action Pro-

gram) in Bethel with the Southwest Alaska Native Association, Inc. (SWANA), to form one non-profit corporation, Yupigtak Bista.

It was felt that the existence of the two corporations in the same region caused unnecessary confusion, and that a new, independent corporation in the Bethel area, speaking on behalf of all the people, would have the latitude to seek funds from several sources, thereby assuring the continued delivery of health and social services and advocacy programs for the residents.

Agency Working with Various Agencies to Train Calista Region

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP) is working with various agencies to bring land selection training to the Calista region.

The training will start with a basic review of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and then will move on to deal specifically with the land selection aspect of the Act.

This training had been requested earlier by the RurAL CAP office (AVCP CAP) for the Bethel region but due to disagreements with Calista Corporation about the nature of the training and who would conduct it, the training never came into being.

Calista Corporation recently reorganized and is now cooperating with several organizations to begin the training.

Nils Sara, Trainer for RurAL CAP, will be working with the Calista Staff, some of the Calista board members, the Yupigtak Bista Staff and people from various other agencies including the Department of Community and Regional Affairs and the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc.

The training will be given in two separate segments, the first one being held in June. Both

sessions will involve two representatives from each village in the Calista region.

The first session will cover the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and will also include a session on basic land identification terminology.

The village representatives will perform various tasks during the summer, including the identification of land use around their villages on maps that will be supplied as part of the training package.

The training will resume in the fall with an intensive land selection session that will be designed to enable the villagers to undertake the village land selection process.

The initial session will be held in Bethel and because summer activities are beginning it will be necessarily brief. It is expected to last for one week.

'A Guide to Land Selection Activities'

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP) has recently completed a booklet entitled "Land Selection — A Guide to Land Selection Activities."

The booklet is a brief, basic guide that deals with the land selection aspect of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and is intended for use in the rural villages of Alaska.

The booklet was developed by RurAL CAP's Trainer, Nils P. Sara, with assistance from Mike Harper, Executive Director, Phil Smith, Deputy Director, and other sources such as Dr. Lidia Selkregg who works with the Arctic Environmental Infor-

mation and Data Center.

The manual begins by stressing the importance of village involvement in the land selection process. The next section is designed to give the villagers a basic background in the land selection provisions of the Act and in land description terminology.

Further sections deal with existing land use and ownership, land potential, and land evaluation, rules governing selection and a summary of the Act and the role of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission.

The manual has been reviewed by the Alaska Federation

of Natives, Inc., the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, the Alaska Native Foundation, the 12 Native Regional Corporations and RurAL CAP's 10 Regional Development Corporations as well as the RurAL CAP Board of Directors.

The section on rules governing selection is currently being revised to conform to the Department of the Interior's Rules and Regulations that have just been released.

After the revision is made the manual will be printed and will be available for distribution. Anyone interested in obtaining copies should contact RurAL CAP in Anchorage.

Egan Praises Formation of APEC

Governor Bill Egan has praised the formation of the Alaska Pipeline Education Committee in its efforts to provide information to fellow Americans on the immediate and drastic need for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

In an open "letter to all Americans" he noted that one of the most important premises upon which Alaska received Statehood was resource development.

"The United States Congress in approving statehood was well aware of Alaska's potentially abundant petroleum reserves and its favorable action was, in fact, taken on the premise that those reserves would be developed and the resulting revenues would pay the new state's way," Egan writes.

Without such a revenue base, "Alaska would have been a poor risk for becoming a self-sustain-

ing partner in the American Union. Alaska asks now only that it be allowed to proceed with the bargain which was struck with the granting of statehood."

Governor Egan also stated that the reduction in the balance-of-payments deficit can be found through the use of Alaska's oil to meet the nation's critical energy needs.

The Alaska Pipeline Education Committee is engaged in sending speakers outside to present information on the Alaska pipeline, concentrating in those areas most opposed, such as California, the Northeast and Midwest.

The Governor urged all Americans to listen to and examine the information brought by the Alaskans in this organized effort to secure favorable public support for the Alaska pipeline.

Illegal Seal Skins Reported to Police

Two construction workers in Palmer recently reported to police that they had six seal skins stolen from the back of their truck while they were in a local pub displaying two other seal skins which they had in their possession.

Unknown to them, they were in violation of legislation enacted last fall by the federal government making it an offense for a non-native to be in possession of a green seal hide, a State Fish and Wildlife Protection Officer advised.

The construction men said they obtained the seal hides from a number of villagers in the vicinity of Bethel. Sales of such hides are also in violation of the law, making those persons who sold the hides subject to arrest, the Protection Officer stated.

The National Marine Fisheries Service enforces the federal law with respect to sea lions, whales, seals and porpoises and the federal Fish & Wildlife Service enforces the law with respect to sea otters, polar bear, walrus

and manatee.

The Alaska Department of Public Safety is currently negotiating with the various agencies in respect to contracting enforcement of the sea mammals regulations.

