

Frank Berry named CINA executive director

The Cook Inlet Native Association has hired Frank Berry, former president of the Alaska Native Foundation, as CINA's new executive director.

Berry, 42, replaces Bruce Tiedemann, who served as executive director from October of 1983 to January. Max Dolchok, who served as CINA executive director for two years prior to Tiedemann, has filled in as acting executive director for the past two months.

Berry was named to the position on a split vote of the board and from a slate of three candidates including himself, June Degnan of Unalakleet and Harry Carter, former Koniag president.

He said his first 60 to 90 days will be spent getting to know CINA's 13-member Board of Di-

rectors, becoming acquainted with the organization, working with the area village corporations to "obtain sign-off on some subcontracts," and planning for the CINA annual meeting in June.

The Association, the oldest of the state's regional Native Associations, will celebrate its 20th anniversary this June.

Berry inherits a job with an organization that has seen several cases of political in-fighting and criticisms of management over the past year.

CINA had until 1983 acted as the subcontractor for Cook Inlet Region, Inc., the BIA-recognized tribal entity for the Cook Inlet Region. CIRI shareholders indicated last summer that they were concerned that

they were being left out of important CINA considerations in favor of non-CIRI concerns.

CIRI directors then formed the Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) which is handling primarily employment and scholarship matters for CIRI.

However, Robert Rude, president of CITC and a former president of CINA, said CITC

will begin seeking some grants previously assigned to CINA in the areas of education, job training and scholarships. Those areas fall easily within CITC's area of work, said Rude.

A letter of agreement was to be worked out between CITC and CINA and discussions have been held between the two over the past few months to reach

some accord on the agreement.

CINA Board members delayed a decision on the proposed agreement last week with comments that a public hearing should be held on the matter.

Rude said he feels that a public hearing would do no good because the BIA decides who gets the contracts, not public acclaim.