

Land Use Planning Commission.

President of Tanana Chiefs Among Key Speakers

By JOYCE ZIMMERSCHIED

What use land should be put to, what plans to make and how to make them were the major topics discussed in the first Land Use Planning Commission meetings held in Fairbanks. The commission met Thursday through Saturday in the Chamber of Commerce log cabin.

Heading the commission are federally-appointed Jack Horton

and Joe Josephson, designated as state appointee in place of Gov. William Egan. Also sitting on the commission are four members chosen by Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton and four picked by Gov. Egan.

Among key speakers before the commission was John Sackett, president of the Tanana Chiefs. Following opening remarks on the terms and implementation of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act,

Sackett spoke on problems and progress of the Chiefs.

Noting that the Chiefs are
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entitled to between 13.7 and 14 million of the 40 million acres designated by the Settlement Act, Sackett said that 1/3 of this land must be selected within the next two years. The remaining 2/3 may be chosen after this time.

Enrollment must be completed by March 30, 1973, with land to be selected to a year after that. Discussions are presently about 1/3 completed on history and inheritance philosophy of the villages, concepts of land titles and areas, expected timetables and the finances involved.

Technical training of village leaders, Sackett said, will allow them to take charge of events. seminars on map reading, titles, legal land descriptions and so forth will help them to select land wisely and efficiently.

Five problems outlined by Sackett include selection acreage, changeability of inland waters, interim control of lands withdrawn for Native selection, subsistence use outside of selected lands, the need for a good resource library, and rejection of native allotments. He recommended that much work on these problems can be done administratively and that village corporations should start immediate work on them.

On the inland waters, Sackett said that they belong to the state and that three parties were needed to agree on titles, with commission members acting as a stimulus to movement. He said that he hoped to submit a proposal to the group soon.

Access to Native lands for hunting and fishing by non-Natives was another bone of contention.

"One basis of the Claims Settlement is to protect Native subsistence. The entire concept of

the Claims Act is being forgotten," Sackett said.

He pointed to massive trespass by non-Natives on Native lands as proof of this statement, citing the duck hunting at Minto as a prime example.

The resources library is an urgent necessity, he said, because people need to know what is on their land before selections are made so that they may be wise ones.

To his statement, "I fear it will be developed only after the need has passed," Horton replied by saying that he was just as aware of the need as is Sackett and that the library would be established as soon as a building in Juneau could be emptied.

Another major point was the fact that Natives applied through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, who did not inform them that the land they picked had already been bought by other parties. Since the deadline for refile was December 18th of this year, they were left with no recourse to refile elsewhere. He suggested that something must be done about this situation, perhaps an amendment to the constitution.

Sackett said that he wanted to take a township soon to use as a test case. The advantages to such a move would be to assist a group of people who are unsure not only of what a corporation actually is but also how modern business methods work.

"Certain property owners as individuals have certain rights. We must educate the villagers and outsiders," Sackett said.

Josephson suggested that Sackett draw up a proposal on his suggestions and submit it to the commission.

NEXT WEEK: Victor Fisher and others make statements.