

Hensley replaces Johnson on subsistence panel

Charlie Johnson, chairman of the Alaska Federation of Natives subsistence committee has resigned that position because he felt the committee chairman should be based in Anchorage.

Johnson, who also is president of the Bering Straits Regional Corp., resigned effective last week, according to Janie Leask, executive vice president of AFN.

Willie Hensley, a former AFN president, and a Alaska Native leader, well known in all sectors of the state, was chosen to take Johnson's place when the AFN Land Claims Board met last week in Nome.

Hensley, president of the NANA Development Corp., chairman of the board of the United Bank of Alaska and chairman of the Alaska United Drilling Company, was selected because he is well known throughout Alaska and is based in Anchorage.

He was attending meetings in the NANA Region's villages Monday and could not be reached for comment.

The committee also nominated Fred Wemark from the Maniiliq non-profit corporation in Kotzebue to succeed the AFN subsistence coordinator Nels Anderson.

Anderson, who served as coordinator for the committee

for four months, resigned that position recently because he felt that his recent appointment as state senator to the Bethel and Dillingham district demanded more time and effort than he would be able to give if he worked also on subsistence.

Emil Notti, a former AFN president had been proposed for the coordinator's job but the time necessary to work in the job caused Notti to reconsider. Notti runs a consulting firm.

Wemark also was investigating the problems caused by the time that would be consumed if he began working with the committee.