

One Native on Land Use Planning Commission Irks Natives-

Ten-Member Commission Draws Protests from Throughout the State

By MARGIE BAUMAN
(Courtesy Anchorage Daily

News)

Muktuk ...

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didn't seem to mind and continued to eat in a sociable fashion as less fortunate spectators gathered about.

At last the generous Native Americans took pity on the less fortunate race and shared their muktuk with the curious crowd. No one said you couldn't GIVE muktuk away.

As this story went to press, no casualties were reported and muktuk, "the breakfast of champions" had won a few more devotees.

Unity Challenged ...

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NCIO should take into consideration this autonomy."

Sackett was supported by Bobby Schaeffer of the Northwest Native Association and Richard Stitt from the Tlingit-Haida region.

"Don't walk away with the assumption," said Stitt, "that there is a concurrence that all funds should be channeled through the AFN. We in the Tlingit-Haida area have an understanding. We get the EDA grant direct from EDA."

Schaeffer said he had never heard of the AFN-EDA proposal. However, he stated, "I think the AFN should continue to exist."

How it is to continue, what powers it is to be granted by the regions, and what is to be its role in the post-settlement era is the subject of a high-powered reorganization meeting taking place in Anchorage this week.

Surprisingly, NCIO passed all three of AFN's resolution, indicating that the question of authority was an internal matter between the AFN and the regions.

The eight-member Native NCIO board, jointly with eight members of the President's cabinet, act as an advisory group to the President.

Chaired by J. Rainier, board members Dr. B. Frank Melvin, Martin Seneca, Dale Wing, Harold Shunk, Earl Old Person, Joe Vasquez, Bob Robertson, and Fairbanks' own Laura Bergt listened attentively as Alaska Natives voiced their own special and unique problems and opportunities.

Recognizing tribal differences, the group nonetheless discovered areas of mutual concern and overlapping goals. Problems held in common by virtually every tribe in America: housing, education, health, and the all-pervasive BIA were discussed with emphasis on the Alaskan viewpoint.

The question of Indian self-determination in relationship to

Mammal Bill ...

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position to protect provisions that benefit Alaskans.

The house-adopted bill did not contain provisions to protect Alaskan native arts and crafts.

Stevens said, "I want to thank Senator Ernest Hollings of South Carolina who did a good job on this bill. Senator Hollings permitted me to take the committee to Nome and Bethel to hear first-hand the effect this bill would have on Alaskan natives. Through this effort we were able to get the exemptions in this bill for Alaskan native arts and crafts.

Selection by Gov. William A. Egan and Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton of a single Native to the State-Federal Land Use Planning Commission has brought protests from the ranks of Alaska Natives around the state.

The ten member commission, required under provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, will help administer the settlement act, particularly in identifying public easement across Native-selected lands for recreation and commerce.

Harry Carter, executive director of the Alaska Federation of Natives, is the lone Native member of the commission. Con-

BIA policies was brought up with news of the dissolution of the nation's only all-Native executive board which existed here in Fairbanks, combining input from North Slope Eskimos and the interior Indians.

Georgianna Lincoln, a member of that board told NCIO of the board's growing frustration with BIA foot-dragging techniques. Finally they resolved to walk out on the organization.

The group had backup and support from the Fairbanks BIA agency, notably director Wally Craig, but failed to receive funding and policy-making authority.

While federal sources ostensibly support self-determination and at least one federal agency, the Public Health Service, has begun to make headway in applying the concept, still the BIA remains "poured in concrete", said Tlingit-Haida's Richard Stitt.

"I think they've been wrong a long time," he told the NCIO members Thursday. "Unless they're willing to give some powers, power to stop money from flowing, to stop programs, then you don't really have Native involvement. I understand that Congress, EVEN Congress can't stop that organization."

NCIO board members responded with complaints about BIA actions in their own areas and Seneca, noting that the group's next meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., assured the Alaskan Natives that the board would make recommendations for changes.

NCIO resolved to establish better communication exchange nationally to guide its members on which issues to bring before the President's attention. It seems a sure bet that the BIA will be at the top of the list.

Tlingit-Haida's Richard Stitt told NCIO that although he had not heard of their work previously, he felt they could be an effective voice in Washington.

He related his region's experience with the BIA, where the Central Council had nothing but difficulties. "We removed the agency director," he said, only to find him put in another position in the bureaucratic structure over their heads.

Stitt drew a parallel between the question of authority in both the BIA and the AFN.

"If somebody comes along with a title," he said, "it's assumed he's somebody."

This week's significant restructuring of the AFN will have to be thrashed out in Anchorage. It is clear what unity in the Alaska Federation of Natives meant in realization of the land claims settlement.

It is far from clear what unity means for the future.

sidering the affect the commission's action may have on more than 60,000 Alaska Eskimos, Aleuts and Indians, there should be more Natives working with Carter on that commission, Natives argue.

"Harry's an excellent selection, but there should be at least three Natives on that commission," said Cecil Barnes, president of Chugach Natives, Inc., one of the 12 regional Native corporations, "Morton should have appointed at least one Native and Egan's choice was just more or less a requirement," he said.

Robert Marshall, president of Athna Inc., regional corporation of Copper River area Natives, agreed with Barnes.

"Carter's a good pick, but there should have been more beside him," he said.

John Schaeffer, executive director of the NANA Regional Corp. Inc., at Kotzebue, concurred in that opinion.

Nels Anderson, executive director of the Bristol Bay Native Corp., fired off letters of protest to Morton and Egan.

"I am shocked that you did not see fit to appoint one Alaska Native," Anderson told Morton. "None of the people you selected in any way reflect the views of our Alaska Native people. You have again managed to see to it that our voice is stifled by appointing all white members to the commission," he said.

The Arctic Slope Native Association, at Barrow, had recommended that Charlie Edwardsen, Jr. be named to that commission, "and we are displeased that he was not chosen," said Larry Dinneen, special assistant to that region. "We thought he was the best choice of the 35 persons recommended to the governor," Dinneen said.

"The great majority of land that needs planning and zoning is in the Native environment. They have also appointed people that deal with land problems from an executive point of view and it will not infuse any new information," he said.

"We are a little disappointed that only one Native was appointed," said Sam Kito, executive director of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, at Fairbanks.

The TCC, noted Kito, would have preferred that at least one older person who has lived off the land for subsistence purposes be appointed. There are no such persons on that commission, he said.

Members of the commission appointed by Egan include:

Dr. Max Brewer, state commissioner of environmental conservation and former long-time director of the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory at Barrow;

Natural Resources Commissioner Charles Herbert, a minerals geologist;

James Hurlie, owner of a title insurance company in Palmer who once served on the Federal Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corp., and was a member of the first state legislature.

Harry Carter of Kodiak, executive director of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Morton appointed the following four:

Celia Hunter of Fairbanks, one of the founders of the Alaska Conservation Society, board member from that time to the present, and charter member of the Bureau of Land Management's Advisory Board for Alaska;

Anchorage Mayor George Sullivan, a transportation executive and former deputy U. S. Marshall at Nenana;

Dr. Richard Cooley, an economist, geographer and geography and environmental stu-

dies program chairman at the University of California at Santa Cruz, and author of books and articles on Alaska. Cooley was a professor at the University of Alaska for about ten years, and prior to that was associated with the Conservation Foundation in Juneau.

Joseph H. Fitzgerald, former state chairman of the Feder-

al Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska and coordinator for the Alaska Earthquake Recovery Program, now living in Seelye Lake, Mont.

Cochairmen of the commission are Egan and Jack Horton, former Deputy Undersecretary of Interior, Atty. Gen. John Havelock will be Egan's representative on the commission.

Bilingual College ...

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to bring instruction to the villages.

The UA is negotiating with Advocacy Planning Associates of Anchorage, who developed the innovative program to initially serve paraprofessionals employed in child care or related services, to complete organization and planning for the new school.

"It's one of the most promising ideas to meet the needs of the villages, particularly in the area of medical services," said Dr. Lewis Haines, provost of the Southcentral Regional Center of the university.

The campus of KCC will include the facilities of Bethel Regional High School, Bethel Broadcasting Corp., and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp., a private non-profit corporation funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity through a grant to the Alaska Federation of Natives.

"I'm very much encouraged and excited," said Haines. "I feel it's an opportunity for the university to establish a prototype for a school with programs not of the traditional type, but geared to serve these bush communities."

"This is going to be a community college that regards English as a foreign language, not Yupik," said consultant Jon Buchholdt, of Advocacy Planning. Buchholdt drew up the initial program over the past year, on request from the university.

"This will be a community college that regards the sociology of Eskimo people to be the sociology the people should be taught, not the sociology of Chicago, Illinois," he said.

"This community college will reflect back upon the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim area their own values and cultural traditions. This is going to be a college of relevance," he said.

Support for the new school came from many sources, including a local citizens advisory board at Bethel headed by Mrs. Diane Carpenter, State Rep. George Hohman-D-Bethel, Bethel Mayor John Guinn and Bethel City Manager Ed Benson.

Buchholdt and Haines threw considerable praise for the progress made in establishing the university to Hohman.

"Hohman carried the ball considerably and was instrumental in getting the appropriation this year," Haines said. It would not have been conceivable without him, Buchholdt said.

There is still much organization and planning to be done, however, and Buchholdt feels John Gray of Navajo Community College, Many Farms, Ariz.,

is the man to do it, along with Adrian Parmeter, a former chief counsel of the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Education under Robert F. Kennedy.

Together they would develop a distinctly Yupik Eskimo curriculum and curriculum materials, he said.

Gray has had a successful experience in multi-media education programs in Arizona and elsewhere. He graduated with honors from Arizona State University in 1958, then did graduate work at three other schools before his appointment to the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Education.

"Gray has successfully adapted use of television and educational radio to a regional community college program," Buchholdt said. "This has never been done in Alaska; never thought of. Yet it's been successfully done for the Navajo and we think these same systems can be successful in Bethel."

As things stand now, KCC stands likely to become a prototype through which people of rural Alaska can gain access to higher education and vocational and career development training. Buchholdt said in his proposal to university regents.

"It will be an essential part of the answer to the problems of a deficit in trained leadership in village Alaska," he said.

There is much work to be done before autumn.

Still to be determined are the needs of other individuals or groups to be served by Kuskokwim College, perhaps in such areas as fisheries management training or management training for those to be employed by regional and village Native corporations.

Work schedules of the Bethel area health, education, social service, management, and fish and game management professionals will have to be reorganized in some cases, so that they can serve as instructional staff for KCC.

And grant applications must be developed for federal assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act, which was recently amended and passed by Congress to include aid to Indian community colleges.

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