



**Alaska
Conservation
Foundation**

Alaska Native Fund Steering Committee

The Alaska Native Fund is guided by an Alaska Native Steering Committee representing diverse geographic, organizational, and generational perspectives. Members to date include:

Vera Metcalf, Executive Director of the Alaska Eskimo Walrus Commission-Nome. (St. Lawrence Island Yupik) AEWK is a program of Kawerak, a regional Alaska Native nonprofit in Nome; AEWK focuses on co-management of subsistence resources from the Northwest Arctic south to Bristol Bay. As AEWK Director, Vera also serves on the Pacific Walrus Technical Committee and is currently the Chair of the Pacific Walrus Conservation Fund. Vera also represents EWC on the Indigenous People's Council for Marine Mammals, consisting of commissions formed to 'identify and address marine mammal issues of common concerns.' For eight years, Vera was Vice President and repatriation officer of the Bering Straits Foundation. For seven years, she was a member of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Review Committee, which recommends and advises the Secretary of the Interior on regulations and disputes. During these years, Vera documented and presented the results of community-based research used for repatriation purposes. She is a former member of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission.

Orville Huntington, Wildlife and Parks Director, Tanana Chiefs Conference-Huslia (Athabascan) Orville worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service for fourteen years as a Wildlife Biologist. He has worked for the Huslia Tribe and advocated on behalf of Tribes for more than twenty years. He has served on the Huslia Tribal Council, Huslia City Council, Koyit'otsina Ltd. Board of Directors (village corporation BOD), and the Interior Regional Housing Authority Board of Directors. He continues to serve on the Alaska Federation of Natives Board of Directors, the Alaska Native Science Commission (as Vice Chair), the Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees as the Chair, the State of Alaska Rural Education Committee, the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and on the NSF Office of Polar Programs AC. Orville conducted research for a report on relationships between conservation NGO's and Alaska Native organizations with Henry Huntington, PhD in 2006. He views himself as an advocate for Native people from all over the State of Alaska, and as a connection with outside agencies and researchers.

Cherilyn Holter, Roads Manager for Hydaburg Cooperative Association (HCA) -Hydaburg (Haida) Cherilyn is the mother of three and was raised by her grandparent Willis and Hazel Bell, who instilled important Haida values that have stayed with her for her entire life. Throughout her various positions (living in a small community you wear many hats!) she has worked under a personal policy that "If we can

describe it culturally we can protect it.” In her tenure as Roads Manager, Hydaburg has become clean and organized and all street signs are now in Haida and English. She served as the HCA Environmental Planner for six years, during which time she received the Alaska Conservation Foundation Denny Wilcher Award for Excellence in Environmental Education; she loves to share her knowledge of Haida culture and philosophy, and developed a Haida language curriculum while working for the Sealaska Heritage Foundation. As an environmental advocate, Cherilyn worked to successfully end the spraying of toxic herbicides on Long Island. She has also served on the Haida Corporation Board of Directors.

Kimberly Williams, Executive Director of Nunamta Aulukestai-Dillingham. (Yupik) Nunamta Aulukestai means "Caretakers of the Land" in Yup'ik and is comprised of eight Alaska Native Village Corporations that have come together to carefully manage the future of Bristol Bay. Nunamta is focused on the protection of lands in Bristol Bay from the proposed Pebble project. Kimberly has served as a Land Resources Agent for the Tanana Chiefs Conference Extension Indian Reservation Program, University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service and as an agent for the UAF Marine Advisory Program in Dillingham. She is a former Executive Director of the Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission. Kimberly is very involved in her community and region through service to the Curyung Tribal Council and Dillingham City School Board.

Jonella Larson White, Executive Director, Alaska Native Arts Foundation-Anchorage. (St. Lawrence Island Yupik) Jonella Larson White is the Executive Director for the Alaska Native Arts Foundation, a non-profit organization, in Anchorage, Alaska with a mission to support Alaska Native artists, their art, their heritage and their communities. She has her Master of Liberal Arts degree in Museum Studies from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Rural Development from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In 2008, Larson White was a recipient of the Smithsonian Institution, Native American Awards Program, and the Harvard University Native American Program, Nation Building Graduate Fellowship Program. International research include a semester at the University of Tromsø, Center for Sami Studies, and a five month volunteer program teaching English in Bupsa, Nepal. An artist herself, she served as mask designer for Juneau-based Opera To GO! touring production of the Mozart remake, "Arctic Magic Flute." Larson White, Ququngaq, is St. Lawrence Island Yupik raised in Nome with family ties to Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island.

Consultant

Evon Peter, Owner / CEO, Gwanzhii, LLC-Fairbanks. Evon (Neetsaii Gwich'in, Koyukon) is the former Chief of Arctic Village. Through Gwanzhii, LLC, he has consulted on projects throughout Alaska, including an ongoing role with ACF on the development of a fund for Alaska Native organizations and on strategies for building partnerships between Alaska Native and non-Native environmental organizations.