

among the public lands withdrawn
village, in order of their proximity to the
communities its selection rights are exhausted.

the village possesses a council, board of di-
rectors or other governing body recognized by the Secretary
for such village, and which is both
exclusively by Natives, such coun-
cil or board is hereby authorized to exercise

the powers of its village. In the absence of a
council or board of directors or other governing

body listed in section 10 (c), the Secre-

tary shall, for such village, under such rules
prescribed, at which a five-man

committee shall be chosen, and the

Secretary is hereby authorized to exercise the land

within the village. The Secretary shall hold all

land within one year after the effective

date for persons entitled to vote therein or

the committee shall be the members

at least sixteen years of age or over, as shown

on the roll prepared pursuant to section

of the village.

with one or more Native villages, because of

of the village entitled to select lands in the

event such villages select the same lands, their

The re-

1 respective village councils, boards, governing bodies or land
2 selection committees, as the case may be, shall be authorized
3 to settle the overlap by negotiation and, in furtherance
4 of any such settlement, to release selected lands to each
5 other. A Native village at any time may, and, if the villages
6 which are parties to the overlap do not reach agreement
7 within six months after the date such overlap arises, the Sec-
8 retary shall refer the overlap to the Commission for decision
9 in accordance with section 6 of this Act. The Commission
10 shall award the land, or portions thereof, to the village or
11 villages shown historically to have made greater use and
12 occupancy thereof by a preponderance of the evidence, or in
13 such manner as will do substantial justice.

14 (2) A Native village which releases selected lands in
15 order to settle an overlap, or which loses selected lands under
16 a Commission award in accordance with paragraph (1),
17 shall be entitled to select additional public lands pursuant
18 to subsection (a) (3) until its selection rights are exhausted,
19 and, notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) hereof,
20 all townships withdrawn under section 10 (b) around a
21 Native village which is a party to a selection overlap shall
22 remain in withdrawn status until three months after final
23 settlement of the overlap or a final decision of the Commission
24 concerning such overlap, including any appeal.

25 (d) The regional corporations created pursuant to sec-