

Akiachak Activity Report

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General Information:

The Akiachak IRA Council rejected Village Safe Water's (VSW) proposal to hire a contractor to assess the tribe's finances and develop a workplan. A committee consisting of two IRA Council members, the IRA Council CEO, RUBA staff and a contract bookkeeper had selected Ciutmun, Inc. to do the assessment. The IRA Council has rehired Sherry Hoover who had been previously worked on training the finance department personnel.

The Akiachak IRA Council still has not passed the water & sewer utility ordinance drafted by Leroy Seppilu, RUBA staff, over a year ago. The ordinance was to be reviewed by the tribe's ordinance expert Willie Kasayulie. Despite promises that he would meet with Leroy to review it, he has not done so.

Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — RUBA staff have not been given the FY98 and FY99 audits that should have been completed. CEO, Jackson Lomack, continues to promise to provide a copy as soon as the audits are completed.

Accounting Systems — The tribe has retained Sherry Hoover to continue working with its finances and train the finance department personnel. Ms. Hoover plans to install USTI accounting software program. This software program costs approximately \$1,200 and about \$400 a year for maintenance subscription. RUBA staff have recommended not using the program. They feels it is too complicated for Akiachak Native Community (ANC) finance department personnel to maintain and operate without direct contractor oversight.

Tax Problems — RUBA staff has not determined if there are still any tax problems ANC experienced last quarter. The tribe still works with Sherry Hoover.

Personnel System — One of ANC's employees will be sent to a Utility Organization Management Training in Bethel in January 2001. The training is sponsored by the RUBA Program. RUBA staff recommended that the CEO, Jackson Lomack, attend.

Organizational Management — ANC needs assistance in reorganization. Some or most of ANC employees don't know what their job duties and responsibilities are. This was one of the tasks to be done in the proposed contract with Ciutmun, Inc. that was rejected by ANC.

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Leadership/Governance — Akiachak Native voters elected new IRA Council members and the Council elected a new president, George Peter. Jackson Lomack has commented that the Council wants him to forge ahead with plans to get the water & sewer utility project going. Leroy has yet to see how this new Council will perform. Leroy missed a general membership meeting of the Akiachak Native Community due to other commitments. The VSW engineer said only three Council members attended.

Operation of Utility — The new and yet to be completed water plant was vandalized and sustained several thousand dollars in damages. Alaska State Troopers are investigating.

The passage of the water & sewer utility ordinance is still not the priority of ANC/Akiachak IRA Council. All the council still needs to read the draft, hold a hearing and pass it. The process is very simple and easy to do.

Ranking

1 = Inadequate

4 = Adequate to meet minimum requirements

7 = Exceeds requirements

Category	1	4	7
Finances		X	
Accounting Systems		X	
Tax Problems		X	
Personnel System	X		
Organizational Management		X	
Leadership/Governance		X	
Operation of Utility	X		