

## **Akiachak Activity Report**

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### **General Information:**

DEC/VSW has funded a grant for Akiachak Native Community to hire a contractor to assess its financial situation and develop a workplan. The contractor will make a recommendation on how to solve the financial challenges the tribe is facing. The tribal government has huge debt problems. RUBA staff participated as part of the selection committee to interview and select a contractor. Of the three proposals, the committee unanimously selected Anthony Caole's Ciutmun, Inc., a training and consulting firm from Bethel. Mr. Caole was also a tribal administrator for the Native village of Kwinhagak for a number of years. He will also assess other areas of the local government, such as: the overall organization of the tribal government; review tribal ordinances related to the operation of village services; and, determine lines of authority. Mr. Caole will make comments on potential changes to improve service delivery.

VSW has just put the contract for bookkeeping assessment services on hold until ANC provides the most recent audits (FFY97 and FFY98 audits). ANC CEO Jackson Lomack has been saying that those two audits have recently been completed but has not provided the documents to VSW and DCED. The contract will be on hold until the audits are provided.

### **Observations and Recommendations:**

Finances — Jackson Lomack claims the debts to vendors by Akiachak Native Community (ANC) continue to get lower each year. As revealed in the FY96 audit the total was about \$600,000 and now Mr. Lomack claims the debts to be about \$200,000 in the FY98 audit. RUBA staff and VSW have not yet seen a copy of the latest audit (FY98).

Accounting Systems — VSW water and sewer utility project has funded a contractor to assist ANC straighten out its finances and implement a new accounting system so that financial reports and budgets can be made.

Tax Problems — Dept. of Labor, ESD has levied \$5,684.52 for unpaid ESC taxes. ANC owed \$10,542 from 4<sup>th</sup> qtr., 1999, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr., 2000. ANC submits the quarterly reports on time, but do not include payments. The information is being passed on to Ciutmun, Inc., with whom the issue will hopefully be resolved.

Personnel System — The business manager has been released of his duties and is no longer working for ANC. CEO Jackson Lomack has hired a new business manager who he feels will do an excellent job. Leroy have not seen his work performance.

Organizational Management — Hopefully, Anthony Caole will be addressing this issue which need lots of improvement. One major problem is that the CEO for the tribe is an elected

position. Obviously, the Chief Executive Officer can become unpopular with tribal members for making tough decisions.

Leadership/Governance — Jackson Lomack has indicated that he plans to run for the CEO position again so that (as he says) he can continue his plans to stabilize Akiachak Native Community financially. Election for vacant tribal council seats will be held in October and the new council will be electing new officers as well.

Operation of Utility — Still no word on the passage of the water and sewer utility ordinance, although RUBA staff has been bringing up the issue with the CEO. Meantime, the new water plant stands idle until the tribe gets an ordinance passed and its management in order.

**Ranking**

1 = Inadequate

4 = Adequate to meet minimum requirements

7 = Exceeds requirements

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