

Akiachak Activity Report

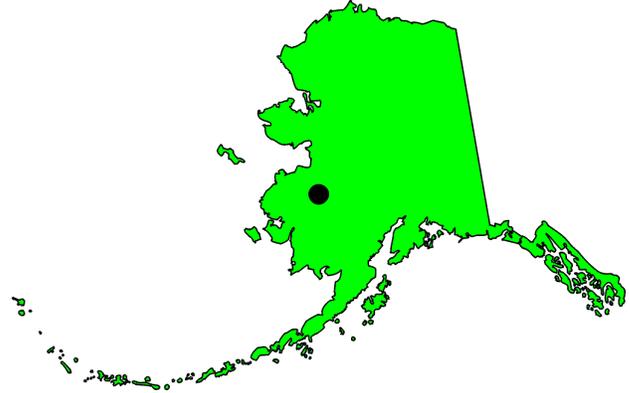
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Johnny Evan, Bethel Office

2002 Population: 622

Region: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

Local Government: IRA Tribal Council



The Tribal Council operates the washeteria, water treatment plant, garbage collection, and the honey-bucket haul system. The Tribal Council is the policy making body for the utility.

Construction of a piped water and gravity sewer system is still halted temporarily due to unmet grant conditions. A new well, water tank, water treatment plant and a road to the new lagoon have been completed. Currently, the school and teacher's housing are served by a piped system; most residents haul water from the community's watering point and haul their own honey-buckets to the sewage lagoon. The community has, till the end of the calendar year to meet the grant conditions.

RUBA Activity This Reporting Period

The community is still working with Mikunda & Cottrell on their bookkeeping improvement plan. The plan includes: adoption of the water sewer ordinance; installation of the financial software; and the training of the administrative staff. The administrative staff attended the QuickBooks Pro training and have installed the financial software, inserted the organizational data, and received training on the application portion. The collection rate is hovering at 66%, with an initial goal of increasing it to 80%. The Tribal organization has a deduction program from gaming proceeds for those residential customers who have a debt through water sewer services. The water sewer ordinance was adopted last quarter.

Capacity Indicators

Finances

Essential Indicators

- | Yes | No | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | All revenue and expenses for the utility are listed in the utility budget. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adopted a balanced realistic budget. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Monthly financial reports are prepared and submitted to the policy making body. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility is receiving revenues (user fees or other sources) sufficient to cover operating expenses. |

Sustainable Indicators

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility is receiving revenues (user fees or other sources) sufficient to cover operating expenses and Repair & Replacement (R&R) costs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | YTD revenues are at a level equal to or above those budgeted. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | YTD expenditures are at a level equal to or below those budgeted. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A monthly manager’s report is prepared. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Budget amendments are completed and adopted as necessary. |

Finances Comments: The Tribal organization completed their FY03 Budget, and is currently working on their FY04 Budget. The user fee of \$10.00 per month is still not sufficient to cover the operation and maintenance costs. The collection rate is still hovering at 66%, but they are currently considering other options to subsidize the difference.

Accounting Systems

Essential Indicators

- | Yes | No | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adopted a collection policy and actively follows it. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility bills customers on a regular basis. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | An accounts receivable system is in place which track customers and reports past due accounts and amounts. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | An accounts payable system is in place. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The payroll system correctly calculates payroll and keeps records |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A cash receipt system is in place that records incoming money and what it was for. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Utility has a cash disbursement system that records how money was spent. |

Sustainable Indicators

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A chart of accounts is used that identifies categories in a reasonable, usable manner. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Monthly bank reconciliations have been completed for all utility accounts. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has a purchasing system that requires approval prior to purchase, and the approval process compares proposed purchases to budgeted amounts. |

Accounting System Comments: The Tribal organization computerized their accounting system to QuickBooks Pro 2003 and is conducting their accounting functions with the new financial software.

Tax Problems

Essential Indicators

Yes	No	NA	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		The utility has a system to accurately calculate, track, and report payroll tax liabilities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		The utility is current on filing tax reports.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		The utility is current on making tax deposits.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If there are any past tax liabilities, a repayment agreement has been signed and repayments are current.

Tax Problems Comments: The community is current with their tax liabilities.

Personnel System

Essential Indicators

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The utility has a posted workers compensation insurance policy in effect.

Sustainable Indicators

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The utility has adopted and uses a Personnel Policy, which has been reviewed by an attorney, AML, or DCED for topics and language.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has adequate written job descriptions for all positions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The utility has adopted and follows a written personnel evaluation process that ties the job description to the evaluation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The utility has an adequate written hiring process.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has personnel folders on every employee that contain at least: I-9, Job Application and Letter of Acceptance.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The utility has a probationary period for new hires that includes orientation, job-training/oversight, and evaluations.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility provides training opportunities to staff as needed and available.

Personnel System Comments: The new business manager is optimistic, and is very proactive in addressing the recommendations by the auditing firm. All the recommendations tasked have been addressed including currently finalizing their workers compensation with an insurance agency.

Organizational Management

Essential Indicators

Yes	No	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The entity that owns the utility is known and the entity that will operate the utility is set.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The policy making body is active in policy making of the utility.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The policy making body enforces utility policy.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has an adequately trained manager.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has an adequately trained bookkeeper.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has an adequately trained operator(s).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has adopted the necessary ordinances (or rules and regulations) necessary to give it the authority to operate.

Sustainable Indicators

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has adopted an organizational chart that reflects the current structure.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy making body meets as required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility complies with the open meeting act for all meetings.

Organizational Management Comments: The Council is beginning to be more proactive in the water sewer business as they now understand that in order for the projects to continue, they have to meet the grant conditions. A utility ordinance was adopted during this quarter and has yet to be implemented. The new business manager has reorganized the operational procedures of the organization and should be effective in meeting the scope of work outlined.

Operation of Utility

Essential Indicators

Yes No

The utility operator(s) are actively working towards necessary certification.

The utility has a preventative maintenance plan developed for the existing sanitation facilities.

Sustainable Indicators

The manager receives a monthly O&M report from the utility operator and routinely “spot checks” the facilities to see that the maintenance items are being completed.

The utility has a safety manual and holds safety meetings.

Utility facilities have not suffered any major problems/outages due to management issues that are still unresolved.

The utility is operating at the level of service that was proposed.

The operator provides status reports to the manager on a routine basis.

The utility has completed and distributed its Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

The utility is not on the Significant Non-Compliance (SNC) list.

The utility maintains an inventory control list.

The utility maintains a critical spare parts list.

Operation of Utility Comments: The new business manager is working with the Tribal council, and is currently outlining the scope of work for the utility services.

RUBA Activities For The Coming Quarter

Follow-up on the work done by the new business manager and develop a working relationship with the Tribal organization.