

# Goodnews Bay Activity Report

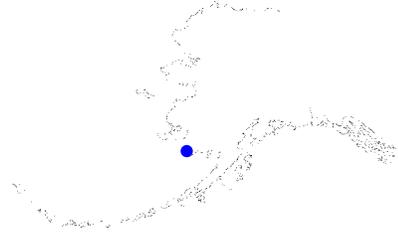
## Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Ken Berlin, Bethel Office

2000 Census Population: 230

Region: Lower Kuskokwim

Local Governments: Second Class City



The City of Goodnews Bay operates the central watering point, provides for honeybucket haul and has a sewage lagoon. The Goodnews Bay Water & Sewer Utility Board, a non-profit corporation, is the policy making body for the utility. Currently, treated well water is hauled from the new watering point. Honeybuckets are hauled by the City. Most homes are currently not plumbed. A piped circulating water and vacuum sewer system, with plumbing for 72 homes, is under construction. The school has requested funds for new water treatment, and has been connected to the City sewage lagoon.

## General Information

In May, Ken Berlin, LGS in the Bethel Regional Office, made a 3 day on-site visit to the City offices and reported that the City is totally out of funds. Ken recommended getting a loan to see the City through until FY 02 entitlements come in. He also recommend only City Clerk, Health clinic and Gaming workers stay on board only if they were willing to wait for their checks when City is able to pay. Ken recommended the Gaming workers get a cut in pay until Gaming is able to pay for its full operational costs. Ken also recommended Council start looking for new sources of income.

The Utility continues to operate as best it can with late or no contributions from the City or Tribe.

## Observations and Recommendations

Finances — The Washeteria revenues have been increasing during this quarter and are covering more of the expenses of the Utility (the non-profit corporation). However, the City is continuing to have financial problems (see above). The City staff continue to receive technical assistance with budgeting and accounting processes from the Bethel Regional office. The collection rate for the honey-bucket bin haul system is increasing.

Accounting Systems — All the necessary accounting systems are in place and the Utility Manager has been trained to use them. RUBA staff will continue to monitor the system to see if any changes need to be made or if further training is needed.

Tax Problems — There are no tax problems. The Utility Manager knows how to deposit the payroll taxes and can file the required quarterly reports.

Personnel System — The Operator has had on-site training and has gone to training sessions in Bethel. He has passed his OIT test. The Manager has trained an assistant to help in the office a few hours a week. This has proved helpful for the operations of the Washeteria on the weekends and other times when the Utility Manager is not available.

Organizational Management — There is one person who is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day management of the utility. There are Rules and Regulations for the Utility in place and Personnel Policies and procedures have been adopted.

Leadership/Governance — The Utility Board is a recognized non-profit corporation. Its' Articles of Incorporation have been reviewed and approved by the Department of Commerce. The Board has approved the Bylaws. The Board continues to hold meetings monthly. Both the City and Traditional Village governments recognize it as the local organization that will manage and operate the system. The City and Utility Board have signed a management agreement to formalize the understanding that the Utility Board will operate and manage the City's property. The Utility Board has reviewed and approved the rules and regulations governing the operations, maintenance and management of the utility.

Operation of Utility — The new operations staff has received training operating the water plant and Washeteria equipment. The office equipment is operating properly and utility staff has been trained how to use it.

**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

### Anticipated Activities

Due to staff turnover in the RUBA Program, Scott Ruby will be available to assist the Utility Manager until a new RUBA is hired and trained.