

Hooper Bay Activity Report

Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Marita Hansen, Bethel Office

2003 Population: 1,115

Region: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

Local Governments: 2nd Class City



The City of Hooper Bay operates multiple watering points, operates a honeybucket haul service and sewage lagoon. The City Council is the policy making body for the utility. Residents currently haul treated water from the washeteria or other watering points. Three new wells were drilled in 1997, 3 miles northeast of town. The school uses its own water system. Honeybuckets are dumped at collection points, then hauled by a 4-wheeler and trailer. Access roads and construction pads are completed. The landfill was expanded in 1997, and includes a new sewage lagoon; the combined site is nearly 20 acres in size. The new water/sewer project construction was underway and the shell of the building itself was completed. Project continues as long as the community meets the grant condition showing capability of financially supporting this project through a sanitation tariff.

RUBA Activity This Reporting Period

The Hooper Bay water/sewer project continues as the special conditions continue to be met. Mikunda Cottrell accounting consultants provided an on-site review. One of the review results was that the City has too many employees versus the revenues the City has. The consultants also tried working on the computer system to see whether they could increase memory but were not successful. The computer does need an upgrade or new computers. As for AVEC and CE2 working toward ways to reduce operating costs of the new Water plant, this continues as an on-going process.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | YTD revenues are at a level equal to or above those budgeted. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Budget amendments are completed and adopted as necessary. |

Finances Comments:

Subsidy for the Washeteria operating costs continue to be subsidized when necessary through user fees and the Yukon Fuel lease funds. As an annual review, the City experiences revenue decline during these spring months. Bingo/pull tabs are not reliable with revenue collection reduction. The City has already put together the FY06 budget. The first reading is scheduled for the 1st Tuesday of April at the monthly council meeting. This has been the first community that has informed RUBA that the budget is already completed and is going through the final process. City Budgets deadline to Juneau is June 30th. One of the main reasons this City started early is to look into other insurance carriers that may give them a better and lower cost than AML/JIA. This is in preparation for what the administrator is foreseeing in the next fiscal year with revenue reduction. As for PERS, the City has made efforts to get reimbursed from this entity since they returned to social security but PERS is not cooperating. They want to keep the funds for the AVEC operator's. This is an on-going process. RUBA has provided technical assistance with the VSW special condition, User fee reporting format. The latest VSW grant included submitting a six month report. After several drafts and reviews, a final copy was sent to Roger Burleigh, VSW Engineer.

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:

All indicators continue to be met.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		If there are any past tax liabilities, a repayment agreement has been signed and repayments are current.

Tax Problems Comments:

The City is now an electronic IRS tax depositor starting end of January 2005. RUBA and the City are very happy this has finally taken place. This will prevent penalties for late deposits.

Personnel System

Essential Indicators

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

Sustainable Indicators

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has adopted and follows a written personnel evaluation process that ties the job description to the evaluation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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:

All indicators continue to be met. The bookkeeper is on two weeks leave and Lorraine Tomaganak-Moses is the substitute. She has worked as the bookkeeper II before and knows the system. As for the City clerk, this is still a temporary position. Jennifer Lake was hired as the temporary but will be on maternity leave soon. Denise Mann, Vista Volunteer continues to work at the City. She has provided e-mail training to the administrator. He now can use the e-mail without having someone else do it for him.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The policy making body is active in policy making of the utility.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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:

All indicators continue to be met.

Operation of Utility

Essential Indicators

Yes	No	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility operator(s) are actively working towards necessary certification.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has a preventative maintenance plan developed for the existing sanitation facilities.

Sustainable Indicators

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has a safety manual and holds safety meetings.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Utility facilities have not suffered any major problems/outages due to management issues that are still unresolved.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility is operating at the level of service that was proposed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The operator provides status reports to the manager on a routine basis.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has completed and distributed its <u>Community Confidence Report (CCR)</u> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The utility is not on the <u>Significant Non-Compliance (SNC)</u> list.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The utility maintains an inventory control list.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The utility maintains a critical spare parts list.

Operation of Utility Comments:

Essentials continue to be met. Informed the administrator that the washeteria and watering point are still on the SNC list. He will contact the operator to make sure these reports have been sent. The Hooper Bay utility is not listed on the latest SNC list. The next CCR is due end of June 2005. A copy of the 2003 CCR report was received by RUBA.

RUBA Activities For The Coming Quarter

Continue monitoring collection of on-going monthly financial and sanitation user fee reports to make sure they continue to meet the 75% special grant condition. Provide assistance as needed or requested.

