

Kiana Activity Report

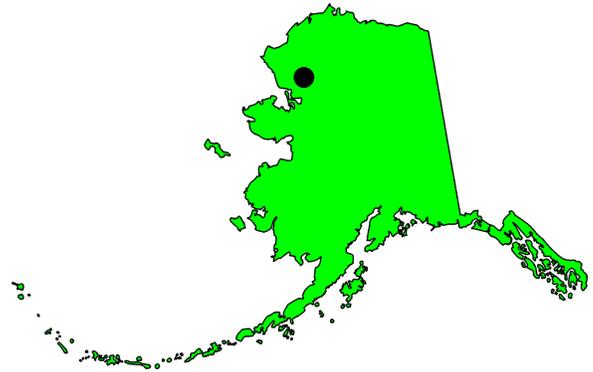
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Margaret Hansen, Kotzebue Office

2002 Population: 399

Region: Northwest Arctic

Local Governments: Second Class City



The City of Kiana operates the piped water and sewer system and maintains a central watering point where residents come to haul water to their residences. The City also maintains honeybucket pits and a sewage lagoon. The City Council is the policy making body for the utility.

A 200,000-gallon steel tank is intermittently filled from two wells near the Kobuk River. Water is chlorinated prior to distribution through buried water mains. Piped water and sewer are provided to 75 homes, the clinic, school and community hall. Kiana maintains a 6-inch buried gravity sewer system, which drains to a lift station and is pumped through a buried force main to the sewage treatment lagoon northeast of the village. A few households haul water and use honeybuckets or septic tanks. The landfill is located west of the sewage disposal lagoon. The site needs to be relocated. A water and sewer Master Plan is being conducted for needed infrastructure improvements.

RUBA Activity This Quarter

The Kotzebue LGS provided phone and fax assistance on options for Title IV Local Option Law that the administrator had requested to provide to the council. They had heard a few residents would like to start a petition to go damp but no one came forward as of yet.

During the quarter I also assisted the Administrator and clerk on increasing their sales tax to offset the reduction of State Revenue Sharing. We decided to provide the water/sewer customers information on the current situation of the city's need to generate additional revenue previously provided by the State. Although the city increased their water/sewer rate from \$70 to \$100 a month, they will only break even. Hopefully this information will help them to vote for the sales tax increase from 2% to 4%.

The Kiana Administrator has resigned to start his own business. The city has advertised and received two applicants from out of state. They interviewed and offered the job to one of the applicants who declined because of the pay and cost of living there. They are advertising again.

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. |

Accounting Systems

Essential Indicators

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility meets all essential indicators. |
|-------------------------------------|---|

Sustainable Indicators

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility meets all sustainable indicators. |
|-------------------------------------|---|

Accounting Comments: They have a very reliable and experienced bookkeeper/clerk and a certified operator. The council finally agreed to increase their water/sewer rates to \$100.00 a month, which became effective July 1st!

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 city has no tax problems. All reports and deposits are made timely.

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: The City would like assistance to review their personnel polices. Once they have hired a new administrator, the Kotzebue LGS will provide on site training and assistance with this.

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 meetings act for all meetings.

Organizational Management Comments: The Council has passed the organizational chart and is very clear on the chain of command.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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>Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)</u> .
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility is not on the <u>Significant Non-Compliance (SNC)</u> list.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility maintains an inventory control list.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility maintains a critical spare parts list.

Operation of Utility Comments: The city has been in compliance for testing this last year but needs to work on holding safety meetings which they stated they will hold this next quarter. This did not happen due to lack of an administrator. The clerk is trying to keep up with the day to day business of the city. The council has asked the Mayor to come in for three hours in the afternoon to assist the clerk.

RUBA Activities For The Coming Quarter

The President of the IRA has approached the city about merging governments. He is in the process of drafting up an consulting agreement to hire Anthony Caole to provide training to both councils on how this type of agreement would work in Kiana. The council has asked that I be invited to sit in to provide advice and assistance on this matter.