

## Kobuk Activity Report

### Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Margaret Hansen, Kotzebue Office

2001 Population: 109

Region: Northwest Arctic

Local Governments: Second Class City



Sanitation utilities in Kobuk are operated and managed by the City. The City Council is the policy making body for the utility.

Major improvements are under construction to provide a piped water and sewer system, including household plumbing. A 30-foot well provides water, which is treated and currently hauled by residents from the washeteria. Honeybuckets and privies are currently used by most residences, but plumbing is under construction. The washeteria has its own septic tank. Waste is disposed of at Dall Creek. A new landfill was recently completed. Kobuk Valley Electric Co-op purchases power from AVEC over the Kobuk-Shungnak intertie.



### RUBA Activity This Quarter

RUBA staff is training the new administrator on grant writing. The administrator received training this quarter on budgeting, financial and grant reporting including payroll for QuickBooks Pro.

## 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:** The utility budget is being supplemented by general fund. We have approached the council twice to increase user fees. This system is two years old and now the council should have more accounting information to make the decision.

## Accounting Systems

#### Essential Indicators

The utility meets all essential indicators.

---

#### Sustainable Indicators

The utility meets all sustainable indicators.

**Accounting Comments:** There seems to be problems at this time. The administrator is using QuickBooks Pro for just payroll at this time.

## 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:** There are no tax problems at this time.

## Personnel System

### Essential Indicators

The utility meets all essential indicators.

---

### Sustainable Indicators

The utility meets all sustainable indicators.

**Personnel System Comments:** The council has requested to review their personnel policies for any updates.

## 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 a adequately trained manager.  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | The utility has a adequately trained bookkeeper.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility has a 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 type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" 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 needs to adopt an organizational chart as part of the policies.

## 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>Community 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 council needs to adopt a safety manual which the Kotzebue LGS will work with them on.

## RUBA Activities For The Coming Quarter

The goal for the coming quarter is to continue training the administrator in using QuickBooks Pro for payroll, provide more training and assistance with grant writing and work with her in drafting a safety manual.