

Kwethluk Activity Report

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General Information:

In October, Ken Berlin traveled to Kwethluk to assist the administrator with the FY 01 budget and FY 99 Certified Financial Statement.

Kwethluk Utilities Commission (KUC) held a fiddle dance to raise funds for operation and maintenance of the current sanitation system. Phase II of the future piped system drilling was in progress. Collections for billed services are lower than anticipated. The collection rate is 35%. Their goal is to raise that rate to 80% in the next quarter.

In November, Ken Berlin assisted the Mayor with Kwethluk Utility Commission election procedures. The City administrator's position was vacant and the Mayor wanted to combine the Mayor and administrator's position into one.

The RUBA task list was reviewed with the utility manager to ensure the utilities commission was on task with the ANTHC work plan. Everything on the list was on task, except for billing and collection.

Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — The Kwethluk Utilities Commission (KUC) held a fiddle dance fund raiser for operations and maintenance. Originally, both the IRA and the City had agreed to give donations to the KUC to support the utility. In the past quarter, the IRA Council reduced its contribution by half and the City is not keeping up with their contribution donations. Customer payments for services are much lower than anticipated. All of this has given the utility cash flow problems and the utility has made cuts in operations.

Accounting Systems — The accounting is handled through Money Count in conjunction with the City's accounting system. KUC has set a goal to separate their accounting systems.

Tax Problems — KUC is current with their tax liabilities. They even have a credit with IRS.

Personnel System — The utility manager is planning to reduce the water treatment operators pay roll schedule to once a month due to cash flow problems. The utility has also had to cut operator hours.

Organizational Management — The utility manager is scheduled to attend an organizational management workshop in the following month.

Leadership/Governance — Despite the financial problems, the utility board continues to actively pursue the piped sewer system.

Operation of Utility — The utility services ATV broke down during this quarter. The utility manager requested an ATV in the community joint meeting, and fortunately, the IRA donated an ATV to the utilities commission. The manager stated that they will be receiving other ATV through the project grant. Operator hours have been reduced due to financial problems.

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		