

Kwethluk Activity Report

General Information:

In October, the City Manager, David Epchook, was provided with information by Johnny Evan, RUBA staff from Bethel, on COWATER who provides vacuum systems for Flush Tank Haul Systems. The City was to purchase a vacuum system for the Container Haul System. Johnny began the reorganization of the utility services as a non-profit organization, separate from the City functions. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is still in the hands of the City, as they do not concur with the intentions of the IRA Tribal Council.

In November, the MOA was still in the hands of the City with no solid intention of acting on it. The City hired a Utility Manager under the redesigned Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) Grant.

In December, Mary Miner of ANTHC and Johnny Evan, RUBA staff from Bethel, reviewed the work plans for the City of Kwethluk, and planned to meet on the week of January 10, 2000. The City reported that they were \$1,800 in the red. The City Manager abandoned his position. Sales tax liabilities have not been paid by Kwethluk Incorporated since August 1999. The washeteria encountered mechanical problems resulting in closure of the water treatment plant for a week. Mayor Boris Epchook had an intermediate plan for the situation and wanted to meet with the City Council.

Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — The City reported that they were \$1,800 in the red. Kwethluk Incorporated had not paid their sales tax liabilities that should be over \$12,000. Customers were not paying for their sanitation services.

Accounting Systems — Money Count is being used to handle their accounting system, but it does not do payroll and tax reporting.

Tax Problems — According to Eldridge Moss Jr., Tax Collection Officer, they were in good shape in this month.

Personnel System — The City Manager abandoned his position, the Bookkeeper resigned, and they recently hired a Utility Manager. They are in operation with reduced hours.

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Organizational Management — The Kwethluk Utility hired a Utility Manager in November 1999 to reinstate the Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) Grant tasks, to have a functional utility service.

Leadership/Governance — The City has yet to consider meeting with the IRA Council to review the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Operation of Utility — The Water Treatment Plant was out of service due to mechanical problems for a week, they were planning to close the utility services due to customers not paying for their services, and the washeteria was closed due to the mechanical failure. Running out of fuel is a management decision that would be alleviated by following the preventive maintenance procedures.

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	