

Kwethluk Activity Report

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General Information:

In April, the utility manager was closing out the Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) Grant with financial report formats provided by the RUBA Program. The manager ordered a vacuum system for the container haul system before submitting his resignation.

In May, Adam was still working for the utility commission with reduced hours and sounded interested in working for them. There was a Joint Group meeting to discuss the Memorandum of Agreement that would hand over the assets and liabilities to the utility commission. The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) requested that the project deliverables must be accomplished by June 30, 2000.

In June, the Utility Commission was operating solely to provide sanitation services of to community. The Commission met all the project deliverables before the deadline. The commission has opened a checking account, registered with DOL with an intention of submitting their ESC's quarterly. The RUBA Program has taught the utility manager all the requirements to operating a separate entity under the City as the overseer.

Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — Are deteriorating, with sales taxes slowly coming in from business entities.

Revenues collected from user fee's is building slowly. The two local governments both agreed to contribute to the utility commission monthly.

Accounting Systems — Still uses Money Count with an intention of upgrading to a financial software that has a billing system in the program.

Tax Problems — The new organization will submit its first payroll tax reports in July 2000.

They have registered with the Alaska Department of Labor and received their own EIN number for the sole purpose of operating as a non-profit organization.

Personnel System — The utility manager is working with reduced hours from last quarter.

The manager, despite his earlier resignation, continues to work for the utility organization meeting all the work plan deliverables.

Organizational Management — The new utility board has been in practice since the organization incorporated on December 1999. The utilities commission was handed over, through an Memorandum of Agreement, the assets and liabilities for the sanitation services, effective June 2000. The community is considering to transfer the project to the IRA Tribal Council soon.

Leadership/Governance — The utility board members are employed and/or serve on other organizations within the community. They have shown an interest in running the new utility organization with a little guidance from the RUBA Program.

Operation of Utility — The utility commission operates the water treatment plant, washeteria, and the container haul system as the interim water sewer project in preparation to upgrading to the piped system. New rates will be in effect for the three services once the utility board approves the completed rate studies. As in most communities, water is free and consumed heavily. This would be the main revenue source if there was a water consumption rate in effect.

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	