

Larsen Bay Activity Report

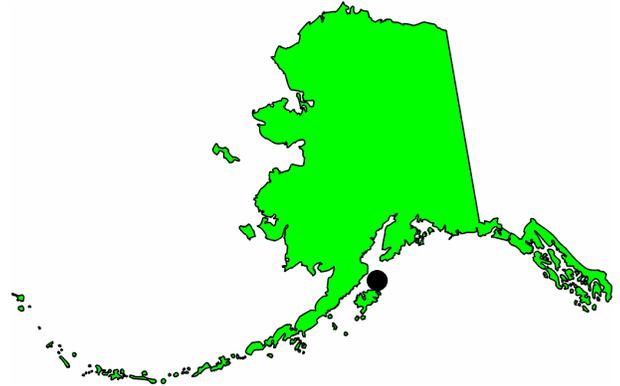
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Tammy Helms, Anchorage Office

2003 Population: 97

Region: Kodiak Island

Local Government: 2nd Class City located within the Kodiak Island Borough, Tribal Council



Water is supplied from two groundwater sources- gravity feed from the hydro plant, and a well as backup, and stored in a 200,000 gallon tank. A water supply line is connected to the penstock of the hydroelectric plant and used a majority of the time to reduce utility expenses to both the service plant and the customer. All 40 homes are connected to the piped water system. A community septic tank with an outfall line serves these homes, and the majority are fully plumbed. Weekly refuse collection services are provided. The community incinerator is currently unusable and all refuse is deposited at the landfill site. The city is seeking funding for a water treatment plant upgrade. The city began adding fluoride to the water in October.

RUBA Activity This Reporting Period

RUBA has conducted one site visit this quarter to help with the annual Regulatory Commission of Alaska Power Cost Equalization (PCE) report, catch up payroll liability reports, grant reporting and clerk training. Telephone, fax, and email support were provided to answer various questions. A new City Clerk was hired during this quarter.

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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Monthly financial reports are prepared and submitted to the policy making body. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility is current in paying all water/wastewater electric bills. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has on hand a year's adequate fuel supply or it has financial plan to purchase an adequate. |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | YTD revenues are at a level equal to or above those budgeted. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Budget amendments are completed and adopted as necessary. |

Finances Comments:

RUBA staff will assist the City Clerk with preparing the proper financial reports so they can be submitted to the Council monthly. Over the last four months the City has purchased ample fuel to supply the community through the busy summer and fall season. In doing this, the city has assumed two large fuel loans and is having difficulty meeting payments. The water and sewer revenues are not sufficient to cover operating expenses. The City subsidizes its water and sewer utility through the fuel and electric sales. Manager/ operator reports are given verbally when requested from the Council.

Accounting Systems

Essential Indicators

- | Yes | No | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adopted a collection policy and actively follows it. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility bills customers on a regular basis. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | An accounts receivable system is in place which track customers and reports past due accounts and amounts. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | An accounts payable system is in place. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The payroll system correctly calculates payroll and keeps records |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A cash receipt system is in place that records incoming money and what it was for. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Utility has a cash disbursement system that records how money was spent. |
-

Sustainable Indicators

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A chart of accounts is used that identifies categories in a reasonable, usable manner. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Monthly bank reconciliation's have been completed for all utility accounts. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has a purchasing system that requires approval prior to purchase, and the approval process compares proposed purchases to budgeted amounts. |

Accounting Comments:

Although the City has an adopted collection policy, it has not been enforced for the last year and a half. A billing clerk was hired in February 2006 and was promoted to City Clerk in July 2006. She has been actively pursuing customers to sign repayment agreements. The City utilizes QuickBooks for accounts receivable, accounts payable and payroll. The QuickBooks system is set up properly and has been a tool in the past to reliably keep the City's finances in order. Unfortunately, from March 2005 until July 2006, the employee responsible for accounting entry failed to enter data or execute the program functions properly, which has lead to the City writing numerous NSF checks. Due to assistance from the RUBA program the new clerk has been properly trained and errors corrected. Starting in January 2005, the City received over \$122,000 in cash, but had no method of accountability for the cash, until February 2006 when a billing clerk was hired and she began a written paper trail of the cash.

Tax Problems

Essential Indicators

- | Yes | No | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If there are any past tax liabilities, a repayment agreement has been signed and repayments are current. |

Tax Problems Comments:

Previously, the City was past due with payroll liabilities. In July 2006, all reports were submitted and liabilities were paid due to RUBA assistance.

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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adequate written job descriptions for all positions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adopted and follows a written personnel evaluation process that ties the job description to the evaluation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility has an adequate written hiring process. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility has personnel folders on every employee that contain at least: I-9, Job Application and Letter of Acceptance. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 of Larsen Bay has a posted workers compensation insurance policy in effect from 7/1/06 to 7/1/07 with AML/JIA. The City's current hiring process is historical and is not written. Job notices are posted with the job title and description for 10 days. Interested applicants apply within the City office. There is currently no probationary period for employees. Training opportunities to staff are provided as funds allow or opportunities by other sponsors come available.

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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The policy making body is active in policy making of the utility. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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

- The utility has adopted an organizational chart that reflects the current structure.
- The policy making body meets as required.
- The utility complies with the open meeting act for all meetings.

Organizational Management Comments:

The current utility operator is trained but has not passed the OIT test. The City was in a period of transition last quarter due to the prior City Clerk having been released from his position in late June because of accounting irregularities. The billing clerk was promoted to City Clerk in July. The City Council is presently not enforcing the collection policy. Efforts to once again enforce the policy are being pursued.

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

Operation of Utility Comments:

In speaking with the Remote Maintenance Worker, Steve Evavold of Village Safe Water, there is a preventative maintenance plan for the existing system. The current utility operator is trained and can run the system but has not passed the OIT test. The utility operator reports to the Mayor or Vice-Mayor when there is a problem or he can foresee one. The utility is not able to operate at the level of service that was proposed due to the inability to backwash the rapid sand filter. The utility does not meet all required drinking water regulations. The City is currently on the SNC list for treatment technique violations and monitoring violations for Stage one and Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR). The utility operator and Council attempt to keep needed critical spare parts on hand.

RUBA Activities For The Coming Quarter

Assistance will be provided in the following areas:

- Continued Clerk training
- Submitting application for RCA provisional certification
- Preparation of grant reports.
- Preparation and submission of reports to DOL and IRS.
- Preparation for October elections.

