

Napaskiak Activity Report

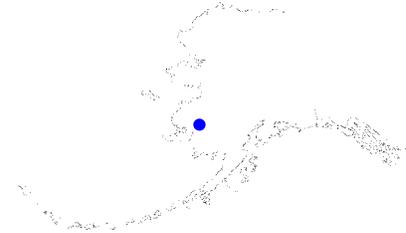
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Johnny Evan, Bethel Office

2001 Population: 390

Region: Lower Kuskokwim

Local Governments: Second Class City, Village Council



The Village Council in Napaskiak maintains a central watering point for the residents to haul water to their residences and operates multiple other watering points. The Village Council also operates the honeybucket haul service to the sewage lagoon and provides for honeybucket pits. The Village Council operates the utility under a Memorandum of Agreement with the City and is the policy making body for the utility.

Residents haul treated water from one of two watering points. They occasionally experience water shortages. Some homes have tanks with running water for the kitchen, but very few have complete plumbing.

Honeybuckets are disposed of by residents in bunkers at various locations. Sewage is then pumped from the bunkers and transported to the sewage lagoon. The school has its own well, but needs a new water treatment system. After a successful flush haul demonstration project, an additional fifteen units are currently under construction. These are slated to get done by April 2002.



General Information

The flush haul demonstration project is operating very well since its inception. A rate analysis was completed with the six units and future additions considered. With the additional units in construction, the Tribe will be ready to institute any new user rates for sanitation services. The community received an additional fifteen (15) units last summer and they should be installed by April 2002. The Tribe has adopted the utility rate analysis, with additional units in consideration. This will not be implemented until the project is complete. The Utility Master Plan was reviewed and is the model plan for implementation of the capital

projects for the community. The Tribe is currently working with the City to renewing the Memorandum of Agreement.

The City recently hired a new City Clerk and Assistant, both do not have any accounting experience. The newly hired staff were trained on payroll & payroll taxes and how to complete year end tax requirements. Both need training on quarterly tax reporting requirements.

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — A rate study was completed for the community. The rate study looked at what will need to be charged as the additional units are added. The rate study suggested a rate of \$35 per month. This was felt to be too high and the Council recommended a user rate of \$20/month with the rest being made up from local subsidy. RUBA staff worked with the Administrator to look at the availability of local subsidies. The Tribal organization looked at this information and instituted a user fee of \$25 per month for the residential customers. This rate applies for both flush tank and haul system (FTHS) customers and bunker haul users. Currently the collection rate is 95% for both user groups

The Council also looked at revised user fees for the additional flush haul units installed, but will not implement the new rates until the planned units are installed. Gaming operations is used to provide the local subsidy for the utility. It is expected that as more units are built, the utility will become self-sufficient.

Accounting Systems — The Utility uses Cougar Mountain accounting software. They have no problems inputting data into the system. They do need additional training in payroll records and reporting.

Tax Problems — There are current with their tax liabilities.

Personnel System — The assistant Tribal Council Administrator was delegated to coordinating the new flush tank and haul system. The City hired two new staff that need training on how to administer and manage a non-profit organization. The Tribal organization was notified and is willing to provide any necessary training for the two City employees.

Organizational Management — The Tribal Council is very well organized. They do need to finalize the MOA with the City that transfers management authority of the sanitation system to the Tribal Council. While the Tribe's management of the utility is not an issue, the Tribe would also like to take over most, if not all, the operations of the City. This is still being negotiated.

Operation of Utility — The community is constructing additional fifteen units, slated to be done by April 2002.

Category	Inadequate	Meets Minimum Requirements	Exceeds Minimum Requirements
Finances		X	
Accounting Systems	X		
Payroll Taxes		X	
Personnel System	X		
Organizational Management	X		
Operation of Utility		X	

Anticipated Activity

- Train the new City Clerk on Quarterly Tax Liabilities