

Stebbins Activity Report

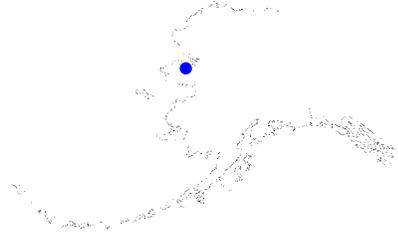
Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Leroy Seppilu, Nome Office

2001 Population: 547

Region: Bering Straits

Local Governments: Second Class City



The City of Stebbins operates the washeteria and a central watering point where residents can come and haul their own water. The City also provides a honeybucket haul service. The City Council is the policy making board for the utility.

Major improvements are under construction to enable a piped water and vacuum sewer system, with household plumbing. Residents currently haul water and deposit honeybuckets in bunkers. Water is derived during the summer from Big Clear Creek, is treated and stored in a 1,000,000-gallon steel water tank. In the summer there are several watering points in the village, distributed from the tank via plastic pipelines. A reservoir at Clear Lake and a new water storage tank are under construction to alleviate winter water shortages. DEC has approved the landfill for use, although it is not permitted. Refuse is collected by the City from central bins.

General Information

The washeteria, including the clinic and apartment, burned down and are considered a total loss for the City. The washeteria was a major money-making enterprise for the City. The City, with the assistance of the Norton Sound Health Corporation's Office of Environmental Health, applied for a Denali Commission grant to build another washeteria. The competitive grant reviews will be made sometime in April and if awarded, the washeteria will be built in the summer of 2002.

The City of Stebbins was selected to have two City officials trained with QuickBooks Pro. The initial training will be in Anchorage in April and follow up trips and on-site training will be made by Mikunda & Cottrell, Inc.

Observations and Recommendations

Finances — The washeteria loss has resulted in a significant financial loss to the City. This enterprise was well-used by the community. A temporary washeteria was opened in the school and some customers have been going to St. Michael to do their laundry.

Accounting Systems — The City Administrator and City Clerk are looking forward to the initial QuickBooks Pro training in Anchorage in April.

Tax Problems — The City is keeping current with paying its taxes.

Personnel System — The City Clerk has more experience with computers than the City Administrator. I'm hoping that both of them will fully learn to use QuickBooks Pro to the city's advantage.

Organizational Management — The washeteria enterprise was being managed well and made a substantial financial contribution to the City. It is hoped that when a new washeteria is built the good management practices will start up again.

Operation of Utility — The temporary washeteria is barely eking by. The residents demands are not being met by the temporary washeteria and some customers are going to St. Michael to do their laundry. This is a big revenue loss to the City.

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

The City Administrator and Clerk will be going to Anchorage to attend QuickBooks Pro training in April. A follow-up set-up and training will be made on April 15-19. After that, two more on-site training will be made by Mikunday & Cottrell.