

Tanacross Activity Report

General Information:

John Fischer, RUBA staff in Fairbanks, learned that the long time Tanacross administrator left his position with the Tanacross council during this quarter. There have been no further staff changes that RUBA is aware of and ANTHC reported in September that the project was going as smoothly as could be expected. The former administrator had a lot of depth with the community and many plans for the future. RUBA work has ground to a standstill in this community until a permanent administrator can be hired and a new working relationship re-established. The council president reiterated that the community would still like to participate in the RUBA program and cited two possibilities for RUBA activities, one being a workshop on community education and the other assistance with the upcoming federally mandated audit.

The status of the new enterprise fund (Tanacross store) is largely unknown. The store was open for business during the September RUBA visit. This was, however, the first week of operation for the store. It is a clean, well-organized enterprise and should do well in the village since there is no competition for 20+ miles. The former administrator had indicated that this enterprise should generate profits to offset the 1998 utility loss caused by the de-watering. The enterprise accounting is being centrally handled at the tribal office. The bookkeeper at Tanacross has been on staff for a long time and handles the accounting very efficiently. It will be interesting to track this new enterprise and see if it is indeed a moneymaker as the former administrator so intended.

Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — Status of community and the following of the “Corrective Action Plan” not known at this date. Council president indicated he would need RUBA assistance with the advertising of the upcoming audit.

Accounting Systems — Since the bookkeeper is highly efficient and has been a long time staff member accounting systems should continue to function well.

Tax Problems — None known, and highly unlikely with current bookkeeper.

Personnel System — Personnel system still needs some work, “Administrative Orders” enacted from TCC template. Project has largely been put on hold until new administrator comes on board.

Organizational Management — Staff are in a state of flux between administrators. An acting administrator has been appointed.

Leadership/Governance — Council leaders are taking much more interest in the day to day affairs of the community. Whether this will prove to be a positive influence remains to be seen.

Operation of Utility — RMW reports very little change.

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	