

Tanana (Too'gha) Activity Report

General Information:

John Fischer, RUBA staff in Fairbanks, reports the Too'gha non-profit had some significant accomplishments this quarter including:

The Utility Management Agreement — This was finally signed at a December Too'gha Board meeting. The management agreement represents about three years of work and on/off negotiations between the Too'gha Board and the Tanana City Council. It serves as the template for the understanding between the City and the non-profit and should resolve future disputes related to the utility system.

Construction — Construction of the new laundromat facility went very well this Fall. The VSW engineer, DCED personnel and members of the Too'gha board toured the new facility. Work was progressing rapidly and the foreman indicated that the project was about two weeks away from shutting down the site for the winter. The foreman hopes to resume construction April 1. The operator, who had been spending most of his time learning the new system and working with the VSW crew, will return to the old laundromat for the winter.

Grants — Too'gha is in the process of closing out last year's community planning grant. In addition, new funding of \$12,000 has been made available for the ongoing planning effort. Tanana and the City of Hughes are still working on the Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB) mentor relationship. Plans are in place for Tanana and Hughes to participate in a joint Council/Board training session to take place in Tanana the week of February 15th. It is anticipated that this session will be attending by both Councils of the respective communities as well as the Too'gha Board.

Monthly Financial Reports — A Monthly Financial Report was provided to the Board at the last meeting.

Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — Much discussion has ensued about the operator returning to a full time basis on the Too'gha payroll. It is widely anticipated that this will cause Too'gha financial hardship. I suspect that the organization will take the matter in stride and budget accordingly. Too'gha had a positive balance of about \$10,000 at year-end.

Accounting Systems — Continued improvement. Manager handling all financial accounting functions for the non-profit.

Tax Problems — None.

Personnel System — Good. The personnel policy appears to be working and settling disputes.

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Organizational Management — The manager completed a rough draft budget which needs to be refined and presented to the Board for their decisions on where to make cuts at the next Board meeting. Both the Board and Manager have requested RUBA participation in formulating the budget.

Leadership/Governance — Good. Plans are in place to provide on-site training to Tanana/Too'gha/Hughes in Tanana.

Operation of Utility —Good. The RMW reports that better record keeping is needed in regards to the meter readings and other O&M records. Both Manager and Operator have indicated that they will attempt Level 1 certification this spring. Too'gha President and Tanana City Manager have indicated they would be interested in the Utility Management Training offered this Spring by DCED/TCC.

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	