

Tuluksak Activity Report

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General Information:

In May, the preparation for the container haul system was put on hold due to lack of meeting administrative requirements for the sanitation services. The Tribal Administrator was terminated due to incompetent performance, this led to assisting the tribal organization to reorganize their office management requirements. The utility intern attended a Sanitation Planning Seminar in Kotzebue under the VSW Planning Grant.

In June, bank statements were reconciled with the organizational check register. RUBA Program will assist the organization reduce the checking accounts to three accounts. The organization was tasked to total the revenues for FY99 that will be used to determine if the organization would need an audit for that year. The Magnuson-Stevens Act was put on hold (freeze) due to inaccurate and/or incomplete administrative reporting to the funding agency. The sanitation planning was reinstated. The RUBA Program presented the business plan and introduced the rate study. The bookkeeper was appointed as the acting Tribal Administrator until the position is filled.

The Tribal Organization was directed to find a utility manager who would be the liaison to the sanitation planning for the community. They need to find somebody who will do the work, not have outside individuals do the work for them.

Observations and Recommendations:

Finances — Are stable through gaming operations and direct funding from the BIA.

Accounting Systems — Is still manual with an intent to reviewing a financial software for consideration.

Tax Problems — Past tax liabilities for FY94 – 96 are finally done and were sent in to IRS and DOL. Other than the past tax liabilities, they are current with their tax obligations.

Personnel System — The organization has formulated and developed new policies and procedures for each departmental staff. They have yet to be reviewed and adopted by the Tribal Council. The Tribal Administrator still needs to get involved in managing the daily operations of the tribal organization. The Tribal Council realizes this, but cannot do anything about it, they have tried to hire a different administrator with no luck. There are two new members who are very involved in the governmental proceedings.

Organizational Management — The stakeholders to the sanitation planning need to research the possibility of separating the sanitation services from the tribe and forming a non-profit

organization. The commission has good intentions, but they cannot find employees that will be committed to getting the planning done.

Leadership/Governance — The utility commission needs to commence planning meetings with the reinstated project and to develop new tasks for the administrative staff to meeting the VSW Work Plan.

Operation of Utility — The water treatment operator, who works part-time, now has a fulltime job with the local corporation. Johnny Evan was training this individual to be the future utility manager, but with shortage of revenues, the interest is not there. The washeteria will be provided a computer to record revenues and expenditures and to create monthly/quarterly financial reports to the governing body. Revenues earned are deposited by the water operator monthly, but the accounting system is handled through the tribal council.

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		