

Tuntutuliak Activity Report

Community Overview

Lead RUBA Staff: Johnny Evan, Bethel Office

2001 Population: 370

Region: Lower Kuskokwim

Local Governments: Traditional Council



Tuntutuliak Community Services Association (Utility Organization) operates the washeteria, flush haul system, landfill/lagoon site, garbage collection service, and the central watering point.

A flush/haul system was completed for 31 homes in 1997, including bathroom plumbing. Construction continues for the remaining 30 homes, who currently use honeybuckets. The Tuntutuliak Community Service Association (TCSA), a non-profit arm of the Village Council, operates the utilities. A new landfill, sewage lagoon, and a 4-mile sanitation boardwalk were recently completed. The school has its own well and sewage lagoon; design of a new water treatment system and lagoon is underway.

RUBA Activity This Quarter

RUBA staff provided the community with payroll and payroll tax step by step procedures. Due to the absence of the bookkeeper (on maternity leave), an outside temporary bookkeeper was hired to work on their tax liabilities.

Capacity Indicators

Finances

Yes	No	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	All revenue and expenses for the utility are listed in the utility budget.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has adopted a balanced realistic budget.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monthly financial reports are prepared and submitted to the policy making body.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility is receiving revenues (user fees or other sources) sufficient to cover operating expenses.

Sustainable Indicators

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility is receiving revenues (user fees or other sources) sufficient to cover operating expenses and Repair & Replacement (R&R) costs.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YTD revenues are at a level equal to or above those budgeted.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YTD expenditures are at a level equal to or below those budgeted.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A monthly manager's report is prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget amendments are completed and adopted as necessary.

Finances Comments: The user fees are barely covering the expenses due to low collection rate. The electric utility has sufficient revenues to cover the shortfall in the near term.

Accounting Systems

Essential Indicators

Yes	No	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has adopted a collection policy and actively follows it.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility bills customers on a regular basis.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	An accounts receivable system is in place which track customers and reports past due accounts and amounts.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An accounts payable system is in place.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The payroll system correctly calculates payroll and keeps records
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A cash receipt system is in place that records incoming money and what it was for.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Utility has a cash disbursement system that records how money was spent.

Sustainable Indicators

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A chart of accounts is used that identifies categories in a reasonable, usable manner.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monthly bank reconciliations have been completed for all utility accounts.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has a purchasing system that requires approval prior to purchase, and the approval process compares proposed purchases to budgeted amounts.

Accounting Comments: Accounts payables are paid at the time bills are received; this is not considered a proper "system." Payroll taxes are done manually; however, they have not always been completed correctly.

Tax Problems

Essential Indicators

- | Yes | No | NA | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | The utility has a system to accurately calculate, track, and report payroll tax liabilities. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | The utility is current on filing tax reports. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | The utility is current on making tax deposits. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | If there are any past tax liabilities, a repayment agreement has been signed and repayments are current. |

Tax Problems Comments: The tax liabilities this quarter have fallen behind due to the bookkeeper’s resignation. The organization temporarily hired a bookkeeper to work on the tax liabilities. The organization is late in paying the tax liabilities, but they have sufficient funds to pay them with the penalties.

Personnel System

Essential Indicators

The utility meets all essential indicators.

Sustainable Indicators

The utility meets all sustainable indicators.

Personnel System Comments: The hiring practice is not a written policy. The utility does all the steps that a good written policy would have. Not all of the personnel folder requirements are in place, but most of them are in there.

Organizational Management

Essential Indicators

- | Yes | No | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The entity that owns the utility is known and the entity that will operate the utility is set. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The policy making body is active in policy making of the utility. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The policy making body enforces utility policy. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has a adequately trained manager. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The utility has a adequately trained bookkeeper. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has a adequately trained operator(s). |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adopted the necessary ordinances (or rules and regulations) necessary to give it the authority to operate. |
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Sustainable Indicators

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility has adopted an organizational chart that reflects the current structure. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The policy making body meets as required. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The utility complies with the open meetings act for all meetings. |

Organizational Management Comments: The bookkeeper resigned this quarter and an outside bookkeeper was hired to do the payroll/taxes. The ordinances were reviewed by the utility board and sent to the Tribal Council for their review and adoption.

Operation of Utility

Essential Indicators

Yes	No	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility operator(s) are actively working towards necessary certification.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility has a preventative maintenance plan developed for the existing sanitation facilities.

Sustainable Indicators

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The manager receives a monthly O&M report from the utility operator and routinely “spot checks” the facilities to see that the maintenance items are being completed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The utility has a safety manual and holds safety meetings.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Utility facilities have not suffered any major problems/outages due to management issues that are still unresolved.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility is operating at the level of service that was proposed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The operator provides status reports to the manager on a routine basis.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The utility has completed and distributed its <u>Community Confidence Report</u> (CCR).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The utility is not on the <u>Significant Non-Compliance</u> (SNC) list.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility maintains an inventory control list.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The utility maintains a critical spare parts list.

Operation of Utility Comments: There are safety manuals in place for some of the units, although there is no organizational safety manual. Safety is discussed in the monthly staff meetings. The community has never completed the a CCRs. As for the SNC, they are working on the required work and they should be returned to compliance by the end of July 2002.

RUBA Activities For The Coming Quarter

The goal for the coming quarter is to train the new bookkeeper on payroll and payroll tax liabilities; once they hire a bookkeeper.