

Wales Activity Report

General Information:

Assistance through phone and fax this past quarter by Nome RUBA/LGS Josie Morrow can be summarized as follows:

- Wales became a RUBA community this quarter.
- Conversations with the Mayor and Carol Piscoya of the Nome MRAD offices resulted in a list of financial information to be compiled by the acting City Clerk and sent to the Nome MRAD offices. Carol was given the task to pursue the gathering of this information. Once the files and documents are received by the Nome office, Josie will reconstruct the FY98 and FY99 Certified Financial Report's.
- Due to the unsafe condition of the City Office building, Nome MRAD staff will not be making any extended field trips to the community. All assistance will be provided through the mails, fax, and telephone.
- Monitoring of the City's plan of action to address the unsafe building is being conducted by the Nome MRAD office, Norton Sound Health Corporation/Office of Environmental Health, the RMW, and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC).
- The Mayor was advised to hire a City Clerk as soon as possible. The position has been vacant since early September 1999.
- The Mayor conducted the City municipal elections. There were no Community complaints to the Nome MRAD offices.

The Nome RUBA and Steve Schreiber, National Rural Water Association, prepared the City's 1998 Consumer Confidence Report shortly after the end of this quarter.

Observations and Recommendations:

Until a field trip can be made by the Nome RUBA, a comprehensive assessment of the City and Utility cannot be made. City officials and employees are hard to reach and are not forthcoming with information. The City requested that they be a RUBA community and were accepted as such last quarter. The City Clerk who was willing to work with MRAD staff resigned at the end of last quarter. MRAD personnel have been hesitant to travel to the City because of the unsafe condition of the City Office Building.

Finances — The City does not have a FY00 budget. They have no financial reports for FY98 through present and cannot collect any shared revenues until they complete the FY98 reports. The City Clerk position is open, and the temporary hire is usually out sick. No information is available from the City concerning utility billings.

Continued efforts by the Nome office to induce the Mayor and temporary hire to get financial information so that the Nome RUBA can assist them with the financial reports has resulted in no action at the time of this report.

Accounting Systems — The City was using manual journals and registers. It is not known at this time if these are being kept up to date.

Tax Problems — The Nome RUBA has a query in to IRS concerning this community. It is not known at this time what their status is with payroll taxes.

Personnel System — The City cannot retain a City Clerk. There appears to be no supervision over the temporary hire. The Mayor is vague when contacted about City personnel.

Organizational Management — The City has a Code of Ordinances. However, it has a weak collection policy and with no City Clerk on site, it is suspected that very little is being accomplished.

Leadership/Governance — The Mayor has held her position for at least the past three years. She is a very timid person and has difficulty making decisions. The City seems to have conducted its municipal elections in an acceptable fashion. There were no complaints received by MRAD. However, the Nome RUBA will have to make a field trip to this community once the weather improves and the City Office building is determined safe.

Operation of Utility — The operator is Operator In Training (OIT) certified in Water Treatment and Distribution. He will be attending the February OIT training for wastewater distribution.

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	