



**Denali Commission**  
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## **Buckland Meeting Notes March 9, 2010 Meeting Denali Commission**

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Sharon Lind opened the meeting introducing and welcoming those in attendance by phone. All attended the meeting via teleconference. Sharon turned the meeting over to Debra Addie from VSW for an update.

**Update from Debra Addie - VSW** – Debra provided the following report to the group and highlighted key items:

## **Buckland Water and Sewer Project**

### **VSW Monthly Report March 9, 2010**

#### **Design Activities**

- Contract amendment for water treatment process equipment design was signed on February 26.
- Summit submitted 95% design drawings for the 2010 Design on February 18 and responded to VSW design comments. The "2010 Design Scope" refers to the design effort in 2010, which includes designing the water plant building, water storage tank, uptown sewer system, and piped water system. Water Treatment process design will be handled separately.
- Summit prepared design and environmental reports for RD, in order for the City to access \$305,000 in RD funds for the water and sewer project, specifically for lagoon closure. VSW and RD are communicating to address RD's concerns and hopefully secure these funds for the project. An agreement with the city will be needed to process payments using RD funds.

#### **Site Control**

In order to construct the water and sewer system in the older portion of downtown, 19 easements are needed on BIA restricted lands. Funding for this project is expected in June 2010 from ANTHC/SDS, however, we are concerned that the easements may not be complete in time for 2010 construction.

#### **Construction**

- The project shutdown Mid- January. City-owned construction equipment, the project camp, and the equipment maintenance building were turned over to the city for their use during the 2 month winter break.
- We plan to resume work in March 2010, and once again use the Camp and Equipment Maintenance Building. The 2010 scope includes commissioning the new lift station and lagoon, closing the

downtown lagoon, and replacing the raw water line before spring break-up.

- Beginning in June, 2010, we plan to begin constructing the piped water and sewer system downtown, which is funded by SDS. Materials for the water storage tank and water plant will be procurement in 2010 and construction will start. Additional funding will be needed to complete the tank and the water plant.
- An amendment with Summit is needed in order to proceed with the work this year. Summit is currently preparing a proposal for VSW's review and for the city's review.

### Budget & Funding

| Scope   | Source                  | Grant Amount | Date Funds expected  |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|--|
| Close Downtown Lagoon                             | RD direct grant to city | 305,000      | Pending RD approval of PER/ER; pending reimbursement agreement with city |
| Raw Water Line                                    | -ANTHC                  | 884,000      | Currently available  |
| Begin construction of Water plant/water tank/camp | VSW/EPA Multi-year list | 1,500,000    | 4/1/20 &   |
| Continue Water plant and water tank work          | Old EPA funds           | 2,300,000    | 6/1/10   |
| Complete Downtown System                          | ANTHC SDS               | 3,512,000    | 6/1/10   |
| Service lines and plumbing for 17 Native homes    | ANTHC SDS               | 948,100      | Currently available<br>Excludes HUD mutual help homes and rental homes.  |
|   |                         | \$9,149,201  |  |

An additional \$2,500,000 will be needed to complete the tank and water plant. The city applied for \$850,000 CDBG for the water tank. VSW will request FY11 funds to complete this project in 2011.

An additional \$3.5 million is required in 2011 and 2012 to complete mid-town and uptown systems.

### **Other Issues**

- **Business Plan** - Debra Addie traveled to Buckland on January 26, 2010, with Sharon Lind to present the business plan. The council passed a resolution approving the business plan on February 9, 2010. The residential user fee included in the plan is \$155 per house per month.
- The city is asked to obtain a contract with the school district for water sales within 6 months of passing the Business Plan.

## Discussion items during the meeting as follows:

- Debra Addie from VSW went through her report in detail. Debra highlighted the contract amendment from Summit, the status of the USDA RD funds, and future site control for the coming construction season.
- Debra discussed the easement issue that exists for this project and informed the group that 19 private property easements were needed for the project to continue this summer. Time is of the essence. Debra mentioned the need for easements from BIA, Maniilaq and Summit. Debra informed the group that easements were needed by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Teresa from the City stated that she thought all easements were complete. Debra stated that these 19 were pending. During the meeting Percy was able to get the name of the person from Maniilaq that we needed to talk with, Eva W. Percy also stated that after the meeting he would follow up with BIA on this and get this moving.
- Debra continued with her report stating that when construction had been shut down in mid-January all equipment/camp, etc. was turned over to the City. Debra stated that construction would begin this month, however, a contract amendment needed completion prior to start. Debra reported Jeff's return to Buckland on either the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Debra informed the group of this year's focus: pipe system, water plant, and water tank. Debra mentioned two pools of funds from VSW this year including \$1.5 million from VSW 3 year allocation plan and another \$2.3 million grant in June.
- Debra informed the group that the business plan was approved February 9<sup>th</sup>, however, she reiterated the importance of a contract with the Buckland school for ongoing water usage. Sharon Lind from Denali Commission reported to Glenna of Buckland that she had not heard from her Ruba contact, Margaret Hanson, on this issue. (Glenna and Sharon had sent an inquiry to Margaret on this contract but have not received a response.) Bob Walsh from Senator Murkowski's office committed to getting some type of contract template from another school district for Buckland's use. Sharon stated she was still willing to help with that template document for Buckland to get this contract completed. Bob will pursue this on behalf of the group.
- Glenna reported that the required coastal management questionnaire was not yet completed. Sharon stated she would go back to the state contact she had and ask who at the Corps of Engineers can help us get this done. Sharon reiterated the urgency of getting this done as soon as possible to the group stating that it could hold up summer work.
- Percy from Buckland stated that at the last IRA meeting it was decided to run a fuel line directly from the bulk fuel tank farm to the store. Percy stated this would reduce in man hours for hauling fuel and drastically reduce costs. Percy asked the group who he needed to talk to to make this happen. Although uncertain, Sharon volunteered to research this effort through the Denali Commission's

contacts at the Alaska Energy Authority. Percy asked that results be called in to Tina at 494-2171.

- Glenna from Buckland stated the future need of a check card machine for utility payments. Glenna discussed the frequent issue of running out of cash in the community. Sharon stated that perhaps that was a good solution for Buckland and if the City wanted to pursue that to do so.
- During the meeting Percy informed the group that the person to talk with at BIA about the private easements was Paul R. at 271-1602. Buckland will follow up on this. Percy also mentioned the upcoming Maniiliq meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> as a possible time and avenue to communicate with Maniiliq.
- Greg Magee discussed the project momentum and also voiced concerns about the water intake contract and discussions on this part of the project followed. It was asked whether the mid-March RFP for the water intake would transpire as scheduled. Sharon stated she would ask the Corps for a written update and stated she was uncertain why they were not at today's meeting but would follow up.
- Bob Walsh informed the group of Senator Murkowski's continuing efforts to seek additional funds for the Buckland project.
- Sharon Lind informed the group that the next meeting would be April 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

**Buckland Meeting  
March 9, 2010**



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*This was joined by teleconference  
- ALL*

| Name  | Agency/Organization     | Phone | Email |
|---|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| City - Brenda<br>Teresa<br>Daryl<br>Cleahna<br>Tina |                         |       |       |
| Debra A.  | VSD                     |       |       |
| Charon Lind   | DenaliComm.             |       |       |
| Greg Magee  | VSD                     |       |       |
| Tim Krug  | USDA RD                 |       |       |
| Bob Walsh   | Sen. Murkowski's office |       |       |
|   |                         |       |       |
|   |                         |       |       |