



Denali Commission
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Buckland Meeting Notes August 3, 2010 Meeting Denali Commission

Sharon Lind opened the meeting introducing and welcoming those in attendance by phone. Sharon let the group know that meetings would be monthly again. 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 August 3, 2010

Design Activities

Design for the Buckland piped water and sewer system is complete, except for the following items:

- **Water Treatment Process Equipment** - VSW reviewed the recommended conventional water treatment package plant known as the "Sweet Water Boy" for Siemens, Inc., and made recommendations for process control. However, the Sweet Water Boy does not include certain necessary features, so Summit is now researching a similar package plant made by Robert Filter.
- **Raw Water Manhole** -Concerns were raised about the manhole where the water intake line connects to the raw water transmission line. The manhole was damaged during the spring flood. Summit is in the process of revising the design for VSW and community review.
- **NWAB Title 9 Permit.** Summit submitted an application for a Title 9 Permit on March 25, 2010. The permit was discussed in Buckland on Thursday, May 13, at a meeting attended by the City, IRA, NWAB, VSW and Summit. Summit has contacted the Borough several times since May 13 regarding this issue.

Site Control

Nineteen (19) BIA easements are needed to serve an area downtown including over 30 services. Construction in this area is planned for 2011, pending sites control. Obtaining easements on BIA restricted land is a complex process. The project surveyor, McClintock Land Associates, traveled to Buckland mid-June and set easement corners. Revised legal descriptions were submitted to Maniilaq on June 25.

Easements for the uptown lots and non-restricted downtown lots have been prepared and four have been signed. The Uptown work is expected in 2012, pending funding and easements.

Construction

Jeff Raymond has been onsite since March 23 and has hired 15 local workers. The crew also includes a plumber, electrician, equipment mechanic, construction foreman for the water plant building and foreman for the project camp. Accomplishments include:

- **Raw water line** - Raw water line is complete, but there are design issues with the manhole that must be resolved before putting the line into service.
- **Water mains** - 1100 feet of the mid-town water main is complete and in the same alignment as the raw water line. 400 feet of the downtown water main is complete.
- **Water plant** - foundation work is complete and the floor is under construction.
- **Sewer mains** - 200 feet of the H-line sewer main is installed near the city office.
- **Downtown lift station** - The downtown lift stations was put into service on May 21. Completion of a number of small items is expected in September, at which time the lift station will be transferred to the city.
- **Downtown lagoon closure** - The downtown lagoon is closed and the new lagoon is in use. The closure plan was modified to address flooding concerns.
- **Force main** - The force main is complete and in service.
- **Plumbing and electrical work** continues in the city office, the store, clinic and 7 homes.
- **Equipment Maintenance Building** - Work is nearly complete and the project is continuing to use this building.
- **Washeteria** - Additional mechanical and electrical work is being done to be able to connect the new dryer.
- **Project Camp** - The materials are on site and the foundation is complete.

VSW Site visits: May 13 - Debra Addie attended an interagency meeting in Buckland with NWAB, City, IRA, Summit.

June 2, post-flood inspection by Debra Addie and John Johnson, VSW inspector

June 21 - John Johnson, VSW inspector/monthly inspection

July 7 - Dave Cramer, Summit Consulting, site visit

July 15 - Debra Addie, VSW, Chris Allard, Summit, Sam Chelbana, Summit, John Johnson, VSW - inspection and council meeting.

August 5, Debra Addie, monthly inspection, Dave Cramer, Summit, Chris Allard, Summit.

RD Funding: The city is using the old RD funds, \$306,000 to purchase and ship an excavator to Buckland. VSW is providing a 25% match (VSW/EPA funds). Summit advertized and accepted bids for a Hitachi ZX450LC-3 with a hydraulic thumb. This machine will be part of the project equipment fleet. Summit's mechanic is currently in Seattle inspecting the machines. A check from the city will be requested this week to complete the purchase.

The expected cost will be \$360,000 including freight. RD will pay for 75% (\$270,000).

Using the balance of funding for a lagoon fence was considered, but rejected as this year is not the proper time to install the fence.

SDS Funding Request

The recent SDS request was for the water storage tank. We expect to know whether SDS is funding will be available in September or October. Funds would be expected in spring, 2011.

Funding

Scope	Source	Grant Amount	Date Funds expected
Raw Water Line	-ANTHC	884,000	Currently available
Begin construction of Water plant/water tank pad/camp	VSW/EPA Multi-year list	1,500,000	Currently available
Continue Water plant and water tank work	Old EPA funds	2,000,000	2 nd half of 2010
Complete Downtown System	ANTHC SDS	3,512,000	Currently available
Service lines and plumbing for 17 Native homes	ANTHC SDS	948,100	Currently available Excludes HUD mutual help homes, rental homes, and public buildings.
Total		8,844,100	

Discussion items during the meeting as follows:

- Percy from the City of Buckland stated that Maniliiq was working on the easements. Glenna from the City of Buckland stated that all should be done in a couple of months. Percy asked if there were any specific questions they needed to discuss with Maniliiq as they were meeting with them next week. No other comments were needed for Maniliiq. Debra from VSW asked whether BIA was in process on all easements or just some. It appeared as if all easement were in progress. Debra pointed out that easements needed to be signed so that contracts could be signed in January.
- Glenna asked whether all of downtown would be done by next summer. Debra reported that yes, all of downtown was scheduled to be complete by next summer.
- Debra went on to discuss the lift station and the force main. Debra pointed out that it was VSW's intent to transfer the lift station and the force main over to the City sometime in September. Discussion followed on the city identifying an individual to maintain these items. The number of people needed, the training they needed and who would be identified was discussed. Debra mentioned some programs available for training in this area. Debra discussed the Anchorage Remote Main Worker program and RUBA, both state and also mentioned training possibilities through Maniliiq.
- Percy brought up some work issues on the project stating there were some pay discrepancies on the workforce. Percy also mentioned that people were moving away because they were not getting paid enough. Discussion on pay rates, and jobs followed. Debra Addie stated she would be on site with Dave Kramer on Thursday. Sharon stated that some of the issues being brought up really needed to be addressed in a face-to-face conversation and suggesting this conversation take place when Dave and Debra are on site this week.
- Debra also stated that this weeks site visit needed to include a review of the business plan and said she would be discussing that as well.
- Percy mentioned that contractors were not following the construction manual addressing hiring/firing of individuals and expressed concern to that end. Sharon reiterated the need for this conversation to take place face-to-face.
- Dave Williams from the Army Corps of Engineers gave a brief update. Dave reported that they were still waiting on headquarters for the approval of the cooperative agreement. Dave stated that this document is being reviewed and was not final yet. Bob Walsh from Senator Murkowski's office asked where exactly the hold-up was. Dave stated the hold-up was RIT at headquarters. Dave stated that after the agreement was in hand it would take approximately 10 days to get it out to bid than another 90 days to award.
- Glenna, from the City of Buckland, discussed the school district and their current arrangement to purchase water for 15 cents a gallon. Glenna also discussed the communities plan to hire a local consultant to help Buckland with the numerous issues taking place at this time.

- Percy expressed his dissatisfaction with the project hiring and firing and equipment usage. Mary added that people want some answers on who is being paid what, people want to see pay logs; Mary suggested Senator Murkowski visit soon to help resolve some of these issues. Sharon reiterated the need to have these conversations with the project super and reminded participants that both Dave Kramer and Debra Addie would be on site this Thursday.
- Sharon Lind closed the meeting. The next meeting will be on September 14, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

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