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Buckland Meeting Notes September 21, 2010 Meeting Denali Commission

Sharon Lind opened the meeting introducing and welcoming those in attendance by phone. Sharon pointed out that we have new teleconference call in numbers and asked participants to watch future agendas as call in numbers may change. 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 September 20, 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 -Debra Addie (VSW)** met with the city on August 23, and discussed the manhole issue with the city. The following week, Kent Knapp from the RMW program visited Buckland and inspected the raw water installation. Design review comments were sent to Summit, who will respond this week.
- **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. Summit provided copies of all other project permits to NWAB on 8/20/10.

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. Maniilaq has completed counseling with most of the property owners of the restricted lots.

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. Ten (10) of the midtown/uptown easements were signed.

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. 800 feet of the downtown water main is complete.
- **Water Service lines** - 4 Water service line work has been installed.
- **Water plant** - Framing is complete and the concrete slab will be poured this month. It is essential to complete the building and install the equipment for the water distribution system in order to start-up the water distribution system.
- **Sewer mains** - sewer line "H" near city office is complete, including manhole #15 and the clean-out.
- **Downtown lift station** - The downtown lift stations was put into service on May 21. A pre-final inspection completed 9/16/10.
- **Downtown lagoon closure** - The downtown lagoon is closed and the new lagoon is in use.
- **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** - mechanical and electrical upgrades are 99%complete.
- **Washeteria** - Additional mechanical and electrical work is being done to be able to connect the new dryer.
- **Project Camp** - Walls are roof are framed and electrical work has been started.

VSW Site visits: May 13 - Debra Addie attended an interagency meeting in Buckland with NWAB, City, IRA, and 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, monthly inspection, Dave Cramer, Summit, Chris Allard, Summit.

August 23-24, Debra Addie made a site visit with Heather Gross, SCS. Debra outlined the project schedule for thru completion.

August 30, 2010 Kent Knapp, RMW program, made a site visit to assist the Water plant operators and inspect the Raw Water line.

September 13 to 17, 2010, Kent Knapp, RMW and Kyle Downing, RMW, assisted water operator with water treatment issues, identified problems with the existing filtration system, and recommended improvements.

September 16, 2010, Debra Addie and Doug Poage made a site visit for lift station pre-final inspection.

September 20, 2010, site visit planned for VSW construction observer John Johnson to inspect water plant building.

September 23, 2010, John Johnson will return to Buckland to monitor concrete pour for the water plant floor.

RD Funding: The city is used the old RD funds, \$306,000 to purchase a large excavator.

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.

VSW recommends using the remaining funds, \$90,000, for minor improvements on the water plant and for water and sewer O&M equipment.

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. If successful, funds would be expected in June, 2011.

Funding (no change since last report)

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	

Project Schedule as of September 2010

Year	Scope	Comments
2010	<p>Complete downtown lift station</p> <p>Complete raw waterline</p> <p>Construct project camp</p> <p>Construct water plant including equipment for water distribution</p> <p>Water and sewer mains and service lines to first group of services (12 homes, city office, clinic, store, old clinic, new camp).</p> <p>Start-up first group of homes</p>	<p>Funding in place.</p> <p>Work under contract.</p>
2011	<p>Construct treatment equipment in plant</p> <p>Water and sewer service to Downtown area.</p> <p>House plumbing for 30 to 50 homes</p>	<p>Funding in place for mains and service. Partial funding for house plumbing.</p> <p>19 BIA Easements needed by January 1, 2011, in order to extend mains to downtown area. Otherwise, project will be limited to Lower End of Airport Road, approximately 10 homes.</p> <p>Utility ordinance needed by January 1, 2011.</p> <p>Contract amendment needed.</p>
2012	<p>Construct water storage tank</p> <p>Complete house plumbing downtown</p> <p>Midtown mains, service lines, and lift station.</p>	<p>Anticipate funding to WST in June 2011 from ANTHC-SDS.</p> <p>Funding needed for Mid-town and uptown mains, service lines, lift stations, house plumbing. VSW three-year-list funding is anticipated in 2012 for this project.</p> <p>Contract amendment needed.</p>
2013	<p>House plumbing Midtown and Uptown</p> <p>Uptown mains, service lines, and lift station.</p>	<p>Funding needed for Mid-town. VSW three-year-list money is anticipated in 2013 for this project.</p> <p>Contract amendment needed.</p>

Discussion items during the meeting as follows:

- Debra Addie, VSW, went through her report in detail. Several items were discussed during her report.
- The 19 required easements were discussed and Debra reiterated to the community the necessity of having these easements complete by the first of the year. Darlene from the City of Buckland stated that 10 additional easement documents were signed and delivered by plane back to Eva Hunt at Maniliq. Debra asked Darlene about the other 9 easements. Darlene stated that there had been a previous batch sent to Maniliq and they thought all was complete on their end. It was suggested that they confirm that with Maniliq that all 19 are now complete and on their way to BIA to be sure. Next steps involve the easement process going to BIA offices in Anchorage. Discussion of finding an advocate at BIA offices in Anchorage followed.
- Debra reported that the majority “old USDA RD” funds had been utilized for the purchase of an excavator. Sharon thanked Merlaine from USDA RD for her help in making this happen. The remaining USDA RD funds were discussed and the possible uses of those funds: which included, a fence for the lagoon, water and sewer O&M equipment or garbage cans. Also, Glenna from the City of Buckland mentioned Buckland’s receipt of a weatherization grant from EETC for the old water plant weatherization tasks. Merlaine asked that the remainder of the USDA RD funds not be used for the garbage cans. Merlaine also asked that a letter be sent to USDA RD attention her explaining their proposed uses of those funds. Merlaine mentioned that the balance of \$90K is actually increased by the funds not used for the excavator (\$306K budgeted for the excavator, \$270K utilized.) Percy from the City of Buckland stated that he knew the excavator was now in Nome.
- The importance of completing the 19 easements and the Utility Ordinance requirement were of utmost importance and Sharon reiterated the deadline of January 1 for these pending items. Debra added the necessity of user agreements.
- Members of the community asked for an update of the activities not yet funded (primarily starting in 2012.) Debra stated that the last budget outlining 2012 activities still held the most current information of unrealized funding for this project and stated she would revisit that information for the community. Debra stated her recollection was that a need of approximately \$6 million still existed.
- Percy mentioned the intent of Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority’s (NIHA’s) plan to build six houses in Buckland in 2012. Glenna added that Cold Climate Housing Research Center planned to build 2 energy efficient homes in 2012 that are in addition to NIHA’s homes. Debra asked for information on the future location of these homes.
- Dave Williams from the Corps of Engineers provided an update to the group. Dave stated that the Cooperative Agreement had modifications by headquarters and that the Corps of Engineers had sent a draft resolution to the community to complete these modifications. Dave stated that this resolution was required for

headquarters to complete this agreement. Glenna stated that she had the resolution and that the community planned to meet this Thursday to approve it and get it back to Dave. Dave stated that the agreement needs to be reapproved after the resolution is received and that he hoped this approval would be soon. Dave stated that procurement could follow soon after to which it would take approximately 45 days to receive bids for the water intake project. Dave stated that he thought a January award for the water intake was possible. Dave discussed the remaining balance of \$2.5 million of which approximately \$2.1 will be required for the project, leaving some contingency.

- Sharon asked the City of Buckland about the school district water usage contract. Debra mentioned that a template had been sent to the community for that agreement. Again, the importance of the utility ordinance and the user fee agreements were discussed. Debra suggested Glenna take the template, put it on City letterhead and get it to the school district. The school currently pays .15 cents a gallon, this agreement simply solidifies this price providing a long term commitment by the school.
- Sharon asked the City of Buckland about the Lift Station and Force Main positions to be filled by the City. Darlene stated that yes, they have two people identified, however, only one is being trained. Debra stated she would make sure the other was involved with any hands on training provided by the contractors.
- Darlene brought up a recent Borough/State visit that involved discussions on flood insurance. Darlene asked whether the VSW design was flood proof. Debra stated that yes, it was, and that yes, the city does need insurance for this. Darlene stated that the Borough under title 9 zoning requires the flood insurance. Debra stated she would get plans to Tom Okleasek.
- Glenna also mentioned that NANA reps visited to discuss 14(c)(3) issues.
- In closing, Percy reminded attendees of the time it has taken to get to this point in the project and thanked all involved. Glenna mentioned Patty Ann's and Nathan's election's to the council coming up. The Senatorial election was discussed.
- Sharon Lind closed the meeting. The next meeting will be on October 12, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

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Deane Williams	US Army Corps of Engineers		
City of Buckland	- Glenn - Ernest		
- Percy	- Marilyn		
- Patty Ann	- Darrell		
- Darlene			
In Person	Denali Commission		
Sharon Lind	Village Safe Water		
Debra Addie	Village Safe Water		
Greg Magee	Village Safe Water		