



**Denali Commission**  
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## **Buckland Meeting Notes May 5, 2009 Meeting Denali Commission**

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Sharon Lind opened the meeting introducing those in attendance at the Denali Commission offices and those in attendance on the phone. Sharon turned the meeting over to Debra Addie from VSW.

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

# **Buckland Water and Sewer Project**

## **VSW Monthly Report May 5, 2009**

### **Design Activities**

Summit submitted 65% plans for the 2009 project in March. VSW provided comments and Summit responded in April. 95% plans were submitted this morning. Plans were also submitted to ADEC in Fairbanks for approval to construct sewer improvements.

### **Construction**

The wet well for the downtown lift station was installed in April. This required a 30-foot deep excavation. Village Safe Water inspector John Johnson traveled to Buckland on April 16 to inspect that project and reported a safe operation and no concerns.

Work is suspended as of today due to spring flooding and is expected to resume after the break-up. Construction planned for June and July includes the force main, the temporary access road to the water plant, and the pads for the water storage tank and water plant.

### **Land Issues - Easement and ROW**

Easements needed for the 2009 work were delivered to Buckland by Summit on April 1, 2009. All seven (7) 2009 easements are located on fee-simple land (no BIA restricted lots.) Summit is working with Mayor Parrish to obtain the needed signatures. A utility permit from Department of Transportation to allow the force main to cross airport property was requested.

Easements on 19 BIA restricted lots are needed for 2010. BIA appraisals are expected in May.

### **Budget & Funding**

All project funds are obligated at this time. Stimulus funding in the amount of \$3,762,000 is expected in June. These funds are needed in order to resume construction and complete a major portion of the 2009 scope. Additional VSW three Year List Funds will be provided to complete the 2009 Scope.

## **Discussion items during and after that report was as follows:**

- Debra went thru her report and informed the group that work on the project was suspended due to the spring flood. Debra stated that the force main construction would be next.
- Percy Ballot asked if the easements were completed. Debra reported that 7 easements are completed and completion required mayoral signatures. Mayor Glenna Parrish was reminded of this pending requirement.
- Debra also reported that easements on 19 BIA restricted lots were needed in 2010.
- The project budget was discussed and the possible stimulus funding for this project was discussed. It was mentioned that stimulus dollars may be forthcoming from both EPA and IHS for this particular project. ANTHC funding for this project thru VSW was also expected.
- Grant document requirements were discussed and the requirements that would need to be met by Buckland to complete VSW grant documents. It was mentioned that there was a change in the state grant document and that VSW staff is prepping current grant documents that are needed.
- Steve Boardman from the U.S. Corps of Engineers reported the opportunity of potential additional to the community via stimulus dollars. Steve stated that the COE needed to look at whether this would be used for the Water Intake or the Water Treatment and he also reported that these funds required a match, suggesting a potential match from USDA RD for this particular funding package.
- Steve stated that a \$1 million match would acquire the \$3 million COE funds for either the water intake or the water treatment. Steve also stated that they were reviewing the water intake at this time. It was asked if the water treatment system funding requirements quoted by the COE included the structure or the equipment. Steve reported that the funding being discussed for the water treatment included the equipment and the understanding that the structure would be completed by VSW.
- Steve reported that a meeting between the COE, VSW and the community was necessary in the near future to discuss options for this funding and match potentials. It was suggested that USDA RD attend as well. Percy Ballot mentioned he might be in Anchorage and perhaps he could attend in person.
- It was decided that that the agenda for this meeting of COE, VSW, USDA RD and Buckland would need to include:
  - Funding sources
  - Potential match
  - Funding uses (water intake, water treatment system)

- Ernie Barger from Buckland asked whether the foundation would be completed for the water treatment infrastructure this summer. It was mentioned that the pads for the water storage tanks would be laid in June/July so that they could settle.
- Percy asked whether the water intake would be done this summer. Steve Boardman responded saying he needed to look into their proposed schedule and get back to the group. Steve mentioned they also need to look at funding.
- The community reported that the flood came early this year. Debra reported that they hoped to have the downtown lagoon closed this year and future flooding would not be an issue for that lagoon location in the future. Debra suggested the possibility of using USDA RD funds to replace the raw water line. It was mentioned that the RD funds could only be used for sewer work.

Sharon Lind closed the meeting. The group decided to cancel the June meeting and meet in July.

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