

WORK SESSION:

RURAL

GOVERNANCE

COUNCIL

(10-13-87)

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Attachment:

1. Preliminary "Rural Governance" and "Borough Formation" Work Plans (DRAFT),

Rosita Worl (Governor's Office) would welcome any recommendations anyone would care to make. They are looking for broad representation on the council that would cover all the regions.

from Rosita Woil's office 10/2/87
DCRA Draft Plans

DRAFT

RURAL GOVERNANCE

PRELIMINARY WORK PLAN

I. INTENT OF WORK EFFORT

A. Respond to Governor Cowper's call for strengthening local governments and shifting the "means of resolving community problems to the communities themselves... with support of the State" (1/8/87 press release) and returning rural communities to "a system of government that ... clearly worked [20 years ago] in most of the villages." (2/26/87 remarks at RuralCAP luncheon, Juneau)

B. Assess the ability of rural local governments, in general, to provide essential services with reduced State capital and municipal aid funding

C. Design a strategy for strengthening local government systems (ordinances, financial, administrative) and fostering cooperation between rural village entities (city councils, IRA/Tribal councils, village corporations, regional non-profit service provider, etc....)

II. TECHNICAL/LEGAL ISSUES

A. Issues related to instituting a different level of State recognized local government

1. Town meeting format
2. Modified IRA/Tribal government

B. Legal issues related to establishing local courts or judgement boards

C. Technical assistance issues related to financial accountability

D. Analysis of reasonable local service cost and assessment of "vital" local services so that the impact of reduced state aid to local governments can be quantified

E. Review what made villages work 20 years ago, and assess changes during period with which villages have been unable cope ; ;

F. Research models of village cooperation and the factors that create less competitive atmosphere between village entities

G. Review options for increasing local revenue to support services

H. Review the pros and cons of extending home rule opportunity to all municipalities

III. DCRA WORK ELEMENTS/END PRODUCTS

A. Research and prepare a historical perspective on the evolution of rural local government (completed by August 21, 1987)

B. Report on legal/technical issues, with estimated costs, related to establishing local courts on judgement boards (completed by September 11, 1987)

C. Prepare interim policy for responding to unfavorable audit exceptions and financial accountability problems (completed by August 28, 1987)

D. Report analyzing the impact of reduced State aid on small local governments and assessing how this reduction is affecting or may affect the delivery of vital local services (completed by September 18, 1987)

E. Report identifying local governments that work together cooperatively with other village entities and recommend how these conditions can be transplanted to other communities (completed August 28, 1987)

F. Report setting out options for increasing local tax revenues (completed by September 18, 1987)

G. Report on options for improving rural local governments to maximize local resources (completed by September 18, 1987)

IV. POLICY ISSUES

A. The pros and cons of creating new State recognized local entities and draft legislation to implement concept.

B. Statute changes and necessary funding for local courts and judgement boards.

1. Agency responsibility for oversight of this function

2. Amount and type of training for local "magistrates"

3. Type of infractions left to local courts/boards.

C. Review of SB 263 (fiscal accountability bill) for amendment or consideration in present form. Until passage of this bill, the State should develop a policy on how to respond to audit exceptions.

D. Level of FY 89 funding for State Revenue Sharing, Municipal Assistance and Municipal Grants.

E. Other administrative/legislative reform need to promote cooperative village government environment and greater self-sufficiency

BOROUGH FORMATION

DRAFT

PRELIMINARY OUTLINE AND WORK PLAN

I. INTENT OF WORK EFFORT

- A. Study and recommendations regarding regional government alternatives
- B. Borough education program

II. TECHNICAL/LEGAL ISSUES

- A. Issues relative to reinstituting a "new" type of borough government
- B. Legal flexibility to explore borough alternatives
- C. Technical justification for various mandatory borough formation per capita value triggers
- D. Informative and clear explanations of pros and cons of borough formation
- E. Review of REAA boundaries as appropriate boundaries for future boroughs
- F. Identify disincentives to borough incorporation which remain in place
- G. Applicability of Federal Voting Rights Act, if any

III. DCRA WORK ELEMENTS/END PRODUCTS

A. Research and prepare report on borough government in Alaska (completed by August 28, 1987)

1. Constitutional intent and purpose
2. Mandatory Borough Act of 1963
3. Recent Borough formation efforts

B. Analysis of borough government alternatives (completed by August 28, 1987)

1. "New" 3rd class borough flexibility
2. Expanded home rule powers
3. Different borough government structures

C. Formula trigger for mandatory borough formation based on per capita value (completed by August 28, 1987)

D. Borough education package (completed by September 18, 1987)

1. What is a Borough booklet
2. Overheads/handouts and other information regarding borough government
3. Rough financial analysis of REAA's to reflect ability to support local government

IV. POLICY ISSUES

- A. The pros and cons of mandating borough formation
 - 1. Self sufficiency standards
 - 2. Existing borough formation standards
- B. The level of assistance State should provide in organizing boroughs
 - 1. Financial assistance
 - 2. Technical assistance
- C. Statute changes to provide greater borough flexibility
- D. Funding a home rule charter education initiative by Department of Community & Regional Affairs
- E. Interrelationship between new boroughs and the State's role in funding education
- F. The State's relationship with unincorporated communities within mandated boroughs
- G. The efficacy of "replacing" other state services (public safety, health, etc.) with borough provided services