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OVERVIEW:

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Division of Community and Regional Affairs

Scott Ruby, Division Director

ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE,
COMMUNITY,
AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Division Mission and Core Services

- Promote strong communities and healthy economies.
- Promote efficient, accountable, and effective local administration.
 - Local Government Assistance for public administration and sanitation utilities
 - Land management assistance to resolve issues
 - Grant Management and financial assistance distributions
 - Information resources for local government and economic development
 - State Assessor technical assistance to municipal assessors
 - Local Boundary Commission staffing
 - Alaska Native Language Council staffing

Total of 66 staff in 7 regional offices.



Agency Overview

DCRA Programs

1 Local Government Assistance/Rural Utility Business Advisors (RUBA)

2 Planning and Land Management

3 Grant Management

4 Community Aid and Accountability

5 Research and Analysis

6 State Assessor's Office

7 Local Boundary Commission

8 Alaska Native Language Council

Local Government Assistance

Technical Assistance

- Provides technical assistance and counsel to public administrators and sanitation utilities including:
 - Local elections
 - Title 29 compliance
 - Bulk fuel management
 - Local Option Title 4 requirements
 - Personnel, administrative, government and financial management

Accomplishments

- Increased community interventions
- Bulk Fuel loan program provided funding to 16 communities in need.
- QuickBook accounting classes resulted in 69 rural utility staff completing a 32-hour training courses.

Rural Business Advisor (RUBA) Program

Technical Assistance

- Trains villages to receive new or upgraded sanitation systems.
- Provides ongoing training to utility managers.
- Provides ongoing training to municipal administrators.

Accomplishments

- RUBA staff provided assistance to 208 communities, resulting in 247 on-site trips to communities.
- RUBA staff presented 14, 32-hour courses on utility management in seven different regional hubs.
- A total of 161 rural utility managers attended these courses.

Planning and Land Management

Technical Assistance

- Municipal Lands Trustee (MLT) holds title to more than 13,000 acres in 47 communities.
- Actively manages the use of land under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
- Other programs under management include the National Flood Insurance, Alaska Coastal Community Impact Assistance, the Community Coastal Impact and Community Aerial photo mapping programs.

Accomplishments

- Completed land disposal transactions of existing trust land in nine different communities.
- Issued a decision to convey 613 acres of Municipal Trust land to the Bristol Bay Borough in Naknek/King Salmon area.
- Conducted regional and statewide ANCSA 14(c) and site control training sessions.
- Prepared digital orthophoto maps to help expedite infrastructure development and encourage economic development.

Planning and Land Management - Continued

Technical Assistance

- Conducts site-visits for Floodplain Management/National Flood Insurance program (NFIP).
- Coordinates with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in identifying and assessing hazards mapping needs.
- Develops business mapping plans to identify the state's mapping priorities for FEMA-funded flood maps in 2013.
- Develops community profile maps.
- Provides planning assistance and land management training to communities.

Accomplishments

- Provided community assistance to Valdez, Haines, and Delta Junction.
- Submitted 59 federal grant applications to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) to secure funding to local governments, non-profits, and post-secondary educational organizations.
- Oversaw the execution of 15 new CIAP grant agreements to local governments, non-profits, and post-secondary educational organizations.

Grants Management

Technical Assistance

- Provides oversight for 13 grant programs including :
 - Capital budget grants
 - Statutory and federal grants.
- Provides on-site monitoring and technical assistance to grantees.
- Works with communities to train staff and complete projects.
- Works with staff from other DCRA programs to manage the fiscal aspects of grant programs.

Accomplishments

- The grants section administered 1,900 grants under 13 state and federal programs totaling approximately \$1.4 billion.
- A streamlined process for Designated Legislative Grants under \$50,000 was implemented
- Of the 630 new legislative grants in FY12, 239 used the streamlined process.

Community Aid and Accountability

Provides Communities

- Administers Shared Revenue Programs of \$100 million annually. Work includes insuring communities meet all state and federal eligibility standards. Programs include:
 - Community Revenue Sharing
 - Payment in Lieu of Taxes
 - National Forest Receipts
 - Fisheries Taxes (2 Programs)

Accomplishments

- More than \$29 million was distributed to communities in FY2012 under Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), National Forest Receipts (NFR), Fisheries Business Tax and the Fisheries Landing Tax Program.

Research and Analysis

Technical Assistance

- Collects analyzes and publishes data on Alaska communities.
- Maintains division databases and websites.
- Coordinates the Community Status Report (CSR) database (unique data from public information sources on management performance indicators of municipal governments and entities providing public services).
- Provides special project research.

Accomplishments

- Published the bi-annual report *on Fuel Prices Across Alaska*, and the *bi-monthly Lien Watch report*.
- Maintained and updated information of several popular web-based products including the community database, the Financial Document Delivery system, Community Photo Library and the Municipal Contact Directory.
- 15 percent increase in the number of entities tracked in the CSR.

State Assessor's Office

Technical Assistance

- Provides technical expertise to municipal assessors and agencies.
- Monitors municipalities and municipal assessors for compliance with international assessing standards.
- Prepares official full value assessments of property values (real and personal) for municipalities, borough and unincorporated areas to ensure equity in the distribution of education funding and other shared revenue programs.

Accomplishments

- Completed five trips to communities to provide on-site technical assistance or training.
- Completed assessment audits of procedure and compliance in four municipalities.
- Completed full value determinations for 36 municipal governments (18 boroughs and 18 cities in the unorganized borough), and published the information in the Alaska Taxable.

Local Boundary Commission

Technical Assistance

- Provides information on procedures for incorporation, annexation, consolidation, detachment, dissolution, or change in status of municipalities (cities and boroughs).
- Reviews petitions, make preliminary recommendations, provide public notice of proposed actions, take public comments, and finalize decisions of the commission.

Accomplishments

- A petition to annex approximately 32 acres to the City of Fairbanks was finalized when the Superior Court upheld the Local Boundary Commission's decision.
- A petition to dissolve the City of Petersburg and incorporate a Petersburg Borough was approved by the Commission. The Commission amended the petition to exclude Tracy Arm watershed.

Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council

New Program Development

- The legislation establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council was signed into law by Governor Sean Parnell on May 28, 2012.
- The Mission of the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council is to advocate for the survival and revitalization of Alaska Native languages through collaboration and sharing for all.

Accomplishments

- The governor appointed five voting, language professionals during AFN.
 - Walkie Charles – Yupik
 - April Laktonen Counciller – Alutiiq
 - Delores Churchill – Haida
 - Bernadette Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle – Yupik
 - Annette Evans-Smith – Alutiiq, Athabaskan, Yupik
- Two legislative members will be appointed.
- Council met in late December for the first time.



Questions?

Scott Ruby, Division Director
269-4569

Scott.Ruby@Alaska.gov

Division website

<http://commerce.alaska.gov/dca/>