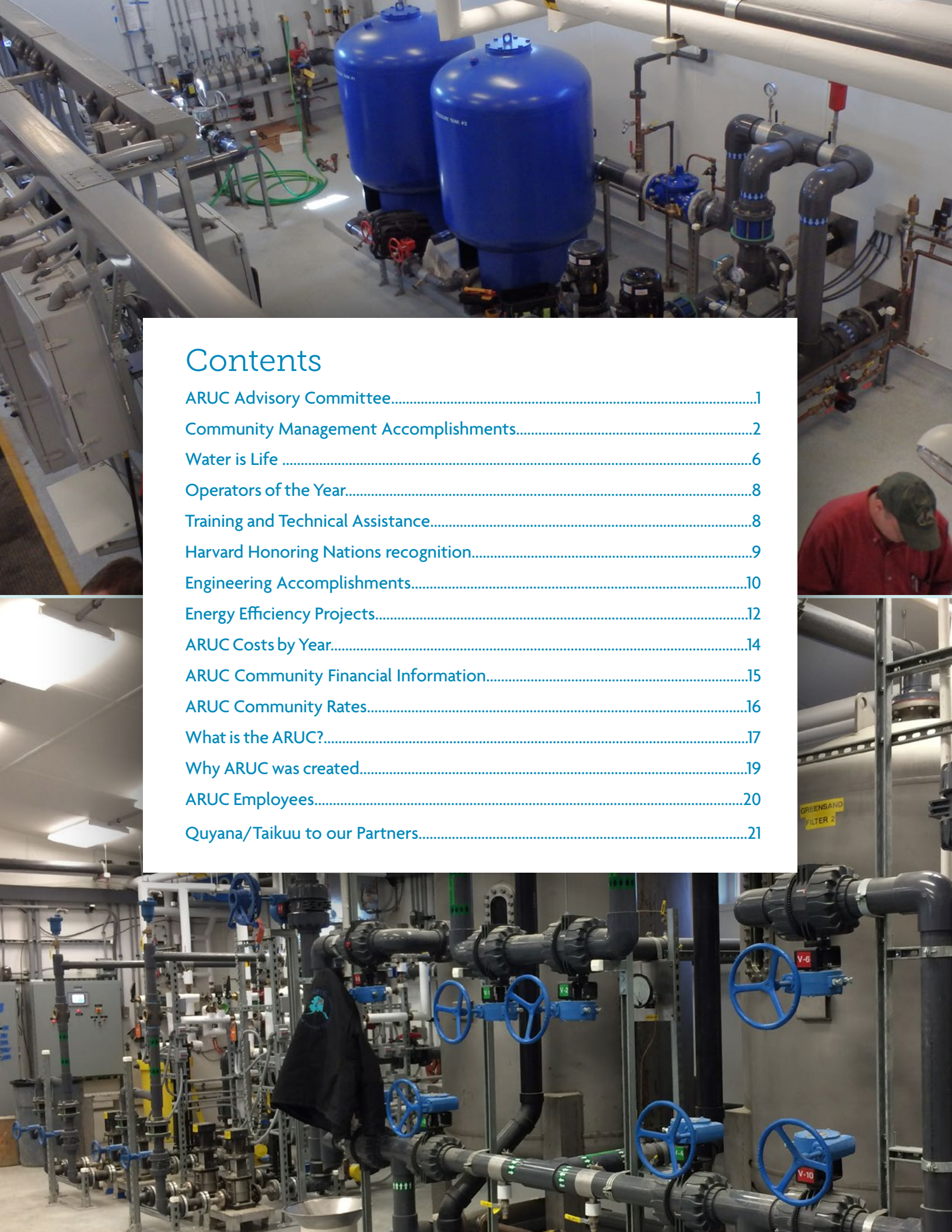




2016 ARUC Report on Activities

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM



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***From left to right:** Johnny Lind, Max Goggin-Kehm, Jon Savage, Marleah LaBelle, Nile Aguchak, John Gust, Rebecca Demientieff, Dennis Jones, Francine Moreno, George Bright, Yago Evan, Connie Walker, Greg Anelon, Ricky Lind, Jerrilyn Kelly, Frank Neitz, Paul Chimiugak, Virginia Washington, Elmer Melton, Dora Davis, Bobbi Andrews, Chris Mercer, Dunia Morgan, Ursula Akaran*

Many thanks to the ARUC Advisory Committee

The Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative Advisory Committee serves a valuable role as the liaison between ARUC and participating communities. Each community selects a member to be on the ARUC Advisory Committee. The ARUC Advisory Committee meets four times a year, once in person and three times via teleconference, to represent their community and provide direction on water and sewer operations and rates.



***From left to right:** Previous years' ARUC Advisory Committees*

***Cover photo:** Deering, AK*



Chevak, AK

Community Management Accomplishments

2016 was another great year in our ARUC communities. ARUC is a program that partners with its member communities to use the 'strength in numbers' concept and assist with the management, operations and maintenance of each communities water/wastewater system, as well as operators so they don't have manage on their own.

Community councils participate in utility rate decisions, discussions of system financial and infrastructure challenges, billing processes and collections, and develop roles for ARUC staff, operators and community representatives. Rather than ARUC making decisions for villages, ARUC works with community leadership to participate, understand challenges, and make decisions together to ensure long-term system sustainability, and provide clean water and sanitation.

We are honored to share a few of the many successful management efforts made by community leadership and valued partners to effectively improve their community finances and management.

Chevak: Reserve Account Success and Reduced Residential Customer Rates

Chevak has been a valued member of the ARUC program since program inception January 2008. Increasing energy and major repair costs caused customer rates to rise to \$165 per month, becoming unaffordable for many Chevak residents. The construction of a sewer energy efficiency project in 2013 and a wind-to-heat energy project in 2015, combined with operator training resulted in huge operational savings. In 2013, Chevak's system was over \$200,000 in debt. Today, Chevak has over \$500,000 in emergency reserves. These operational savings and large emergency reserves allowed for much lower customer rates.

"The biggest positive is the cash reserves amassed during the time that we have been partners. We feel the system is now viable at a residential rate of \$85 per month," said Mayor Richard Tuluk. "Our biggest investment is the people in our community that work and maintain our water and sewer systems, our water plant and sewer operators. They are the backbone in our communities that make sure our facilities are providing the water and sewer services."

Residential customers are now paying \$85 per month, down from a high of \$165 thanks to Chevak's outstanding water plant operators, Mayor Tuluk and Chevak's city council.



Chignik Lake: AMPY Prepay Success

Chignik Lake customers are paying decreased water/wastewater utility rates of \$85 a month down from \$200 a month in 2016. This decrease in rate was made possible by Chignik Lake's city council and a partnership with the Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) program.

In April 2016, Chignik Lake's council voted for water/wastewater utility bills to be collected through customer AMPY electric meters, a pay-as-you-go metering system, that allows customers to load money onto a card and have pre-paid electric to their homes.

Since the implementation of collections through AMPY beginning May 2016, residential payment collections have risen 72% and bring an average monthly collection of \$2,000/month, up from 20% and an average monthly collection of \$680/month in 2015. Customers are seeing an annual savings of \$1380 in water/wastewater utility bills per residential home.



Russian Mission: Sales Tax Revenues Lower Residential Customer Rates

In January 2015, the City of Russian Mission implemented a 4 percent sales tax, with revenues going towards community-beneficial programs. In 2016, the community voted to use \$50,000 of the tax sales revenue to subsidize and decrease residential customer rates from \$140 a month to \$60 a month making water/wastewater more affordable for its customers. The subsidy resulted in an annual savings of \$960 per year to each customer.

Again, in January 2017 the City voted to provide another subsidy of \$35,000 to keep residential rates at \$60 per month and continue the affordability of water/wastewater to its customers.

These subsidies greatly improved Russian Mission's financial picture, bringing them out of a negative financial status and put money into their reserve account for emergencies and replacement of vital system parts, while making the service affordable for its customers.

"I encourage communities with no local sales taxes to take this opportunity into consideration," said Mayor Sheila Minock. "This helped our community with increases revenue for need subsidies."

Savoonga: Setting Hours to Effectively and Efficiently Manage the System

The community of Savoonga has experienced home and system freeze-ups every winter and wanted to prevent freeze-ups from happening in the future. In fall of 2015, Savoonga's Mayor, Myron Kingeekuk, worked with ARUC staff and created a repair and budget plan for the 2016 spring/summer season. Myron guided and requested the operator hours be increased during the summer to make needed repairs.

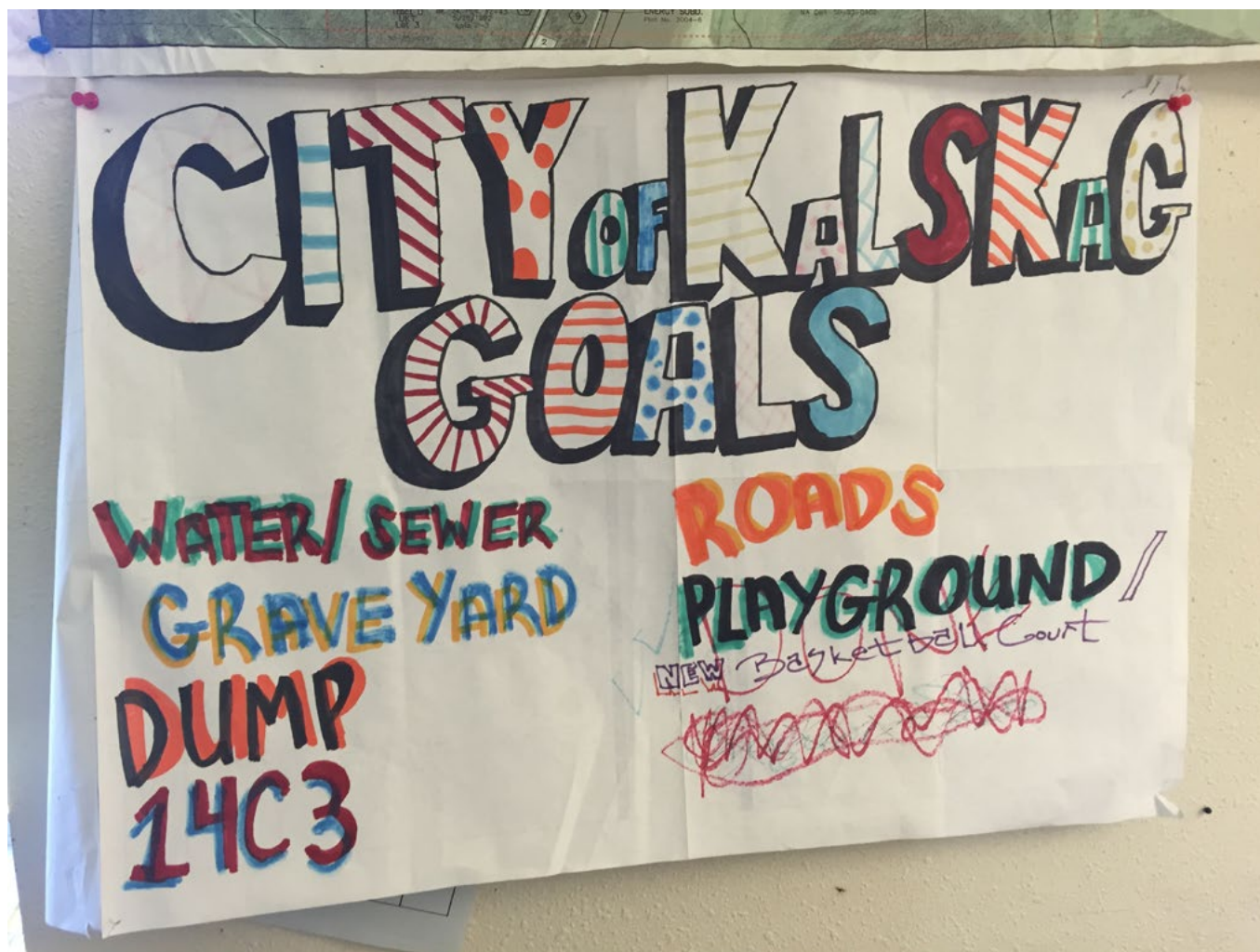
"Erosion is affecting us big time now," said Mayor Myron Kingeekuk. "Whenever we have break-up in spring time and fall time, we get lots of rain, the soil always drains to the east side and it's kind of getting dangerous. That's why I am pushing summer jobs, because it seems like when we don't do them, it takes more time to get more material. Two years in a row, lumber has been sent to level the utilidors. Shifting water lines to the house is affecting us."



Beginning summer of 2016, operators began leveling the utilidors and water mains, and fixed customer arctic boxes and service lines. For one month straight, three to four operators worked eight hours a day to ensure this vital system work was completed in the summer to prevent system freeze-ups and damage in the winter.

In late December 2016, Savoonga experienced 80 mph hurricane-force winds, damaging more than 30 residential homes. During this storm, the water/wastewater system remained strong and few customers saw service interruption thanks to the summer repair efforts of the operators and guidance from the mayor.

Upper Kalskag – Council Financial Management Success



In 2016, the community of Upper Kalskag was struggling financially to collect sufficient revenue and have funds available to pay system expenses. To work towards resolving this challenge, the City of Upper Kalskag's council worked with the customers by increasing customer revenue (payments on utility bills) and with the operators to decrease the labor hours.

"We are trying to have more internal controls over the hours, amount of laborers, time sheets and payroll, as of now the guys are clocking in and out and we will demand that they continue to do so if they want to get paid," said Denise Reed, Upper Kalskag's previous Mayor. "The time sheets need to have some kind of City official (preferably the mayor or vice) to sign off on the workers and the hours claimed for the period. We would also like to see ARUC refuse to accept the time sheets unless they are signed by an official of the city. These two changes will cut down on a lot of hours and workers."

"Working together with the ARUC promotes a good outcome with the council, community, and customer by improving communication and expectations between all," said Mayor Dunia Morgan.

These efforts resulted in Upper Kalskag's decrease in debt from \$125,000 in February 2016 to \$83,000 December 2016. Water plant operators are employees of each community and their daily duties are managed by ARUC's regional management teams. By the city taking the lead by increasing revenue and decreasing system expenses, Upper Kalskag's system financial management continues to improve.



Water is Life project in each community held a "Water Week" of events and activities for everyone in the villages to participate. Water Week hosted a community water bingo night complete with water themed prizes



Above image: School was still in session in during the Water is Life project. The project team painted marbling with school children. This image: examples of finished water-themed creations made by Russian Mission school children.



Water is Life: Russian Mission and Deering

The National Tribal Water Center (NTWC) and the Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative partnered to bring an education and awareness campaign centered on the village's water source. The Water is Life project focused on community involvement to increase the pride in ownership of water and sanitation systems. The project worked with Russian Mission and Deering to celebrate healthy Alaska Native cultural values and traditions surrounding water in 2016.



The mural painting was created by artist Linda Infante Lyons (Sugpiaq/Alutiiq) and is on display in the Russian Mission School cafeteria.



Elders in Deering discuss what they would like to see represented on the mural painting during the community visioning meeting.



Mural artist Andrew Morrison (Apache/Haida) primes the Deering water storage tank.



Cherissa Barr helps paint the children's mural on the second water storage tank. The project team coordinated the children's mural painting as part of the water week activities.

Community Visioning

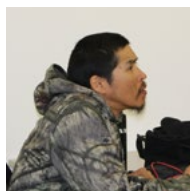
At the heart of both Water is Life projects were community visioning meetings. The main focus of the visioning meetings were to provide a canvas for community members to share their thoughts, ideas and vision for what they wanted to see painted as a reflection of their village and what water meant to them. Both community visioning meetings started with a prayer, food to share and people sharing ideas for the mural.

Community members and project team members pose in front of the completed water storage tank mural painting by Andrew Morrison. The mural painting features an Elder and reindeer herder, Flora Karmun; the school's mascot, the northern lights; and one of Deering's bluffs.

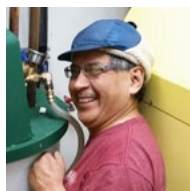




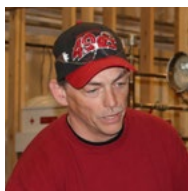
2016 Operators of the Year



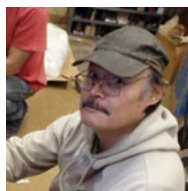
Patrick Patrick
Chevak



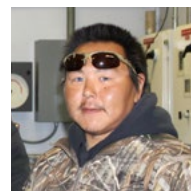
David Walker
Holy Cross



Richard Teel
Kiana



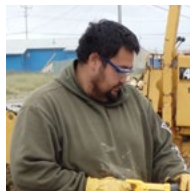
Paul Evan
Lower Kalskag



Scott Toolie
Savoonga



Dion Tickett
Shungnak



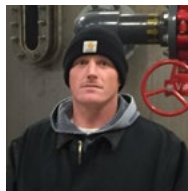
Jeff Curtis
Toksook Bay



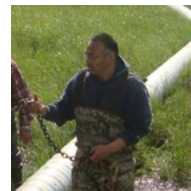
Larry Small
Goodnews Bay



Jimmie Kozevnikoff
Pitkas Point



Jeff Gottschalk
Noorvik



Alex Tom
St. Michael



Stanley Charlie
Scammon Bay

ARUC Training and Technical Assistance

ARUC engineers and operations staff routinely travel to ARUC communities to work on various projects and work one-on-one with operators for training-related purposes. Operators also attended many off-site trainings, including:

Anchorage

- Alaska Rural Water Association Training Conference (October)
- Lift Station Operations Training (November)

Bethel

- Level 1 Water Systems (October)
- Introduction to Small Water Systems (September)
- Boiler Training (March)
- Small Water Systems Training (May)

Kotzebue

- Intro to Water (April)
- IHS Water Plant Filtration (June)

Nome

- Wastewater Training (January)



ARUC earns highest honors and national recognition from Harvard Honoring Nations



The Harvard Honoring Nations recognized the Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC) with its highest award October 2016 during a special presentation at the National Congress of American Indians conference in Phoenix, Arizona. ARUC was one of six semifinalists from Tribal programs across the country, out of an original field of 87 applicants. Harvard Honoring Nations is an award of The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, a project of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

According to The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, “Honoring Nations identifies, celebrates and shares excellence in American Indian tribal governance. At the heart of Honoring Nations are the principles that tribes themselves hold the key to generating social, political, and economic prosperity and that self-governance plays a crucial role in building and sustaining strong, healthy Indian Nations.”

In August, Harvard Honoring Nations committee members came to Alaska for a site visit of the ARUC office and Goodnews Bay to learn more about the program and see the unique challenges Alaska Tribal communities face.

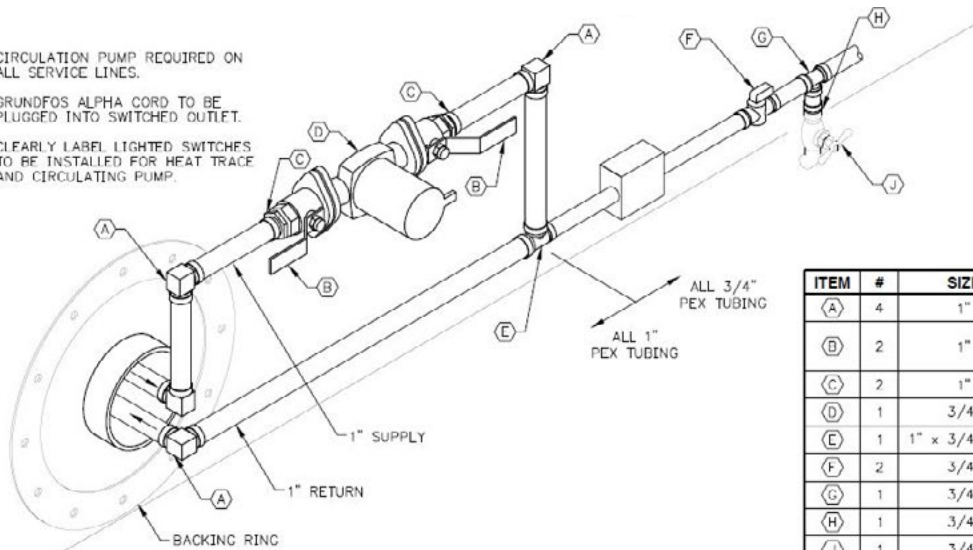
“The Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative demonstrates the power of cooperation and the significant payoffs when small communities can take advantage of economies of scale. It’s a model that not only strengthens tribal governments’ ability to sustain quality water and sewer systems, but also increases people’s support – and willingness to pay for – fundamental public services,” said Andrew Lee, Honoring Nations Board of Governors member, during the award presentation.

ARUC is thankful to each of its 27 member communities. We believe that through our strong partnerships and collaboration, together we ensure each user has access to clean and sustainable water and wastewater services for the life of the system.

Engineering Accomplishments

NOTE:

1. CIRCULATION PUMP REQUIRED ON ALL SERVICE LINES.
2. GRUNDFOS ALPHA CORD TO BE PLUGGED INTO SWITCHED OUTLET.
3. CLEARLY LABEL LIGHTED SWITCHES TO BE INSTALLED FOR HEAT TRACE AND CIRCULATING PUMP.



ITEM	#	SIZE	DESCRIPTION
(A)	4	1"	CRIMP ELBOW
(B)	2	1"	ISOLATION FLANGE, BRASS, FLANGE x FPT, WITH FULL PORT BALL VALVE
(C)	2	1"	CRIMP x MPT ADAPTER
(D)	1	3/4"	GRUNDFOS ALPHA 15-55 SF/LC
(E)	1	1" x 3/4" x 1"	CRIMP REDUCING TEE
(F)	2	3/4"	CRIMP BALL VALVE
(G)	1	3/4"	CRIMP TEE
(H)	1	3/4"	QUARTER TURN HOSE BIBB
(J)	1	3/4"	CRIMP x FPT

A2 INTERIOR WATER SERVICE PIPING ISOMETRIC

Circulation Pumps and Isolation Valves

Many of our ARUC communities are located in extremely cold climates and have to deal with subzero temperatures during the winter. Cold weather and freezing temperatures are a constant challenge for our operators and operations team. One solution to ensuring pipes to homes don't freeze is installing circulating pumps and isolation valves in customers' homes. Circulating pumps are small and recirculate water so it doesn't freeze. They also use much less energy than electric heat tape. The energy cost for circulating pumps is far less than for an average light bulb. Isolation valves give operators the ability to stop water service when needed. Isolation valves are a crucial piece of providing reliable water service. Recovering from a system freeze-up could take months and several hundred thousand dollars.

In Toksook Bay, operators Richard Curtis and Jeff Curtis completed several service connection installations that included circulation pumps and heat tape. These circulation pumps and heat tape systems were installed in homes that were prone to freeze-ups. The ARUC operations team worked with local operators on how to install and run the system.

Water System Innovations

Automated Vacuum Pumps

Vacuum pumps are used in communities situated on the tundra, which are unable to use gravity for wastewater service. ARUC designed a control system to provide stronger and more reliable vacuum for the wastewater system. The automated vacuum pumps use less energy than the old-style vacuum pumps and are more efficient. They save electricity, have fewer oil changes and filter replacements and are cheaper to maintain. They are also less prone to fire hazards than the old-style vacuum pumps.

The automated vacuum pump was first tested in Savoonga. Upon this successful implementation, they were also brought to Chevak, Noorvik and St. Michael. Kotlik is scheduled to have the automated pumps installed in spring 2017. Our ARUC engineers recommend the installation of an automated vacuum pump in Emmonak, a non-ARUC community, after they suffered a fire in their water treatment plant.

Tank Penetration

ARUC designed and installed a tank penetration system for a probe and a pressure transducer that monitors water levels inside St. Michael's water storage tank. St. Michael's water storage tank was older and unable to monitor water levels. Operators are now able to add equipment to the tank without having to go inside the tank.

Water System Improvements



Renovating Holy Cross's Water Treatment Plant



David Walker and Bruce Werba working on changing out the pipes of the Holy Cross Water Treatment Plant

During the summer of 2016, upgrades were completed in the Holy Cross water treatment plant. The water treatment plant in Holy Cross is over 30 years old and the copper pipe had many pinhole leaks. Replacing

the leaking copper pipe with PVC pipe was necessary to keep the plant operational. This project included ARUC working with the water plant operator David Walker and Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation remote maintenance worker Bruce Werba. The project started in June and finished in late August.

Upper Kalskag's Force Main and Gravity Line

In 2015, the ARUC operations team leveled Upper Kalskag's gravity line and replaced 800 feet of pipe on the force main. The following year in 2016, the operations team added the glycol heat trace line to the force main. The glycol heat trace line will help prevent freeze-ups and save money so operators don't have to jet the system when it freezes. Glycol heat trace will quickly and cheaply thaw the line in the event of a freeze-up.





Golovin water treatment plant

Wayne Henry,
Golovin Plant Operator

Energy Efficiency Projects

ARUC has partnered with the ANTHC Rural Energy Initiative to bring energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to ARUC communities since the Energy Initiative was created in 2010. The Rural Energy Initiative believes basic sanitation should be efficient, sustainable and affordable. Energy costs are the second largest expense for community water treatment and wastewater systems in rural Alaska. This unique program works directly with Tribes to implement innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions to make rural sanitation and other public infrastructure affordable for the communities we serve.

Golovin Energy Efficiency Retrofits

Energy audits and energy efficiency upgrades were completed in the community sanitation system by winter 2016. A remote monitoring system was installed by ANTHC in 2015 to remotely identify problems and help in preventing catastrophic failures, such as freeze-ups. Some of the upgrades include heat controls and heat exchanges on the recovered heat system to maximize energy savings. The yearly anticipated energy savings for the Golovin water treatment plant is \$28,143 (fuel \$15,980 and electricity \$12,162). Funding for this project was provided by the Denali Commission, USDA Rural Development and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

Noorvik Heat Recovery

Noorvik operators, with assistance from ANTHC construction crews, completed the heat recovery energy project in early December 2016. The City of Noorvik's water and wastewater system is now reaping the benefits of a heat recovery system, which captures waste heat from the generator cooling system at the local power plant and puts it to use by heating the water plant.

"The new system is estimated to cut the water plant's heating oil use by 90 percent and will save roughly 15,000 gallons of fuel annually," said Eric Hanssen, ANTHC Rural Energy Initiative program manager.



Left to right: Chris Cox, regional manager for Maniilaq; Elinor Bantatua, water plant operator, and Jeff Gottschalk, water plant operator.

Elinor Bantatua, the water treatment plant operator for Noorvik shared, “This project was a great opportunity for Noorvik. We are able to get more heat for the water treatment plant and save a lot of money. We are using less electricity and less fuel. I’m glad we have heat for our water treatment plant when we can get to -32 degrees. I’m happy and I hope that we can bring the costs down for the customers.”

Quinhagak Heat Recovery

The Quinhagak heat recovery system passed inspection in 2016 and is now fully operational.

Patrick Cleveland, the Quinhagak Tribal administrator and the backup water plant operator shared with the ANTHC Rural Energy Initiative project manager, Tashina Duttie, about the impact the new system has made on the water treatment plant: “Before the heat recovery system came online during the wintertime, we had a problem with our day tank automatically pumping from the storage tank. During the wintertime, the first thing we had to do in the morning was to fill up the day tank. And later in the day, once we were about to get off work, we’d have to fill it up again. And we’d have to fill it later around 11 p.m. or midnight and fill it up again. Once the heat recovery went online, we didn’t have to do that anymore.”



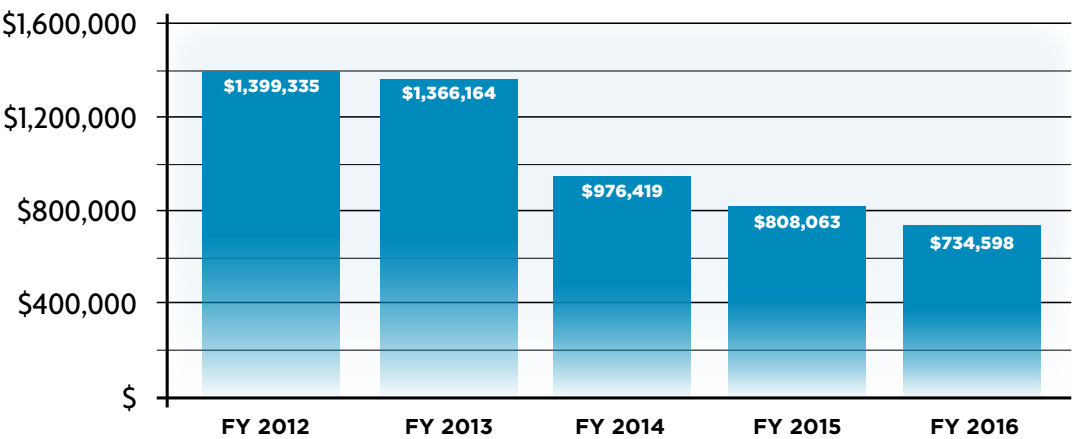
Since the Quinhagak heat recovery system passed inspection, the water plant operators haven’t had to use any fuel. Cleveland is looking forward to seeing Quinhagak’s reserve fund increase and customer rates decrease in the future. It is estimated that Quinhagak will see a fuel savings of almost \$64,000 per year, or an estimated 14,200 gallons of fuel.



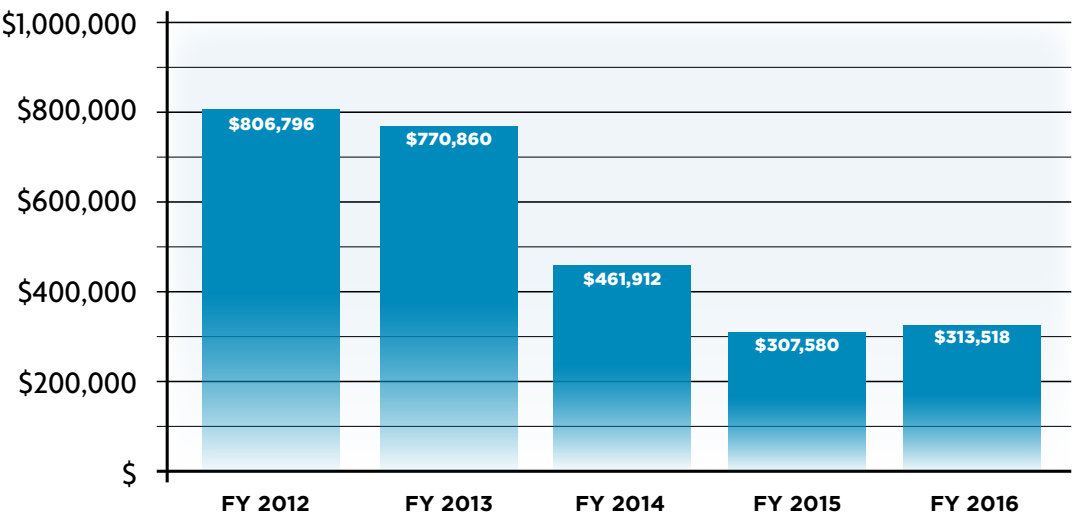
Improved Energy and Operational Efficiency

Through energy efficiency projects in partnership with ANTHC's Rural Energy Initiative we continue to see a decline in energy expenses, such as fuel and electricity. Energy costs are the second highest expense for water and sewer facilities. Energy projects include heat recovery, wind-to-heat, and biomass systems. These projects utilize local energy sources to offset fuel and electricity consumption.

ARUC Energy Costs by Year



Cost of Purchased Heating Fuel by Year



ARUC Community Financial Information

2016 was a good year financially for our ARUC communities. As seen on the chart for FY16, revenues were \$969,629 higher than expenses, meaning a majority of our communities were able to put over \$900,000 into their community parts replacement and fuel reserve accounts.

Having a reserve account available for critical replacement parts, bulk fuel purchases, and emergencies such as freeze-ups and overages in labor is vital to keeping rates as low as possible for our customers. It also means our communities are less dependent on outside funding sources to make needed system repairs. Communities can also use their cash reserves as match money to get system project grants.

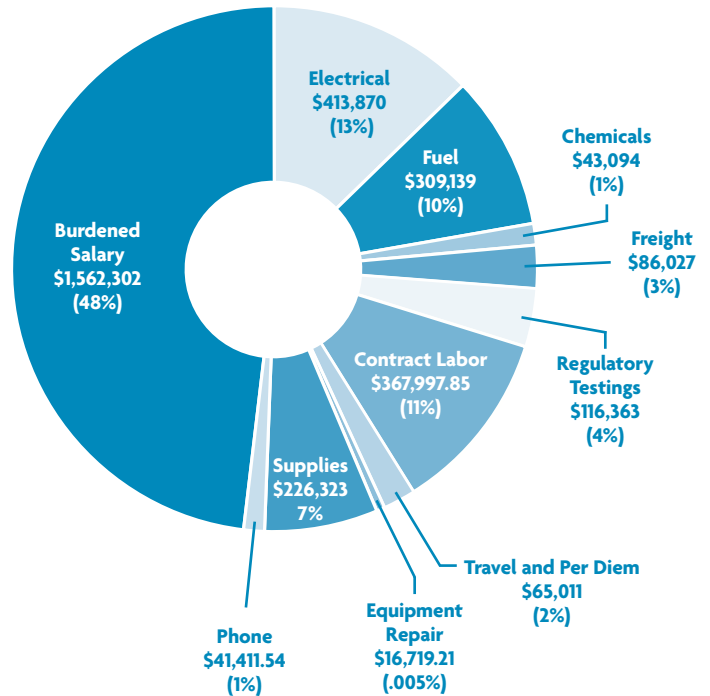
Of the 27 ARUC communities: 59 percent have fully funded cash reserves; 18 have positive but unmet cash reserves; and 22 have no cash reserves.

ARUC works to improve finances in our member communities by ensuring each community's revenue meets expenses and builds reserves for emergencies. Ultimately, this ensures users have access to clean and sustainable water and wastewater for the life of the system.

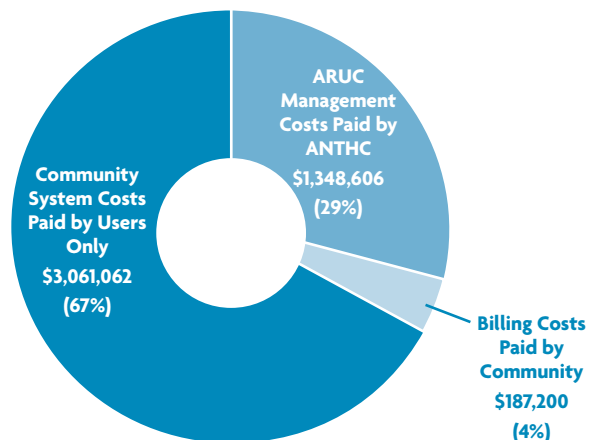
ARUC FY16 Operating Revenue and Expenses

Revenues collected from each community are used to pay that community's system expenses only. Some included expenses are water plant operator labor, electricity, fuel, parts, supplies, regulatory testing, billing service fees and much more. ARUC management staff costs are funded by ANTHC and federal funds only.

ARUC FY16 Annual Expenses



ARUC FY16 Operating Costs



ARUC Community Rates

Community	Residential Rates
Ambler	\$ 175.00
Anchorage**	\$95.11
Bethel**	\$234.46
Chevak	\$ 121.50
Chignik Lagoon	\$ 85.00
Chignik Lake	\$ 200.00
Deering (wastewater only)	\$ 80.00
Dillingham**	\$107.45
Golovin	\$ 186.00
Goodnews Bay	\$ 85.00
Holy Cross	\$ 150.00
Kiana	\$ 154.50
Kobuk	\$ 200.00
Kotlik	\$ 104.50
Kotzebue**	\$138.00
Lower Kalskag	\$ 156.00
Newhalen	\$ 175.00
New Stuyahok	\$ 93.75
Newhalen	\$175.00
Nome**	\$107.82
Noorvik	\$ 182.00
Pitkas Point	\$ 120.00*
Quinhagak	\$ 125.00
Russian Mission	\$ 60.00*
St. Michael	\$ 175.00
Savoonga	\$ 85.00
Scammon Bay	\$ 105.00
Shungnak	\$ 140.00
Sleetmute	\$ 125.00
South Naknek	\$ 90.00
Toksook Bay	\$ 65.00
Tyonek	\$ 128.25
Upper Kalskag (wastewater only)	\$ 157.39

*Subsidized **Non-ARUC community



What is the ARUC?

The Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC) is an Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) program that partners with member communities to assist manage, operate and maintain water/wastewater systems in rural Alaska. Each community system is treated as a standalone non-profit business where revenue from local customers, generated from utility fees and local community support, must be enough to pay the system's expenses. ARUC works with communities to set water/wastewater rates, bills local water and wastewater customers, provides partnered supervision to local water plant operators, and more. ARUC provides strength in numbers with 27 villages working together instead of on their own. There are two types of memberships within ANTHC's ARUC statewide program: the Assisted Billing program and the full ARUC membership program.

ARUC partners with the member communities by:

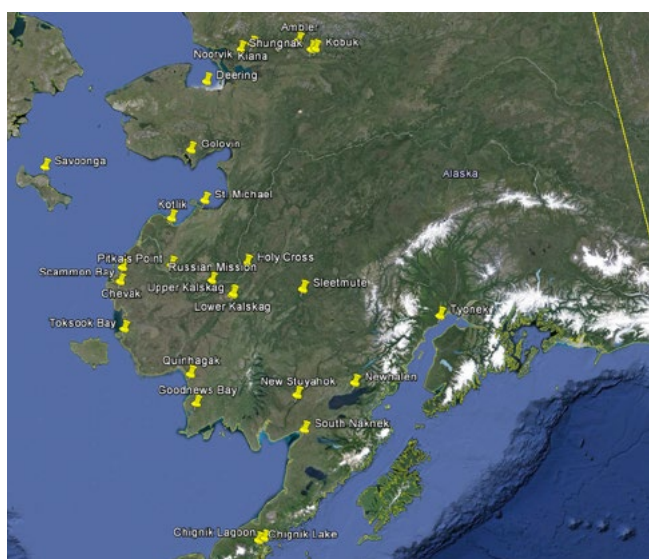
- Ensuring that qualified staff operate and maintain facilities to provide high quality drinking water and safely dispose sewage.
- Working with the community and the operator to extend the useful life of the system through prevention and maintenance, ultimately saving millions of federal and state dollars in replacement costs.
- Training water plant operators and backup staff in each community and provide good wages and benefits.

Assisted Billing Program

This program provides enrolled communities with utility billings (electricity, water/wastewater) and collections from customers. Utility fees are collected monthly from customers and reimbursed back to the community, minus the monthly fee based on the community's size. These fees range from \$500-\$800 per month, and each community will only pay its share of the expenses associated with their billing service. Assisted billing only requires a 30-day commitment between ANTHC and the community.

ARUC Membership

The ARUC program partners with communities to assist with management and operations of the water/wastewater system, in addition to billing services. The community must be in the Assisted Billing Program for a minimum for one year before becoming a full ARUC member. Rates vary by location and are set with approval by community leadership and are set to be self-supporting. All fuel, parts, electricity, etc., for water/wastewater systems are purchased through ARUC using community customer revenues. Additionally, applications for grant funding to purchase fuel, supplies and needed parts and repairs for ARUC communities are managed by program staff.



What are the Benefits of ARUC?

When ARUC communities do well financially (revenues are greater than expenses), their funds are placed into their own cash reserve account. Cash reserve accounts are savings making it possible for a community to immediately purchase replacement parts, bulk fuel, and fund emergencies such as freeze-ups and overages in labor. It is important for communities to have this funding in place in case of an emergency to keep rates as low as possible for customers. It is the responsibility of the system owner and customers to pay on time, each month to ensure system revenues meet expenses, and reserves are available.

After ARUC communities meet the required reserve amount, funds can be used for more measured long-term projects, which include, but aren't limited to, using reserve funds as match money to leverage grant funding for large scale projects such as energy efficiency work, and renovating and upgrading buildings. As communities meet their reserve requirement, system users also benefit by seeing utility rate decreases.



Russian Mission, AK

Why ARUC was created

The Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC) partners with communities and operators to manage, operate, and maintain water and sewer systems in rural Alaska. ARUC provides strength in numbers, with 27 villages working together instead of struggling alone.



2004 ARUC Advisory Committee

History –We’ve come a long way!

The Rural Utility Cooperative (RUC) began in 2004 as a pilot program of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) and served three communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region in its first year: Holy Cross, Grayling and Upper Kalskag. YKHC transferred ownership of the RUC program to ANTHC in October 2007, and the program name changed from RUC to the Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative, or ARUC, on Jan. 1, 2008. The program went from serving three communities in 2004 to serving a total of 27 by 2013. Since 2013, ARUC has focused

on providing improved management assistance in partnership with existing communities through additional training to build local capabilities, and improve system operations and finances.

ARUC Employees

Business Operations

The Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative's Business Operations team manages all of ARUC's business planning, utility budgets and financial reports, utility billing and collections, community and customer relations, regional operator supervision, and coordinates the quarterly ARUC Advisory Committee meetings.



Ryan Chingliak
Senior Accounting Specialist



Chris Cox
Maniilaq Regional Manager



Deanna Dull
Office Specialist



Marleah LaBelle
Community Relations Manager



Ricky Lind
NSHC Regional Manager



Gerri Mesack
Financial Analyst



Francine Moreno
Program Manager



Frank Neitz
YKHC Regional Manager



Janessa Reamey
Accounting Specialist



Jon Savage
BBAHC Regional Manager



John Sims
Alaska Utility Supply Center Manager

Utility Support

ARUC's Utility Support team focuses on developing sustainable sanitation systems. The crew works hand-in-hand with operators and regional partners to implement energy efficiency and operational improvements while emphasizing safe and affordable service.



Max Goggin-Kehm
Utility Operations Team Lead



Gunner Hodgson
Utility Support Engineer



Chris Mercer
Utility Operations Manager



Andrea Moreno
Utility Support Engineering Intern



Michael Nabers
Utility Operations Team Lead



Elmer Rookok
Utility Support Specialist



John Street
Utility Support Engineer



Shawn Takak
Utility Support Engineer

Quyana/Taikuu to our Partners!

The Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative would like to thank the many cities, Tribes, regional health corporations, borough offices and funders for partnering with us to ensure that communities receive safe water and sanitation services every day. It is our belief that through partnerships and collaboration, our work together can empower communities in rural Alaska and create sustainable systems for future generations.

Alaska Energy Authority	City of Scammon Bay
Alaska Rural Water Association	City of Shungnak
Alaska Vocational Technical Center	City of Toksook Bay
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	City of Upper Kalskag
Bristol Bay Borough	Department of Environmental Conservation
Chignik Lake Traditional Village Council	The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development
City of Ambler	Indian Health Service
City of Chevak	Lake & Peninsula Borough
City of Deering	Maniilaq Association
City of Golovin	NANA Regional Corporation
City of Holy Cross	The National Tribal Water Center
City of Kiana	Native Village of Chignik Lagoon
City of Kobuk	Native Village of South Naknek
City of Kotlik	Native Village of Tyonek
City of Lower Kalskag	Northwest Arctic Borough
City of New Stuyahok	Norton Sound Health Corporation
City of Newhalen	Pitkas Point Village Council
City of Noorvik	Sleetmute Traditional Council
City of Quinhagak	United States Department of Agriculture
City of Russian Mission	Village of Goodnews Bay
City of Saint Michael	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
City of Savoonga	

Contact ARUC

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