

Goodnews Bay to Install Sewage System

A unique and far-sighted scheme to help construct and manage their soon-to-be-built water and sewage system is being carried out by the people of Goodnews Bay.

The Village Council has established a utility commission to work out preliminary

plans, arrange work teams, establish a rate system, and set up an operation and maintenance program for the finished project.

The commission idea was born when the Council conferred with U.S. Public Health Service Engineers Virgil Carr and John Worlund,

Sanitarian Harry Doult about the planned Alaska Native Health Area project.

Climate and other factors at Goodnews Bay permit a complete water and sewerage system in the homes of the some 39 families there.

It will be constructed under Public Law 86-121 through which certain funds, materials, and technical assistance are available when a village makes contributions in labor or materials, according to its capabilities.

Because funds for the Goodnews Bay system are limited, all labor except top skills will have to be donated. And because construction season coincides with the fishing season—a most important time for the 214 villagers in this coastal town—a work coordination plan is needed.

Members of the newly-appointed commission, which has no political authority, are Christian Small, Louis Small, Moses Galila, and John James.

These men, in coordination with PHS Sanitarians and Engineers, will organize the workmen into teams for the various stages of the work, seeing that all do their fair share.

The project has added benefits in that it will provide some special work training for the villagers.

With this preliminary arranging done, even a post-fishing season construction start in late July or early August will be effective. Materials will arrive by boat.

As the project develops, the commission will perform another unique function, one which ties in closely with the Public Health Service emphasis on involvement of the people in meeting their health needs.

The men will tell the project engineers about comments and questions of the villagers.

"If something does not make sense to them, we'll take another look," says Worlund. "We'll each know each other's thinking, and strive for understanding every step of the way."

The commission will also inform the villagers about what is going on and help to overcome language differences which have caused stumbling blocks to understanding in the past.

Water will be supplied from a sort of "horizontal well." Because of the area's high water table, an infiltration gallery is usable. Water will flow into pipes from just beneath a stream which flows near the town.

Engineers believe that a better chemical quality will be obtained than from a deep well and bacteriological problems can be treated easily.

Meanwhile, the commission, along with the Village Council, is working to set up ordinances for use of the system when it's completed.

They will also prepare a rate system which will bring funds to pay an operator and maintenance man as well as build a financial cushion for replacements parts later on.

Members of this enterprising council include: Frank Bavilla, president; Andy Olsen, vice president; Paul Bavilla, secretary; Jessie Beaver, treasurer; and Charles Chingliak and James Moses.

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