

Zender Environmental Health & Research Group

Community Environmental Demonstration Project Grant

Aleknagik Traditional Council

Tribal IGAP Environmental Program
Office

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Home Sweet Home

Lake Aleknagik in the winter

Lessons Learned

- At our January, 2012 ATC regular monthly meeting the Tribal Council President made a directive to the ATC Tribal IGAP Environmental Program Office look into applying for funding for a community-wide trash collection program for Aleknagik.
- Not too long after that Zender Environmental Health & Research Group sent out an announcement of funding they had available under their Community Environmental Demonstration Project Grant through a subaward with the Environmental Protection Agency to Zender Environmental.
- The total funding amount for this RFA could not exceed \$30,000.00 for each tribal community interested in applying for funding under their demonstration project grant.



ATC Council Going over the Approved RFA
Wow we got the funding?

Submitted an RFA to Zender in 1/1/12

- At the direction of my ATC council I submitted an RFA to Zender to apply for the funds for our community-wide trash collection service; including funds to purchase a snow-machine for picking up trash in the winter months and a 4-wheeler to continue the trash collection service in the summer months.
- In February, 2012 during the AK Forum I met with Simone to go over the components of the RFA I submitted to Zender to make minor corrections.



4-wheeler for summer community trash pick-up

This 4-wheeler will be used to haul trash to the North Shore landfill site during the summer.

We got the funding!

- In February I received a letter from Simone Seballo that Zender's review team went over the RFA I submitted and approved it.
- I then drafted a job description and posted it in our IGAP office, ATC's Administrative Office, City Office and Post Office. Also the ATC Council at our February, 2012 meeting decided on rates for collecting garbage. Participating local residents would be charged \$30.00 per month to help pay for maintenance, gas, oil for the 4-wheeler and snow-machine. Elders would not be charged.
- The majority of our local residents are commercial fishers so they were getting ready to go to participate in the commercial salmon drift and set gillnet fishery.



**Commercial Salmon Drift gillnet fishers
Don't set too close to me!!!!**

Then the waiting began!!!

- After posting the job description we waited for someone to apply for the community-wide trash collection service position.
- Being a grantee with Zender we held monthly teleconference calls and I would report to my Project Officer that we are still waiting for someone to apply for the position.
- And waited; waited; waited.
- It was an excellent RFA and I was wondering why no one within my community was interested in applying for the position because there are few local jobs within our community



Snow-machine used for winter trash pick-up

This is being used at present to pick up trash from our community members.

Will anyone apply for the position?

- At our ATC regular monthly meetings and monthly teleconferences with Zender I was asked the same question. Did we get any applicants for the position.
- Our local youth met and formed a Youth Action Group sometime in December, 2012. They wanted to volunteer to collect trash, but because they were volunteers they would not be able to be put on ATC's insurance policy, which if you're an employee you are included in the policy.
- Again we were still waiting for someone to apply for the position.

We finally got someone to apply!

Finally in January at our ATC regular monthly meeting our Tribal Administrator told us that we do have someone interested in the position, and we hired her immediately!!

I then drafted an agreement for the local elders, community members to sign to agree for our trash pick-up service.

I also drafted an agreement with the City of Aleknagik; owners the landfill site that we would pay them their solid waste fees when our community-wide trash collector brought the trash to the City's landfill site, in which part of the \$30.00 we collected would also be used to pay for discarding our trash in the landfill, and within the agreement the City would bill ATC depending on the number of trash being brought to the landfill.

In conclusion

- I failed to mention that the person we hired also works part-time at our local city landfill so she already has access to the landfill in terms of keys to open the gate.
- We can write an excellent RFA, but sometimes people who we are trying to hire for the position are either overwhelmed or do not think they're qualified for the job. Thanks.