

Best Practices Score  
Saint Paul  
Spring 2026

| Category                                                                                                              |                                 | O&M Scoring Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                         |   |  | Possible    | Score | Explanation of Score                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | How to Improve Score                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Contact                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--|-------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Technical                                                                                                             | Operator Certification          | Utility has more than one operator certified to the level of the water system                                                                                                                                |   |  | 10          | 3     | System Classification: Water Treatment 1<br>Primary Operator: <i>Monty Baker</i><br>Certification Level: <i>WT P</i><br>Backup Operator: <i>No record of a backup operator</i><br>Certification Level: <i>N/A</i><br><br>Utility has one or more operators certified at some level in water treatment or distribution, but not to the level of the system. | The operator(s) need to take and pass the certification exam at the level required for the water system and a backup operator identified. Contact the Operator Certification Program for certification requirements, application procedures, or program resourc | ADEC Operator Certification Program<br>465-1139                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Primary operator is certified to the level of the water system and the backup operator holds some level of certification in water treatment or distribution                                                  |   |  | 7           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Primary operator is certified to the level of the water system and the backup operator holds no certification or there is no backup operator                                                                 |   |  | 5           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility has one or more operators certified at some level in water treatment or distribution                                                                                                                 |   |  | 3           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility has no certified operators                                                                                                                                                                           |   |  | 0           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       | Preventive Maintenance Plan     | Utility has a written PM plan; PM is performed on schedule; records of completion are submitted on a quarterly basis and have been verified                                                                  |   |  | 25          | 15    | The utility is not performing the required maintenance or isn't keeping records of maintenance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | To receive the full points in this category, the operator must have a Preventative Maintenance plan that they follow and the completed plan must be submitted to your assigned RMW each quarter.                                                                | Daniel Shellikoff<br>APIA RMW<br>269-2700                      |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility has a written PM plan; performance of PM and record keeping are not consistent                                                                                                                       |   |  | 15          |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility has no PM plan or performs no PM                                                                                                                                                                     |   |  | 0           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       | Compliance                      | Utility had no Monitoring and Reporting violations during the past year                                                                                                                                      |   |  | 10          | 0     | The utility had 7 Drinking Water Monitoring and Reporting violations in 2025.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | The Drinking Water Program provides you with an Annual Monitoring Summary with all of the required samples for your water system. All samples and reports must be collected and submitted in a timely manner.                                                   | Elizabeth Nakanishi<br>ADEC Drinking Water Program<br>269-7619 |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility had up to five Monitoring and Reporting violations during the past year                                                                                                                              |   |  | 5           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility had more than five Monitoring and Reporting violations during the last year                                                                                                                          |   |  | 0           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
| Managerial                                                                                                            | Utility Management Training     | A person who holds a position of responsibility for management of the utility has completed a DCRA approved Utility Management course or other utility management training course within the last five years |   |  | 5           | 5     | Heidi Merculief attended Elected Officials Management for Rural Utilities training on 3/7/2024.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | To maintain the full points, consider sending someone to one of the free RUBA trainings each year.                                                                                                                                                              | Gabriel Gonzales<br>DCRA RUBA Program<br>754-3588              |
|                                                                                                                       | Meetings of the Governing Body  | The utility owner's governing body meets routinely consistent with the local ordinance/bylaw requirements and receives a current report from the operator                                                    |   |  | 5           | 5     | Minutes were provided for 7 out of 12 months during this reporting period. The water operator report was consistently included in the meeting minutes.                                                                                                                                                                                                     | To maintain full points, the governing body must continue to meet according to local ordinance/bylaw and provide RUBA with meeting minutes.                                                                                                                     |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | The utility owner's governing body meets routinely consistent with the local ordinance/bylaw requirements                                                                                                    |   |  | 2           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | The utility owner's governing body does not meet                                                                                                                                                             |   |  | 0           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
| Financial                                                                                                             | Budget                          | Utility owner and the Utility have each adopted a realistic budget and budget amendments are adopted as needed; Accurate monthly budget reports are prepared and submitted to the governing body             |   |  | 15          | 15    | The owner-managed utility has adopted an overall balanced and realistic budget; accurate monthly financial reports have been submitted and documented in the meeting minutes.                                                                                                                                                                              | Full points have been awarded. Continue to provide RUBA accurate monthly financial reports that are submitted to the council and documented in the meeting minutes.                                                                                             | Gabriel Gonzales<br>DCRA RUBA Program<br>754-3588              |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Either the Utility or the Utility owner has adopted and implemented a budget, the other has not                                                                                                              |   |  | 13          |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Either the Utility or the Utility owner has adopted a budget, but it is not being implemented                                                                                                                |   |  | 10          |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility owner and the Utility have not adopted a budget                                                                                                                                                      |   |  | 0           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       | Revenue                         | Utility is collecting revenue sufficient to cover the Utility's operating expenses and to contribute to a repair and replacement account                                                                     |   |  | 20          | 15    | Financial reports show utility revenue is sufficient to cover expenses, but the utility does not contribute to a repair and replacement account.                                                                                                                                                                                                           | To received additional points, the utility must establish a utility repair and replacement account and make regular contributions to be prepared for future needs.                                                                                              |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility is collecting revenue sufficient to cover expenses                                                                                                                                                   |   |  | 15          |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility has a fee schedule and a collection policy that is followed                                                                                                                                          |   |  | 5           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility has no fee structure or collection policy                                                                                                                                                            |   |  | 0           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       | Worker's Compensation Insurance | Utility has had a worker's compensation policy for all employees for the past two years and has a current policy in place                                                                                    |   |  | 5           | 5     | Continuous coverage for the utility owner was confirmed by a Department of Labor and Workforce Development database query on 12/31/25.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Full points have been awarded. The utility owner must maintain an active workers' compensation policy to continue receiving these points.                                                                                                                       |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility has a current worker's compensation policy in place for all employees                                                                                                                                |   |  | 2           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility has no worker's compensation policy                                                                                                                                                                  |   |  | 0           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       | Payroll Liability Compliance    | Utility has no past due tax liabilities and is current with all tax obligations                                                                                                                              |   |  | 5           | 5     | Utility owner has no past due State of Alaska payroll tax liabilities and is current with all ESC tax obligations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Full points have been awarded. Continue to submit timely reports and payments to maintain these points.                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                |
|                                                                                                                       |                                 | Utility owes back taxes, but has a signed payment agreement, is current on that agreement, and is up-to-date with all other tax obligations                                                                  |   |  | 2           |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
| Utility is not current with its tax obligations and/or does not have a signed repayment agreement for back taxes owed |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 0 |  |             |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |
| CIP O&M Score                                                                                                         |                                 | 8                                                                                                                                                                                                            |   |  | TOTAL SCORE | 68    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                |