

Section: 5.0 Environmental and Protective Services
- A. Agricultural Services

Authority: Council

Administering Department: Environmental and Protective Services

Statement

The Municipal District of Bonnyville (M.D.) Agricultural Service Board is committed to protecting municipal infrastructure from water movement problems related to beaver activity and providing the option to blast beaver dams on private land.

The beaver is not a declared pest or nuisance under the Agricultural Pest Act therefore, the M.D. does not have a legislated duty to provide beaver control on privately owned or provincial lands. However, the M.D. recognizes that beaver dams are the cause of frequent flooding in watersheds, creeks, and coulees within the municipality when heavy spring run-off and summer rainstorms occur.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the guidelines for Administration to provide beaver control within the M.D.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- (1) "ASB" means the M.D. Agricultural Service Board duly appointed by M.D. Council;
- (2) "Council" means the duly elected Council of the M.D.

Policy

- (1) The M.D. will maintain a license authorizing the appropriate handling and use of explosives for the purpose of blasting dams (i.e. licensed magazine, certified blaster, fee for service).
- (2) Landowners with beaver issues on private land (i.e. agricultural crop and pasture lands, yards, etc.) are encouraged to rectify the issue independently.
- (3) If a landowner chooses, they may manage beaver control on their own property in accordance with the Alberta Wildlife Regulation and receive compensation from the M.D. by signing a Landowner Beaver Control Agreement. This agreement must be approved by the General Manager of Environmental and Protective Services or his/her designate for the areas specified in the agreement prior to beaver removal. Payments for this program will occur semi-annually with the deadlines to submit beaver tails being June 15th and December 15th. Subsequent payment thereof will be made within 30 days of each date.

Date Adopted: April 13, 1995

Resolution No: 95.189

Date Reviewed₍₀₁₎: April 25, 2018

Resolution No: 18.253

Date Amended₍₀₅₎: February 9, 2022

Resolution No: 22.042

- (4) The M.D. may employ local licensed trappers to assist with beaver control measures throughout the municipality when deemed necessary. A Trapper Beaver Control Agreement must be signed and approved by the General Manager of Environmental and Protective Services or his/her designate for these active areas prior to beaver removal.
- (5) When flooding occurs on privately-owned land and certified blasting services is required, the landowner must enter into a Landowner Beaver Control Blasting Services Agreement and will be required to pay a fee per beaver dam, per visit for the removal of these blockages, as established within the M.D. Master Rates Bylaw.
- (6) The M.D. will provide beaver and/or beaver dam removal services from private property or public lands at no expense to the landowner only if the removal serves to protect municipal infrastructure (i.e. roads, bridges, culverts, etc.).
- (7) If a landowner requests that a beaver dam be removed on adjoining land that he/she does not own or control to resolve a flooding concern on his own land, municipal staff will provide the service subject to written permission from the landowner on which the beaver dam is located. The landowner which requested the service will be charged in accordance with the M.D. Master Rates Bylaw.
- (8) The M.D. may provide beaver and/or beaver dam removal services on drainage ditches registered by the municipality to prevent the flooding of agricultural land subject to the authorization of the landowner.

Policy Review

Within five (5) years from date adopted / amended / reviewed.

For administrative use only:

Previous Policy Number: (prior to July 24, 2019)	60.63.06
Related Documentation: (plans, bylaws, policies, procedures, etc.)	Form: Landowner Beaver Control Application Agreement: Trapper Beaver Control Agreement Agreement: Landowner Beaver Control Blasting Services Agreement Bylaw: Master Rates Bylaw

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