



BIG LAKES COUNTY POLICY

TITLE: Beaver Control	
POLICY NUMBER: PW 21	
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Wildlife Act	
APPROVED BY COUNCIL: May 10, 1995	
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 10, 1995	REVISED DATE: May 27, 2020

POLICY STATEMENT

The County recognizes the need to establish guidelines for the preservation of municipal infrastructure, through the control of beavers and the associated beaver dams, within the boundaries of Big Lakes County. This policy provides such guidelines.

POLICY

1. Requests for Service – Agricultural Lands
 - a) Beaver control measures shall not be undertaken at the request of a landowner or occupant but shall only be undertaken at the initiative of the County on municipal lands or lands to which access is permitted.
 - b) Requests for beaver control work on private lands shall be directed to the Beaver Control contractor to be addressed by him through private negotiation.
2. Requests for Service – Municipal Public Lands
 - a) Administration staff shall respond to requests from ratepayers and arrange to remove problematic beaver and beaver dams which affect all municipally controlled property.
 - b) Alberta Transportation is responsible for the maintenance of road culverts blocked by beaver on all primary and secondary highways, and landowners requesting service shall be directed to their department for action.
 - c) The County shall initiate control measures where beaver dams are causing the ponding of water within County road allowances or licensed drainage systems.
 - d) Sites adjacent to County infrastructure, which harbor large beaver populations and are subject to problematic beaver activity, may receive beaver control work provided the Beaver Control contractor is granted the appropriate authorization and permission to proceed.



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3. Dam Removal

- a) The County shall remove only the necessary sections of beaver dams, as are required to facilitate the flow of water. Removal of entire dams shall be conducted in a discriminating manner, to avoid downstream flooding and siltation, and increased risk of blasting damage from larger sized charges;
- b) In the event that blasting is to be conducted on potential fish-bearing waters, the dam blaster shall comply with federal and provincial legislations;
- c) When the County is requesting control work on private lands, a signed liability waiver and permission for entry shall be obtained before any beaver control work will be conducted on the land.
- d) Residents living within 200 metres of a proposed blasting site shall be notified of the intent to remove the dam. Notification of the blast shall be undertaken immediately prior to the blast and, where reasonably practicable, shall be made in person. If the blaster is unable to make contact with the resident, the blaster shall determine visually, if there are any constraints apparent on the property, and ensure that all warning signage is in place.
- e) In the event the beaver activity is located outside the municipal rights-of way, the County Beaver Control contractor shall seek landowner/occupant permission for dam/beaver removal action.
- f) The blaster shall ensure that blasting activities are not conducted on locations in immediate proximity to underground and overhead utilities.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

Date of Final Signature