

RED DEER COUNTY

TITLE: AGRICULTURE DRAINAGE DITCH ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION PROGRAM (RDC AgDitch Program)

Category: Operations / Agricultural Services

Policy x Procedure
Bylaw Guideline

No. 7.024

AUTHORITY: CC-09-370

DATE: December 22, 2009

REPLACES:

DATE:

Further References: RDC AgDitch Program Delivery Procedures

PURPOSE

To establish a proactive program that can provide funding for environmentally sound maintenance of agricultural drainage ditches in Red Deer County that are managed by Drainage Districts and Drainage Societies.

GUIDELINES/SCOPE

1. Drainage Districts and Drainage Societies named in the RDC AgDitch Program Delivery Procedures are eligible to participate in the program.
2. Eligible organizations may apply for an amount of funding equal to or less than the total number of kilometers of agricultural drainage ditch that they maintain (as outlined in the RDC AgDitch Program Delivery Procedures), multiplied by \$300.
3. Eligible organizations may apply for this funding each year, provided they have maintenance works that require the funding.
4. Eligible organizations may apply for funding for larger maintenance projects and accrue the funding for up to three years for these larger maintenance projects.
5. Funding can be applied only to maintenance projects and is restricted to existing infrastructure.
6. As part of the application process, eligible organizations must demonstrate that they have the authority from Alberta Environment and any other required authorities to conduct the maintenance work.
7. Eligible organizations may apply for funding each year. Organizations may be provided funding only if they have provided satisfactory applications, which will include the following details as listed in the the RDC AgDitch Program Delivery Procedures:

- an annual maintenance plan (or a three-year maintenance plan for organizations wishing to accrue funding for larger projects),
 - an annual plan for promoting the adoption by adjacent landowners of practices that minimize the potential for negative impacts on the organization's agricultural drainage infrastructure and water quality therein.
8. Applications for the RDC AgDitch Program will be reviewed by Red Deer County Operations Services staff in consultation where necessary with Alberta Environment staff.