

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIG LAKES

TITLE:	Beaver Control Policy
APPROVED BY COUNCIL:	May 10, 1995
EFFECTIVE DATE:	May 10, 1995
REVISED DATE:	February 8, 2006
POLICY NO.	ASB-03
LEGAL AUTHORITY:	Wildlife Act

POLICY STATEMENT

The Municipal District recognizes the need to establish guidelines for the control of beavers, and the associated beaver dams, within the bounds of the Municipal District of Big Lakes. This policy provides such guidelines.

POLICY

Requests for Service—Agricultural Lands

1. Beaver control measures may be undertaken at the request of a landowner/occupant or at the initiative of the Municipal District on lands to which access is permitted.
2. For the blasting service a \$200 + GST charge will apply for the first beaver dam, and \$100 + GST for each additional beaver dam. Trapping of the beavers will be included with the blasting service at no additional charge. This trapping may either be performed prior to, or after, the dam blasting so as to prevent/minimize the rebuilding of the beaver dams. Up to 1 week of trapping will be provided with each contracted blasting occurrence.
3. Prior to the start of the blasting, the landholder must sign a work order agreement to commit payment for the services rendered. If necessary the landowner may be required to obtain a Damage Control Permit to control beavers from Fish and Wildlife and provide written authorization to the trapper. In the event that blasting is on fish-bearing waters the dam blaster will comply with the conditions specified by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).
4. The removal of beaver shall be addressed with due consideration for site specific opportunities and constraints that might present themselves and in a fashion that reduces the risk of non-target animal capture with human safety being of paramount importance.

Requests for Service—Municipal Public Lands

1. Pest Control personnel will respond to requests from ratepayers for beaver control on municipal lands and will actively pursue and eradicate beaver and beaver dams on all municipal controlled property.
2. Alberta Transportation is responsible for the maintenance of road culverts blocked by beaver on all primary and secondary highways.
3. The M.D. will initiate control at no charge where beaver dams are causing the ponding of water within M.D. road allowances or licensed drainage ditches.

Dam Removal

1. The Municipal District shall remove only the necessary sections of beaver dams, as required to facilitate the flow of water. Removal of entire dams will be done in a discriminating manner so as to avoid downstream flooding and siltation, increased dynamite costs, and increased risk of blasting damage from larger sized charges. Dams shall be removed sequentially starting from the ones lowest downstream, and moving in an upstream manner for subsequent blasts.
2. Sites harboring large beaver numbers adjacent to MD infrastructure that are subject to problematic beaver activity may receive beaver control work at no charge provided the trapper obtains the appropriate authorization and permission to proceed.
3. Residents living within 200 metres of the 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 shall be made in person. If the resident is not at home at the time of the blast, the blaster shall leave a form letter explaining the intent of the Municipal District and shall determine visually if there are any constraints apparent on the property.
4. In the event the beaver activity is located outside of the municipality's right of ways, the MD staff or trapper/blaster shall seek owner/occupant permission for dam/beaver removal activities.
5. The blaster is to ensure the blast locations are not in the immediate proximity to underground and overhead utility lines.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer