

LAC LA BICHE COUNTY POLICY

TITLE: INTEGRATED VEGETATION MANAGMENT	POLICY NO: PI-63-002
RESOLUTION: 11.500	EFFECTIVE DATE: September 13, 2011
LEAD ROLE: Manager, Environment and Agriculture Services	NEXT REVIEW DATE: December 13, 2013
SPECIAL NOTES/CROSS REFERENCE: PI-62-008 PI-30-018	AMENDMENT DATE

POLICY STATEMENT:

Lac La Biche County shall implement and maintain a comprehensive weed, grass and brush control program known as the “Integrated Vegetation Management Plan” to control vegetation and the spread of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds within the municipality.

PROCEDURE:

1. General

- i. Lac La Biche County Agricultural Services shall establish a continuing awareness campaign through local meetings, tours and local newspapers for adequate weed control practices within the municipal boundaries of Lac La Biche County.
- ii. The Manager of Environmental and Agricultural Services will be responsible for supervision of the areas of responsibility. The Agricultural Fieldman will be responsible for the implementation, organization, progress tracking and reporting.
- iii. As part of the preparations for the annual budget review, involved staff will create a draft project plan for Roadside Mowing and Spraying for the upcoming season.
- iv. With aid from the Human Resources Department of Lac La Biche County, shall hire and train sufficient staff required to implement and complete the program.
- v. Lac La Biche County may tender out all or a portion of the said work to be completed, if it is determined that it is beneficial to the program completion based on budget and/or time constraints.

2. Roadside Spraying

- i. A landowner may request in writing that no spraying be undertaken immediately adjacent to his/her property. In such a case, the landowner is responsible for the maintenance of weeds and brush within the road right-of-ways.
- ii. Following the deadline for “Do Not Spray” requests, signs will be posted in designated “no spray” areas by Agricultural Services staff and locations accurately documented.
- iii. Blanket spraying shall occur for brush control or weed control where total infestation is evident; all other applications shall be on a spot treatment only. Also using the blanket spraying method, one third of county roads will be shoulder sprayed yearly on a rotational basis.

3. Roadside Mowing:

- i. Vegetation in sites inaccessible to mowers shall be removed to the same level of mowing within the right of ways by:
 - a) use of weed eaters,
 - b) use of brush saws, and
 - c) use of manual labour and hand tools.
- ii. Mowing of full right of ways on newly constructed roads and/or reconstructed roads shall commence two years after the completion of the project.
- iii. Full right of way mowing shall occur only where it is possible and practical due to terrain and weather conditions.

4. Subdivision Program:

- i. Mowing within subdivision and hamlet roadside right of ways shall occur at a minimum of twice a year.
- ii. A yearly assessment of all subdivisions and hamlets shall occur prior to mowing in order to:
 - a) identify safety hazards,
 - b) remove rocks, garbage and debris, and
 - c) determine areas of concern.

5. Right-Of-Way Program:

- i. Mowing of municipal right-of-ways shall be determined by:
 - a) Physical suitability to mowing,
 - b) Classification of roads,
 - c) Vegetation to be controlled,

- d) Safety/hazard assessment,
 - e) Complaints/concerns from ratepayers,
 - f) Aesthetics, and
 - g) Financial considerations.
- ii. It is the intention that the County will be able to mow the full right of way where suitable and within financial consideration.
 - iii. Mowing of right of ways shall occur at a minimum of twice a year, the first pass will be a single shoulder pass and the second pass will be of the full right of way.

6. Weed Control:

- i. In late April/early May, the producer or landowner is contacted by a letter or a visit to remind him/her of the weed problem prior to spring work.
- ii. In June, July, and August, inspections are conducted and the Agricultural Service Board is informed of problem areas. (Photographs or videos may be used in the documentation process).
- iii. If enforcement is to be conducted, the Agriculture Fieldman and/or designate, Agricultural Service Board Chairman, or alternate Agricultural Board Member and a weed inspector shall act as a panel and inspect the subject property and review the file of property before enforcement control measures are implemented. In the event that enforcement work is necessary, the landowner is issued a Cease and Desist Order, and the Agriculture Fieldman and/or designate will arrange the enforcement work to be carried out. Enforcement control measures/methods selected shall try to minimize crop damage whenever possible.
- iv. Council shall appoint an independent committee for the purpose of Weed Control Act appeals if they arise ((sec.18-4) *The Weed Control Act*, RSA 2000 cW-5, is as amended from time to time) during the yearly organization meeting.
- v. The Agriculture Fieldman and/or designate may conduct visits to landowners who have been issued a weed notice or sent a letter regarding a weed notice during the winter months, reminding them of their commitment to weed control on their property.
- vi. Weed inspectors will make every attempt to contact the landowner before the first inspection of the property. Weed inspectors field reports are issued in triplicate. When possible, the report is signed by the landowner/occupant and a copy left with them on the first inspection. One copy is to be filed in the municipal office land file and the other in the weed file in the Agriculture Fieldman and/or designates office.
- vii. Weed inspectors shall inspect weed problem areas within the county in the following order of priority: weed problem areas from previous years and weed complaints. Inspections shall occur within the county as time permits, and severe weed infested parcels shall be issued notification letters.

- viii. Weed inspectors must hand-pick small weed problem areas on municipal right-of-ways and municipal reserve land when necessary or spray patches when necessary and record these areas on a map.

7. Roadside Brush Control

- i. Brush control priorities will be undertaken as follows:
 - a) Where brushing/slashing has been completed and re-growth is evident.
 - b) Within two (2) years of brushing/slashing.
 - c) Within three (3) years of construction or back sloping.
- ii. Brush removal in established subdivisions and hamlets shall be conducted in cooperation with adjacent landowners and take into account potential safety hazards and accessibility.

8. Enforcement:

The Agricultural Service Board shall undertake enforcement of weed control under the Weed Control Act when deemed necessary or local bylaw when deemed necessary.

- a) An “Inspectors Notice” is issued by the Agriculture Fieldman and/or designate at any time of the year.
- b) In Urban areas inspectors in collaboration with Lac La Biche County Peace officers to enforce Lac La Biche County Bylaw 09-021.
- c) The costs involved with enforcement control will be recovered in accordance with the Alberta Weed Control Act (RSA 2000 cW-5) as amended from time to time, and a fee of 20% will be added to cover the costs of administration.

“Original Signed”
Chief Administrative Officer

November 4, 2011
Date

“Original Signed”
Mayor

November 4, 2011
Date