



Rural Municipality of Meadow Lake #588 Policy

Policy #TS-019

Policy Title: Waterbody Work Policy

Policy Objective: To provide guidance for work being completed on or near waterbodies	
Authority: Council Resolution #198/21	Dated: April 12, 2021

Background:

1. The RM of Meadow Lake has numerous waterbodies which intersect with roadways.
2. Under the Water Security and Department of Fisheries and Oceans, certain requirements must be adhered to prior to and upon commencing work near or on waterbodies.

Policy:

1. When working on or near water bodies, the following organizations may be required to be contacted:
 - a. Water Security (WS)
 - b. Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
2. **WHEN USING MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT NEAR ALL WATER SOURCES, EQUIPMENT MUST BE CLEAN AND MUST NOT HAVE ANY FLUID LEAKS**
3. Beaver Dam Removal Procedures
 - a. Get permission from land owners to access the area being worked on and contact landowners down stream to be sure water flow will not cause flooding before dam removal.
 - b. Fill out and email Code of Practices to DFO where applicable
 - c. Determine the size, location and accessibility of dam and best means to remove (by hand, track hoe, backhoe, or blasting)
 - i. If accessible by mechanical equipment, locate the best route to the dam with minimal disturbance to vegetation, ground and water sources. Use this route to enter and exit site.
 1. Be cautious not to disturb stream edges with excavator.
 - ii. If blasting, then work in accordance with the blasting requirements, rules and regulations and best practices for the trained blasters.
4. Culvert Cleaning Procedures
 - a. Locate culvert that is plugged and cause of blockage such as beavers, culvert failure or erosion
 - b. If damage is caused from beavers:
 - i. Decide the tools necessary to fix (ie: backhoe, track hoe, shovels and hand tools)
 - ii. Before removing blockage, install silt fence on the down stream side, if possible. This may be required in more than one location down stream to be effective).
 - iii. Once blockage is cleared and water flow is free through the culvert, assess the road edge to be sure no damage has been done.
 - iv. Once water is lowered, repair road shoulder to prevent erosion.



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- v. Remove blockage with minimal damage to water source, culvert and road surface;
- c. If damage is caused by a culvert failure:
 - i. Decide on if the culvert can be repaired or will be replaced
 - 1. Repairing – Install silt fence down stream and slowly repair culvert to accomplish water flow
 - 2. Culvert failure – determine what regulations must be met from the governing bodies (Water Security or DFO) before any repair is started.
- 5. Follow all Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) as developed by the Manager of Public Works and amended from time to time.
- 6. Follow all safe operating procedures as developed under the Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

