

POLICY # PW 001	POLICY TITLE: FENCING
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APPROVAL DATE AND MOTION:	13-05-92 (May 1992)	CROSS-REFERENCE:	Line Fence Act
RESPONSIBILITY:	General Manager of Public Works	APPENDICES:	
APPROVER:	County of Vermilion River Council	EFFECTIVE DATE:	May 1992 (1992-05-13)
REVISION DATE(S)/ MOTION #	98-03-24; 68-02-02; 13-06-25; 18-03-13; 2024-06-57 (June 25, 2024)	NEXT REVIEW DATE:	June 2029

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.a. **County** means the Municipality of the County of Vermilion River in the Province of Alberta.
- 1.b. **Council** means the seven (7) elected officials for the County of Vermilion River in the Province of Alberta.
- 1.c. **Landowner(s)** means the person(s) listed as Owner on the current Alberta Land Title responsible to pay the tax levy associated with a property within the County of Vermilion River.
- 1.d. **Functional Agriculture Fence** means a fence that is designed to keep the livestock of a **landowner** out of the adjoining land of another **landowner**. A Functional Agriculture Fence is one that in the opinion of the County must be in good repair and has been maintained to prevent livestock from straying onto the road way.
- 1.e. **Livestock** means cattle, horses, bison, sheep, including any diversified livestock animals within the meaning of the Livestock Industry Diversification Act.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.a. The County of Vermilion River will provide replacement fencing to **landowners**, at no cost, whose land is being utilized for road improvements.

3. OBJECTIVE

- 3.a. The County of Vermilion River will operate a program whereby a **landowner**, whose land has been purchased or used for road improvement purposes by the **County**, may have the fence replaced by the **County**. The fence to be replaced must meet the County's criteria as a "**Functional Agriculture Fence**".

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.a. This policy was created to provide guidance to the **County** when replacing fencing that was removed in order for road improvements to be completed.

5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 5.a. Unless otherwise stated in the Province of Alberta Line Fence Act, the **County** shall follow these guidelines for consistent supply, installation of fencing and dispute resolution.
- 5.b. **County** of Vermilion River fencing shall consist of supplying, erecting, and taking down of wire fence, gates and related appurtenances as per the **County** of Vermilion River's fencing specifications as detailed in Section 5.c. below. Work will be completed in accordance with these specifications and in conformance with the dimensions, details and requirements included in the Land Agreement between the **County** and the **Landowner**.
- 5.c. **Functional Agricultural Fence** Replacement Criteria:
- 5.c.i. The **County** will generally include fencing as part of a road construction project, a grading project involving widening of roads resulting in a new alignment, or a back sloping agreement requiring existing fencing to be removed for the work to be completed. Conditions of the fence replacement will be subject

to and included in the Land Agreement between the **County** and the **Landowner**.

5.c.ii. Fencing will only be considered for replacement if all the following conditions exist prior to construction:

1. The land use is predominantly for **livestock** grazing and where there is an existing agricultural fence along the original right-of-way that meets the definition of a **functional agriculture fence**.
2. The **landowner** indicates present or immediate future use of the adjacent land for pasturing **livestock** for grazing.
3. All new right-of-way fencing shall connect to existing fences to form an enclosure.

5.c.iii. Upon request of the **landowner** the **County** will allow the owner to complete the fencing. The **County** will pay the **landowner** up to the value of the **County's** standard fence specifications in accordance with the **County's** contract fencing values at the time of signing the agreement. Payment will be made to the **landowner** once the fence has been fully erected.

5.c.iv. Where an existing fence is in good condition and meets the definition of a **functional agricultural fence**, the existing fence shall be taken down, the materials carefully salvaged, and the fence re-erected in accordance with the **County** specifications. Materials that are not suitable for salvage shall be disposed of at locations as directed or suitable to the **County**. Any materials damaged shall be replaced.

5.d. **County** Fencing Specifications

5.d.i. When a fence is to be built or replaced, the **County** standard will be:

1. 76 mm to 101 mm diameter x 1.83 m in length pressure treated posts spaced approximately 3.75 meters apart.
2. 4 strands of barbed wire to be installed. The wire will be a twisted 2 strand design and will be a 12½ gauge with a minimum breaking strength of 1,350 pounds. The wire will

be a Class 3 Galvanized wire for long life. The barb spacing will be 143 mm.

3. Inclusion of substantial corner posts 127 mm to 152 mm diameter x 213 cm in length pressure treated posts, braces 100 mm x 100 mm pressure treated single brace.
 4. Inclusive of 4 strand barbed wire gates with wooden pickets.
 5. The use of 1 ¼" barbed staples.
- 5.d.ii. Any fences other than those noted above are not covered under any **County** policy.
- 5.d.iii. Should the **landowner** request that additional strands of wire be installed to bring the number of strands to more than 4, the **landowner** will be responsible to supply the additional wire and pay the contractor for its installation by private arrangement.

6. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE/TASK	TITLE(S) OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE
HANDLING INQUIRIES	General Manager – Public Works Operations or Designate or designate
MONITORING REVIEWS AND REVISIONS	General Manager – Public Works Operations
IMPLEMENTING POLICY	Council
COMMUNICATING POLICY	Chief Administrative Officer
INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	Administration, Council
EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	Landowners

7. EXCEPTIONS

- 7.a. Exception may be given at the discretion of the General Manager – Public Works Operations to replace fences that are of a different construction than the traditional wooden post and barb wire fence construction. The fences eligible for the exception must be actively used and maintained for **livestock** purpose. Examples of which are the high game fence with steel posts, or wildlife friendly fences.

8. POLICY EVALUATION

- 8.a. The evaluation will include the following:
- 8.a.i. That the **County** will engage in a Policy Evaluation every five years to monitor the effectiveness of the policy and review opportunities for improvement.
 - 8.a.ii. Needs assessment if required.
 - 8.a.iii. Process evaluation to measure whether the policy is meeting its intended objectives; and
 - 8.a.iv. Outcome evaluation to determine whether the policy has met its objectives and whether additional opportunities for improvement in the policy can be identified.