



## Municipality of Crowsnest Pass Policy

Policy No.:	1501-01
Policy Title:	Soil Conservation Policy
Approval Date:	May 19, 2015
Revision Date:	
Supersedes Policy:	
Department:	Agricultural & Environmental Services

### 1.0 POLICY PURPOSE

In conjunction with Alberta Rural Development and the Alberta Soil Conservation Act, the Municipality recognizes that the protection of soil quality and integrity is vital to agriculture, riparian area and environmental sustainability. The stakeholders of public land as well as private land owners can benefit from increased education initiatives that contribute to the understanding that soil erosion can reduce land use production, reduce water and air quality and may reduce land value. The municipality further recognizes that it is beneficial to actively encourage the adoption of best management practices and soil conservation techniques in order to protect and enhance land productivity and to take measures to prevent soil erosion and/or soil degradation on public and private land throughout the municipality.

### 2.0 DEFINITIONS

“**Act**” means the Alberta Soil Conservation Act and its Regulations.

“**Agricultural Fieldman**” means appointed agricultural fieldman of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass.

“**Appeal Committee**” means appointed municipal ASB (Agricultural Service Board) Members.

“**ASB (Agricultural Service Board)**” means Council appointed members of the Agricultural Service Board.

“**Best Management Practice**” means a method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark.

“**Citizen**” an inhabitant/resident of the Crowsnest Pass (local taxpayers).

“**Council**” means the duly elected officers of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass and the Chief Elected Officer or Mayor

“**Director**” means a Director of a Municipal Department, as designated by the CAO, and his/her duly authorized designee(s).

“**Employee**” means any person employed with the Municipality.



“**Manual**” means the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass Soil Conservation Policy and Procedure Manual.

“**Municipality**” or “**Municipal Government**” means the corporation of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass located in the Province of Alberta.

“**Notice**” referred to in section 4 of the Alberta Soil Conservation Act.

“**Public**” of or concerning the people as a whole (visitors).

“**Soil Conservation**” means a set of management strategies for prevention of soil being eroded or degraded

“**Soil Conservation Officer**” means municipal appointed Agricultural Fieldman.

“**Soil Degradation**” viewed as any change or disturbance to the soil perceived to be deleterious or undesirable.

### 3.0 POLICY STATEMENTS

A violation or infringement of this policy will be reported to the Agricultural Service Board for consideration and recommendation to Municipal Council.

#### 3.1 Soil Erosion

- a. The Agricultural Fieldman will conduct inspections and enforcement initiatives to prevent the loss or movement of topsoil or aggregate composite through the forces of wind, water, ground disturbance/excavation or tillage on public or private land and will encourage voluntary compliance with the Act.

#### 3.2 Soil Degradation

- a. The inspections conducted by the agricultural fieldman will provide citizens with information/education in order to improve the level of soil organic matter and available plant nutrients, prevent the redistribution of vital soil nutrients (soluble salts) as a result of ground water movement or evaporation, and/or the breakdown of soil structure as a result of overgrazing, and prevent negligence of land management and or failure to adopt Best Management Practice and will encourage voluntary compliance with the Act.

#### 3.3 Procedure for Non-Compliant

- a. If a land owner is non-compliant with a given Notice, remedial work will be carried out by municipal crews or an appointed contractor and the charges will be applied to the land owner. The remedial charges that apply are described in section eight of the Soil Policy and Procedural Manual. The Agricultural Fieldman or appointed employee will use the method of inspection and enforcement procedure as described in procedures one through eleven of the manual.
- b. In order to minimize soil erosion on municipal properties, as soon as reasonably possible, the Municipality will take appropriate measures to ensure the rapid establishment of desirable vegetation on Municipal properties. The Agricultural Fieldman will coordinate with other Municipal departments to establish a method of communicating the locations of soil disturbances which have resulted in exposed soil that requires re-vegetation measures.

**3.4 Soil Conservation Notice**

- a. Soil conservation notices will be distributed to applicable land owners of the Municipality in accordance with sections two through five of the Alberta Soil Conservation Notice Regulations.


**3.5 Summary of Appeal**

- a. As described under sections seven and eight of the Alberta Soil Conservation Notice Regulation summaries of appeal will be conveyed to the appeal committee by the Agricultural Fieldman.

**MUNICIPALITY OF CROWSNEST PASS**

09/06/15  
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Blair Painter, Mayor

*Blair Painter*  
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Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheldon Steinke, Chief Administrative Officer

09/06/15  
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Date