



Drainage Systems Tree Removal, Beaver Control, and Dam Removal Policy

November 16, 2017

This Policy is adopted by the Pelican River Watershed District , Drainage Authority for Becker County Drainage System 11,12,13, and 14 to guide the procedures for beaver control, dam and tree removal related to the public drainage facilities. The policy also identifies performance standards and best management practices that are necessary for the efficient and effective operation of public drainage facilities. Benefitted drainage system landowners have the lawful right to have these drainage systems maintained. The benefitted lands and their owners have paid for construction and maintenance of the systems without the use of public funds. Drainage Authority staff and contractors will make every reasonable effort to contact landowners or farm operators before entering property. State statute 103E.011, provides limited outside funds for flood control and environmental enhancement projects.

Tree Removal

When fallen trees or snags are reported or discovered when inspecting the drainage systems need to be removed, it will be done in a manner that will not cause erosion. The Drainage Authority will issue a work order and other supporting materials (location maps, landowner access permissions) to the contractor to remove the trees and snags from a specifically designated drainage system location. It is expected the contractor will commence work within five (5) days of receiving the work order or at a time mutually agreed upon between the Drainage Authority and the contractor. Progress on removal of the trees or snags problem will be monitored by the Drainage Authority. Ditch banks, and area affected by the tree removal, will be restored and reseeded as necessary to prevent erosion. The contractor will provide an invoice to the Drainage Authority before payment will be authorized by the Drainage Authority Board of Managers. Trees may be chipped, piled, and burned when dry, or buried. Landowners may remove trees at their own expense and liability and in a manner to minimize damage to the drainage system.

Beaver Control

When beavers are reported or discovered when inspecting the drainage systems, a trapper will be retained by the Drainage Authority to remove the beaver. Trappers must have their names registered with the Drainage Authority by completing the "Trapper Certification" and W-9 forms on an annual basis. The District will issue a work order and other supporting materials (location maps, landowner access permissions) to the trapper to remove problem beavers from specifically designated drainage systems and locations. It is expected the authorized trapper will commence work within five (5) days of receiving the work order or at a time mutually agreed upon between the Drainage Authority and the trapper. Progress on removal of problem beaver will be monitored by the Drainage Authority. The Drainage Authority may release a trapper from the work order following 14 consecutive days of non-satisfactory performance. The authorized trapper must fill out the "Beaver Control Claim" form and present the beaver tail end section (s) to the Drainage Authority before payment will be authorized by the Drainage Authority Board of Managers. The Drainage Authority Board of Managers sets the beaver bounty amount for reimbursement. The Drainage Authority will dispose of the beaver tails in such a way they cannot be resubmitted.

Dam Removal

After beavers are removed, the Drainage Authority may hire a contractor to remove the beaver dam by mechanical means whenever possible. If explosives are to be used by a contractor, the contractor must be approved by the Becker County Sheriff and provide permits and insurance. Ditch banks, and area affected by the dam removal, will be restored and reseeded as necessary to prevent erosion. Whenever possible, the Drainage Authority will remove dams in a manner and timeframe to minimize downstream nutrient and sediment loading in the summer months (mid-May, June, July, August, mid- September).