



POLICY NO. 11.04

FEBRUARY 9, 2016

TITLE: SOIL CONSERVATION

POLICY STATEMENT:

Westlock County has duties under *Alberta's Soil Conservation Act* towards preventing the loss or degradation of soils in its jurisdiction. Such loss and degradation represent a threat to agricultural operations within Westlock County and throughout Alberta. Aside from its obligations under the *Soil Conservation Act*, Westlock County sees great merit in taking steps to prevent or stop soil loss or degradation from happening and encourages everyone in Westlock County to do the same.

PURPOSE:

to clarify to residents Westlock County's role in soil conservation within the County.

DEFINITIONS:

Agricultural Service Board or ***Westlock County's Agricultural Service Board*** means the Agricultural Service Board established by Westlock County under the authority of *Alberta's Agricultural Service Board Act*.

Westlock County means the municipal government, Westlock County.

POLICY:

1. Westlock County Agricultural Services

- (a) will provide information to residents, ratepayers and stakeholders on appropriate soil conservation practices and, if available, programs,
- (b) may implement programs to promote soil conservation and/or prevent soil degradation and loss,
- (c) will perform its duties under the *Soil Conservation Act*.

2. Westlock County's Agricultural Service Board is the appeal committee that will make decisions on appeals submitted by residents as per the *Soil Conservation Act*.
3. Westlock County will ensure it appoints at least one Soil Conservation Officer to carry out its duties under the *Soil Conservation Act*.
4. The Manager of Agricultural Services also serves Westlock County as its Agricultural Fieldman, appointed to the County as per the *Agricultural Service Board Act*. By virtue of that position, the Agricultural Fieldman is also a Soil Conservation Officer under that Act.
5. The Manager of Agricultural Services and other duly appointed Soil Conservation Officers at Westlock County may enter onto land, monitor landowners' compliance with their soil conservation notices, keep records and perform any other duties assigned to them in the *Soil Conservation Act*.
6. A Soil Conservation Officer may issue a notice to a landowner of any parcel of land in the County in accordance with that Act if a Soil Conservation Officer feels that appropriate measures are not being taken to prevent or stop soil loss or degradation from taking place.
7. Westlock County's Soil Conservation Officers will encourage landholders to be proactive in preventing and stopping soil loss and degradation. Soil Conservation Officers will also endeavor to advise and support landholders with advice and information on best practices for preventing and stopping soil loss and degradation.
8. Without restricting their powers set out in the *Soil Conservation Act*, Soil Conservation Officers will endeavor to only use their powers of enforcement under that Act as a last resort or if circumstances warrant immediate action to effectively deal with a matter.

MOTION:

#55/16

DATE:

February 9, 2016



Peter Kelly
Chief Administrative Officer



Bud Massey
Reeve