



COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 2024-10-15

BRIEFING NOTE - TO COMMITTEE

SUBJECT

SUMMARY OF WEED CONTROL IN COUNTY OF VERMILION RIVER HAMLETS – FOR INFORMATION

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee receive the summary of weed control in County of Vermilion River hamlets for information.

DETAILS

Discussion: The current Service Level: Agricultural Service Board (ASB) – Weed Control states that the County will “use integrated vegetation management to control noxious and prohibited noxious weeds on municipal properties”. It also states that the County will “use the Weed Control Act to manage noxious and prohibited noxious weeds on private and public property. This Service Level was amended in March 2024 to clarify what was meant by “use a cooperative approach between landowners and the County to resolve weed concerns on private land where possible”. The Service Level focuses only on noxious and prohibited noxious weeds from the Weed Control Act along with brush on roadsides.

There is currently no discussion in AG 016 Weed and Vegetation Management Policy or the Service Level on management of cosmetic or unsightly weeds in the County of Vermilion River. AG 014 Hamlet Mowing and Beautification Policy has the possibility of including cosmetic weeds, in that it supports community groups in each hamlet to manage “beautification, including mowing and grounds maintenance in the Hamlet”. Alberta’s Weed Control Act at one time also listed a number of nuisance weeds but it was amended in 2010 to the current version.

The Agriculture and Environment Department does manage noxious and prohibited noxious weeds in County hamlets on public property.

- Staff have sprayed (glyphosate) and/or pulled and bagged scentless chamomile in Blackfoot in the lots along 55 Avenue and along 53 Avenue annually starting in 2017.
- Staff sprayed (glyphosate) tansy, oxeye daisy and toadflax on the north property line in Blackfoot in 2023 and again in 2024.



- Staff have pulled and bagged and/or sprayed (2,4-D) common burdock in Clandonald on the municipal drainage ditch and into the perimeter of adjacent privately owned properties annually starting in 2018.
- Staff have pulled and bagged oxeye daisy, dames rocket, scentless chamomile, common burdock and tansy from roadsides in Clandonald when found.
- Staff pulled and bagged and sprayed (2,4-D) oxeye daisy on tax recovery property in Dewberry in 2023.
- Staff pulled and bagged scentless chamomile in Islay on 49th Ave in 2023.

Alberta Environment and Health Canada regulate the application of herbicides in urban areas, including public lands, parks and playgrounds. Alberta Environment requires any herbicide application within an urban area other than by a landowner on private property to be supervised by a Certified Pesticide Applicator with a Landscape Certificate. Health Canada restricts herbicides that can be used in urban areas to only those registered as Landscape or Domestic herbicides to ensure safety of the people living and using the area. This is a relatively short list of herbicides, with no option of residual weed control.

Relevant Policy/Legislation Practices: AG 016 Weed and Vegetation Management Policy, AG 014 Hamlet Mowing and Beautification Policy, Alberta Weed Control Act, Weed Control Regulation, Health Canada Pest Control Products Act

Desired Outcome (s): THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee receive the summary of weed control in County of Vermilion River hamlets for information.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Organizational:

Financial:

Communication Required:

Implementation:

Council Goal:



ATTACHMENTS

1. AG 016 Vegetation Management Policy (1st Revision).pdf
2. AG 014 (1st Revision); Hamlet Mowing and Beautification Policy (2007-06-25).pdf
3. Amended ASB-Weed Control Service Level March 2024.pdf
4. Weed Control Regulation Schedule 1 Designated Weeds.pdf

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