

SECTION: TRANSPORTATION

SUBJECT: ROADSIDE MOWING

Original Resolution No.: 04-10-27

### Roadside Mowing Policy

It is the policy of the County of Warner No. 5 to conduct roadside mowing on County roads and trails in order that roads are made safer for the traveling public. Benefits of mowing the shoulders of the roads and trails are increased visibility of intersections and wildlife, reduced snow drift accumulations of top of the road surface, and aesthetics.

#### Guidelines

1. Roadside mowing will commence approximately by mid July of each year. Depending upon the weather and growing season, the Public Works Superintendent, at his discretion, may determine an earlier or later starting dates. Due to the costs associated with roadside mowing, the number of times roads shall be mowed will be two (2) unless determined otherwise by a motion of Council.
2. One mower is assigned to two grader divisions. The mower divisions include the following grader divisions:
  - a. Raymond and New Dayton areas
  - b. Warner and Wrentham areas
  - c. Milk River and Masinasin areas
3. The mowers starting assignment within the grader divisions will be rotated on a yearly basis.
4. Operators of the mowing equipment are responsible for reporting signs which have been damaged or knocked down. They shall also report any problem areas or maintenance requirements of any County roads or trails to their Supervisor.
5. When mower operators are passing farmyards, other buildings and equipment, they are required to slow the machine to an idle, raise the mowing deck to approximately eight (8) inches off the ground, and close the hydraulic door. This is to occur when they are within four hundred feet of each side of any buildings or equipment.
6. When mower operators are being passed, either from the front or rear, by any motorized vehicle or equipment, persons, etc., they are to bring the mower equipment to a complete stop, shut off the hydraulic mower, and wait for the parties to pass before resuming cutting activities.
7. Normal road side cutting depth for mowers will be approximately four (4) inches from the road top surface.
8. Mower operators are required to conduct mowing on the main County roads first. After completing the main roads, operators will be required to back track and cut side roads and dirt trails. Main roads will be determined by the Public Works Superintendent in consultation with the affected County Councillor.

9. If adjacent landowners or others wish to cut and bale the roadside grass for feed, they must contact the Public Works Superintendent before July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year with the legal location of the County roads they wish to cut. This information will be shared with the Ag Fieldman. All bales shall be removed from the road allowance within 48 hours of being baled. If the cutting and baling activity has not been completed by July 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, the roadside mowing will commence, without notification to the adjacent landowner, as soon as possible.
10. If adjacent landowners wish to graze a portion of the ditches, they must obtain permission from the County. If permission is granted, the adjacent landowner shall erect a temporary electric fence and the fence shall be located no closer than the toe of the road or other site as agreed upon. The County can request the fence to be removed at any time and it must be removed within 24 hours of the notice. The County accepts no responsibility for damages to fences by the mowers or other county equipment.
11. Due to roadside mowing and roadside weed spraying occurring at similar times, it is necessary that the Public Works and Ag Service Board Departments coordinate their work schedules as follows:
  - a. Public Works Superintendent will notify the Ag Fieldman approximately ten (10) working days in advance of starting the roadside mowing in the particular grader/roadside mowing districts,
  - b. The Ag Fieldman will coordinate the roadside spraying crews in consultation with the Public Works Superintendent in order that they can complete their work within the grader/mower district or have them relocated to another district,
  - c. Ag Fieldman will supply a weekly GPS produced map to the Public Superintendent outlining where roadside spraying has occurred, in order that the Public Works Superintendent may coordinate his roadside mowing activities,
  - d. Public Works Superintendent will supply a weekly GPS produced map to the Ag Fieldman outlining where roadside mowing has occurred, in order that the Ag Fieldman may coordinate his roadside spraying activities,
  - e. The Public Works Superintendent and Ag Fieldman will ensure their mowing and spraying staff are communicating with each other which will increase coordination of both services being performed. Both department's operators are encouraged to communicate through the radio system or meet at a designated site to review both parties work schedules so that mowers are not cutting where roadside spraying has recently occurred.
12. Mower operators are required to keep their assigned equipment cleaned and serviced.
13. Mower operators shall always consider the safety of themselves and others while operating any County equipment. They shall make every reasonable effort to protect the public and their property from damage while operating the mowers. They shall also immediately report, to their Supervisor, any safety concerns or issues which may arise or come to their attention while performing their duties.