

Title: Greenview Riparian and Agricultural Sustainability Support

Policy No: 6322

Effective Date: May 14, 2024

Motion Number: 24.05.246

Supersedes Policy No: New

Department: Agricultural Services

Review Date: May, 2027



Legal References:
Agricultural Operations Practices Act, R.S.A. 2000, c.A-7.

Cross References:
Not applicable

Purpose: To establish the parameters of the Greenview Riparian and Agricultural Sustainability Support (G.R.A.S.S). This support aims to financially assist producers by increasing environmental sustainability in agricultural production.

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **G.R.A.S.S.** means the Greenview Riparian and Agricultural Sustainability Support.
- 1.2. **Greenview** means the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16.
- 1.3. **Riparian** means the land adjacent to natural water bodies that when healthy, provides ecological benefits to the waterbody.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1. Greenview recognizes that mitigating negative environmental impact caused by agricultural operations can put a financial burden on producers.
- 2.2. Producers may be eligible to enter into a funding agreement with Greenview Agricultural Services to alleviate financial hurdles related to environmental protection or enhancement of environmentally significant areas.
- 2.3. Projects must demonstrate an environmental need, and must enhance or protect riparian or environmentally sensitive areas from potential negative effects caused by agricultural operations.
- 2.4. Applications will be accepted year-round on a first-come-first-served basis until the budgetary maximum for that year has been reached.

3. GREENVIEW RIPARIAN AND AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY SUPPORT

- 3.1. In order to be eligible the applicant must be based within Greenview.
- 3.2. Funding arrangements shall be as follows:
 - A) Projects will be cost-shared between Greenview and the producer;
 - B) Greenview will fund a maximum of 50% of total project costs to a maximum of \$5,000.00 per project;

- C) Applicants in-kind contribution is limited to 25% of total project costs.
 - D) Applicants may seek additional sources of funding, however these sources must be disclosed to Greenview. Failure to disclose additional funding sources will result in disqualification from the program.
 - E) Applicant labour is considered an in-kind input and is valued at \$25.00 an hour
- 3.3. Where in-kind inputs are being reported for:
- A) Permanent fencing (bracing, pounding posts, stretching and stapling wire, and building gates), the amounts shall not exceed:
 - i. 3-strand barbed wire: 70 hours per mile (43 hours/km);
 - ii. 4-strand barbed wire: 75 hours per mile (47 hour/km).
 - B) Permanent electric fencing (bracing, pounding posts, stretching and installing insulators) shall not exceed:
 - i. One-wire fence: 30 hours per mile (19 hours/km);
 - ii. Two-wire fence: 35 hours per mile (21 hours/km);
 - iii. Three-wire fence: 40 hours per mile (25 hours/km);
 - iv. Four-wire fence: 45 hours per mile (28 hours/km);
 - C) Temporary electric fencing shall not exceed: 10 hours per mile (6 hours/km).
- 3.5. Projects must be completed in the same year that funding is applied for. Retroactive applications within the same year will be accepted provided the applicant is able to provide receipts and invoices for the project.
- 3.6. Projects must have all required municipal, provincial, and federal permits and approvals.
- 3.7. Projects located on rented land must have written permission from the landowner for all conditions within this program, including allowing:
- A) The applicant to apply for G.R.A.S.S.;
 - B) Greenview staff to access the land and conduct site assessments as detailed in this policy; and
 - C) Maintenance of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.
- 3.8. Greenview staff must be allowed access to the project site to conduct site assessments prior to the project start date, and three (3) and five (5) years after project completion.
- 3.9. Eligible project costs include, but are not limited to:
- A) Rental equipment;
 - B) Hired labour or contractors;
 - C) Purchase of materials; and
 - D) In-kind inputs.
- 3.10. Eligible projects include:
- A) Offsite watering systems;
 - B) Livestock or machinery watercourse crossings;
 - C) Beaver pond levelers or exclusion fencing;
 - D) Establishment or enhancement of vegetation along riparian areas;
 - E) Fencing off dugouts or riparian areas (including portable electric fencing);
 - F) Replacement or repairs to an existing fence, if placed in a riparian or environmentally sensitive area; and,
 - G) Other projects that enhance or protect riparian or environmentally sensitive areas deemed acceptable to Greenview's Manager of Agricultural Services.

- 3.11. Ineligible projects include:
 - A) New dugouts or wells;
 - B) Fencing not related to a riparian or environmentally sensitive area; and
 - C) Projects or upgrades required by subdivision or development rules or regulations.

4. APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1. Applicants are required to complete the G.R.A.S.S. application in the form determined by Greenview.
- 4.2. Applicants must ensure that their project adheres to the conditions listed within this policy.
- 4.3. Applicants, if not the landowner, must seek permission from the landowner for all conditions within this policy.
- 4.4. Applicants must allow Greenview staff to conduct site assessments as listed within this policy.
- 4.5. Applicants are responsible for providing their receipts and invoices for project costs.
- 4.6. Applicants are required to meet with Greenview to discuss and clarify details of the project.

5. COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1. Council is responsible for allocating funding to Greenview Riparian Agricultural Sustainability Support.

6. ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1. Administration shall annually prepare G.R.A.S.S. to accept applicants.
- 6.2. Administration will work with applicants to determine eligibility and ensure all program parameters have been satisfied.