Growth Plan Update Task Force

Thursday, August 13, 2015
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Chateau Louis Conference Centre – Grand Ballroom
11727 Kingsway, Edmonton

Members:
Roxanne Carr, Strathcona County (Chair)
Lisa Holmes, Town of Morinville (Vice Chair)
(via conference call)
Don Iveson, City of Edmonton
Gale Katchur, City of Fort Saskatchewan
Cathy Heron, City of St. Albert
John Schonewille, Leduc County
Ralph van Assen, Village of Warburg

Provincial Liaison:
Victoria Brown, Alberta Municipal Affairs

Regional Technical Advisors:
Greg Hofmann
Peter Vana

Strategic Advisor:
Barry Huybens

Consultants:
Melanie Hare, Urban Strategies
Hassan Shaheen, ISL Engineering & Land Services

Regrets:
David Hales, Regional Technical Advisor
Clayton Kittlitz, Regional Technical Advisor
Peter Ohm, Regional Technical Advisor

CRB Staff:
Malcolm Bruce, CEO
Neal Sarnecki, Project Manager
Sharon Shuya, Project Manager
Stephanie Chai, Project Manager

Guests:
Nolan Crouse, Board Chair
Grant Bain, Leduc County
Lindsey Butterfield, City of Edmonton
Gibby Devis, City of Edmonton
Cathy Ducharme, Strathcona County
Susan Evans, Sturgeon County
Troy Fleming, City of Fort Saskatchewan
Tom Flynn, Sturgeon County
Andrea Friedman, Urban Strategies
Connie Gourley, ISL
Laurie Hodge, Town of Bon Accord
Jacque Hansen, City of St. Albert
Michelle Hay, City of Leduc
Doug Lagore, City of Leduc
Jeff Laurien, Government of Alberta
Marnie Lee, Strathcona County
Sylvain Losier, City of Leduc
Elaine Milliken, Town of Lamont
Farrell O’Malley, Town of Gibbons
Bonnie Riddell, Strathcona County
Yolande Shaw, Strathcona County
Pamela Steppan, Strathcona County
Patty Walker, City of Fort Saskatchewan

Loreen Lennon, Communications Manager
Leslie Chivers, Operations Manager
Brandt Denham, GIS Coordinator
Lisa Saskiw, Administrative Assistant
1. **Call to Order**

Chair, Mayor Roxanne Carr called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

2. **Chair’s Opening Remarks**

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

   Motion: That the Growth Plan Update Task Force agenda of August 13, 2015 be approved as amended, moving item #6 to end of the agenda.
   Moved by: Councillor John Schonewille, Leduc County
   Decision: Carried unanimously

4. **Approval of the Minutes, July 9, 2015**

   Motion: That the Growth Plan Update Task Force minutes of July 9, 2015 be approved.
   Moved by: Mayor Gale Katchur, City of Fort Saskatchewan
   Decision: Carried unanimously

5. **Growth Plan Update 2.0 – Correspondence and Consultation**

   Motion: That the Growth Plan Update Task receive the Cities Consultation Summary as information to inform the Growth Plan Update.
   Moved by: Councillor Cathy Heron, City of St. Albert
   Decision: Carried unanimously

6. **Counties submission and discussion of RTAC and Consultant (Core Project Team) analysis of Sub-regional planning approach**

   Motion: That the Growth Plan Update Task Force receive the Counties Follow-Up Consultation submission as information to inform the Growth Plan Update.
   Moved by: Councillor John Schonewille, Leduc County
   Decision: Carried

   Motion: That the Growth Plan Update Task Force accept the recommendations of the Core Project Team regarding the Counties submission.
   Moved by: Councillor Cathy Heron, City of St. Albert
   Decision: Carried unanimously

   See Enclosure: CAO Consultation – August 7, 2015 Summary

Mayor Lisa Holmes joined the meeting via conference call at 1:00 p.m.
Mayor Ralph van Assen joined the meeting at 1:08 p.m.
7. Growth Plan Update Task Force June Workshop

**Motion:** That the Growth Plan Update Task Force receive the CAO input on the Planning Approach and Policy Areas Framework as information to inform the Growth Plan Update.
**Moved by:** Mayor Gale Katchur, *City of Fort Saskatchewan*
**Decision:** Carried unanimously

8. Lunch Break Plan Update 2.0 – Policy Areas

The lunch break took place prior to this meeting (immediately followed the Board meeting).

Mayor Carr relinquished the Chair to facilitator Barry Huybens prior to item #9 in order to lead the Task Force through the next agenda item.

9. Growth Plan Update – Project Administration

**Motion:** That the Growth Plan Update Task approve of the change in the Principle and Policy Area name from Natural Heritage Systems to *Natural Living Systems* and Environmental Assets.
**Moved by:** Mayor Don Iveson, *City of Edmonton*
**Decision:** Carried unanimously

Facilitator Barry Huybens relinquished the Chair back to Mayor Carr following discussion.

10. Next Steps

11. Adjournment

**Motion:** It was agreed by unanimous consensus that the Growth Plan Update Task Force meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 27, 2015 at 8:00 a.m., La Cite Francophone – Hall Jean-Louis Dentinger

Task Force Chair, Roxanne Carr
August 13, Task Force Meeting
Agenda Item 6.0

Response to the Counties Follow Up Submission
Contributors to the Review and Response:

- RTAC members, CRB Administration, Consultant Team (ISL Urban Strategies)
- Strong consensus amongst contributors

Main Observations and Findings

- Positive and useful references/suggestions regarding collaboration, regional assets and several policy areas such as density targets, agriculture and CCRAs being taken under advisement for consideration.
- The proposed planning model based on geo-political boundaries contradicts the “planning without boundaries” approach endorsed by Task Force and which reflects planning best practices.
- It is unclear how the jurisdictionally based planning approach will assist the region to manage growth in people and jobs.
- It is unclear what the term “sub-regional” refers to other than five subsets of the region; where do urban municipalities fit in? How are urban and rural contexts recognized given their dramatic differences?
- Aside from several positive suggestions, the proposed jurisdictionally based planning approach is not seen as offering any clear advantages over the Task Force endorsed tiered planning approach.
Core Project Team Recommendations to the Task Force:

1. That the Task Force receive the Counties’ submission and direct the Core Project Team to consider inclusion of specific suggestions in the development of draft policies (i.e. 30 Year Land Supply in a 50 Year Context, calculations for rural and urban density targets, and agriculture policy implementation mechanisms such as agricultural master plans).

2. That the Growth Plan Update include the following definition of “sub-regional” for the Capital Region in the context of the Growth Plan and planning approach.

   Sub-Regional: An area at a scale larger than one community, within which urban and rural communities share common infrastructure, regional assets and services, have the potential to leverage related economic areas and link proximate areas to accommodate both people and job growth.

3. That we continue to explore and evolve the Task Force approved regional planning approach, - a tiered planning approach, and a metropolitan growth structure that reflects the diversity of municipalities in the region, aligning regional land settlement patterns with future growth and regional transportation networks and infrastructure.

4. That the Task Force continue to consider a “sub-regional cluster” element in the context of the approved regional planning approach. This approach would focus on growing employment/economic clusters and complete communities, aligned with existing and planned transportation corridors in the metropolitan area. The sub-regional clusters are not defined by existing political boundaries (see definition above).

5. The Task Force provide a copy of this response to the Counties to include any additional direction as determined by the Task Force.
August 13, Task Force Meeting
Agenda Item 7.0

Summary of August 7th CAO Consultation
CAO Input, August 7 | Overview

- 17 Municipalities participated
- Review and Discussion of Planning Approach
- Review and Discussion of Policy Areas Framework
- Overall Feedback was positive and supportive of direction
- Identification of Gaps and areas of Enhancement

**General Comments**
- Need for a more strategic context of the GPU – e.g., alignment to a sustainability model – environment, economy, society
- Need for an outcomes view for the achievement objectives within policy areas
- Need to understanding the linkages and inter-dependencies between policy areas
- Need for understanding the scale of the policy area including its application within tiers – core, area, rural
- Need for understanding sub-regional in context to regional planning
- Need for defining of terms and phrases
- Need for definition of regional service areas
- Need for greater alignment / coordination with Province
CAO Input, August 7th | Planning Approach

Strengths of Tiers and Metropolitan Structure:
- Responds to diverse areas, different contexts
- Issues may differ for different contexts – allows for different perspectives and approaches
- Reflective of equity vs. equality issue
- Holistic approach, inclusive of all members
- Structure helps define ‘the end’ – what we are working towards
- Recognizes integration between land use, infrastructure and economic development

Areas for Enhancement:
- Need to define the tiers (Rural/Urban) and impact on:
  - Industry, funding and land use, capacity
  - What does contiguous mean?
- How do tiers work with municipal boundaries and annexation?
- Need consistency of definitions
- How does this relate to policy areas – missing intended outcomes
CAO Input, August 7th | Policy Areas Framework

Gaps
- Need for strategic focus
- Need to focus on regional issues – some are more tailored to tiers and urban context
- Missing overarching objectives for each Policy Area
- Bolster interface, integration/coordination with Province as CRB’s partner

Refinements
- Avoid duplication between Policy Areas
- Incorporate 3 pillars of sustainability in framework - leverage point in advocacy with Province and understandable to municipalities
- Rethink and strategize best fit for agriculture – should this be integrated in each Policy Area?
- Need for strategic view on pieces we need to get right with the Province (infrastructure including public transit, environment, education, health care, fiscal sustainability)
- Alignment with the Province is essential
- Revisit scope and scale to ensure consistency across Policy Areas
Natural Heritage

CAO Consultation Recap

Lack of focus on land – environmental assets

Need for direction on what to do when there are conflicts and impacts on growth and natural living systems

Need to align with provincial and federal standards

Brownfield development and remediation – consideration and regulation standards

What effects will be measured and what will the CRB do with it?

Need for direction on what to do when there are conflicts and impacts between growth and natural living systems
Economic Competitiveness & Employment

CAO Consultation Recap

- Funding model, cost sharing and non-residential revenue sharing – where does this fit?
- Focus on transit and live + work connection
- Clarification on diversification – oil and gas should be 'energy'
- Missing global perspective - need bold future view that positions the region strategically in the global economy
- Missing emphasis of Capital Region as a government centre, and knowledge-based economy
- Too much focus on oil and gas sector, should recognize diversification away from energy
Integration of Land Use and Infrastructure

CAO Consultation Recap

- Address overlap between infrastructure development and economic development
- How do we use infrastructure to greatest capacity?
- REF process for infrastructure – Consider how to apply this? Transportation master plans as an opportunity
- Already starting to coordinate and prioritize regional infrastructure priorities through transit committee
- Missing targets for redevelopment vs. new greenfield development
- Need to state overarching objective and for priority issues to focus on what are we are trying to achieve – want for the region?
- Revisit scale and scope of issues
- Infrastructure minimum baseline standards – need to relate to tiers, continuous service levels
Agriculture

CAO Consultation Recap

- Need to define prime agricultural lands – soil, location, type, cost/benefit analysis
- CRB needs to work with Province and establish leadership
- Regional plan should establish agricultural baselines for local municipalities to address in local plans
- Avoid overlap with economic competitive issues related to agriculture
- Should agriculture be segregated as a separate land use and policy area?
- Need to establish criteria for development on agricultural lands
- Need for regional strategy and master plan for agriculture
Transit & Mobility

CAO Consultation Recap

Need to consider function of a road and what land use/built form it will serve before we build it

"Significant" mode shift where is this possible? Active transportation is not real alternative in rural areas - why is this a regional issue?

Transit investment strategy - why is this a Growth Plan issue?

Specialized transit in rural areas - why is this on the list of issues? Focus on equitable access to transportation

Industrial commuting - getting from home to work is a real issue that affects quality of life
Communities & Housing Choice

CAO Consultation Recap

Focus first on reinvestment in redevelopment of areas, and secondly, on investment in new greenfield areas.

Community viability is related to employment in rural areas.

Country residential – need to review with clear criteria. Should this be allowed in region?

Towns and villages need a ‘piece of the pie’ as it relates to economic growth.

Focus on complete communities and on a social policy framework that contributes to quality of life.

Recreation and service levels related to population growth is a gap.