Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force

August 16, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
City of Edmonton – City Hall (main floor), Heritage Room
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton, AB

Lunch will be provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Opening</th>
<th>Page 3 of 72</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Quorum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action: Confirmation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead: Chair Shaigec</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Call to Order</td>
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<tr>
<td>Action: Declaration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead: Chair Shaigec</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3 Chair Opening Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Action: Information</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead: Chair Shaigec</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2. Approval of Agenda             |              |
| Action: Approval                  |              |
| Lead: Chair Shaigec               |              |
| **Recommended Motion:**           |              |
| That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the August 16, 2019 meeting agenda. | |

| 3. Approval of Minutes            | Page 58 of 72 |
| Action: Approval                  |              |
| Lead: Chair Shaigec               |              |
| **Recommended Motion:**           |              |
| That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the June 14, 2019 meeting minutes. | |

| 4. Review June 14 Task Force Meeting Outcomes | |
| Action: Information                   | |
| Lead: Chair Shaigec/Mr. Bob Burden (Facilitator) | |

| 5. Outcomes for August 16 Task Force Meeting | |
| Action: Information/Discussion           | |
| Lead: Chair Shaigec/Mr. Burden           | |
6. Planning Framework Approach
   **Action:** Information/Discussion
   **Lead:** Chair Shaigec/Mr. John Knapp (RAMP Working Group Sub-Committee)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6.1 Agriculture Policy Area Framework Vision, Intent, and Policy Directions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Action:</strong> Decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lead:</strong> Chair Shaigec/Mr. Jerry Bouma (Consultant)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the four Policy Areas and the Vision, Intent, and Policy Directions for each to inform further work on policy development and mapping.

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**LUNCH**

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7. Draft RAMP Engagement Plan
   **Action:** Decision
   **Lead:** Chair Shaigec/Ms. Sharon Shuya (Director, Regional Growth Planning)

**Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the Draft RAMP Engagement Plan for implementation.

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8. RAMP Meeting Schedule
   **Action:** Information
   **Lead:** Chair Shaigec/Ms. Shuya

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9. Draft RAMP Communications Plan
   **Action:** Information
   **Lead:** Chair Shaigec/Mr. Dan Rose (Senior Communications Advisor)

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10. Meeting Summary
    **Action:** Decision
    **Lead:** Mr. Burden

**Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the Meeting Summary.

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11. Adjournment
    **Action:** Declaration
    **Lead:** Chair Shaigec
1. Opening

1.1 Quorum

1.2 Call to Order

1.3 Chair Opening Remarks
2. Approval of Agenda

**Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the August 16, 2019 meeting agenda.
3. Approval of Minutes

**Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the June 14, 2019 meeting minutes.
4. Review June 14 Task Force Meeting Outcomes

Mr. Burden
Lands zoned or designated agriculture or currently in use for agriculture in the Rural Area outside the Metropolitan Area Policy Line will be considered as the highest priority for agriculture.

Lands zoned or designated agriculture or currently in use for agriculture inside the Metropolitan Area Policy Line would be subject to different policies to ensure long-term agricultural use until it may be needed for development.
Approved Motion: That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the Working Group’s Recommendation of the Third Progression as the initial Agriculture Boundary to inform further policy work on the RAMP.
5. Outcomes for this Meeting

Mr. Burden
1. Planning Framework Approach
2. Draft Policy Areas to include Vision, Intent, Policy Directions, and Next Steps
3. Engagement Plan – Next Steps
4. Communications Plan – Next Steps
6. Planning Framework

Approach

Mr. Knapp

RAMP Sub-Committee Members
6. Planning Framework Approach

RAMP Working Group Sub-Committee met four times to continue to work through the process of further policy work on the RAMP, which involved:

- Exploring the development of criteria to ensure a consistent approach to dealing with areas to add, delete, and hot spots
- Defining characteristics, outcomes, and refining the Policy Area (Sub-Areas within the Policy Framework)
- Review and discussion with RAMP Working Group and representatives from all Urban Municipal Administrations to provide feedback and refine the approach and policy areas framework, to inform next steps
Early Lessons Learned

1. Establishing a refined Agriculture Boundary requires additional information to inform the exact location.

2. Agriculture, while broad, can be segmented into distinct physical and Policy Areas defined by intended use.

3. The recommended Planning Framework is designed to be an iterative process. At the outset it was proposed that an initial boundary be established followed by adjustments (refinements) based on additional information.

4. The consensus of the Working Group is to focus on defining the Policy Areas and agreement on Policy Directions first. Then determine where the areas are located in the Region. The result should inform the location of a refined Agriculture Boundary.
6. Planning Framework Approach

Early Lessons Learned – Implications

1. Agriculture applies to the entire EMR – all rural and urban areas – to varying degrees. No area needs to be excluded.

2. Agriculture will be segmented by Policy Areas ranging from general agriculture to urban agriculture.

3. The Policy Areas will recognize the specific needs of the agriculture occurring within it. The sum of the policy areas will result in the delineation of four distinct areas:
   - one large area where agriculture is the priority use;
   - two smaller areas where agriculture will be encouraged and supported but is not a long-term priority; and
   - one urban agriculture area within built-up urban areas.
Agriculture Policy Areas

The Process to Refine the Policy Areas

• First the realization that all areas, regardless of location, can accommodate agriculture – just different forms of agriculture.
• Next, the delineation between two general use areas: a) those areas on which agriculture is the prevailing and the priority use; and b) those areas where agriculture is taking place and may be a secondary use and not the priority designation for the area.
• Areas on which agriculture is the prevailing and the priority use is referred to as Policy Area 1 – General Agriculture. This comprises the vast majority of the lands in the EMR.
• Areas on which agriculture is a secondary and not a priority use are three-fold:
  • **Policy Area 2**: Other Uses – encompassing such areas as Energy or Mining Areas; Alberta Industrial Heartland; CR that has not been developed; environmentally sensitive areas; local employment areas.
  • **Policy Area 3**: Agriculture Areas that lie inside the Metropolitan Area Policy Line – currently in agriculture but will likely be used for urban development over time.
  • **Policy Area 4**: Urban Agriculture includes Built-up Urban Areas where agriculture can take place on rooftops, vacant lots, community gardens, or other urban spaces. This also includes areas dedicated for food processing, research & development, and education.

Note: At one point in the process there were 5 Policy Areas identified, and after some discussion it was agreed that opportunities for diversification value-added agriculture should be included as part of Policy Area 1.
Planning Framework 1.1

Initial Agriculture Boundary

- Areas to add
- Areas to delete
- Hot spots & issues?

Refined Agriculture Boundary

- Permanent Boundary?
- Adjustable Boundary?

Define Cross-Municipal Commonalities

Policy Area 1: General Agriculture
  - Large Crops; CFO, Environ Sensitive
  - Policy, Regulations and Tools

Policy Area 2: Small Holdings
  - Policy, Regulations and Tools

Policy Area 3: Country Residential, Special Areas
  - Policy, Regulations and Tools

Policy Area 4: Agriculture Inside Metropolitan Area
  - Policy, Regulations and Tools

Policy Area 5: Urban Agriculture
  - Policy, Regulations and Tools

Regional/Municipal Implementation

Agenda Package August 16, 2019
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Planning Framework 1.2

1 on 1 Consultation with Municipalities

NEXT STEPS
Planning Framework 1.3

1 on 1 Consultation with Municipalities

- Initial Agriculture Boundary
- Areas to add
- Areas to delete
- Hot spots & issues?
- Refined Agriculture Boundary
- Define Cross-Municipal Commonalities
- Policy Area 1: General Agriculture
- Policy Area 2: Other Areas
- Policy Area 3: Agriculture Inside Metropolitan Area
- Policy Area 4: Urban Agriculture
- Policy, Regulations and Tools
- Regional/Municipal Implementation
- Permanent Boundary?
- Adjustable Boundary?

NEXT STEPS
Growth Plan: Responsible Growth for Urban Development

(see attachment)

The Growth Plan sets out a detailed policy framework ensuring responsible growth outlining how and where to grow:

- All new ASPs comprised of greenfield areas located on prime agricultural lands require an Agricultural Impact Assessment
- Plan growth to be compact and contiguous to existing development
- Greenfield Density Targets with the highest densities in centres and in TODs
- Encourage intensification and infill of underutilized sites in built-up urban areas
- Optimization of existing and planned infrastructure
- Employment growth in identified employment areas and centres
- Promote diversification and growth of agricultural sector within urban context
The Growth Plan sets out a detailed policy framework ensuring responsible growth outlining how and where to grow:

- Minimize fragmentation and conversion of prime agricultural land
- Promote diversification and growth of agricultural sector
- All existing country residential grandfathered, no new country residential unless 10 criteria are met
- Plan growth to be compact and contiguous to existing development – encourage growth in existing towns, villages, and hamlets
- Employment growth in identified centres, employment and resource extraction areas
- Encourage the conversion of country residential areas back to agriculture
6.1 Agriculture Policy Area Framework

Mr. Bouma
### Agriculture Policy Area Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>General Agriculture</th>
<th>Other Areas</th>
<th>Agriculture Inside Metropolitan Area</th>
<th>Urban Agriculture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Area 1</td>
<td>General Agriculture • Confined Feeding Operation (CFOs) • Diversified and/or Value-added Agriculture</td>
<td>Undeveloped Country Residential • Resource Extraction Areas • Environmental Areas • Employment Areas • Recreation Areas and Lakeshore</td>
<td>Agriculture Inside Metropolitan Area</td>
<td>Urban Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Area 2</td>
<td>Other Areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Area 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Area 4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Policy Area 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area 1 – General Agriculture</th>
<th>Vision (50 Years)</th>
<th>Intent</th>
<th>Policy Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• General Agriculture</td>
<td>• The presence of productive agricultural areas over the long-term, encompassing a wide range of agricultural production as well as agri-related enterprises.</td>
<td>• Agriculture is the priority and the prevailing land use.</td>
<td>1. Ensure that agriculture is the priority land use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Confined Feeding Operations</td>
<td>• Supported by a vibrant agricultural system including input suppliers, services, and community facilities.</td>
<td>• Overriding intent: to protect prime agricultural lands (high capability soils) and ensure the long-term presence of agriculture.</td>
<td>2. Provide long-term certainty for lands zoned agriculture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Diversified and/or Value-added Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Primary purpose is to allow (encourage) the full range of agricultural enterprises and related economic activities within the context of a secure agricultural land base. Also recognize the importance and protection of the agriculture system (supporting services and infrastructure).</td>
<td>3. Minimize conflicts between agriculture and non-agricultural uses, i.e., minimum distance separation; traffic controls; ability to move equipment; operate in ‘non-business’ hours; etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Allow for 3 specific agricultural requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Limit conversion from agricultural land to non-agricultural use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Provide opportunities for a broad range of agriculture and value-added enterprises and encourage diversification and new entrants to the agricultural sector.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Policy Area 1, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area 1 – General Agriculture</th>
<th>Vision (50 Years)</th>
<th>Intent</th>
<th>Policy Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Specific policies would apply in areas suited for large-scale field crops and extensive livestock (grazing). 2. Some provisions for sub-division and clustering would be considered.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Confined Feeding Operations        |                   |        | 1. Specific policies would apply for areas to accommodate Confined Feeding Operations (CFOs) in accordance with NRCB guidelines. 2. Limit fragmentation of agriculture land especially in Confined Feeding Operation Areas. |

| Diversified and/or Value-added Agriculture | The presence of productive agricultural areas over the long term with a particular focus on facilitating and supporting innovation, new entrants, emerging agri-food opportunities; valued-added agriculture; small plot agriculture; equine centres; agri-tourism; etc. | Agriculture is the priority land use. Overriding intent: to protect prime agricultural lands (high capability soils) and facilitate the emergence of new agri-food opportunities and innovation that are more likely to thrive in close proximity to a large urban population base. | 1. Specific policies would apply to recognize and support diversification and value-added agriculture. |
## Policy Area 2

### Policy Area 2 – Other Areas

- Undeveloped Country Residential
- Resource Extraction Areas
- Environmental Areas
- Industrial Lands (AIH)
- Local Employment Areas
- Recreation Areas and Lakeshore

### Vision (50 Years)

- The presence of productive agricultural areas over the long term on areas that have other priorities and/or constraints.

### Intent

- Agriculture is a secondary use or occurs within the context of other uses that have priority.
- Maintain presence of agriculture for as long as possible and ensure that agricultural land is managed under principles of good stewardship.
- Avoid conflicts with other uses. If and when other uses require increased land, these uses will have priority.
- Note: Includes applicable areas of the Beaver Hills Biosphere (a UNESCO Heritage Site)

### Policy Direction

1. Provide a long-term planning framework with phases that allows for agricultural investment such as new agricultural buildings in buffer zones or areas where development will not occur.
2. Cluster agricultural uses such as livestock operations and/or where small plot agriculture may emerge.
3. Cluster non-agricultural uses.
4. Promote land stewardship.
5. Avoid conflicts with non-agricultural uses.
6. Policies would depend on the nature of the environmentally sensitive areas (waterways; wetlands; etc.).
7. Recognize existing policy direction in the Growth Plan (i.e. encouraging the redesignation of country residential to agricultural uses).

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Notes:

- Create certainty on those areas that will not be converted (such as buffer areas).
- As other uses expand and require more land, plan in such a manner that the best agricultural areas would be the last to be converted.
- The presence of productive agriculture also enhances the social and environmental features of the EMR as a sustainable and vibrant food producing region.
### Policy Area 3 – Agriculture Inside Metropolitan Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area 3 – Agriculture Inside Metropolitan Area</th>
<th>Vision (50 Years)</th>
<th>Intent</th>
<th>Policy Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lands zoned or designated agriculture or currently in use for agriculture inside the Metropolitan Area Policy Line.</td>
<td>• The agricultural land base in close proximity to an urban setting continues to be productive and managed under principles of good stewardship. <strong>Notes:</strong> • These areas may be comprised of a mix of ‘General’ agriculture enterprises as per Policy Area 1.</td>
<td>• Agriculture in areas that fall within the Metropolitan Area Policy Line will continue to be recognized and supported. Although agriculture as the prevailing use is not the long-term priority, agriculture will be maintained for as long as possible.</td>
<td>1. Provide a planning framework with clear phasing that maintains prime agricultural land as long as possible. 2. Cluster agricultural uses where possible. 3. Avoid scattered non-agricultural uses. 4. Promote land stewardship. 5. Avoid conflicts with non-agricultural uses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Policy Area 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area 4 – Urban Agriculture</th>
<th>Vision (50 Years)</th>
<th>Intent</th>
<th>Policy Direction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Urban Agriculture within Built-up Urban Areas | • Thriving, engaged urban agriculture expressed in multiple forms and supported by an engaged community. | • Pro-active urban agriculture plans that facilitate and support a wide range of urban agriculture forms: community gardens; roof top gardens; utilization of vacant lots and/or buildings; food events; facilities/gathering places; fresh food markets; community kitchens; learning opportunities; etc. | 1. Encourage urban agriculture strategies and policies within each EMR municipality.  
2. Provide flexibility for value-added agriculture and diversification of agricultural enterprises. |
1. Further work to mapping the Policy Areas and drafting specific Policies in collaboration with the Working Group and member municipalities.

2. Present the draft Policy Areas and draft Policies to Task Force for further direction. (October)

3. Further consultation with member municipalities (as required) to provide input to the draft mapping of Policy Areas and draft Policies and identify other considerations. Prepare a Gap Analysis. Report back to the Task Force. (December)

4. Further Discussion with Task Force for direction on a consistent approach to address “hot spots” and “intermunicipal interests”. (December)
1. Do the 4 Policy Areas capture all the considerations for Agriculture and Agricultural Lands in the Region?

2. What’s missing?

3. Other considerations?
Recommended Motion:

That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the four Policy Areas and the Vision, Intent, and Policy Directions for each to inform further work on policy development and mapping.
Lunch
7. Draft RAMP Engagement Plan

Ms. Shuya
## 7. Draft RAMP Engagement Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Municipal Councils</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Producers/Ranchers/Farmers/Industry Associations</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Value-Added Agriculture</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Province</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Indigenous Communities</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Development Community</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Other - Academics, NSWSA, Urban Agriculture</td>
<td>√</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Other - Public</td>
<td>√</td>
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</table>
7. Draft RAMP Engagement Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Description</th>
<th>Round 1</th>
<th>Round 2</th>
<th>Round 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Q4 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Councils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Producers/Ranchers/Farmers/Industry Associations (Sub-Regional)</td>
<td>4 Mtgs.</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value-Added Agriculture (2 Sub-Regions)</td>
<td>2 Mtgs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Province (Cross Ministerial)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous Communities</td>
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<td>YES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development Community</td>
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<td>Other - Academics, NSWSA, Urban Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other - Public</td>
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</table>

Round 1: EMRB 101/RAMP Overview
Round 2: Draft RAMP - Vision, Growth Plan, Ag Policy Line, Sub-Areas, Draft Policies
Round 3: Final Draft RAMP
## 7. Draft RAMP Engagement Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Phase 3</th>
<th>Phase 4 - TBD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2019 - November</td>
<td>January 2020 - February</td>
<td>March 2020 - April</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stakeholder</strong></td>
<td><strong>Municipal Councils (13)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Municipal Councils (13)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BOARD (October 10, 2019)</td>
<td>REGIONAL ROUND TABLE ON RAMP (Workshop for all 13 municipal councils, CAO, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Stakeholders (4 Regional Sessions)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Primary Stakeholders (4 Regional Sessions)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Primary Stakeholders (4 Regional Sessions)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Stakeholders (1 Regional Session)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Secondary Stakeholders (1 Regional Session)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus/Content</strong></td>
<td><strong>RAMP Project Outcomes as of December 2019</strong></td>
<td><strong>RAMP Project Outcomes as of February 2020</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMRB 101</td>
<td>RAMP Overview (Draft Policies and possible Implementation tools for feedback)</td>
<td>RAMP Project Outcomes as of August 16, 2019 (Strategic Intent, Vision, Guiding Principles, Policy Areas and Project Schedule)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommended Motion:

That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the Draft RAMP Engagement Plan for implementation.
8. RAMP Meeting Schedule

Ms. Shuya
### 8. RAMP Task Force Meeting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 31, 2019</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Leduc County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 5, 2019</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Town of Morinville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 7, 2020</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 27, 2020</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. Draft RAMP Communications Plan

Mr. Rose
9. Draft RAMP Communications Plan

PURPOSE

The purpose of the communications plan is to provide a strategic and integrated approach to guide the development communications products, and provide municipalities, stakeholders, and the public with consistent and timely information about RAMP.

OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce and increase awareness of the creation and intent of the Regional Agriculture Master Plan as an initiative of the EMRB Integrated Growth Plan
2. Generate support and validation for the initiative among target audiences
3. Reinforce the value proposition and opportunity of the Regional Agriculture Master Plan
CONSIDERATIONS:

• **Awareness:** The development of a RAMP is relatively unknown in municipalities, beyond EMRB Working Groups and Task Forces

• **Timeliness:** Vital that Mayors and Councillors are equipped with relevant information to inform councils, and champion RAMP in their municipality

• **Complexity:** Network of stakeholders, scale of the initiative, and projected timeline

• **Diversity:** Variety of platforms and scalable tools required to communicate progress on RAMP (push and pull communications)

• **Tangibility:** Need to demonstrate the value proposition, opportunity and relevance of RAMP in each municipality and Region

• **Sensitivity:** Recognize diverse needs and interests in development of RAMP

• **Consistency:** Need to demonstrate a consistent brand, voice and visual identity
9. Draft RAMP Communications Plan

TARGET AUDIENCES

Primary (internal-facing):
• Task Forces members, Board members and municipal Councillors
• CAOs, municipal staff and technical advisors

Secondary (external-facing):
• Relevant stakeholders identified in the Engagement Plan
• Other orders of government

Tertiary (external-facing):
• Members of the public from regional municipalities
• Edmonton and regional media
OVERVIEW OF TACTICS

PRODUCTS

• Briefing Note-style Project Update with Key Messages (internal-facing)
• Print Collateral and Design Assets (external-facing)
• Video Vignettes
• Municipal Profiles and Interviews

PLATFORMS

• Digital Presence on emrb.ca
• Social Media on @yegmetro
• EMRB e-Newsletter

OUTREACH

• Virtual Information Sessions and Engagement
• Stakeholder Relations
• Media Relations
10. Meeting Summary

Mr. Burden
10. Meeting Summary

**Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the Meeting Summary.
Approximately 20 farms and ranches participating in the Region
11. Adjournment
Guiding Principle - Agriculture

Ensure the wise management of prime agricultural resources. In the context of metropolitan growth, we will ensure the wise management of prime agricultural resources to continue a thriving agricultural sector.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify and conserve an adequate supply of prime agricultural lands to provide a secure local food source for generations.

2. Minimize the fragmentation and conversion of prime agricultural lands for non-agricultural uses.

3. Promote diversification and value-added agricultural production and plan infrastructure to support the agricultural sector and regional food system.
RAMP Vision

• A thriving agriculture economy embraced by the community, recognized globally, and characterized by:
  
  • A secure agricultural land base
  
  • Leadership in innovation
  
  • Environmental stewardship
RAMP Guiding Principles

The ‘Vision’ is supported by the following Guiding Principles:

1. **Agriculture is a vital sector.** It contributes to the economic, environmental and social well being of the Region. Its long-term future requires a set of environmentally sustainable land use, economic development, infrastructure and implementation policies, and requires a holistic approach to stewardship and governance.

2. **Agricultural land is a permanent feature of the EMR’s landscape** and is a scarce and irreplaceable resource that must be protected.

3. **A thriving agriculture economy requires strategic investment** in both hard and soft infrastructure to develop entrepreneurship and provide leadership to foster a dynamic agricultural business culture.

4. **Broad regional public support is critical.** Agriculture will be embraced by the community through the understanding of the relationships with food, the economy, and the environment.

5. **Success requires a collaborative approach** including all orders of government, public and private agencies, and NGOs. **EMRB is seen as a leader and cannot achieve the vision alone.**
RAMP Strategic Intent

To enable the sustainability of a vital economic sector in the Region while balancing the needs for growth through the development of a Regional Agriculture Master Plan.

Through the work of the inaugural RAMP, provide some predictability of future land use for all stakeholders.
Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force

Friday, June 14, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Strathcona County – Spark Centre
2257 Premier Way – Sherwood Park, AB

Members:
Rod Shaigec, Parkland County (Chair)
Michael Walters, City of Edmonton (Vice Chair)
Kathy Barnhart, City of Beaumont
Tanni Doblanko, Leduc County
Alanna Hnatiw, Sturgeon County
Paul Smith, Strathcona County
Barry Turner, Town of Morinville

Technical Members:
Garett Broadbent, Leduc County
Darren Haarsma, Parkland County
Joel Gould, Strathcona County
John Knapp, Parkland County
Michael Klassen, Sturgeon County
Hani Quan, City of Edmonton
Karen Sundquist, Government of Alberta
Candace Vanin, Government of Canada

EMRB Staff:
Karen Wichuk, CEO
Sharon Shuya, Director, Regional Growth Planning
Bryan Haggarty, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Operations
Dan Rose, Senior Communications Advisor
Taylor Varro, Project Manager
Carol Moreno, Project Coordinator

Consultants
Jerry Bouma, Toma & Bouma
Markus Weber, Serecon

Guests:
A. Azad, Town of Morinville
T.J. Auer, City of Fort Saskatchewan
Dr. Stanford Blade, University of Alberta
Teaka Broughm, City of Beaumont
Jordan Brown, City of Leduc
Malcolm Bruce, Edmonton Global
Leslie Chivers, Parkland County
Darrell Clarkson, Responsible Growth Strathcona County
Neal Comeau, Sturgeon County
Charleen Currie, City of Edmonton
Gibby Davis, City of Edmonton
Linton Delainey, Strathcona County
Trevor Duley, City of St. Albert
Jordan Evans, Leduc County
Susan Evans, Sturgeon County
Lyndsay Francis, City of St. Albert
Ryan Hall, Strathcona County
Michelle Hay, City of Leduc
Larissa Hepp, Sturgeon County
Greg Hofmann, City of Edmonton
Laurie Johnson, Leduc County
Michelle Kane, City of Leduc
Brandy Kelly, City of Leduc
Jennifer Lavallée, Sturgeon County
Avril McCalla, City of Edmonton
Robert Parks, Strathcona County
Stephen Raitz, City of Beaumont
Ed Sperling, City of Fort Saskatchewan
Robert Stephenson, Strathcona County
John Stewart, City of Beaumont
Rick Stuckenberg, Town of Stony Plain
Larry Wanchuk, Leduc County
Bob Young, City of Leduc
1. Opening

1.1 Quorum

Quorum achieved; 6 of 7 voting members present.

1.2 Call to Order

Chair Shaigec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1.3 Chair Opening Remarks

Chair Shaigec welcomed the members of the Task Force and other guests. Councillor Smith offered a welcome to Spark Centre on behalf of host municipality Strathcona County.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the June 14, 2019 meeting agenda.
Moved by: Mayor Doblanko
Accepted by: Chair
Decision: Carried unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the March 22, 2019 meeting minutes.
Moved by: Councillor Walters
Accepted by: Chair
Decision: Carried unanimously

4. RAMP Objectives and Outcomes

Mayor Hnatiw arrived at 9:15 a.m.

Mr. Bouma reviewed the RAMP Objectives and Outcomes, the intent for the RAMP, and a high-level summary that put the Agriculture sector within the Region in context. Mr. Bouma also reported on the Working Group’s progress and highlighted the formation of a Sub-Committee of the Working Group and advised both groups had met regularly to address the latest iteration of RAMP materials.
5. Planning Framework

Mr. Broadbent shared his appreciation and understanding of how agriculture plays a role in the vitality of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. He described the process followed by the Working Group to develop an evaluation framework and arrive at the recommended initial agriculture boundary. Taking direction from the March Task Force meeting, the Working Group began the first progression based on the Commuter Shed Line. Mr. Broadbent described further refinement of the initial agriculture boundary in the outline of the second progression.

Mr. Gould led the Task Force through the third progression of the initial agriculture boundary as the Working Group’s recommendation for consideration by the Task Force. He described the next steps for further refinement of the boundary and plans for stakeholder consultation following the approval of an initial agriculture boundary, in keeping with the RAMP’s Planning Framework.

Mr. Weber facilitated the Task Force discussion in response to the presentation. Members expressed their appreciation of the work completed since the last meeting. Comments included: providing clarity and certainty for stakeholders, alignment with the Growth Plan, usage of “boundary” language, the implications of a possible urban growth boundary, communication and engagement strategies, the role of the Province in RAMP’s success, tools for municipal consultation on boundary refinement, description of “unplanned lands”, implications of planning without borders and harmonization of agriculture zoning, and encouragement to reach out to Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the Working Group’s Recommendation of the Third Progression as the initial Agriculture Boundary to inform further policy work on the RAMP.

**Moved by:** Councillor Smith

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

Break from 10:21 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

Ms. Shuya provided the Task Force with additional information on the RAMP project team’s next steps in accordance with the approved Planning Framework. Municipal policies for agriculture vary across the Region and the RAMP will explore how far members are willing to go to provide a harmonized and collaborative plan moving forward.

**Mayor Doblanko stepped out from 10:58 a.m. to 11:03 a.m.**

Task Force members encouraged the project team to consider articulating questions about what the RAMP can and will mean for municipal planning as part of the consultation phase. The project team received input to clearly describe the advantages from more than an agricultural perspective and to include considerations for economic development and agriculture support services.
8. RAMP Engagement Plan

Ms. Shuya described the key stakeholder groups identified through the RAMP process to date. Three rounds of consultation were outlined to ensure draft plans are validated and stakeholder feedback is incorporated. The Task Force proposed an amendment to include Indigenous Communities as a primary audience.

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the approach and next steps for developing the RAMP Engagement Plan as amended.

- **Moved by:** Mayor Doblanko
- **Accepted by:** Chair
- **Decision:** Carried unanimously

9. RAMP Communications Plan

Ms. Shuya invited Task Force input as to their expectations and suggestions for the RAMP Communications Plan and its tools. CEO Wichuk added that EMRB is working on an integrated strategy across all projects for more effective communication.

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the approach and next steps for developing the RAMP Strategy and Communications Plan.

- **Moved by:** Mayor Hnatiw
- **Accepted by:** Chair
- **Decision:** Carried unanimously

6. Lunch

Break from 11:47 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.

7. Dr. Stanford Blade

Ms. Shuya provided a brief introduction to Dr. Stanford Blade, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta and a member of the Edmonton Global Board.

Dr. Blade shared his opinions and thoughts related to key drivers for agriculture and food in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region and around the world. Mr. Bruce, CEO of Edmonton Global, added that agri-food presents some important value propositions for the Region.

*Councillor Smith stepped out from 1:52 p.m. to 1:58 p.m.*
CEO Wichuk highlighted the need for a shared vision as the EMRB’s non-negotiable challenge in order to achieve success. Dr. Blade offered encouragement to the Task Force in the valuable work ahead on the RAMP. Chair Shaigec thanked him for sharing of his time and expertise with the Task Force.

10. Meeting Summary and Next Steps

Mr. Weber summarized Task Force direction on the following items: consensus on the third progression, boundaries ought to be flexible and reviewed in a timely manner, need for broad regional support and a collaborative approach, and emphasis on communication with the Board, indigenous groups, and Councils as part of the engagement strategy.

11. RAMP – Meeting Schedule

Ms. Shuya invited Task Force discussion on the proposed meeting schedule: a workshop on July 19, 2019 and meetings on October 11, 2019, December 5, 2019, February 7, 2020 and March 27, 2020.

Motion: That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the RAMP Meeting Schedule.
Moved by: Mayor Turner
Accepted by: Chair
Decision: Carried unanimously

12. Adjournment

Chair Shaigec expressed appreciation to the Working Group for the progress and quality of work presented since the last meeting. Chair Shaigec declared the Task Force meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Task Force Chair, Rod Shaigec
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Policy</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Metropolitan Region</strong></td>
<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
<td><strong>Policy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Structure to 2044</strong></td>
<td><strong>Growth directions for the Metropolitan Area Tier</strong></td>
<td>• Encourage intensification of built-up urban areas including brownfield sites to optimize existing and planned infrastructure;</td>
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<td>• Plan and develop greenfield areas that are compact and contiguous, with a diverse and compatible mix of land uses including a</td>
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<td>range of housing and employment types;</td>
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<td>• Plan and build transit oriented development (TOD) with higher densities and foster active transportation opportunities;</td>
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<td>• Support employment growth in major employment areas, local employment areas and within urban centres and TOD centres and</td>
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<td>encourage the growth of institutional, health and education sectors;</td>
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<td>• Promote the diversification and growth of the agricultural sector including urban agriculture in an urban context;</td>
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<td><strong>Metropolitan Area Definition</strong></td>
<td>Metropolitan Area is defined as the area surrounding the metropolitan core, including portions of county lands, urban communities,</td>
<td>Major and local employment areas, and intervening undeveloped areas that are socio-economically tied and that share industry,</td>
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<td>housing and infrastructure. The metropolitan area encompasses the highest concentration of existing and future urban development</td>
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<td>in the Region, and reflects the general direction of future urban growth. It is not intended that the metropolitan area form a growth</td>
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<td>boundary, or that all of the lands within the metropolitan area will be urbanized by 2044.</td>
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<td><strong>Economic Competitiveness and</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.2 Promote job growth and the competitiveness of the Region’s employment base</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.2.1</strong> An adequate supply of lands shall be identified and protected by member municipalities to accommodate the employment</td>
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<td><strong>Employment</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1.2.2</strong> Employment growth will be accommodated in:</td>
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<td>a. major employment areas and centres indicated on Schedule 3A;</td>
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<td>b. planned employment areas and smaller-scale local employment areas indicated on Schedule 3B;</td>
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<td>c. within urban communities and within centres in a compact form;</td>
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<td>d. in resource-based areas related to resource extraction and forestry and indicated on Schedule 3C; and</td>
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<td>e. on agricultural lands for agricultural purposes.</td>
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<td><strong>1.2.3</strong> Within major employment areas, growth will be accommodated by:</td>
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<td>a. supporting employment intensive land uses with a range of employment types including commercial, industrial and institutional</td>
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<td>uses;</td>
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<td>b. planning for and promoting intensification and increasing employee density in areas with multimodal transportation access in the</td>
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<td>metropolitan core and metropolitan area;</td>
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<td>c. planning and coordinating infrastructure to support current and future employment and diversification opportunities; and</td>
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<td>d. supporting mixed use development, office and institutional uses in downtown Edmonton.</td>
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<td><strong>1.4 Promote the livability and prosperity of the Region and plan for the needs of a changing population and workforce</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1.4.1</strong> To improve housing diversity in the Region, market affordable and non-market housing will be planned and developed within</td>
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<td>close commuting distance to major employment areas and within centres, appropriate to the level of service and amenities identified</td>
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<td>in Table 1A-C.</td>
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<td><strong>1.4.2</strong> Downtown Edmonton, urban centres, TOD centres, rural centres and sub-regional centres will be planned and developed with</td>
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<td>a mix of jobs, services, amenities and diversity of housing and with multi-modal transportation access.</td>
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<td><strong>1.4.3</strong> To attract and retain a diverse range of workers, complete communities will be planned and developed appropriate to the</td>
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<td>scale and level of service identified in Table 1A-C and in accordance with the policies in the Communities and Housing Policy Area.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communities and Housing</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.1 Plan and develop complete communities within each policy tier to accommodate people’s daily needs for living at all ages</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.1.1</strong> Built-up urban areas and greenfield areas will be planned and developed as complete communities generally in accordance</td>
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<td>with Table 1A-C.</td>
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<td><strong>3.1.4</strong> In the metropolitan area, greenfield areas will be planned and developed as complete communities that:</td>
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<td>a. are compact, contiguous, and incorporate a mix of uses;</td>
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<td>b. are accessible and age-friendly;</td>
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<td>c. provide a diversity of housing options in terms of density and built form;</td>
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d. achieve the minimum greenfield density, in accordance with Schedule 6;

e. incorporate an interconnected street network and urban form to support active transportation;

f. integrate local services, amenities, institutional and commercial uses with residential development, within buildings and/or within a five-minute walk (400 metres);

g. incorporate higher density uses along existing and planned transit corridors and at major transit stations; and

h. provide high quality parks, trails and open spaces.

3.1.5 Built-up urban areas and greenfield areas will be planned and developed to provide municipal public services and open spaces to support population growth.

3.2 Plan for and promote a range of housing options

3.2.1 Housing will be planned and developed to address the changing demographics in the Region by including housing that offers a diversity of types, forms and levels of affordability to support a variety of lifestyle options, income levels and to meet the needs of all residents.

3.2.2 Within the built-up urban area and centres, infill development, more compact housing forms and increased density will be encouraged to achieve a more diverse housing stock in the Region.

3.2.3 The greatest density and diversity of housing in terms of type, form and affordability, including row housing and low, mid and high-rise buildings, will be directed to centres and areas with existing or planned regional infrastructure, transit and amenities, at a scale appropriate to the community.

4. Integration of Land Use and Infrastructure

4.1 Establish a compact and contiguous development pattern to accommodate employment and population growth

4.1.1 Employment and population growth will be planned and phased in a responsible manner and a contiguous pattern to accommodate the projections in Schedule 1 and in accordance with the Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Structure depicted in Schedule 2.

4.1.2 Employment and population growth will be accommodated in a compact form and a contiguous pattern within existing urban communities.

4.1.4 Non-residential uses including commercial, retail, and institutional uses in built-up urban areas and greenfield areas will be planned and developed in a compact form to reduce auto dependency, enhance connectivity and create vibrant mixed use areas with on-site or adjacent residential uses to meet the needs of the local community.

4.1.5 Proposed non-residential development that is contiguous to urban communities in the metropolitan area and rural area will require intermunicipal coordination and planning and shall be developed in a compact form consistent with Policy 4.1.4 and in accordance with the policies in the Agriculture policy area.

4.2 Enable growth within built-up urban areas to optimize existing infrastructure and minimize the expansion of the development footprint

4.2.1 A proportion of residential growth will be accommodated in urban communities through intensification of built-up urban areas to meet the intensification targets identified in Schedule 6.

4.2.2 Intensification will be directed to rural centres, sub-regional centres, urban centres, TOD centres, the metropolitan core and downtown Edmonton, brownfield sites and along transit corridors at a form and scale appropriate to the community and corresponding level of service.

4.2.3 Job growth and intensification of major and local areas will be planned for and promoted along existing and planned transit corridors.

4.2.4 Intensification will optimize existing and planned infrastructure. Infrastructure investments to support intensification will be identified and planned appropriately.

4.3 Plan and develop greenfield areas in an orderly and phased manner to contribute to complete communities

4.3.1 Greenfield areas shall be part of a new statutory plan and planned, developed and phased in a contiguous pattern to:

a. achieve the minimum greenfield density as identified in Schedule 6;

b. provide a mix of land uses in a compact form, including a mix of residential and employment uses to support the creation of complete communities;

c. incorporate innovative and sustainable development standards to achieve compact development;

d. incorporate an interconnected street network and open space network to support active transportation and transit viability, where applicable; and

e. provide for a mix of housing forms and housing options that are attainable in areas close to existing and planned major and local employment areas and multi-modal transportation access.
4.3.2 Greenfield areas will only be considered for development in locations that meet all of the following criteria:
   a. are part of an existing urban community;
   b. are contiguous to planned areas approved through a statutory plan or are adjacent to existing or planned infrastructure or support the logical and orderly extension of infrastructure;
   c. have long term municipal storm, water and wastewater servicing capacity to accommodate the planned development;
   d. an agricultural impact assessment has been completed to identify the potential adverse impacts of the proposed development on prime agricultural lands and existing agricultural operations, in accordance with the policies in the Agriculture policy area; and
   e. if the lands are part of a new area structure plan including or adjacent to prime agricultural lands as identified on Schedule 11, an agricultural impact assessment shall be completed by a qualified professional in accordance with Policy 6.2.5.

4.3.3 Phasing strategies will be used to stage the development and build-out of greenfield areas to:
   a. ensure that existing agricultural activities on prime agricultural lands remain in operation for as long as possible; and
   b. align growth with existing and planned regional infrastructure.

4.4 Plan for and accommodate rural growth in appropriate locations with sustainable levels of local servicing

4.4.1 In the rural area, rural centres and sub-regional centres will be planned to develop at a higher density in accordance with Policy 4.5 and Schedule 6.

4.4.2 In the rural area, growth will be accommodated in built-up urban areas, brownfield sites and greenfield areas in towns, villages and growth hamlets in a contiguous pattern and compact form to optimize existing and planned infrastructure and servicing capacity, and to meet the targets in Schedule 6.

4.4.3 In the rural area, growth hamlets will be identified by member municipalities as locations to focus growth in a compact form through intensification of built-up urban areas, and contiguous development in greenfield areas. Growth hamlets shall have servicing capacity and/or the ability to be into servicing.

4.5 Plan for and develop mixed use areas and higher density centres as areas to concentrate growth of people and jobs

4.5.1 Centres will be planned and developed to accommodate higher density development and shall meet the specified centres density target identified in Schedule 6.

4.5.2 In the rural area, rural centres and sub-regional centres will be planned and developed to:
   a. accommodate a mix of employment and population through intensification;
   b. strive to provide services, local employment and cultural amenities for residents within the community and surrounding area, generally consistent with the characteristics indicated in Table 1A; and
   c. incorporate active transportation facilities.

4.5.3 In the metropolitan area, urban centres will be planned and developed to:
   a. accommodate a mix of employment and population growth through intensification and transit-oriented development in accordance with the centre density targets identified in Schedule 6;
   b. provide a balanced mix of uses including residential, commercial, institutional, cultural and entertainment, generally consistent with the characteristics indicated in Table 1B;
   c. incorporate medium and higher-density housing to provide for a range of incomes, life stages and physical abilities in locations that provide links to jobs, services and other opportunities; and
   d. provide connections between local and intermunicipal transit and promote multi-modal transportation options including transit and active transportation.

4.5.4 In the metropolitan core, downtown Edmonton will be planned and developed to:
   a. accommodate a mix of employment and population growth through intensification and transit-oriented development with the highest level of density in the Region;
   b. provide a balanced mix of uses including residential, commercial, institutional, and cultural amenities, generally consistent with the characteristics indicated in Table 1C;
   c. incorporate higher density housing for a range of incomes, life stages and physical abilities in locations that provide links to jobs, services and other opportunities; and
   d. function as the Region’s highest density major employment area with a concentration of institutional, commercial, office and government related jobs; and
   e. optimize investment in existing and planned transit service and infrastructure, and support integration of regional transit services.
4.5.5 In the metropolitan core and metropolitan area, TOD centres will be identified, planned and developed as locations around major transit stations to:

- a. accommodate growth through increased residential and/or employment densities within 800 metres of the major transit station in accordance with the TOD centres density target in Schedule 6;
- b. incorporate a mix of medium and higher density housing and/or higher employee density uses; and
- c. provide for transit connectivity with local and intermunicipal regional transit services and active transportation opportunities.

5. Transportation Systems

| 5.3 Coordinate and integrate land use and transportation facilities and services to support the efficient and safe movement of people, goods and services in both urban and rural areas |
| 5.4 Support the Edmonton International Airport as northern Alberta’s primary air gateway to the world |

5.1 The locations, types, scale and built form of residential, commercial, institutional and industrial uses will be planned and developed to optimize the use of transportation infrastructure to ensure efficient, convenient and safe movement of people and goods.

5.2 The locations, types, scale and built form of development, including related parking regulations, will be actively managed with transit service, routing and alignment planning to foster a modal shift towards transit and active transportation modes.

5.3.1 The locations, types, scale and built form of residential, commercial, institutional and industrial uses will be planned and developed to optimize the use of transportation infrastructure to ensure efficient, convenient and safe movement of people and goods.

5.3.2 The locations, types, scale and built form of development, including related parking regulations, will be actively managed with transit service, routing and alignment planning to foster a modal shift towards transit and active transportation modes.

6. Agriculture

| 6.1 Identify and conserve an adequate supply of prime agricultural lands to provide a secure local food source for future generations |
| 6.2 Minimize the fragmentation of prime agricultural lands for non-agricultural uses |
| 6.3 Promote diversification and value-added agriculture production and plan infrastructure to support the agricultural sector and regional food system |

6.1.3 In the metropolitan area, prime agricultural lands identified through the land evaluation and site assessment tool shall be conserved for agricultural purposes for as long as possible, recognizing that these lands will urbanize over time to accommodate growth.

6.2.4 In the metropolitan area, the fragmentation and conversion of prime agricultural lands for non-agricultural uses will only be considered when the proposed development meets all of the following criteria:

- a. the lands are contiguous with built-up urban areas and/or planned areas;
- b. the lands are required to accommodate municipal employment and population projections in accordance with Schedule 1;
- c. if residential uses are proposed, the lands are within a proposed statutory plan in conformance with the applicable minimum greenfield density identified in Schedule 6;
- d. an agricultural impact assessment has been completed to identify the potential adverse impacts of the proposed development on agricultural lands and existing agricultural operations on-site and offsite in the surrounding area; and
- e. mitigation measures recommended through an agricultural impact assessment are incorporated in the planning and design of the proposed development to minimize potential adverse impacts on agricultural lands and active agricultural operations on-site and off-site in the surrounding area from near neighbour impacts of urban growth.

6.3.1 Value-added agriculture production and the diversification of the agricultural sector will be pursued by:

- a. advancing food production, processing and distribution, value-added opportunities related to agricultural products and services;
- b. supporting manufacturing, packaging, shipping and distribution to wholesalers, agri-tourism, farmers’ markets and urban agriculture; and
- c. promoting diversification related to food production, processing and distribution.
## Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan Policies Directing Rural Growth

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Policy</th>
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| **Metropolitan Region Structure to 2044** | **Growth directions for the Rural Area Tier** | • Encourage growth in existing towns, villages and in the built-up urban area and brownfield sites and plan and develop compact and contiguous greenfield areas to optimize servicing capacity and transportation connections;  
• Plan and build rural centres and sub-regional centres with a mix of land uses and higher densities;  
• Permit infill and build out of existing country residential areas in accordance with existing zoning and land use permissions and in new areas, subject to specific criteria;  
• Support employment growth in the major employment areas including Alberta’s Industrial Heartland and regional airports, local employment areas, within rural/sub-regional centres and within agriculture, forestry, resource extraction and processing areas;  
• Promote the growth and diversification of the agricultural sector. |
| **Rural Area Definition** | **Rural Area** | is defined as the lands outside the metropolitan area within the wider Edmonton Metropolitan Region, consisting of rural working landscapes with agricultural lands, major employment areas and local employment areas, natural living systems, recreation areas and resource extraction areas, counties, towns, villages, incorporated hamlets and country residential development with some local levels of service and community amenities. |

### 1. Economic Competitiveness and Employment

#### 1.2 Promote job growth and the competitiveness of the Region’s employment base

1.2.1 An adequate supply of lands shall be identified and protected by member municipalities to accommodate the employment projections in Schedule 1 and provide a variety of employment types and support economic diversification.

1.2.2 Employment growth will be accommodated in:  
a. major employment areas and centres indicated on Schedule 3A;  
b. planned employment areas and smaller-scale local employment areas indicated on Schedule 3B;  
c. within urban communities and within centres in a compact form;  
d. in resource-based areas related to resource extraction and forestry and indicated on Schedule 3C; and  
e. on agricultural lands for agricultural purposes.

1.2.3 Within major employment areas, growth will be accommodated by:  
a. supporting employment intensive land uses with a range of employment types including commercial, industrial and institutional uses;  
b. planning for and promoting intensification and increasing employee density in areas with multimodal transportation access in the metropolitan core and metropolitan area;  
c. planning and coordinating infrastructure to support current and future employment and diversification opportunities;  

1.2.6 Employment growth outside of major employment areas will be accommodated by:  
a. supporting the designation and growth of local employment areas, generally in accordance with Schedule 3B, for locally relevant business and economic activities to support complete communities and strive for a diversified tax base;  
b. promoting the growth of the agricultural sector and resource-based economic activities to optimize resource-based assets, generally in accordance with Schedule 3C; and  

1.4 Promote the livability and prosperity of the Region and plan for the needs of a changing population and workforce

1.4.1 To improve housing diversity in the Region, market affordable and non-market housing will be planned and developed within close commuting distance to major employment areas and within centres, appropriate to the level of service and amenities identified in Table 1A-C;  
1.4.2 Downtown Edmonton, urban centres, TOD centres, rural centres and sub-regional centres will be planned and developed with a mix of jobs, services, amenities and diversity of housing and with multi-modal transportation access.  
1.4.3 To attract and retain a diverse range of workers, complete communities will be planned and developed appropriate to the scale and level of service identified in Table 1A-C and in accordance with the policies in the Communities and Housing Policy Area.
2. Natural Living Systems | 2.4 Minimize and mitigate the impacts of regional growth on natural living systems
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2.4.2 Development adjacent to provincially recognized and protected natural living systems, the Beaver Hills Biosphere, key wildlife and biodiversity zones, surface water bodies and watercourses identified on Schedule 4 will:
   a. protect for and incorporate conservation buffers and linkages; and
   b. incorporate ecological design features to mitigate and minimize potential adverse impacts.

2.4.3 Resource extraction areas identified on Schedule 9 and extraction activities related to energy, sand and gravel deposits shall be directed away from natural living systems to the greatest extent possible. Where no reasonable alternative exists, the proposed development will:
   a. consider and assess potential adverse impacts on natural living systems on-site and off-site in the surrounding area;
   b. incorporate buffers and setbacks in the planning and design of the development to minimize and mitigate potential adverse impacts on natural living systems on-site and off-site in the surrounding area; and
   c. incorporate safety and risk management in accordance with Policy 4.7.1.

3. Communities and Housing | 3.1 Plan and develop complete communities within each policy tier to accommodate people’s daily needs for living at all ages
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3.1.1 Built-up urban areas and greenfield areas will be planned and developed as complete communities generally in accordance with Table 1A-C.

3.1.3 In the rural area, greenfield areas will be planned and developed as complete communities that:
   a. are compact and contiguous;
   b. are accessible and age-friendly;
   c. provide a diversity of housing options in terms of density and built form;
   d. achieve the minimum greenfield density in accordance with Schedule 6;
   e. incorporate an interconnected street network to support active transportation;
   f. include access to jobs and local services and amenities, where appropriate; and
   g. connect to regional trails and open spaces, where appropriate.

3.2 Plan for and promote a range of housing options

3.2.1 Housing will be planned and developed to address the changing demographics in the Region by including housing that offers a diversity of types, forms and levels of affordability to support a variety of lifestyle options, income levels and to meet the needs of all residents.

3.2.2 Within the built-up urban area and centres, infill development, more compact housing forms and increased density will be encouraged to achieve a more diverse housing stock in the Region.

4. Integration of Land Use and Infrastructure | 4.1 Establish a compact and contiguous development pattern to accommodate employment and population growth
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4.1.1 Employment and population growth will be planned and phased in a responsible manner and a contiguous pattern to accommodate the projections in Schedule 1 and in accordance with the Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Structure depicted in Schedule 2.

4.1.4 Non-residential uses including commercial, retail, and institutional uses in built-up urban areas and greenfield areas will be planned and developed in a compact form to reduce auto dependency, enhance connectivity and create vibrant mixed use areas with on-site or adjacent residential uses to meet the needs of the local community.

4.1.5 Proposed non-residential development that is contiguous to urban communities in the metropolitan area and rural area will require intermunicipal coordination and planning and shall be developed in a compact form consistent with Policy 4.1.4 and in accordance with the policies in the Agriculture policy area.

4.3 Plan and develop greenfield areas in an orderly and phased manner to contribute to complete communities

4.3.1 Greenfield areas shall be part of a new statutory plan and planned, developed and phased in a contiguous pattern to:
   a. achieve the minimum greenfield density as identified in Schedule 6;
   b. provide a mix of land uses in a compact form, including a mix of residential and employment uses to support the creation of complete communities;
   c. incorporate innovative and sustainable development standards to achieve compact development;
   d. incorporate an interconnected street network and open space network to support active transportation and transit viability, where
4.4 Plan for and accommodate rural growth in appropriate locations with sustainable levels of local servicing

4.4.1 In the rural area, rural centres and sub-regional centres will be planned to develop at a higher density in accordance with Policy 4.5.1 and Schedule 6.

4.4.2 In the rural area, growth will be accommodated in built-up urban areas, brownfield sites and greenfield areas in towns, villages and growth hamlets in a contiguous pattern and compact form to optimize existing and planned infrastructure and servicing capacity, and to meet the targets in Schedule 6.

4.4.3 In the rural area, growth hamlets will be identified by member municipalities as locations to focus growth in a compact form through intensification of built-up urban areas, and contiguous development in greenfield areas. Growth hamlets shall have servicing capacity and/or the ability to tie into servicing.

4.4.4 New country residential development in the Region shall only be considered if a member municipality’s proposal meets all of the following criteria:

   a. 90% or more of the member municipality’s existing country residential land supply has been built out;
   b. the proposed country residential lots represent a maximum of a five year land supply based on the municipality’s last five year absorption rate of country residential land;
   c. the proposed lands are located on non-prime agricultural lands as identified in Schedule 11 within the rural area;
   d. the proposed country residential lots are:
      i. outside of the regional commuter shed boundary as identified in Schedule 7;
      ii. not less than 3.2 km (2.0 mi) from the boundary of an existing urban community in the rural area; and
      iii. not less than 4.8 km (3.0 mi) from the boundary of an existing urban community in the metropolitan area;
   e. the proposed country residential lots within the regional commuter shed identified on Schedule 7 may only be considered when it can be demonstrated that:
      i. there are no changes in the net country residential land supply within the municipality;
      ii. the country residential lots are not less than 3.2 km (2.0 mi) from the boundary of an existing urban community in the rural area; and
      iii. the country residential lots are not less than 4.8 km (3.0 mi) from the boundary of an existing urban community in the metropolitan area;
   f. if the proposed country residential lots are located on or adjacent to natural living systems identified in Schedule 4, environmental and technical studies completed by qualified professionals shall be submitted and accompany a REF application, identifying the impacts the development will have on natural living systems, and including recommended conservation buffers, development setbacks and mitigation measures that will be incorporated into the proposed development;
   g. the proposed country residential development does not exceed a maximum density of 50 lots in a quarter section;
   h. the proposed country residential development shall be serviced with on-site wells or cisterns and private sewage systems in accordance with provincial regulations;
   i. the proposed country residential development shall only be accommodated through a proposed area structure plan that is submitted as a REF application to CRB for its consideration; and
   j. notwithstanding the foregoing, the CRB may, in the event of unique or extenuating circumstances, the details of which shall be provided by the member municipality, choose to consider and render a decision on a municipality’s REF application that does not meet one or more of criteria (a) through (h) above. Some examples may include but are not limited to: an absorption rate that exceeds a historical five year average, an economic development opportunity that creates greater than anticipated demand, or other factor(s) that contribute to prudent planning and/or effective infrastructure investment.

4.5 Plan for and develop mixed use areas and higher density centres as areas to concentrate growth of people and jobs

4.5.2 In the rural area, rural centres and sub-regional centres will be planned and developed to:

   a. accommodate a mix of employment and population through intensification;
   b. strive to provide services, local employment and cultural amenities for residents within the community and surrounding area, generally consistent with the characteristics indicated in Table 1A; and
   c. incorporate active transportation facilities.
4.7 Ensure compatible land use patterns to minimize risks to public safety and health

4.7.3 Resource extraction areas identified on Schedule 9 will be protected for long term resource extraction uses. Development within regional buffer areas that would preclude or hinder resource extraction uses, either continued or expanded, or activities that would be incompatible with these uses for public health or public safety reasons, will be prohibited.

5. Transportation Systems

5.3 Coordinate and integrate land use and transportation facilities and services to support the efficient and safe movement of people, goods and services in both urban and rural areas

5.3.1 The locations, types, scale and built form of residential, commercial, institutional and industrial uses will be planned and developed to optimize the use of transportation infrastructure to ensure efficient, convenient and safe movement of people and goods.

5.3.2 The locations, types, scale and built form of development, including related parking regulations, will be actively managed with transit service, routing and alignment planning to foster a modal shift towards transit and active transportation modes.

5.3.4 The locations of goods movement routes throughout the Region will be reviewed and refined periodically to minimize barriers to effective movement of goods to both local and extra-regional destinations.

6. Agriculture

6.1 Identify and conserve an adequate supply of prime agricultural lands to provide a secure local food source for future generations

6.1.2 In the rural area, prime agricultural lands identified through the land evaluation and site assessment tool shall be conserved subject to revision based on the outcomes of the Regional Agriculture Master Plan.

6.1.4 In the rural area, opportunities to rezone prime agricultural lands for agricultural uses will be encouraged in areas defined by municipal zoning or designations for non-agricultural uses including, but not limited to, country residential areas or reclaimed resource extraction areas.

6.2 Minimize the fragmentation of prime agricultural lands for non-agricultural uses

6.2.1 The fragmentation and conversion of prime agricultural lands shall be minimized when planning alignments for and developing multi-use corridors. Where no reasonable alternative can be demonstrated, mitigation measures to protect prime agricultural lands and existing agricultural operations on adjacent and surrounding lands will be adopted and implemented to minimize and mitigate the potential for land use conflicts.

6.2.2 In the rural area, large contiguous agricultural areas will be protected and maintained to enable efficient agricultural production and to support the agricultural sector in the Region.

6.2.3 In the rural area, the fragmentation and conversion of prime agricultural lands for non-agricultural uses outside the boundaries of urban communities may be considered for resource extraction uses, recreation corridors and development of major employment areas subject to meeting all of the following criteria:

a. lands proposed for development are located within a proposed statutory plan or statutory plan amendment;
b. an agriculture impact assessment has been completed to identify the potential adverse impacts of the proposed development on agricultural lands and existing agricultural operations on-site and off-site in the surrounding area; and
c. mitigation measures recommended through an agricultural impact assessment are incorporated in the planning and design of the proposed development to minimize potential adverse impacts on agricultural lands and active agricultural operations on-site and off-site in the surrounding area.

6.3 Promote diversification and value-added agriculture production and plan infrastructure to support the agricultural sector and regional food system

6.3.1 Value-added agriculture production and the diversification of the agricultural sector will be pursued by:

a. advancing food production, processing and distribution, value-added opportunities related to agricultural products and services;
b. supporting manufacturing, packaging, shipping and distribution to wholesalers, agri-tourism, farmers’ markets and urban agriculture; and

c. promoting diversification related to food production, processing and distribution.
Agenda Item 6.1 Agriculture Policy Area Framework – Vision, Intent, Policy Directions

**Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the four Policy Areas and the Vision, Intent, and Policy Directions for each to inform work on policy development and mapping.

**Background:**

On September 21, 2018, the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorsed and recommended the RAMP Planning Framework to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board for approval. On November 23, 2018, the Task Force passed a motion directing the RAMP Working Group to continue to apply the Planning Framework approved September 21, 2018.

The first level of the Planning Framework involved the determination of an initial agriculture boundary. On June 14, 2019, the Task Force approved the Working Group’s recommended Third Progression as the initial agriculture boundary to inform further policy work on the RAMP.

Since June, the Working Group and its Sub-Committee have met four times to undertake further work to inform an agriculture boundary. The Working Group and Sub-Committee have focused on refining the Policy Areas within the Planning Framework and have arrived at four Agriculture Policy Areas which require endorsement to provide guidance for policy development and mapping.

**Recommendation:**

That the Task Force endorse the four Policy Areas and the Policy Directions to inform further work on the development of policies and mapping in consultation with member municipalities.

**Rationale:**

The consensus of the Working Group and Sub-Committee is that defining Policy Areas and agreement on the Policy Directions should be the first step followed by mapping. Providing clarity and certainty in terms of where agricultural activities would occur in the Region is an important outcome of the process of building a RAMP.
Agenda Item 7. Draft Engagement Plan

**Recommended Motion: That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the draft Engagement Plan for implementation.**

**Background:**

In February 2017, the EMRB Board approved the Project Charter and Project Terms of Reference for the development of a Regional Agriculture Master Plan.

On June 14th, 2019 the Task Force was presented a high-level strategy for Stakeholder Engagement which included the identification of Primary and Secondary stakeholders and recommendations and recommended a number of rounds of consultations.

Further work has been completed to outline the timing, content and nature of the engagement focusing on the different stakeholders for consideration by the Task Force.

**Recommendation:**
That the Task Force endorse the draft Engagement Plan for implementation.

**Rationale:**

The Working Group and Sub-Committee have identified a diverse group of stakeholders, or target audiences, which need to be considered in the development of an engagement plan. The project is reaching a critical point in the process in which feedback for stakeholders is an important part of the process to ensure the overall success of the Regional Agriculture Master Plan.