# Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP) Task Force

## Agenda

October 28, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Leduc County, Calmar Legion Hall
4815 47 St, Calmar, AB

*Lunch will be provided.*

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<tr>
<td><strong>1. Opening</strong></td>
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</table>
| **1.1 Quorum** | *Action: Confirmation*  
*Lead: Chair Shaigec* | |
| **1.2 Call to Order** | *Action: Declaration*  
*Lead: Chair Shaigec* | |
| **1.3 Chair Opening Remarks** | *Action: Information*  
*Lead: Chair Shaigec* | |
| **2. Approval of Agenda** | *Action: Approval*  
*Lead: Chair Shaigec* | |
| **Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the October 28, 2019 meeting agenda. | | |
| **3. Approval of Minutes** | *Action: Approval*  
*Lead: Chair Shaigec* | Page 59 of 83 |
| **Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the August 16, 2019 meeting minutes. | | |
4. **Task Force Outcomes from August 16, 2019**  
   **Action:** Information  
   **Lead:** Chair Shaigec / Mr. Bob Burden (Facilitator)

5. **Outcomes for October 28, 2019**  
   **Action:** Information / Discussion  
   **Lead:** Chair Shaigec / Mr. Burden

6. **Agriculture and The Economic Imperative**  
   **Action:** Discussion / Information  
   **Lead:** Chair Shaigec / Mr. Jerry Bouma (Consultant)  
   *Task Force Breakout Session #1- Regional Alignment Exercise – Mr. Burden*

   **Task Force Breakout Session #2 – Gaps and Other Considerations to inform Policy Development – Mr. Burden**

   **Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the draft Policy Area Mapping, and refined Policy Area Directions to inform further work on Policy Development.

7. **Agriculture Policy Area Framework**  
   **Action:** Decision  
   **Lead:** Chair Shaigec / Sub-Committee Member / Mr. Bouma  
   *Task Force Breakout Session #2 – Gaps and Other Considerations to inform Policy Development – Mr. Burden*

   **Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force accept the RAMP Engagement Plan update for information.

LUNCH

8. **RAMP Engagement Plan – Implementation Update**  
   **Action:** Decision  
   **Lead:** Chair Shaigec / Ms. Sharon Shuya (Director, Regional Growth Planning)

   **Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force accept the RAMP Engagement Plan update for information.

9. **Next Steps and Meeting Summary**  
   **Action:** Decision  
   **Lead:** Mr. Burden  
   **Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the Meeting Summary and Next Steps.

10. **Adjournment**  
    **Action:** Declaration  
    **Lead:** Chair Shaigec
Regional Agriculture Master Plan

Task Force Meeting
October 28, 2019
Leduc County
1. Opening

1.1 Quorum

1.2 Call to Order

1.3 Chair Opening Remarks

Our Values: Respect | Integrity | Accountability | Innovation
2. Approval of Agenda

Recommended Motion: That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the October 28, 2019 meeting agenda.
3. Approval of Minutes

**Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the August 16, 2019 meeting minutes.
4. Task Force Outcomes from August 16, 2019

Mr. Burden
Unanimously Approved 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.
August – October Work Plan

• **RAMP Working Group Sub-Committee** met seven (7) times and the Working Group met two (2) times to validate, refine and advance the deliverables for consideration by the Task Force today

  • For each **Policy Area** – identified specific Objectives and refined the draft Policy Directions and built a draft Map of the Policy Areas

  • Further work on **Implementation Plan for Phase 1 of the Engagement Plan**.
5. Outcomes for this Meeting

Mr. Burden
5. Meeting Outcomes – October 28, 2019

1. Task Force alignment exercise and discussion - Economic Imperative for Agriculture
2. Task Force endorsement of the draft Policy Area Objectives and refined Policy Directions and Policy Area Mapping*
3. Task Force endorsement of the Engagement Plan Implementation Update and Direction

*The content presented today is being proposed as part of the Consultations with Municipalities and Regional Stakeholders.
6. Agriculture and The Economic Imperative

Mr. Bouma
What Others Are Doing

- Netherlands
- Portland, Oregon
- Austin, Texas
- Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Lisbon, Portugal

See Item 6, Attachment 1
General Observations of What Others Are Doing

• Clear sense of identity
• Reinforced unique competitive advantages
• Possibilities beyond what municipalities can accomplish on their own
• Appropriate level of support from other orders of government
Opportunities for Benefits to the Region

- Enhance competitive advantage
- Grow export volume
- Higher value/new crops
- Intensifying (greenhouses, orchards, vineyards)
- Increase food/fibre processing
- Food hub
- Food security
- Food sovereignty
The EMR is one of the richest agricultural regions in Canada!

1. One of very few regions in the world that is in the position to grow its agri-food sector!
   - Replete with prime agriculture lands/soils
   - Favourable climate and prevailing weather patterns
   - Productivity that is 42% higher than the Alberta average
   - Total annual revenues in excess of $4.5 billion
   - Over 10,500 directly employed
And the future for food and agri-food is positive!

1. Growing global demand for food and agri-food products
2. Strong consumer interest in ‘local’ food - how and where it is produced
3. An emerging food culture and generation of entrepreneurs - new ideas; new products; and new business models. And…
4. The EMR has a unique set of skills, research, development and commercialization assets!
Issues Agriculture in the EMR is facing

1. Prime Agricultural lands are being lost
2. Livestock sector is declining
3. Specialty crop sector is static
4. Farmers and agricultural land are under pressure:
   - Fragmentation and conflicts with non-agricultural residences is a concern
   - The number of large acre parcels (over 80 acres) is declining
   - The number of small acre parcels (under 40 acres and no longer in agriculture) is increasing
What needs to be done?

“The key to a robust agricultural industry is the same everywhere: the protection of the land base on which to farm and to carry out farm related activities…

…a fresh perspective is needed on farmland…one that sees agriculture as a permanent feature of the regional landscape and farming as an essential component of our economy and cultural heritage.”

Source: Situation Analysis, August 2018
Critical Success Factors

1. **Agriculture as a Priority** - the need to elevate and support the entire sector.

2. **Conserve Agricultural Lands** - ensure the long-term availability of prime agricultural land. This requires a commitment and more definitive land use policies.

3. **Supportive Land Use Policies** - necessary to provide long-term certainty to balance urban growth pressures (rapid urban growth; several annexations; and the relative ease to subdivide agricultural land).

Source: Situation Analysis, August 2018
Creating a New Future

[Image of various agricultural and biomass sources, including solar panels, crops, animals, and waste.]
Who Benefits from RAMP?

- Farmers, Ranchers, Producers
- Agricultural Processing Industry
- Regional Economy
- Regional Public
Task Force Break Out Session #1

The Project Team would like to understand the potential challenges and opportunities for RAMP as we prepare further work and to socialize the general direction for RAMP over the next 3-6 months.

Of interest is to understand how different stakeholders view or perceive RAMP and the future potential of Agriculture and Agri-Foods in the EMR. Consider:

a. Yourself
b. Your respective Council
c. Key stakeholders
Task Force Break Out Session #1

- For each stakeholder place one dot on the Matrix to indicate where you believe the stakeholder is at today in terms of understanding RAMP and more importantly its future potential for Agriculture and Agri-Food in the EMR.

- Make a note of where some of the barriers are we need to address

- Thoughts/suggestions on how to address the barriers?
Regional Alignment Exercise

High Value

Understand the value and potential for Agriculture and Agri-food, but can’t see how we are going to get there.

Believe the Region is well positioned to be a leader in Agriculture and Agri-food and it is critical from an economic standpoint to make this a priority.

No Support

Don’t see the value and it will be difficult sell to existing producers, regional stakeholders and/or the province.

Support

Don’t see the value but if the Board decides in favour of RAMP, we will have to go along.
Regional Alignment Discussion

1. Looking at the three perspectives, are there any surprises?
2. What are some of the barriers that need to be addressed?
3. What’s needed/or the best way to address the barriers?
4. What will it take to convince the Region of the potential and opportunity for Agriculture and Agri-foods in the EMR?
5. What support do we need from others to be successful with RAMP?
7. Agriculture Policy Area Framework

Mr. Bouma
RAMP Working Assumptions:

1. Inaugural RAMP is a plan to 2044
2. RAMP Policies build on the existing policy framework and will be integrated into the Growth Plan, once approved by the Province
3. Future review and updates to RAMP will occur as part of the next official review of the Growth Plan (By 2027)
Regional Agriculture Master Plan

Draft Policy Area Map
Draft Agriculture Policy Areas
For discussion October 28, 2019

Area 1 Rural Agriculture
Area 2 Agriculture Complementary to Other Uses
Area 3 Transitioning Metropolitan Area
Area 4 Urban Agriculture
Municipal Boundary
Urban Service Area
Policy Area 1: Rural Agriculture

**Goal:** The presence of productive agricultural areas over the long term, encompassing a wide range of agricultural production and agriculture enterprises of varying size and scale. A vibrant agricultural system including input suppliers, services, and community facilities that support the agricultural and rural community.

**Objectives:**
- Agriculture is recognized and valued
- The primacy of agriculture is evident, assured
- The presence of a stable and accessible land base
- A strong commitment to and evidence of environmental stewardship practices
- A thriving rural community
- The presence of a strong and vibrant agricultural system
Policy Area 2: Agriculture Complementary to Other Land Uses

**Goal:** The presence of productive agricultural areas is a complementary use over the long term on lands that have other identified uses and/or constraints and recognizes opportunities for agriculture to exist in the interim until the land is required for its designated use.

**Objective:**
- Agriculture continues to be present for the foreseeable future
Policy Area 3: Transition Lands within the Metropolitan Area

Goal: The agricultural land base near an urban setting continues to be productive and managed under principles of good land and environmental stewardship.

Objectives:

• Agriculture coexists in proximity to urban development and will transition according to future growth requirements within the Metropolitan Area of EMR
• Development takes place in a staged and contiguous manner
Goal: Thriving, engaged urban agriculture expressed in multiple forms and supported by an engaged community. A wide range of activities can exist including residents, businesses, communities, and organizations.

Objectives:

- All urban municipalities within the EMR have developed and implemented Urban Agriculture Plans
- Recognition that a vibrant urban agriculture industry could generate large economic benefits
- Building Community Through Food and Agriculture
- A Range of Approaches and Activities
- Major Economic Development and Research Outcomes
Draft Policy Area Map - Discussion

1. Questions of clarification?
Refined Policy Area Directions – Discussion

Task Force Break Out Session #2

1. What’s missing/other considerations?
7. Agriculture Policy Area Framework

**Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the Draft Policy Area Objectives, Draft Refined Policy Directions, and Draft Agriculture Policy Area Map to inform development of policy.
Lunch
8. RAMP Engagement Plan Implementation Update

Ms. Shuya
Proposed 4 rounds of Stakeholder Engagement

First round to occur this Fall – Municipal Councils, Province, Broader Stakeholders

Schedule for Municipal Councils: November – January 2020

Proposing 5 Regional Stakeholder Roundtables: 4 hosted by the Counties and 1 in Edmonton – late January

Presentation material will be adapted to the particular stakeholder group, and could include Focus & Content - up to and including today’s material
# 8. RAMP Engagement Plan - Update

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Board</td>
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<td>2 Municipal Councils</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Producers/Ranchers/Farmers/Industry Associations</td>
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<td>4 Value-Added Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Province</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Indigenous Communities</td>
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<td>7 Development Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Other - Academics, NSWSA, Urban Agriculture</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td>9 Other - Public</td>
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**NOTE:**

All stakeholders listed outside of those with red arrows will be handled as one group, the only exception will be Indigenous communities.
## 8. RAMP Engagement Plan - Update

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<tr>
<td><strong>Stakeholder</strong></td>
<td>BOARD (December 12, 2019)</td>
<td>BOARD (February 13, 2020)</td>
<td>BOARD (April 9, 2020)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Councils (13)</td>
<td>REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON RAMP (Workshop for all 13 municipal councils, CAO, etc.)</td>
<td>Municipal Councils (13)</td>
<td>April (Post-Board Meeting) and May</td>
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<td>Regional Stakeholders – 5 Regional Sessions include all other stakeholders Province</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus/Content</strong></td>
<td>EMRB 101 (as required)</td>
<td>RAMP Project Outcomes as of December 2019</td>
<td>RAMP Project Outcomes as of March 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAMP Overview</td>
<td>Draft Policies and Implementation Tools for feedback</td>
<td>Draft Plan for feedback</td>
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<td>RAMP Project Outcomes as of October 28, 2019 (Strategic Intent, Vision, Guiding Principles, Policy Areas draft Policy Directions and Mapping, and Project Schedule)</td>
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8. RAMP Engagement Plan – Update

Task Force Questions:

1. Are you comfortable with including the content from today’s meeting in the Stakeholder Engagement Sessions?
2. How do you want to be involved in some/all sessions?
3. What are your expectations for engagement with Indigenous communities?
Recommended Motion:

That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force accept the RAMP Engagement Plan implementation update for information.
9. Next Steps and Meeting Summary

Mr. Burden
9. Next Steps

- Incorporate Task Force feedback into draft/refined Policy Directions and Mapping
  - Collect additional feedback from Consultations and bring back to Task Force
  - Proceed to draft policy statements based on outcomes from today’s Task Force meeting in preparation for December 5th Task Force Meeting
  - Identify and evaluate implementation tools
  - Further work with Alberta Transportation on alignment of long-term infrastructure plans
9. Next Steps and Meeting Summary

**Recommended Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the Meeting Summary and Next Steps.
10. Adjournment
RAMP Appendix
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
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, 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

Members:
Rod Shaigec, Parkland County (Chair)
Michael Walters, City of Edmonton (Vice Chair)
John Stewart, City of Beaumont (Alternate)
Tanni Doblinko, 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
Angela Veenstra, Sturgeon County
Hani Quan, City of Edmonton
Karen Sundquist, Government of Alberta

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
Bob Burden, Serecon

Guests:
A. Azad, Town of Morinville
Teaka Broughm, City of Beaumont
Jordan Brown, City of Leduc
Neal Comeau, Sturgeon County
Charleen Currie, City of Edmonton
Gibby Davis, City of Edmonton
Madison Dube, City of Edmonton
Trevor Duley, City of St. Albert
Lyndsay Francis, City of St. Albert
Greg Hofmann, City of Edmonton
Laurie Johnson, Leduc County
Michael Klassen, Sturgeon County
Anne Bentley Manson, Interested Public
Avril McCalla, City of Edmonton
Robert Parks, Strathcona County
Paul Ross, City of Edmonton
Shree Shinde, City of Fort Saskatchewan
1. Opening

1.1 Quorum

Quorum achieved; 7 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.

2. Approval of Agenda

Councillor Walters proposed a discussion on economic development and Chair Shaigec accepted the additional agenda item.

Motion: That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the August 16, 2019 meeting agenda as amended.

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 June 14, 2019 meeting minutes.

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

4. Review June 14 Task Force Meeting Outcomes

Mr. Burden reviewed the last Task Force meeting’s progress towards developing an agriculture boundary through a series of progressions.

5. Outcomes for August 16 Task Force Meeting

Mr. Burden outlined the expectations for this meeting in terms of giving direction to the Working Group’s next steps on the planning framework and policy areas, implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan and incorporation of a communication strategy.
6. Planning Framework Approach

Mr. Knapp presented the updated application of the RAMP Planning Framework, on behalf of the Working Group. He thanked the Working Group members and the additional representatives from urban municipalities who helped shape the most recent Task Force materials.

Mr. Knapp explained that the current approach to developing and mapping policy areas will demonstrate various agricultural policies will apply to all lands within the Region and ultimately lead to significant progress with the RAMP. He described the four policy areas as General Agriculture, Other Areas, Agriculture Inside the Metropolitan Area, and Urban Agriculture. The Small Holdings category has been incorporated into General Agriculture as its principal intent is primary agriculture.

The Task Force commented on the potential interface of policy areas, clarified that the policy areas are required to refine the Agriculture Boundary, and discussed how the RAMP Vision and Guiding Principles were applied in order to develop the policy foundations for each Agriculture Policy Area. Task Force members encouraged the project team to consider economic development, alignment with Edmonton Global, and infrastructure considerations as the Policy Areas are further developed. In response to the Task Force’s questions regarding RAMP implementation, Mr. Knapp indicated that further discussion is required but the intention is to see RAMP policies enacted as a minimum benchmark with an awareness and sensitivity to unique municipal contexts.

Mr. Knapp also provided a summary of the policy directions for growth, as per the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan, as foundational to the work if the RAMP.

Mr. Knapp shared that this marks his 50th year working on agriculture policy development and describe the task of RAMP as having a high degree of difficulty but incredible potential as legacy work. Chair Shaigec thanked him for his years of dedication, expertise, and wisdom.


Mr. Bouma led the Task Force through a detailed description of each of the four Agriculture Policy Areas: 1) General Agriculture, 2) Other Areas, 3) Agriculture Inside the Metropolitan Area, and 4) Urban Agriculture. The Task Force offered feedback regarding policies to inform hamlet growth and developed areas of country residential, clustering of value-added processing and support services, and areas dedicated to research, development and education.

Mr. Bouma clarified that municipalities are not prohibited from applying greater specificity within these policy areas. Municipalities may use their discretion to designate a sub-category for small holdings, for example. The Task Force requested additional clarity on the possible role of the LESA tool and the potential to reassign the Agriculture Policy Areas in response to changes over time. Mr. Bouma explained that the Working Group will further develop the policy areas and it will become clear which areas will be conducive to the use of LESA as a tool to inform the priority for Agriculture and non-agricultural uses.
Mr. Bouma outlined the 50-year vision, intent and policy direction for General Agriculture, which includes primary agriculture, confined feeding operations, and diversified/value-added agriculture. Mr. Burden clarified that the LESA tool can only be correctly applied within the context of a defined policy intent and the Working Group is seeking the Task Force’s direction. The Task Force offered feedback on including municipal administrations when mapping the Policy Areas, considerations for infrastructure and Alberta Transportation’s plan for regional highways, suggestion of a cross-ministerial presentation to the Government of Alberta, annexation plans and engagement of non-EMRB municipalities, and climate change.

Break - 10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Mr. Bouma outlined the 50-year vision, intent and policy direction for Policy Area 2: Other Areas, which includes undeveloped country residential, resource extraction areas, environmental areas, industrial lands, employment areas, and recreation areas. Generally, Policy Area 2 will be located within the rural area. The Task Force recognized that lands currently used for resource extraction, once reclaimed, may not be best suited for agricultural use. Land use decisions should be left to the municipalities to examine strategic opportunities that consider its location and the potential to leverage existing infrastructure for non-agricultural uses. It was also suggested that underdeveloped country residential should be included in this policy area. Other comments related to evaluating vacancy rates of underdeveloped country residential areas, possible redesignation of existing country residential areas back to agriculture, and the potential use of transfer of development credits.

Mr. Bouma outlined the 50-year vision, intent and policy direction for Policy Area 3: Agriculture Inside the Metropolitan Area, characterized as lands zoned or designated agriculture or currently in use for agriculture. The Task Force discussed the complexity of this area due to increased development pressure and recognized the Growth Plan already provides policy direction for responsible growth. All policy areas will be developed further with the support of the Working Group. Areas where multiple municipalities have differing perspectives on Policy Area application will be brought forward for further discussion and resolution.

Mr. Bouma outlined the 50-year vision, intent and policy direction for Policy Area 4: Urban Agriculture, characterized as built-up urban areas including hamlets. Consideration will be given where Areas 1 and 4 interface, as urban agriculture can impact surrounding producers.

Ms. Shuya provided a timeline for the project team’s next steps incorporating this valuable feedback and direction from the Task Force. The project team will continue the refinement of each policy area’s parameters, conduct a mapping exercise with all member municipalities, and prepare a more detailed draft of the Policy Area Framework for the October Task Force meeting.

**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.

**Moved by:** Councillor Walters

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously
7. Draft RAMP Engagement Plan

Councillor Walters rejoined the meeting following lunch at 12:37 p.m.

Ms. Shuya provided the Task Force with an update on plans to implement the Draft RAMP Stakeholder Engagement Plan, incorporating the feedback gathered at the June 14, 2019 Task Force meeting. EMRB plans to present to municipal councils, organize regional stakeholder group sessions, and host a regional roundtable to foster open discussion. EMRB Administration will work with municipalities to plan and extend invitations to regional engagement events, with consideration given to producers’ ability to participate during peak agriculture periods.

The Task Force suggested that non-EMRB member municipalities could be invited to Council presentations, and that the Federal Government and various Chambers of Commerce should be identified as stakeholders. Ms. Shuya explained that Phase One will be primarily informational but subsequent phases will include more detail on how stakeholder feedback will be channeled to specific opportunities for influence and conducive to actionable input. Leduc County volunteered to host the first regional stakeholder session.

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

**Moved by:** Mayor Doblanco

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

8. Economic Development

Councillor Walters reminded the Task Force of the RAMP objectives related to economic development and proposed that it be a standing agenda item. The Task Force discussed the proposal to involve Edmonton Global at the Task Force, the Working Group, and/or observe the regional engagement sessions. The Task Force acknowledged the need to avoid duplication of efforts and promote efficiencies. CEO Wichuk shared the nature of ongoing communication with Edmonton Global regarding their alignment with RAMP and potential participants.

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force extend an invitation to Edmonton Global to participate in the Task Force.

**Moved by:** Councillor Walters

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously
9. RAMP Meeting Schedule

Ms. Shuya outlined the proposed meeting schedule. In response to some scheduling conflicts, the next meeting was moved to October 28 and a poll will be conducted to explore alternate dates for December.

10. Draft RAMP Communications Plan

CEO Wichuk introduced Mr. Rose and shared some of his experience with the Assistant Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Forestry as well as the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation (EEDC), and the Edmonton Heritage Planning Council.

Mr. Rose led the Task Force through the draft objectives and strategies for RAMP Communications. He emphasized the need to make the EMRB’s work tangible and understandable to a variety of audiences, respond to political sensitivities, and provide consistency and rigor across communication platforms. EMRB committed to preparing and circulating communications briefings to Task Force members following each meeting to capture the key discussion points and assist in sharing RAMP updates with councils. Another product will be a high-level infographic, stylized summary for public circulation. Mr. Rose indicated that Task Force members may be asked to participate in producing video vignettes and other materials to champion the RAMP. The Communications Plan will undergo further refinement and brought to the Task Force at a later date.

Members of Task Force suggested framing communications related to critical opportunity costs, in terms of climate change, agriculture, and economic development. They also noted that the communications tactics and engagement strategies are inextricably linked to ensure a meaningful consultation process.

11. Meeting Summary and Next Steps

Mr. Burden summarized the record of key decisions:
1. Solid direction to Working Group on their parameters
2. Evolution of the planning framework and endorsed by the Task Force
3. Discussion and approval of policy area conceptual framework
4. Approval of the structure and implementation of Engagement Plan
5. Invitation to participate in the Task Force extended to Edmonton Global
6. Clear and consistent key messages, tools provided to the Task Force
7. Recognition of the challenges that lay ahead

Chair Shaigec thanked the Task Force for a productive meeting and the project team for their diligent work. He invited comments from member of public in attendance. Comments included a reminder not to lose sight of how this work will impact the producers at the ground level.
12. Adjournment

Chair Shaigec declared the Task Force meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Task Force Chair, Rod Shaigec
Agriculture and The Economic Imperative

Background

- The development of a Regional Agriculture Master Plan is recognized as being important legacy work which will have long-term implications due to the importance placed on protecting and conserving Prime Agricultural Lands while making room for new agri-food opportunities.
- A question raised by the RAMP Working Group is: do we (as a Region) see a broader or more audacious economic future for Agriculture based on leveraging and building on our collective strengths and regional assets?
- While much of the focus tends to centre on the implications to productive agricultural land, the Project Team wants to understand how others may see the future, as a basis to assess if this work can be grounded in something more. Meaning can we clearly state a reason or the “WHY” the work of RAMP is critical to the economic future of the Region and well-being of future generations and, therefore, take the necessary steps to achieve this outcome.

Next Steps

- To facilitate this discussion, material will be presented to the Task Force for context (See agenda Item 6) along with a high-level overview of several examples of what other jurisdictions are doing to provide some “food for thought”.
- The Task Force members will be asked to participate in a Breakout Session #1- Regional Alignment Exercise to provide their perspective on where they believe different stakeholders sit with respect to the development of an inaugural RAMP and its future potential relative to a high-level decision matrix.
- Instructions for the Breakout Session #1 is included in the Task Force presentation slides (pages 21-24).
- Task Force Members are asked to review the attached examples and the details of the Breakout Session in preparation for the meeting.

Attachments:

1. What Others Are Doing
What Others Are Doing

Introduction to the Examples

This document presents 5 cases of cities or regions that have built business and tourism strategies on agriculture and food. The information presented is very high level – in no way should these cases be interpreted as comprehensive or conclusive. Nor have the specific details of strategies or plans been identified or affirmed. Rather, the cases provide a glimpse of the outcomes that are possible when resources are committed over the long term.

Every city or region is unique. Furthermore, the precise combination and timing of factors contributing to success differ. However, two elements are similar across all the cases – the recognition of competitive advantage specific to food and/or agriculture; and the commitments to build on this competitive advantage in the form of strategies, plans and special purpose infrastructure.

Netherlands - Overview

Netherlands has emerged to become a global agri-food powerhouse – it is the world’s second largest food and agriculture products exporter (behind the USA). Perhaps the most astonishing fact about the Netherlands is its small size. Here are some facts:

- Land Base – 30,000 square kms of land (plus 10,000 sq kms of water (a postage stamp relative to Western Canada).
- Population – 17 million.
- In 2016, Dutch agri-food exports totaled almost €94bn, compared to €90bn in 2015. Agricultural products accounted for €85bn and agricultural materials, knowledge and technology accounted for €9bn: a new record. “This means the agri-food sector now comprises 22% of total (goods) exports,” according to the Ministry of Economic Affairs.
- Agriculture contributes over 7.5% of the national GDP and employs 626,000 people. Note: 1 euro = $1.45 Cdn

How did this happen? There are several core reasons:

1. Agriculture as a serious business – seen as a profession with strong supporting education, research systems as well as logistics (Rotterdam harbour; Amsterdam airport).
2. History of trade, commerce and international banks beginning in the 1600’s and the rise of the Dutch East Indies Company. From there Netherlands has developed to become a key a supplier of goods to western Europe.

Since WW2, agriculture has been a priority industry for the Dutch government and the results illustrate this. The extra-ordinary results are no accident but the result of much focus and the application of strategic resources including infrastructure and research & development. Paradoxically the success and productivity of Dutch agriculture is creating new problems - the major current challenge is dealing with the negative results of high volumes of agriculture production and the impacts on the environment (notably nitrous oxide, nitrogen & phosphorous). This is rapidly rising as a foremost social and political concern.
Portland, Oregon – An Overview

Portland with a population of 650,000 (and a metro region that exceeds 1.5 million) has emerged as the top (or one of the top food cities in the USA according to Tom Sietsema food writer with the Washington Post as well as a third party entity called WalletHub) who also named Portland at the top. Note the following accolades:

- The affordable, high-quality food in put it at the top of WalletHub's list. Famous for its farm-to-table culture and the availability of the freshest ingredients, Portland is a dream-come-true for innovative chefs.

- One reason Sietsema found Portland so tasty is because it has some of the best ingredients with which to work. To quote: “It’s like the streams and the mountains and the forests are just this big pantry that they can get great fish and seafood from, some of the best mushrooms in the country … berries so fragile that they never leave the state.” He goes on to say: “On every point, expect for fine dining, they just hit it out of the ballpark. It also has a decidedly casual air: Portlanders prefer places where they feel comfortable in their hiking boots and fleece, according to Michael Russell, the restaurant critic for the Oregonian.

Portland is known for its first-class farmers markets, a strong coffee culture (over 20 coffee roasters) and more than 140 breweries/micro-breweries. It should be noted that the tourism industry is booming – a reported 29 million visitors came to Oregon last year. Significantly the food economy represents 10% of all jobs in Portland and has been growing at rate of 7.2% for the past 10 years.

The success of Portland can be attributed to several factors: a) its location within Oregon – a major agricultural region with a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, specialty crops; a strong commitment to featuring local foods; the relative proximity of Oregon State University – the land grant agricultural university located approximately 1 hour to the south; a robust production sector located within the 5 counties surrounding the City; multiple Farmer’s Markets; and strong food/chef culture that has built a reputation on fresh ingredients and novel offerings.

Austin, Texas – An Overview

With a population of 950,000 Austin, Texas has become a hotbed for food experiences. The third-fastest-growing city in America seemingly adds a new restaurant to its culinary scene every week. To quote one review “….and like the hipsters who increasingly populate the city, it’s nothing if not trendy.” Austin was an early pioneer in the food truck, farm-to-table and fusion-cuisine movements; of late, it’s embraced the natural wine trend.

In essence, Austin bears several similarities to Edmonton. In this regard it is:

- Located on the prairie in relative proximity to large farms, a large beef sector and a thriving oil industry.
- The home to the University of Texas – a major educational institution.
- Home to a rapidly developing high tech sector led by Dell Computers which started some 30 years ago.

The Mexican culture and hence Tex-Mex cuisine propelled the food movement. The rapid growth of Austin, a high proportion of young people, the entrepreneurial culture, the desire for new and creative experiences including ‘food’ has created this fast moving innovative and a ‘fusion’ culture. A recent study brought forward the following highlights:

- “Local food” is a powerful brand for Austin.
- Austin’s burgeoning food scene is garnering external attention, reinforcing the overall tourism value proposition.
• Strong demand creates substantial room for growth and economic development in the local food sector.
• Locally-produced food has larger multiplier effects than food "imported" from outside the region that is consumed in Austin.

Minneapolis, Minnesota – An Overview

Minneapolis, Minnesota which celebrated its 150th birthday in 2008, got its start as a small flour-milling town, for which it earned the nickname Mill City. Located just to the north and east of the great prairie, the town (area) developed and now has a population 3.5 million. It is the home campus of the University of Minnesota – a major land grant agricultural university with over 50,000 students and the base for several major agri-business firms including General Mills, Cargill, Land O Lakes, Hormel and Pillsbury Foods.

Food and Agriculture is a priority. The following initiatives were noted:

• **Homegrown Minneapolis** - in 2009, the City of Minneapolis adopted the Homegrown Minneapolis recommendations, followed by an Urban Agriculture Policy Plan in 2011 and establishment of the Food Council in 2012. In 2013, the City of Minneapolis adopted the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan

• **The Agricultural Utilization Research Institute**, or AURA, works to foster long-term economic benefit for Minnesota through value-added agricultural products. Its 2019 New Uses Forum is dedicated to the idea of accelerating innovation and investment. The forum brings together some of the most knowledgeable voices on topics related to new uses innovation, including development, investment and support.

• **Make it MSP** – an interactive service described as follows: “Here in Minneapolis-Saint Paul we’re leading the way to the future of food. No matter what problems you want to solve from farm to fork, you’ll find what you’re looking for in MSP. Discover opportunities to get connected & advance your career.”

• **The Minnesota Food Action Plan** – a planning process committed to establishing a climate resilient, just and sustainable local food system and local food economy. The goal of the Minneapolis Food Action Plan (MFAP) is to develop a 2030 roadmap for Minneapolis food systems action, building on previous efforts and plans, aligning with Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and incorporating data and community input.
Lisbon, Portugal – An Overview

Lisbon has rapidly become the ‘darling’ destination in Europe. Over the past 10 years the city has become a preferred destination and now attracts tourists from around the world. Recent statistics suggest that Lisbon averages 4.5 million tourists per year, meaning that for every resident there are typically 9 tourists. The population of Lisbon is 505,000. Here is what the tourist pundits are saying:

- …but what attracts more and more food tourists to Portugal nowadays is the quality of Portuguese chefs who managed to create a quality gourmet and innovative cuisine without losing the traditional flavour of the original products of each region.
- The country is also blessed with fresh seafood access, ideal grape climate for local wine production and an arid southern climate allowing for year-round produce seasonality.
- If you’re short on time in Lisbon, the most important stop you need to make is at the Ribeira (TimeOut) Market. This place is an aggregation of 24 restaurants, 12 shops, 8 bars, and a music venue in one of the city’s oldest market structures. From pan-Asian flavors to traditional Portuguese wood fire cooking, you’ll be bombarded with a delicious array of aromas and sounds as you wander through the market.

And from the 2009 Tourism Marketing Plan “Example of traditional Portuguese contents to be developed include the rich gastronomy (mainly seafood and prestige wines.” It would appear (and affirmed by a recent visit to Lisbon by this writer, that a decided focus on gastronomy and the creation on unique gastronomical experiences has been executed.
Agriculture Policy Area Table - Objectives and Revised Policy Directions

Background

- On August 16, 2019, the RAMP Task Force endorsed the draft Policy Area Framework identifying four (4) Policy Areas to inform the development of policies to address the Objectives for RAMP.
- Over the past 10 weeks the RAMP Working Group and Sub-Committee have further refined the Policy Areas with the addition of specific Objectives and more definitive Policy Directions.
- In the development of a more robust refined set of policy directions, the Working Group and Sub-Committee considered the following: Soil Quality; Conversion; Fragmentation; Contiguous Agriculture; Conflicts and Nuisances; Land Uses; Economic Opportunities; Infrastructure to Serve Agriculture; Environmental Stewardship; Development Footprint; Social Well-being and Community Development; and Technological Advances and Innovation.
- The results are included in the attached RAMP Policy Areas and Refined Policy Directions table and, after further review and consideration by the Task Force on October 28th, 2019, will inform the drafting of specific policy statements to be presented to the Task Force in December.

Next Steps

- An overview along with a discussion with respect to the details of the revised Policy Directions will be presented at the October 28th, 2019 Task Force Meeting.
- To support the discussion a draft map of the Policy Areas will be presented to provide visual context for the revised policy directions.
- Task Force members will then be invited to participate in a workshop where they can discuss the details of the policy directions with members of the Working Group, who will be posted at different stations. Feedback will be captured on sticky notes and discussed as a Task Force to inform the next steps.
- In preparation for this discussion and Break Out Session #2, Task Force Members are asked to review the revised policy directions in detail and come prepared to provide feedback.
- In addition to drafting policy statements the Working Group and Sub-Committee, as the Next Step, the project team will be focusing on Implementation Tools. Examples include LESA, Transfer Development Credits, Easements, and ALUS programs, etc.

Attachments:

1. Regional Agriculture Master Plan – Policy Areas and Refined Policy Direction Table
2. Draft RAMP Policy Area Map
RAMP Policy Areas and Refined Policy Direction

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:
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.

Context Statements to Guide Sub-Area Policy Development
1. RAMP will build on the EMR Growth Plan’s two central goals:
   a. Efficient use of land and infrastructure/contiguous development in a staged manner; and
   b. The protection of prime agricultural land.
2. RAMP acknowledges development will be accommodated and staged in accordance with the Growth Plan.
3. RAMP will strive to protect prime agricultural land. Within the context of compact, contiguous growth and efficient use of infrastructure, the first consideration for development should always be lower quality agricultural capability.
4. RAMP will be used to inform future Growth Plan reviews specific to land requirements to accommodate growth. This may impact the actual location or configuration of the Metropolitan Area Policy Line, further work to be done as part of that process.

Policy Elements
Considering the guiding principles, the following elements were considered in the development of refined policy directions:
1. Soil Quality, Productive Capability
2. Conversion
3. Fragmentation
4. Contiguous Agriculture
5. Conflicts or Nuisances
6. Land Uses
7. Economic Opportunities
8. Infrastructure to Serve Agriculture
9. Environmental Stewardship
10. Development Footprint
11. Social Well-being and Community Development
12. Technological Advancements and Innovation
### RAMP Policy Areas and Refined Policy Direction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Objective(s)</th>
<th>Refined Policy Direction (October 2019)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Rural Agriculture Area</strong></td>
<td>The presence of productive agricultural areas over the long term, encompassing a wide range of agricultural production and agriculture enterprises of varying size and scale. A vibrant agricultural system including input suppliers, services, and community facilities that support the agricultural and rural community.</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> Agriculture is recognized and valued as a major contributor to the economic, environmental and community (social) well-being of the EMR. <strong>•</strong> The primacy of agriculture is evident, assured and a foremost consideration for municipal and regional decision making. <strong>•</strong> The presence of a stable and accessible land base which allows for a wide range of agricultural enterprises, to include large tracts of agricultural land as well as smaller parcels used for agricultural purposes. The productive capacity of agricultural land is valued, and the highest quality lands are protected. <strong>•</strong> A strong commitment to and evidence of environmental stewardship practices – relationship between the use and soils is ensured; well cared for farm and soil are evident; ground water, surface water, aquifers and natural capital are protected.</td>
<td><strong>•</strong> General and targeted education and awareness programs underscore the importance of agriculture tailored to the appropriate audience and topics. <strong>•</strong> The availability of high-quality agricultural lands is assured to achieve long-term economic, environmental and social benefits <strong>•</strong> As a sector, agriculture is resilient, sustainable and benefits from technical advancements, information technology and innovation as drivers for continued investment. <strong>•</strong> Appropriate infrastructure is in place and adaptable to changing market conditions and opportunities to support the growth of the sector and the effects of climate change. <strong>•</strong> Robust policies to enable the protection and restoration of essential inputs – land, air, and water in the Region. <strong>•</strong> Symbiotic relationship exists between urban and rural for the sector’s existence. <strong>•</strong> Ongoing monitoring and reporting on the changes in the availability of agricultural lands across all policy areas to support ongoing planning. <strong>•</strong> Subdivision on prime agricultural lands are minimized (or are limited - in some cases, prohibited) and subject to specific uses/intentions for agriculture; when subdivisions are allowed, the impact to agriculture is minimized. <strong>•</strong> Non-agricultural uses are directed to other areas such as major and local employment areas, hamlets, growth hamlets, regional, sub-regional and rural centres (as per the Growth Plan). <strong>•</strong> Flag high quality lands according to consistent criteria including land capability, productivity, contiguous, special agriculture needs, etc. <strong>•</strong> A strong commitment to and evidence of environmental stewardship practices – relationship between the use and soils is ensured; well cared for farm and soil are evident; ground water, surface water, aquifers and natural capital are protected. <strong>•</strong> Long-term land stewardship is promoted and encouraged. <strong>•</strong> Best practices specific to soil management and crop rotation; well managed wetlands, strong riparian health, healthy ecosystems, are common practice. As well, there will be a strong commitment to maintaining natural capital. <strong>•</strong> Policies and incentives exist to recognize and support agriculture as a possible source of renewable energy, bio-mass energy and/or carbon sequestration. <strong>•</strong> On-going monitoring and reporting on the economic and social well being of rural municipalities in the EMR. <strong>•</strong> Non-agricultural uses such as community/social facilities that contribute to the agricultural community and provide a sense of place and belonging to rural residents are supported.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Specific Rural Agriculture Area** sub-category policies include: | **a)** Extensive Agriculture and Large-scale Field Cropping  
**b)** Confinned Feeding Operations (CFOs)  
**c)** Diversified and/or Value-added Agriculture | **•** Policies and incentives exist to recognize and support agriculture as a possible source of renewable energy, bio-mass energy and/or carbon sequestration. **•** On-going monitoring and reporting on the economic and social well being of rural municipalities in the EMR. | **•** Non-agricultural uses such as community/social facilities that contribute to the agricultural community and provide a sense of place and belonging to rural residents are supported. |

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The presence of a strong and vibrant agricultural system including the efficient use of infrastructure and land for these purposes; comprehensive support services.  

- Growth is directed to hamlets, major and local employment areas, regional, sub-regional and rural centres, where there is available and existing urban infrastructure within rural areas (Growth Plan policy)  
- Advocate on behalf of rural residents in response to increasing rural crime and the need for more policing.

- Growth across the agricultural sector is enabled through ubiquitous access to Broadband and other technologies to enable leadership in agriculture in the EMR  
- Regional roads, bridges, rail and other transportation infrastructure supports agricultural system  
  - In some areas, dedicated transportation corridors to accommodate large equipment may be required  
  - Cluster agricultural support operations such as grain elevators, seed cleaning facilities, and other agricultural-commercial uses, on poor quality lands or already fragmented parcels – where infrastructure exists (i.e., rail and roads), where possible  
  - A clustering of agricultural hubs in hamlets, major employment areas, local employment areas, rural, regional and sub-regional centres (as per the Growth Plan)  
- Future consideration for implications of climate changes and access to water and other resources (irrigation)  
- Provide access to rural utilities, i.e., natural gas water, electrical etc.

### a) Extensive Agriculture and Large-scale Cropping

The presence of robust cropping and grazing sectors producing a wide range of field crops including cereals, oilseeds, pulses, specialty crops, and livestock.

- The Ability to Operate both efficiently and without nuisances

  - Subdivision and development proposals are managed to ensure that potential land use conflicts are avoided or at least minimized. Where these do occur, cluster subdivisions to minimize conflicts and the prospect for odd-shaped remnant parcels that remain in agriculture  
  - Ensure that roadways and bridges in cropping areas are supported with transportation infrastructure  
    - In some areas, dedicated transportation corridors to accommodate large equipment may be required  
    - Adequate shoulder size to allow vehicle to pass will be required in key areas  
  - Ensure access to fields and gateways able accommodate large scale equipment  
  - Right to Farm regulations that allow crop producers to seed, spray and harvest around the clock in peak seasons  
  - Robust cow/calf and alternate livestock sector

### b) Confined Feeding Operations (CFOs)

The presence of productive Confined Feeding Operations over the long term with a focus on ensuring the ability to grow through technology and innovation and contribute to an integrated Agricultural System.

- Vibrant livestock sector especially dairy and poultry operations; in the future, there will be fewer operations, but these will be larger in terms of livestock numbers and accordingly in terms of the supported land base.

  - The ability for CFOs to expand/capacity to grow. Thus, Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) is a foremost requirement.

  - Subdivision and development proposals are managed to ensure that potential land use conflicts are avoided or at least minimized  
  - Subdivisions that encroach on MDS requirements are prohibited, minimize new residential parcels in this area  
  - Partnerships with Research and Development (R&D) to identify new business opportunities  

- Best practices are integral to the management of livestock operations – they are publicly accepted and continue to achieve social license within the EMR.

  - Adherence to NRCB manure management practices  
  - Commitment to responsible environmental stewardship practices  
  - Consider CFO and future growth as part of a larger Agricultural System to encourage innovative thinking on opportunities to contribute to growth of new/emerging opportunities (outputs = inputs in another application), a.k.a. Smart Farming, Renewable Energy, Circular Economy  
  - Encourage collaboration across academic, agriculture, and next generation energy sector
| c) Diversified and/or Value-added Agriculture | The presence of productive agricultural areas over the long term with a focus on facilitating and supporting innovation, new entrants, emerging agri-food opportunities; valued-added agriculture; small plot agriculture; equine centers; agri-tourism; etc. | • A new and emerging agri-food sector - in response to a growing interest in food production and the consumption of local foods, high value crops; on-farm businesses as well as entrepreneurial opportunities. A range of enterprises exists and will emerge including orchards, vineyards, market gardens, u-pick; corn maze; agri-tourism; equine enterprises; vertical farms; smaller specialty livestock (grazing, confined, halal, backyard bees, crickets, etc.); and value-added food processing and manufacturing | • Support and plan for the needs of this emerging agriculture sector and implications to existing agriculture. (i.e., hemp, cannabis, vertical farming, hydroponic farming, etc.) • Provide supporting infrastructure – transportation/market access, Broadband, water, power, etc.) and support agriculture in general (or overall). Optimize the use of existing infrastructure and build new infrastructure where needed in an efficient and/or contiguous manner • Cluster diversified and value-added agriculture to create efficiencies, synergies, and minimize potential impact on other components of the agricultural system • Diversified and value-added agriculture proposals are directed first to existing small parcels, lands already fragmented, and/or where they may be clustered with similar uses • Review/align economic development and tourism strategies to ensure complementarity, where possible • Promote good environmental stewardship practices • Recognize the potential impact on water supply for new and emerging agriculture • Ensure new diversified or value-added agriculture does not negatively impact the viability of the primary or existing agricultural production • Ensure that the scale (or size) of new diversified or value-added projects are aligned with infrastructure capacity and do not negatively impact surrounding agricultural operations or the community | • A new and emerging rural – urban interface - the opportunity for regional residents to experience agriculture firsthand; the ability to offer integrated experiences and connect to food and a range of agricultural-based experiences naturally. Will occur on a range of parcel sizes, depending on the enterprise and associated land requirements • Allow for diversity/flexibility in parcel size to accommodate new entrants and various forms of agriculture to be supported where it can be demonstrated that the diversified/value-added agriculture does not negatively impact large-scale agricultural operations and CFOs • Analyse the existing supply of small holdings that are current available for agriculture relative to the demand for such parcels • Monitoring and reporting on the uptake of small holding – assess supply vs demand; assess types of land parcels required relative to what is available | • The emergence of new business models – condo-ownership of land with the cooperative use of infrastructure, equipment, expertise, and services. This includes new forms of agri-tourism. The application of labour and capital may be intense. • Require access to or the availability of specific organizational, economic development, and technical expertise • Ensure ownership changes/succession result in the continuation of agricultural operations |
## Policy Area 2: Agriculture is Complementary to Other Land Uses

The identification and recognition of complementary land uses in the Rural Agriculture Area which exist and where agriculture is considered a secondary land use and is referred to as **Policy Area 2**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Complementary Agriculture sub-category policies include:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Country Residential Areas</td>
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<td>c) Designated Natural Areas</td>
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<td>e) Recreation and Surrounding Water Bodies</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Objective(s)</th>
<th>Refined Policy Direction (October 2019)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The presence of productive agricultural areas is a complementary use over the long term on lands that have other identified uses and/or constraints and recognizes opportunities for agriculture to exist in the interim until the land is required for its designated use.</td>
<td>• Lands designated for a non-agricultural use within the Rural Area and where agriculture continues to be present for the foreseeable future.</td>
<td>• Long-term plans specify the purpose(s) for which these lands are to be used</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• RAMP seeks simply to maximize or optimize the use of available lands for agriculture for as long as possible</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>o In no way does RAMP seek to limit the use of these lands for their future use</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Recognize other jurisdictions and stakeholder interests involved. RAMP to work in conjunction with other stakeholders to optimize the use of the land in terms of long-term intentions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Clear phased, contiguous development; and the sharing of stakeholder plans with municipalities to provide greater certainty for agricultural operations allowing for the optimal use of the existing agricultural land base</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• In the context of contiguous and phased development and where possible, direct development to lower quality soils as the need for additional land increases</td>
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<td>• Encourage the efficient use of available or planned infrastructure necessary to support the intended use</td>
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<td>• Create certainty for the continuation of agriculture production on those areas that will not be converted (such as buffer areas)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• As priority uses expand and require more land, plan in such a manner that the best agricultural areas would be the last to be converted, where possible</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• The presence of productive agriculture enhances the social and environmental features of the EMR as a sustainable and vibrant food producing region</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Minimize conflicts with surrounding/adjacent land uses – ensure that proposed complementary uses in Policy Area 2 will not impede the right or the ability to farm on lands located in adjacent Area 1</td>
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</table>
### a) Country Residential Areas (CR) – under and undeveloped

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provisions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Re-align CR supply with actual/demonstrated demand – currently the supply exceeds demand.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocate that lands zoned and/or designated CR, but currently not developed, should be re-zoned and/or re-designated back to agriculture (Growth Plan policy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage infill in existing CR before adding more (Growth Plan policy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure staging of CR development in a contiguous manner (Growth Plan policy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The visible presence of agriculture - Lands suitable for agriculture within undeveloped CR areas continue in agricultural production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeveloped CR should be left in agriculture for as long as possible and encourage good land management practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where CR is contiguous to an existing urban area, it could be incorporated into an urban area to be developed at a higher density, as per Growth Plan policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduction of idle or vacant lots as a nuisance and risk to surrounding producers – hence avoid costly weed control enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compatible agriculture uses and country residential - the presence of a range of agriculture activities compatible with nearby or adjacent residences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural uses compatible with country residential living are encouraged within, and in proximity to, existing country residential developments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow for compatible agricultural uses on CR or consolidated CR lots (modest agriculture), subject to meeting minimum nuisance requirements, good environmental stewardship, and soil management practices</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### b) Resource Extraction Areas

**Note:** in the future, consideration may be given to moving a resource extraction area that has been reclaimed to a fully functioning agriculture area, from Policy Area 2 to Policy Area 1.

| Opportunities to explore, test and develop new agri-food and agriculture opportunities - research and development areas developed on these lands; labs for test plots; Note: in some cases, these lands may be ideal for large-scale testing of alternative agricultural uses such as feedstock production for energy generation (wind, solar, etc.), carbon sequestration areas. |
| – Address the growing interest for value-added, modular farms perhaps, opportunities for “co-generation” |
| – Potential location for innovation, labs, testing, research and development |
| – Opportunity for food and non-food agriculture. |
| Recognize other jurisdictions and stakeholder interests involved. Use RAMP to provide leadership to facilitate ongoing collaboration between stakeholders in the identification of new opportunities and challenges regarding technology, innovation, climate change, etc. Stakeholders include: Academia, Producers, Consumers, Municipalities and other sectors |
| Strive for the highest and best use of reclaimed land to benefit the agricultural system as a priority with appropriate consideration to the environment as well as land and water supply. |

| EMR are leaders in reclamation and land restoration - area is internationally renowned for reclamation/restoration, including wetlands: |
| – Reclaimed lands are a mix of agriculture, recreation and environmental areas – if possible, the largest proportion of reclaimed lands is returned to agriculture |
| – In some areas, restoration and reclamation will serve to restore and/or strengthen the neighbouring agricultural community. |
| Where feasible, reclaimed lands should be converted to agriculture |
| Reclamation of land back to original state/productivity/soil class or better is encouraged |
| Encourage proper stewardship specific to land/soil management and ground water recharge |
| When land is reclaimed, the first consideration should be what will provide the greatest benefit to the Region and surrounding agricultural system. Alternatively, consider: |
| – Encouraging the exploration of using existing energy lands for alternative energy generation |
| – Non-soil based agricultural uses such as equine centres, greenhouses, dairy barns, tree farms, fish farms, etc., where ideally suited, don’t require high quality soils, and have relatively easy access from urban centres |
| – Encouraging recreational uses on reclaimed extraction areas, near bodies of water, with policies to ensure buffers and minimize conflict with surrounding areas |
| – Co-use of resource extraction areas for agriculture should be considered versus post-use. |

### c) Designated Natural Areas

**- Natural Areas set aside for conservation, recreation and/or environmental education purposes. Lands designated...**

| The presence of and preservation of designated natural areas as the primary land use and where complementary low impact agricultural activities may occur in areas adjacent to or within a designated natural area. |
| Complementing natural landscapes and agriculture - the preeminent concern is the conservation of these designated areas but where agriculture is a permitted use. Environmental concerns are the top priority. Within this context, agriculture will operate as follows: |
| - A commitment to protect and support healthy ecosystems |
| - Adopt practices that recharge ground water systems |
| - Ensure that grazing regimes support community water supplies; |
| – Clear policies to protect environmentally sensitive areas, riparian areas, wildlife corridors from adverse impacts of agriculture (Growth Plan policy) |
| – Look to Strathcona and Leduc County’s Beaver Hills Biosphere environmental protection as a possible template – as this is a significant portion of the Environmental Areas |
| – Ensuring compliance with other plans (Beaver Hills Initiative and related plans) |
| – Strong support of stewardship practices, agricultural system perceived as complementing to environmental considerations (Growth Plan policy) |
### (Rural) Employment Areas

**Local, planned and major employment areas located in the Growth Plan’s Rural Area. Examples include Alberta’s Industrial Heartland.**

**The presence of agri-food: agri-industry employment centres – including concentrations of value-added agriculture and support services.**

- Direct agricultural related development that requires significant infrastructure/services to existing industrial, commercial, agriculture hub areas
- Cluster agricultural support operations such as grain elevators, seed cleaning facilities, and other agricultural-commercial uses, greenhouses, on poor quality lands or already fragmented parcels – where infrastructure exists (i.e., rail and roads)
- Encourage staging of industrial/employment development in contiguous manner (Growth Plan)
- Promote awareness of agricultural production/operations to minimize conflicts
- Enabling infrastructure is in place to support agriculture production and manufacturing – technology, IT, roads, and plan for market access

**The visible presence of agriculture - some agricultural production will occur and is not the prevailing use.**

- Recognition that agriculture is not the primary long-term intention, and that agriculture will/can take place lands designated as employment areas for some time (Growth Plan policy)
- Minimize and discourage premature conversion - continued, productive agriculture use on land is preferred to vacant land
- Engage with industry to plan and encourage good land management practices for lands that are not currently developed, address weeds, manage soil, etc.
- Recognize buffers, to minimize conflicts, and provide greater certainty for investment (livestock facilities, soil management) in lands beyond the buffer (strengthen Growth Plan policy)
- Potential for additional policy encouraging agriculture and agricultural supporters locating in identified buffer zone

**Contribute to the economic well being of the EMR – agriculture is important to diversification of the economy, provincial GDP growth, sustainability of rural communities, and an important local food source.**

- Direct appropriate agricultural production, manufacturing and value-added employment opportunities to existing employment areas and recognize there will be exceptions that require alternative location (Growth Plan policy)
- Enabling infrastructure is in place to support agriculture production and manufacturing – technology, IT, roads, and plan for market access

### Recreation Areas Surrounding Waterbodies

**Recreation Areas and Water Bodies are complementary uses to agriculture – seamless integration of tourism and recreation, golf courses, campgrounds, vacation homes, water bodies exist among agricultural areas requiring:**

- Healthy protection and supportive ecosystem, riparian health;
- Appropriate buffer distances from agricultural operations; and
- Minimize the sources of conflict, for the ability for agriculture to coexist.

- Promote education and awareness of the agricultural system and specific operations
- Ensure that surrounding agriculture operations can coexist as an integral part of the agricultural system – right to farm
- Ability to pursue agriculture without undue impairment or inconvenience – minimizing conflicts in this context
- Encourage complementary agricultural uses within the context of these areas, (e.g., demand for a farmers’ market, berry u-picks) may encourage new agricultural efforts nearby
- Plan for and mitigate impact on infrastructure vital to the agricultural system to account for the impact of complementary uses (i.e., additional traffic on roads)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Objective(s)</th>
<th>Refined Policy Direction (October 2019)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Transition Lands within the Metropolitan Area</strong>&lt;br&gt;Agricultural lands located generally within the Metropolitan Area Policy Tier of the Growth Plan and, over the long-term, considered for future development. These lands are referred to as Transition Lands and Policy Area 3.</td>
<td>The agricultural land base near an urban setting continues to be productive and managed under principles of good land and environmental stewardship.</td>
<td>• Agriculture coexists in proximity to urban development and will transition according to future growth requirements within the Metropolitan Area of EMR.&lt;br&gt;  o Certainty of tenure for both agriculture and land development according to the EMRGP’s emphasis on compact, contiguous growth, and the logical extension of infrastructure (no leapfrogging)&lt;br&gt;  o Avoid vacant/derelict lands, soil stripping, and abandoned buildings&lt;br&gt;  o Land stewardship practices</td>
<td>• Ensure compliance with other related plans and jurisdictions (annexations, phasing for future development, utility corridors, pipelines, etc.)&lt;br&gt;  o Explore a role of advocating to the MGB regarding the annexation process to consider agriculture impact assessments in their decisions&lt;br&gt;  • Ensure compatible land uses to minimize conflicts&lt;br&gt;  • Land and environmental stewardship are promoted and encouraged by:&lt;br&gt;  o Supporting existing acts related to agriculture: ASB Act, Weed Control Act, Soil Conservation Act, Agricultural Pest Act (apply to all policy areas – Note: ASB and Soil Conservation Act only apply to rural municipalities)&lt;br&gt;  o Encouraging best practices specific to management of soils, land, waterways, groundwater recharge, preservation of wetlands, manure and livestock husbandry practices&lt;br&gt;  o Upholding the Water Act and Public Lands Act&lt;br&gt;  • Need for more stringent management of soils within urban municipal boundaries, as they do not have the same legislation oversight as what is in place for rural municipalities.&lt;br&gt;  • Require the development of a soil management plans to address stripping due to related to urban development&lt;br&gt;  • Ensure effective practices and management and alignment of all applicable Provincial Acts, related to pests, weeds, etc.; encourage enforcement of weed/pest control, appropriate land management, and biosecurity&lt;br&gt;  • Minimize soil cross-contamination and pest/weed outbreaks as negative impacts and consequences to the agricultural industry&lt;br&gt;  • Consider riparian setback matrix, or similar customized tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development takes place in a staged and contiguous manner:&lt;br&gt;  o Minimize subdivision to maintain large tracts of land for ease of future urban development, and benefits agriculture in the interim;&lt;br&gt;  o Urban growth is taking place in a compact and contiguous manner, as per the EMRGP; and&lt;br&gt;  o Where possible, growth is directed to lower capability lands, maintaining high capability land for agriculture as long as possible – with the potential to identify areas that should remain in agricultural production within and potentially beyond the 2044 planning horizon.</td>
<td>• Require the staging/phasing of development to clearly delineate lands needed to accommodate growth and what lands can remain for agricultural uses (Growth Plan policy)&lt;br&gt;  • Prohibit premature fragmentation and conversion, to best support future development and growth&lt;br&gt;  • Identify high quality lands according to consistent criteria including land capability, productivity, contiguous, special agriculture needs, etc.&lt;br&gt;  • Identify areas which may remain in agricultural production within and potentially beyond the 2044 planning horizon, which could eventually inform future EMRGP updates&lt;br&gt;  • Require that the next review of the EMRGP include a regional exercise to project demand for development lands – may include a detailed regional growth study and inform the location of a future Metropolitan Area Policy Line&lt;br&gt;  • Require an Agricultural Impact Assessment to minimize fragmentation of lands and to support productive agriculture to occur for as long as possible and to consider the productive value of land to play a more prominent role in the evaluation and decision-making process (to explore LESA in greater detail)&lt;br&gt;  • Plan for ground water recharge&lt;br&gt;  • Require the development of a soil management plans to address stripping due to related to urban development</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### 4. Urban Agriculture

Urban Agriculture, urban farming, or urban gardening is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around urban areas. Urban agriculture can also involve animal husbandry, aquaculture, agroforestry, urban beekeeping, and horticulture. These activities occur in peri-urban areas as well, and peri-urban agriculture may differ in characteristics. Includes a broad spectrum of agriculture. These lands are referred to as Urban Agriculture and Policy Area 4.

#### A Range of Approaches and Activities:
- Assured access to land to implement medium and long-term production models
- Small plot agriculture
- Includes but encompasses more than just rooftop gardens
- Awareness that agriculture requires more than soil
- Food production based on “co-generation”, greenhouses in grocery stores
- Urban gardens and edible landscaping
- Potential co-use of utility corridors
- Improved food security and access to healthy food

#### Major Economic Development and Research Outcomes:
- Affirmation that the EMR is an agri-food powerhouse – by design, not by default – economic imperative and branding for the Region
- Partnerships with educational institutions and provincial organizations
- Forefront of research and economic development opportunities, sophisticated use of technology and automation

#### Building Community Through Food and Agriculture:
- Developing community through agriculture
- “Farm to fork” connections
- Deeper societal engagement in the whole continuum of agriculture
- Develop appreciation of agriculture
- Socialization about where people get their food, built into the culture
- Requires education and awareness of how the agricultural imperative drives the Region
- Recognition of our heritage as a Region, the diversity of people in the Region and cultural aspects of agriculture, cultivation, and production including the Indigenous Community
- Recognize that the for profit urban agriculture positively contributes to community vibrancy
- A vibrant food and urban agriculture scene contributes to a sense of place

#### Refined Policy Direction (October 2019)
- Recognize the value in social and community development paired with economic development of agriculture
- Implement education programs and provide incentives to advance participation in food and agriculture
- Support and leverage the collective expertise of the economic development community, chambers of commerce, food and agriculture councils/associations, school program, open farm days, farm fairs, etc.
- Ongoing Education, Awareness and Appreciation for Agriculture and Food Sources
- Municipalities are encouraged to include agriculture as a permissible land use
- Require local food procurement policies
- Require that all neighborhoods and parks set aside a predetermined space for community gardens should the community decide to build one at any point in the future
- Provide educational resources and opportunities for participants of urban agriculture
- Require the development of soil management plans to address stripping due to urban agriculture
- Align all applicable Provincial Acts, related to pests, weeds, etc.; encourage enforcement of weed/pest control, appropriate land management, and bio-security
- Minimize soil cross-contamination and pest/weed outbreaks as negative impacts and consequences to the agricultural industry
- Ensure water conservation/reclamation/ recharge
- Integration of agriculture as part of urban planning
- Integrate Low Impact Development (LID) techniques near agriculture to reduce agricultural runoff and decrease reliance on supplemental irrigation
- Create and inventory of Municipal owned lands suitable for urban agriculture
- Allow the for-profit and non-profit cultivation of Municipal Owned land, where appropriate
- Create programs to encourage gardening in non-traditional areas (i.e. boulevards, ditches, etc.).
- Require a percentage of all Municipal landscaping to have an edible component (saskatoons, currents, etc.)
| Reliable source of labour, wide range of expertise, and skill sets will be required  |
| Urban Agriculture contributes to increased resiliency to climate change and increase food security |
| Encourage municipal densities to exceed the EMRGP minimums |
| Compact, responsible growth |
| Awareness of food waste and recovery |
| Reduction in food related greenhouse gas (GHG) production through local food production |
| Ongoing review and consideration of the cumulative impact of new and emerging agri-food sector on existing agriculture, food production operations, agricultural systems, and resources |
| Partnership with municipal waste services to increase composting, lower costs, and divert organics from the landfill |
| Create community compost sites |
## RAMP Engagement – Schedule of Council Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Meeting Type</th>
<th>Presentation Date &amp; Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Beaumont</td>
<td>Committee of the Whole</td>
<td>November 19, 2019 (after 5:00 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Devon</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>November 25, 2019 7:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Edmonton</td>
<td>Inter-Municipal and Regional Development Committee</td>
<td>November 22, 2019 (before Noon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Fort Saskatchewan</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>TBC January 14, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Leduc</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>November 4, 2019 8:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leduc County</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>November 5, 2019 1:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Morinville</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>December 17, 2019 4:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkland County</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>November 5, 2019 9:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Spruce Grove</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>November 18, 2019 6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of St. Albert</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>November 12, 2019 (after 1:00 p.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town of Stony Plain</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>November 12, 2019 ~6:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strathcona County</td>
<td>Priorities Committee</td>
<td>TBD ~January 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sturgeon County</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>November 12, 2019 9:20 a.m.</td>
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</tbody>
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