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## Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force

Thursday, February 27, 2020  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Clymont Community Hall in Parkland County  
#1, 51423 Highway 60, Spruce Grove, AB

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### 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*  
Karen Sundquist, *Government of Alberta*  
Malcolm Bruce, *Edmonton Global*

### Technical Members:

Hani Quan, *City of Edmonton*  
Laurie Johnson, *Leduc County*  
John Knapp, *Parkland County*  
Joel Gould, *Strathcona County*  
Angela Veenstra, *Sturgeon County*

### EMRB Staff:

Karen Wichuk, *CEO*  
Sharon Shuya, *Director, Regional Growth Planning*  
Bryan Haggarty, *Director of Strategic Initiatives and Operations*  
Taylor Varro, *Project Manager*  
Ron Cook, *Manager of GIS and Business Intelligence*  
Dan Rose, *Senior Communications Advisor*  
Carol Moreno, *Project Coordinator*  
Joseana Lara, *Municipal Planning Intern*

### Consultants

Jerry Bouma, *Toma & Bouma*  
Andy Haden, *Haden & Associates (via teleconference)*  
Lee Funke, *Torque Communications*  
Cathy Kiss, *Crown Strategic Consulting*

### Guests:

Grant Bain, *Leduc County*  
Ann Bentley Mason, *Interested Public*  
Teaka Broughm, *City of Beaumont*  
Jordan Brown, *City of Leduc*  
Neal Comeau, *Sturgeon County*  
Gibby Davis, *City of Edmonton*  
Louise Erskine, *City of Edmonton*  
Lyndsay Francis, *City of St. Albert*  
Greg Hofmann, *City of Edmonton*  
Darrel Hollands, *Parkland County*  
Michelle Kane, *City of Leduc*  
Larissa Lindmark, *Parkland County*  
Avril McCalla, *City of Edmonton*  
Tara McGinn, *Sturgeon County*  
John McNab, *Parkland County*  
Tyler McNab, *Town of Morinville*  
Jacob Middelkamp, *Sturgeon County*  
Al Montpellier, *Sturgeon County*  
Aaron Paquette, *City of Edmonton*  
Robert Parks, *Strathcona County*  
Tanis Sawatsky, *Sturgeon County*  
Barb Shackel-Hardman, *Parkland County*  
Shree Shinde, *City of Fort Saskatchewan*  
Robert Stephenson, *Strathcona County*  
John Stewart, *City of Beaumont*  
Jason Unger, *Environmental Law Centre*  
Diana Wahlstrom, *Strathcona County*  
Janna Widmer, *Strathcona County*



## 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 10:00 a.m.

### 1.3 Chair Opening Remarks

Chair Shaigec welcomed the members of the Task Force and guests. Opening remarks included recognition of the amount of work done by the Working Group since the Task Force last met, acknowledgement of the Board's support of the Economic Imperative for Agriculture as presented in December, tackling the roles and responsibilities around value-added and diversification and the importance of supporting the direction charted for the RAMP. Chair Shaigec indicated that the purpose of the proposed in-camera session is to have a discussion around draft policies for Policy Area 1.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

RAMP20-01

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the February 27, 2020 meeting agenda.

**Moved by:** Councillor Barnhart

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

## 3. Approval of Minutes

RAMP20-02

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the October 28, 2019 meeting minutes.

**Moved by:** Mayor Hnatiw

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

## 4. Task Force Outcomes from October 28, 2019 – where we are and where we are headed

Mr. Bouma reviewed the alignment exercise conducted at the last Task Force meeting highlighting the perceived value and level of support for RAMP in the Region. He explained how the current agenda will address the drivers and opportunities behind the RAMP.

Mr. Knapp summarized the progress achieved through the last two meetings of the Working Group and six meetings of the Sub-Committee. He emphasized the importance of the



Situation Analysis in 2018 and the development of the four Policy Areas and map in 2019. For 2020, the key deliverable will be the Engagement Plan to consult with key stakeholders in the refinement of RAMP's direction. There were no questions or comments from the Task Force.

## 5. Economic Imperative for Agriculture

Mr. Bouma led the Task Force through the Economic Imperative for Agriculture presentation, as delivered to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board on December 12, 2019. He provided an overview of the context and growing demand for agri-food products as well as the unique advantages of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region in terms of land supply and quality soils.

Mr. Bouma described the potential for economic growth if RAMP were to emphasize an integrated strategy supporting value-added and diversification in the agri-food sector in addition to securing an adequate land supply.

The Task Force comments and questions related to Austin's strategy towards attaining its thriving agri-food sector, the implications of climate and irrigation, and the level of coordination between various orders of government and industry.

RAMP20-03

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force reaffirm the direction of the Economic Imperative for Agriculture.

**Moved by:** Councillor Walters

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

## 6. Roles and Responsibilities of RAMP Stakeholders

Ms. Shuya introduced an initial draft of roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders and indicated that while it is not exhaustive, it is meant to stimulate conversation among the Task Force and Project Team. She indicated that Ms. Sundquist, a member of the Working Group, assisted in supplementing the Government of Alberta's opportunities for involvement and Mr. Bruce, CEO of Edmonton Global, also contributed to defining the role of his organization related to RAMP.

Given the emphasis of value-added and diversification, Ms. Shuya requested Task Force feedback on EMRB/RAMP's role in advancing the Economic Imperative for Agriculture and/or promoting value-added agriculture and diversification. Comments from the Task Force included prioritizing a focus on land use and servicing, the interrelated nature of land use planning and the economic drivers that give those plans legitimacy and support, opportunities for the Government of Canada to support RAMP's vision through job creation, skilled labour, inspection guidelines, immigration policies and export climate, measuring outcomes and demonstrating the work of EMRB supports priorities of Edmonton Global and other orders of government, and support for a collaborative approach.



RAMP20-04

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the Roles and Responsibilities of RAMP Stakeholders to inform further work on RAMP.

**Moved by:** Councillor Barnhart

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

## 7. RAMP Engagement Plan Update

CEO Wichuk provided brief introductions to Mr. Funke and Ms. Kiss as the lead consultants on RAMP engagement. Mr. Funke described the research, critical success factors, principles, and rationale behind the goals and tactics of the proposed RAMP engagement process. He emphasized the sensitivities around addressing agriculture but also the valuable opportunities for meaningful engagement.

Mr. Funke outlined a phased engagement strategy: Phase 1 Setting the Stage, Phase 2 Meeting with Stakeholders, Phase 3 Confirming Input, Phase 4 Addressing Knowledge Gaps, and Phase 5 Implementing the Feedback. He provided an overview of the engagement timeline as well as examples of the stakeholder groupings. The formation of an Advisory Group to supplement expert advice provided to the Project Team and Task Force. Mr. Funke invited members of the Task Force and Working Group to help inform and validate the list of key stakeholders as the project progresses.

In response, the Task Force highlighted the need to ensure appropriate timing for key stakeholder groups, especially producers. Other comments included a request to clarify the expectation for each phase on the engagement spectrum, concerns and perceived risks around appointing an Advisory Group, and appreciation for the engagement strategy presentation.

*Break for Lunch 12:32 p.m. to 1:12 p.m.*

*Councillor Smith returned to the meeting at 1:17 p.m.*

RAMP20-05

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the direction of the RAMP Engagement Plan to inform further work on RAMP.

**Moved by:** Councillor Barnhart

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

## 8. RAMP Policy Update – Introduction, Context, Overarching Policies, Policy Matrix Overview, and Policy Area Maps

Ms. Shuya provided a brief introduction to Mr. Haden, the most recent addition to the Project Team, as the consultant leading policy development. Mr. Haden participated via videoconference to lead the Task Force in a review of the draft Policy Framework. He outlined the overarching policies that apply to all areas and provided additional context for each of the four policy areas. Mr. Haden concluded by indicating that while the presentation



may seem to be lacking in detail, it is reflective of the struggle the Working Group and Project Team face as they continue to work through these challenges.

Responding to the presentation on Policy Area 1, the Task Force noted the need to be mindful of future plans for growth, the potential role of the LESA tool, ensuring opportunities for value-added development, recognition that this area includes small holdings as well as large-cropping lands, and the approach to working with non-EMRB members municipalities.

The Task Force comments on Policy Area 2 included considerations for existing infrastructure, the Government of Alberta's current work on a lake district policy, and the depiction of employment areas on the draft map.

Policy Area 3 discussion touched on using a phased approach to signal which lands may be need in the medium or long term, the strength of subdivision policy relative to other policy areas, application of the environmental/climate change lens, and the possible monetization of ecological goods and services.

Commenting on Policy Area 4, the Task Force pointed out urban agriculture activities should not negatively impact the agricultural activities located in other policy areas. Other remarks included a recognition that this area seems to focus more on economic development than land use, respect for the unique characteristics of each municipality, and a need for a common understanding of urban agriculture in the context of RAMP.

*Mayor Hnatiw was replaced by Councillor Comeau at 2:00 p.m.*

RAMP20-06

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the RAMP Policy Update to inform further work on RAMP.

**Moved by:** Councillor Walters

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

## 9. Next Steps and Meeting Summary

Ms. Shuya summarized key themes derived from the meeting discussions to include:

- A condensed version of the Economic Imperative for Agriculture needs to be developed to support the engagement plan.
- Ongoing work to refine the stakeholder roles and responsibilities matrix, to support the Engagement Plan.
- Preparation of a more detailed Engagement Plan and timing of implementation.
- Further work on the policy directions of each policy area based on Task Force feedback.
- Further work on exploring and evaluating implementation tools could be deferred until after the initial phases of stakeholder engagement are completed.



RAMP20-07

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the Meeting Summary and Next Steps.

**Moved by:** Mayor Turner

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

**10. In Camera – RAMP Policy Refinement – Section 24 – Advice from Officials – advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body**

Mayor Doblanko requested a recorded vote on this item.

RAMP20-08

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force move In Camera, in accordance with the provisions of Section 24, of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP), R.S.A. 2000, c.F-25.

**Moved by:** Councillor Barnhart

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** 4 in favour, 3 opposed - Carried

Voted in favour: City of Beaumont, City of Edmonton, Town of Morinville, Parkland County

Voted not in favour: Leduc County, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County

**In Camera Participants:**

Mayor Rod Shaigec – Parkland County  
(Chair)

Councillor Michael Walters – City of  
Edmonton (Vice Chair)

Councillor Kathy Barnhart – City of  
Beaumont

Mayor Tanni Doblanko – Leduc County

Mayor Barry Turner – Town of  
Morinville

Councillor Paul Smith – Strathcona  
County

Councillor Robert Parks – Strathcona  
County

Mayor Alanna Hnatiw – Sturgeon  
County

Councillor Neal Comeau – Sturgeon  
County

Karen Wichuk – EMRB CEO

Sharon Shuya – EMRB

Stephanie Chai – EMRB

Taylor Varro – EMRB

Jerry Bouma – Consultant

Lee Funke – Consultant

Andy Haden – Consultant (via  
teleconference)

Cathy Kiss – Consultant

Gibby Davis – City of Edmonton

Laurie Johnson – Leduc County

John Knapp – Parkland County

Joel Gould – Strathcona County

Angela Veenstra – Sturgeon County

*Mayor Doblanko stepped out of the in-camera session from 4:15 p.m. to 4:16 p.m.*

*Joel Gould left the in-camera session at 4:15 p.m.*



RAMP20-07

**Motion:** That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force move out of camera.

**Moved by:** Councillor Barnhart

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

## 11. Adjournment

Chair Shaigec declared the Task Force meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

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Task Force Chair, Rod Shaigec