



UPDATE

MARCH 2020, ISSUE 1

REGIONAL AGRICULTURE MASTER PLAN



PROGRESS TO DATE

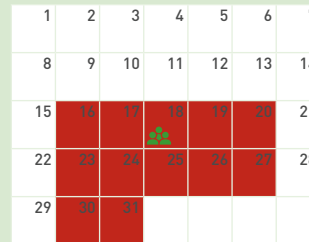
- Between August and October, the RAMP Working Group Sub-Committee met 7 times and the Working Group met 2 times to refine the draft Agriculture Policy Area Framework.
- In October 2019, the Task Force (TF) endorsed:
 - draft Policy Area Objectives
 - draft Refined Policy Directions
 - draft Agriculture Policy Area Map to inform development of specific policies
- The policy areas endorsed by RAMP Task Force members for further land-use policy development include:
 - **POLICY AREA 1: Rural Agriculture Areas**
 - **POLICY AREA 2: Agriculture Complementary to Other Uses**
 - **POLICY AREA 3: Agriculture Within Future Transition Lands**
 - **POLICY AREA 4: Urban Agriculture**

For more details on specific policy areas under consideration, please visit emrb.ca/ramp.

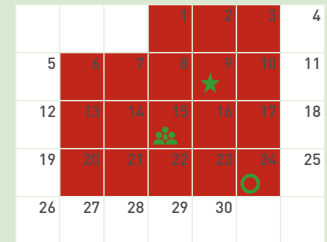
- In December 2019, the Board endorsed a report on the **economic imperative for agriculture** in the Region establishing the economic case for preserving prime agricultural lands and opportunities to grow the value-added sector through RAMP.
- In February 2020, the Task Force endorsed the direction of a **draft engagement plan** to guide focussed stakeholder and public engagement with municipalities, producers, industry associations, land owners, and value-added agri-food businesses to collect feedback to inform RAMP.

WHAT'S COMING UP

MARCH 2020



APRIL 2020



** In accordance with public health measures related to the COVID-19 outbreak, EMRB has suspended in-person meetings until further notice.

We are re-assessing our meeting calendar and exploring video-conferencing options for all future RAMP meetings **

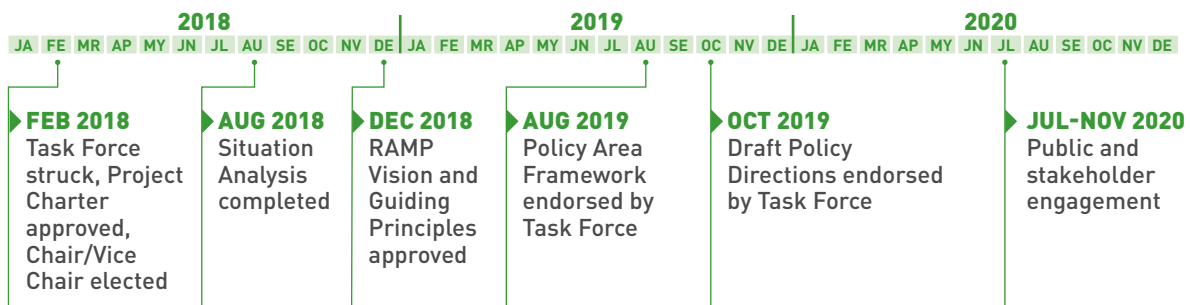
LEGEND

- TASK FORCE
- EMRB BOARD
- WORKING GROUP
- PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- RAMP Working Group Sub-Committee will continue to refine the draft policy directions, definitions, and policy area map.
- EMRB will further engage Alberta Agriculture & Forestry and Edmonton Global to ensure policy alignment and strategic direction of RAMP policy.
- EMRB will continue to develop the RAMP public and stakeholder engagement plan anticipating a launch in Q2 with activities including:
 - creating an advisory group
 - sub-regional meetings with Councils
 - enhanced information resources
 - releasing a discussion paper

HOW WE'RE GOING TO GET THERE





ABOUT

MARCH 2020, ISSUE 1

REGIONAL AGRICULTURE MASTER PLAN



WHAT IS THE REGIONAL AGRICULTURE MASTER PLAN?

RAMP is the first major regional initiative undertaken by the Board to support the implementation of **Re-imagine. Plan. Build**, the 2017 Edmonton Metro Region Growth Plan. RAMP will create a harmonized policy framework that will:

- identify and conserve prime ag lands in the Region for agricultural production
- minimize fragmentation and conversion of prime ag lands to non-ag uses
- promote diversification and value-added agricultural production

RAMP is our commitment to the long-term growth, sustainability and competitiveness of the agricultural and value-added agri-food sectors in the Region - and Alberta's second largest economic driver.

WHY IT'S TIME FOR RAMP?

RAMP represents one of the most significant opportunities for growth planning in the Region. As the Region grows to an estimated 2.2M citizens by 2044, we need a plan to balance the demands that urban growth will place on land use.

A strong future for ag starts with land, and the Region is home to some of the most productive lands in the Province. However, increasing fragmentation and conversion are eroding the economic potential of the sector.

The Region is well-positioned for growth, but realizing opportunities for diversification and growth in the agriculture sector depends on maintaining the land base and agricultural resources needed to grow.

RAMP TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Mayor Rod Shaige C	Parkland County
Councillor Michael Walters VC	City of Edmonton
Mayor Tanni Doblanko	Leduc County
Mayor Alanna Hnativ	Sturgeon County
Mayor Barry Turner	Town of Morinville
Councillor Kathy Barnhart	City of Beaumont
Councillor Paul Smith	Strathcona County

MESSAGE FROM THE TASK FORCE CHAIR



"Prime ag land is one of our most valuable resources in the Region. We're breaking new ground on the first Regional Agriculture Master Plan. Through good land stewardship and a balanced approach to urban growth, we can guarantee a vibrant future for agriculture in the Region."

MAYOR ROD SHAI GEC, PARKLAND COUNTY

REGIONAL BENEFITS

RAMP will prioritize the growth of agricultural production and value-added agriculture in the Region, while balancing needs of urban growth.

Creating a sustainable future for agriculture will enable the Region to be a globally competitive provider of safe and high-quality agricultural commodities and agri-food products, create jobs, attract talent, and position the Region as a destination for ag sector investment and trade.

OUR REGIONAL CONTEXT

30% 1.7M 4,655

of Alberta's Class 1 soil making the Region one of the most productive in the province

acres of agriculture land accounting for the single largest land-use in the Region

farm operators, generating an estimated \$3.75B in annual revenue and employing more than 6,000 people



RAMP



MRSP



SISB



RECAS



BROADBAND



IRTMP



KPIs/EMRGIS

Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board

emrb.ca/ramp

[@vegmetro](https://twitter.com/vegmetro)

Our vision is that the Edmonton Metropolitan Region is the dominant hub for northern Alberta and is recognized globally for its economic diversity and excellent quality of life.