

## Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force

Monday, October 28, 2019  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Leduc County – Calmar Legion Hall  
4815 47 St, Calmar, 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*  
Garett Broadbent, *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*  
Debra Irving, *Senior Project Manager*  
Taylor Varro, *Project Manager*  
Ron Cook, *Manager of GIS and Business  
Intelligence*  
Dan Rose, *Senior Communications Advisor*  
Carol Moreno, *Project Coordinator*

### Consultants

Jerry Bouma, *Toma & Bouma*  
Bob Burden, *Serecon*

### Guests:

Sue Armstrong, *City of Spruce Grove*  
Grant Bain, *Leduc County*  
Jennifer Batchoun, *Leduc County*  
Teaka Broughm, *City of Beaumont*  
Jordan Brown, *City of Leduc*  
Neal Comeau, *Sturgeon County*  
Charleen Currie, *City of Edmonton*  
Gibby Davis, *City of Edmonton*  
Jordan Evans, *Leduc County*  
Lyndsay Francis, *City of St. Albert*  
Andy Haden, *Observer*  
David Hales, *City of Edmonton*  
Ryan Hall, *Strathcona County*  
Greg Hofmann, *City of Edmonton*  
Laurie Johnson, *Leduc County*  
Michelle Kane, *City of Leduc*  
Brandy Kelly, *City of Leduc*  
Michael Klassen, *Sturgeon County*  
Larissa Lindmark, *Parkland County*  
Avril McCalla, *City of Edmonton*  
Shree Shinde, *City of Fort Saskatchewan*  
John Stewart, *City of Beaumont*  
Larry Wanchuk, *Leduc County*  
Bob Young, *City of Leduc*



## 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 9:02 a.m.

### 1.3 Chair Opening Remarks

Chair Shaigec welcomed the members of the Task Force including Mr. Malcolm Bruce, CEO of Edmonton Global, as the newest member. Although the Task Force has not met since August, the progress of RAMP has continued by the Working Group, as evidenced by the thorough agenda package. He thanked the County of Leduc for hosting this meeting.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

RAMP19-22

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

**Moved by:** Mayor Turner

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

## 3. Approval of Minutes

RAMP19-23

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

**Moved by:** Mayor Doblanko

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

## 4. Task Force Outcomes from August 16, 2019

Mr. Burden reviewed the results of the last Task Force meeting including the unanimous support of the draft policy areas and progress on the Engagement Plan.

## 5. Outcomes for October 28, 2019

Mr. Burden communicated the goals of this meeting include a review of the Economic Imperative for Agriculture, endorsement of the draft policy area objectives and mapping, and endorsement of the Engagement Plan implementation update and direction.

## 6. Agriculture and The Economic Imperative

Mr. Bouma presented the Task Force with examples of successful integration of agri-food systems and economic development highlighting the Netherlands, Portland, Austin, Minneapolis, and Lisbon. Many of these locations share some similar characteristics with the Edmonton Metropolitan Region but each were able to capitalize on their unique features and competitive advantages. Their successes were not by default, but by design due to the intentional effort and ensure the appropriate conditions were in place for success.

Mr. Bruce commented that Edmonton Global recently conducted a successful trip to the Netherlands and have strengthened partnerships there. He encouraged the Task Force to refer to [edmontonglobal.ca/downloads](http://edmontonglobal.ca/downloads) for a two-page summary of the Food and Agriculture priorities for the Region. Ms. Sundquist renewed her offer to coordinate a presentation by members of the Business Development and Program Delivery Branch. Mr. Bruce shared some of the opportunities and strategies employed by Edmonton Global to encourage investment and enhancement of the Region's agri-food system.

Task Force members discussed the pivotal role of the Government of Alberta in ensuring these intentional policy directions are implemented and supported. CEO Wichuk reiterated the need to fully develop and communicate the exponential return on investment in this industry to all key stakeholders. Mr. Bruce echoed the need for and continued effort towards alignment of municipal, provincial and federal levels of government.

Mr. Bouma shared some impactful statistics and trends, extracted from the August 2018 Situation Analysis, to support the need for a deliberate strategy to elevate the importance of the food and agriculture sector.

*Break 10:24 a.m. – 10:42 a.m.*

Mr. Burden invited the Task Force to participate in a Regional Alignment breakout exercise. Members were asked to indicate the level of support and perceived value of RAMP from three perspectives: themselves as Task Force members, their perception of their Council's position, and their perception of other stakeholders' position.

Mr. Burden reviewed the results of Breakout Session #1 with the Task Force to discuss potential reasons for positioning and opportunities to move towards the high value/strong support quadrant. Task Force members noted that consistent communication a strong business case to key stakeholders would encourage greater support and recognition of RAMP's value.

## 7. Agriculture Policy Area Framework

Mr. Burden outlined the working assumptions for RAMP policy development: using a 2044 planning horizon, building on existing policies from the Growth Plan, and updating the RAMP as part of the 2027 Growth Plan review.

Mr. Davis then led the Task Force through the process of developing the draft Agriculture Policy Area map, as presented. He explained the intent was to approach the drafting of an initial policy area map using an evidence-based approach to achieve as much certainty for agriculture and, at the same time, ensure room for growth to 2044.

Mr. Davis presented the map in layers of policy area starting with Policy Area 4 – Urban Agriculture, followed by Policy Area 3 – Transition Lands within the Metropolitan Area. Policy Area 2 was introduced as lands within the Rural Area policy tier where Agriculture was secondary to other land uses, followed by Policy Area 1, as the remaining lands within the Rural Area of the Growth Plan, where Agriculture would be a priority. Both Policy Area 1 and 2 recognize specific land uses such as Confined Feeding Operations, Country Residential, Rural Employment Areas, and Environmentally Sensitive areas, which would be subject to specific policy directions, as an example.

Mr. Bouma then reviewed the policy objectives and refined policy directions for each of the four Policy Areas in detail. The Task Force enquired about engagement with non-EMRB municipalities, plans for future reclaimed mining lands, and the use of the term “transition” for lands within Area 3.

*Lunch 12:00 p.m. – 12:43 p.m.*

Mr. Burden invited the Task Force to participate in Breakout Session #2 and visit each of the policy area stations to provide their input and ask questions. Members of the Working Group captured their feedback providing background and context in support of the draft refined policy area refined policy directions. A representative from each station then provided the Task Force with a high-level summary of the feedback, which will be addressed by the Working Group.

Comments related to the use of the term “required” for some policy directions in Area 4, a potential economic assessment of a quarter section of agricultural land versus urban development land, staging and prioritization of using lower capability land balanced with contiguous growth, depictions of built-up employment areas perceived as residential on the draft map, growth potential for hamlets, possible mechanisms for redrawing policy area lines, and the impact of climate change on water and ground water.

RAMP19-24

**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.

**Moved by:** Mayor Hnatiw

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

## 8. RAMP Engagement Plan – Implementation Update

Ms. Shuya outlined the current plans for Stakeholder Engagement – Phase 1, including presentations to all thirteen councils and five regional stakeholder roundtable sessions. The presentations will include progress on RAMP up to and including October 28, 2019.

Members of the Task Force shared concerns that brief presentations to councils would not provide sufficient opportunity to learn the material and encourage meaningful feedback. It was also suggested that bringing all regional stakeholders to the same forum may not be ideal and could result in unintended consequences. Consideration for a narrated video presentation was proposed as an effort to save time and ensure consistent messaging across stakeholder groups.

The Task Force members affirmed their intention to be involved in engagement opportunities hosted by their municipality and to receive open invitations to attend other sessions in the Region. The Project Team was encouraged to contact the Government of Alberta's resource prior to embarking on Indigenous engagement.

RAMP19-25

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

**Moved by:** Mayor Doblanko

**Accepted by:** Chair

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

## 9. Meeting Summary and Next Steps

Mr. Burden summarized the record of key decisions:

1. Different stakeholders were identified as holding different positions within to the Alignment Exercise matrix
2. Engagement and communication are critical to ensure others understand its value and move towards support
3. Endorsement of refined policy directions and mapping
4. Messaging should be as precise and efficient as possible
5. Difference between communication and engagement

Mr. Burden suggested that the December 5 Task Force meeting will be rescheduled as the updated work on policy development would not be completed in time. The Project Team will evaluate the options and propose a new date for early 2020.

RAMP19-26

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

**Moved by:** Councillor Barnhart

**Accepted by:** Chair

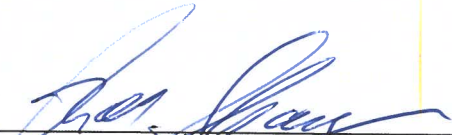
**Decision:** Carried unanimously



Chair Shaigec thanked Leduc County and the catering staff for hosting as well as the Working Group for their contributions to the success of this meeting.

## 12. Adjournment

Chair Shaigec declared the Task Force meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.



Task Force Chair, Red Shaigec