

Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force

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

Members:

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

Technical Members:

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

EMRB Staff:

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

Consultants

Jerry Bouma, *Toma & Bouma*
Markus Weber, *Serecon*

Guests:

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



1. Opening

1.1 Quorum

Quorum achieved; 6 of 7 voting members present.

1.2 Call to Order

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

1.3 Chair Opening Remarks

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

2. Approval of Agenda

RAMP19-11

Motion: That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the June 14, 2019 meeting agenda.

Moved by: Mayor Doblanko

Accepted by: Chair

Decision: Carried unanimously

3. Approval of Minutes

RAMP19-12

Motion: That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force approve the March 22, 2019 meeting minutes.

Moved by: Councillor Walters

Accepted by: Chair

Decision: Carried unanimously

4. RAMP Objectives and Outcomes

Mayor Hnatiw arrived at 9:15 a.m.

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



5. Planning Framework

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

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

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

RAMP19-13

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

Moved by: Councillor Smith

Accepted by: Chair

Decision: Carried unanimously

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

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

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

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



8. RAMP Engagement Plan

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

RAMP19-14

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

Moved by: Mayor Doblanko

Accepted by: Chair

Decision: Carried unanimously

9. RAMP Communications Plan

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

RAMP19-15

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

Moved by: Mayor Hnatiw

Accepted by: Chair

Decision: Carried unanimously

6. Lunch

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

7. Dr. Stanford Blade

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

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

Councillor Smith stepped out from 1:52 p.m. to 1:58 p.m.



CEO Wichuk highlighted the need for a shared vision as the EMRB's non-negotiable challenge in order to achieve success. Dr. Blade offered encouragement to the Task Force in the valuable work ahead on the RAMP. Chair Shaigec thanked him for sharing of his time and expertise with the Task Force.

10. Meeting Summary and Next Steps

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

11. RAMP – Meeting Schedule

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

RAMP19-16

Motion: That the Regional Agriculture Master Plan Task Force endorse the RAMP Meeting Schedule.

Moved by: Mayor Turner

Accepted by: Chair

Decision: Carried unanimously

12. Adjournment

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



Task Force Chair, Rod Shaigec