



UPDATE

ISSUE 2, JUL 2020

REGIONAL AGRICULTURE MASTER PLAN



PROGRESS TO DATE

- In Oct 2019, the Task Force established direction for the Regional Agriculture Master Plan endorsing: draft Policy Area Objectives, draft Refined Policy Directions, and a draft Agriculture Policy Area Map to inform the development of land-use policies under RAMP.
- The four policy areas endorsed by the RAMP Task Force are:
 - POLICY AREA 1: Rural Agriculture Area**
 - POLICY AREA 2: Agriculture Complementary to Other Uses**
 - POLICY AREA 3: Agriculture Within Future Transition Lands**
 - POLICY AREA 4: Urban Agriculture**
- In Dec 2019, the Board endorsed a report on the **economic imperative for agriculture** establishing the economic case for preserving prime agricultural lands in the Region to support opportunities for growth in the value-added sector.
- In Feb 2020, the Task Force reviewed a **draft stakeholder engagement plan** to collect feedback to inform RAMP. Task Force members provided critical feedback and direction to refine the plan to ensure a comprehensive, transparent and inclusive engagement process.
- Task Force meetings resumed in July following a delay related to COVID-19. At the July virtual Task Force meeting, members reviewed a revised stakeholder engagement plan to ensure detailed planning in consultation member municipalities.
- TF members approved a comprehensive **RAMP Engagement Plan** to consult broadly with producers, rural landowners, agricultural stakeholders on the development and potential impacts of RAMP, beginning Fall 2020.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

AUG 2020

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

SEPT 2020

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
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27	28	29	30						

For more information on RAMP, and to access documents and resources related to the initiative, please visit emrb.ca/ramp

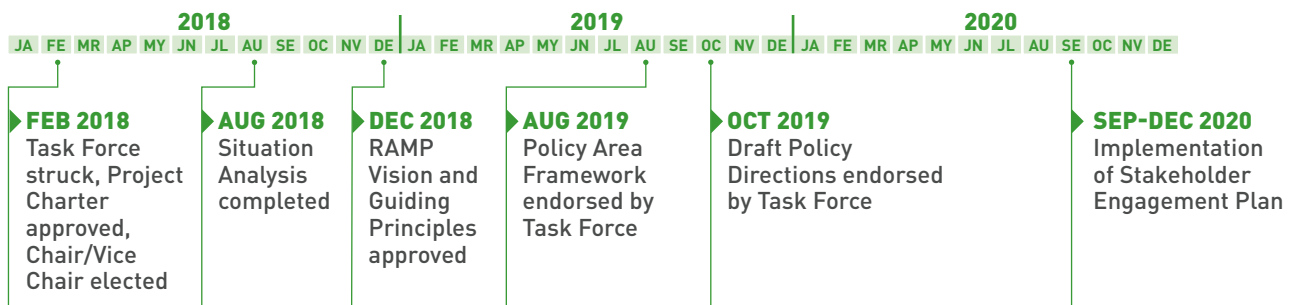
LEGEND

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

WHAT'S NEXT?

- RAMP Working Group and Working Group Sub-Committee will meet in Aug and Sept respectively to continue refining draft policy directions, definitions, and policy area maps.
- EMRB Administration will begin implementing the RAMP Engagement Plan developing the RAMP Backgrounder, Discussion Paper, and online surveys for launch in Fall 2020.
- EMRB Administration and RAMP Communications & Engagement Consultant will work to coordinate engagement sessions across the Region with member municipalities.
- EMRB Administration will present a final RAMP Engagement Plan to the Task Force, and subsequently the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board, for information.

HOW WE'RE GOING TO GET THERE



PLAN WITHOUT BOUNDARIES



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 Shaigec C	Parkland County
Councillor Michael Walters VC	City of Edmonton
Mayor Tanni Doblanko	Leduc County
Mayor Alanna Hnatiw	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