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## Growth Plan Update Task Force

Thursday, August 13, 2015

12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Chateau Louis Conference Centre – Grand Ballroom  
11727 Kingsway, Edmonton

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### Members:

Roxanne Carr, *Strathcona County (Chair)*  
Lisa Holmes, *Town of Morinville (Vice Chair)*  
*(via conference call)*  
Don Iveson, *City of Edmonton*  
Gale Katchur, *City of Fort Saskatchewan*  
Cathy Heron, *City of St. Albert*  
John Schonewille, *Leduc County*  
Ralph van Assen, *Village of Warburg*

### Provincial Liaison:

Victoria Brown, *Alberta Municipal Affairs*

### Regional Technical Advisors:

Greg Hofmann  
Peter Vana

### Strategic Advisor:

Barry Huybens

### Consultants:

Melanie Hare, *Urban Strategies*  
Hassan Shaheen, *ISL Engineering & Land Services*

### Regrets:

David Hales, *Regional Technical Advisor*  
Clayton Kittlitz, *Regional Technical Advisor*  
Peter Ohm, *Regional Technical Advisor*

### CRB Staff:

Malcolm Bruce, *CEO*  
Neal Sarnecki, *Project Manager*  
Sharon Shuya, *Project Manager*  
Stephanie Chai, *Project Manager*

### Guests:

Nolan Crouse, *Board Chair*  
Grant Bain, *Leduc County*  
Lindsey Butterfield, *City of Edmonton*  
Gibby Davis, *City of Edmonton*  
Cathy Ducharme, *Strathcona County*  
Susan Evans, *Sturgeon County*  
Troy Fleming, *City of Fort Saskatchewan*  
Tom Flynn, *Sturgeon County*  
Andrea Friedman, *Urban Strategies*  
Connie Gourley, *ISL*  
Laurie Hodge, *Town of Bon Accord*  
Jacquie Hansen, *City of St. Albert*  
Michelle Hay, *City of Leduc*  
Doug Lagore, *City of Leduc*  
Jeff Laurien, *Government of Alberta*  
Marnie Lee, *Strathcona County*  
Sylvain Losier, *City of Leduc*  
Elaine Milliken, *Town of Lamont*  
Farrell O'Malley, *Town of Gibbons*  
Bonnie Riddell, *Strathcona County*  
Yolande Shaw, *Strathcona County*  
Pamela Steppan, *Strathcona County*  
Patty Walker, *City of Fort Saskatchewan*

Loreen Lennon, *Communications Manager*  
Leslie Chivers, *Operations Manager*  
Brandt Denham, *GIS Coordinator*  
Lisa Saskiw, *Administrative Assistant*



**1. Call to Order**

Chair, Mayor Roxanne Carr called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

**2. Chair's Opening Remarks**

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

2015-52

**Motion:** That the Growth Plan Update Task Force agenda of August 13, 2015 be approved as amended, moving item #6 to end of the agenda.

**Moved by:** Councillor John Schonewille, *Leduc County*

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

**4. Approval of the Minutes, July 9, 2015**

2015-53

**Motion:** That the Growth Plan Update Task Force minutes of July 9, 2015 be approved.

**Moved by:** Mayor Gale Katchur, *City of Fort Saskatchewan*

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

**5. Growth Plan Update 2.0 – Correspondence and Consultation**

2015-54

**Motion:** That the Growth Plan Update Task receive the Cities Consultation Summary as information to inform the Growth Plan Update.

**Moved by:** Councillor Cathy Heron, *City of St. Albert*

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

**6. Counties submission and discussion of RTAC and Consultant (Core Project Team) analysis of Sub-regional planning approach**

2015-55

**Motion:** That the Growth Plan Update Task Force receive the Counties Follow-Up Consultation submission as information to inform the Growth Plan Update.

**Moved by:** Councillor John Schonewille, *Leduc County*

**Decision:** Carried

2015-56

**Motion:** That the Growth Plan Update Task Force accept the recommendations of the Core Project Team regarding the Counties submission.

**Moved by:** Councillor Cathy Heron, *City of St. Albert*

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

*See Enclosure: CAO Consultation – August 7, 2015 Summary*

Mayor Lisa Holmes joined the meeting via conference call at 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Ralph van Assen joined the meeting at 1:08 p.m.



## 7. Growth Plan Update Task Force June Workshop

2015-57

**Motion:** That the Growth Plan Update Task Force receive the CAO input on the Planning Approach and Policy Areas Framework as information to inform the Growth Plan Update.

**Moved by:** Mayor Gale Katchur, *City of Fort Saskatchewan*

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

## 8. Lunch Break Plan Update 2.0 – Policy Areas

The lunch break took place prior to this meeting (immediately followed the Board meeting).

Mayor Carr relinquished the Chair to facilitator Barry Huybens prior to item #9 in order to lead the Task Force through the next agenda item.

## 9. Growth Plan Update – Project Administration

2015-58

**Motion:** That the Growth Plan Update Task approve of the change in the Principle and Policy Area name from Natural Heritage Systems to *Natural Living Systems* and Environmental Assets.

**Moved by:** Mayor Don Iveson, *City of Edmonton*

**Decision:** Carried unanimously

Facilitator Barry Huybens relinquished the Chair back to Mayor Carr following discussion.

## 10. Next Steps

## 11. Adjournment

2015-59

It was agreed by unanimous consensus that the Growth Plan Update Task Force meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** August 27, 2015 at 8:00 a.m., La Cite Francophone – Hall Jean-Louis Dentinger

Task Force Chair, Roxanne Carr



# Growth Plan Update

Capital Region Board

Task Force Meeting | August 13, 2015

**August 13, Task Force Meeting  
Agenda Item 6.0**

***Response to the Counties Follow Up Submission***

## Contributors to the Review and Response:

- RTAC members, CRB Administration, Consultant Team (ISL Urban Strategies)
- Strong consensus amongst contributors

## Main Observations and Findings

- Positive and useful references/ suggestions regarding collaboration, regional assets and several policy areas such as density targets, agriculture and CCRAs being taken under advisement for consideration.
- The proposed planning model based on geo-political boundaries contradicts the “planning without boundaries” approach endorsed by Task Force and which reflects planning best practices.
- It is unclear how the jurisdictionally based planning approach will assist the region to manage growth in people and jobs.
- It is unclear what the term “sub-regional” refers to other than five subsets of the region; where do urban municipalities fit in? How are urban and rural contexts recognized given their dramatic differences?
- Aside from several positive suggestions, the proposed jurisdictionally based planning approach is not seen as offering any clear advantages over the Task Force endorsed tiered planning approach.

## **Core Project Team Recommendations to the Task Force:**

1. That the Task Force receive the Counties' submission and direct the Core Project Team to **consider inclusion of specific suggestions** in the development of draft policies (i.e. **30 Year Land Supply in a 50 Year Context, calculations for rural and urban density targets, and agriculture policy implementation mechanisms such as agricultural master plans**).
2. That the Growth Plan Update **include the following definition of "sub-regional"** for the Capital Region in the context of the Growth Plan and planning approach.

*Sub-Regional: An area at a scale larger than one community, within which urban and rural communities share common infrastructure, regional assets and services, have the potential to leverage related economic areas and link proximate areas to accommodate both people and job growth.*

3. That we **continue to explore and evolve the Task Force approved regional planning approach**, - a tiered planning approach, and a metropolitan growth structure that reflects the diversity of municipalities in the region, aligning regional land settlement patterns with future growth and regional transportation networks and infrastructure.
4. That the Task Force **continue to consider a "sub-regional cluster" element in the context of the approved regional planning approach**. This approach would focus on growing employment/economic clusters and complete communities, aligned with existing and planned transportation corridors in the metropolitan area. The sub-regional clusters are not defined by existing political boundaries (see definition above).
5. The Task Force **provide a copy of this response to the Counties** to include any additional direction as determined by the Task Force.

**August 13, Task Force Meeting  
Agenda Item 7.0**

***Summary of August 7<sup>th</sup> CAO Consultation***



## CAO Input, August 7| Overview

- 17 Municipalities participated
- Review and Discussion of Planning Approach
- Review and Discussion of Policy Areas Framework
- Overall Feed back was positive and supportive of direction
- Identification of Gaps and areas of Enhancement
  
- **General Comments**
- Need for a more strategic context of the GPU – e.g., alignment to a sustainability model – environment, economy, society
- Need for an outcomes view for the achievement objectives within policy areas
- Need to understanding the linkages and inter-dependencies between policy areas
- Need for understanding the scale of the policy area including its application within tiers – core, area, rural
- Need for understanding sub-regional in context to regional planning
- Need for defining of terms and phrases
- Need for definition of regional service areas
- **Need for greater alignment / coordination with Province**

## CAO Input, August 7th | Planning Approach

### Strengths of Tiers and Metropolitan Structure:

- Responds to diverse areas, different contexts
- Issues may differ for different contexts – allows for different perspectives and approaches
- Reflective of equity vs. equality issue
- Holistic approach, inclusive of all members
- Structure helps define ‘the end’ – what we are working towards
- Recognizes integration between land use, infrastructure and economic development

### Areas for Enhancement:

- Need to define the tiers (Rural/Urban) and impact on:
  - Industry, funding and land use, capacity
  - What does contiguous mean?
- How do tiers work with municipal boundaries and annexation?
- Need consistency of definitions
- How does this relate to policy areas – missing intended outcomes

## CAO Input, August 7th| Policy Areas Framework

### Gaps

- Need for strategic focus
- Need to focus on regional issues – some are more tailored to tiers and urban context
- Missing overarching objectives for each Policy Area
- Bolster interface, integration/coordination with Province as CRB's partner

### Refinements

- Avoid duplication between Policy Areas
- Incorporate 3 pillars of sustainability in framework - leverage point in advocacy with Province and understandable to municipalities
- Rethink and strategize best fit for agriculture – should this be integrated in each Policy Area?
- Need for strategic view on pieces we need to get right with the Province (infrastructure including public transit, environment, education, health care, fiscal sustainability)
- Alignment with the Province is essential
- Revisit scope and scale to ensure consistency across Policy Areas

## Natural Heritage

# CAO Consultation Recap

Lack of focus  
on land –  
environmental  
assets

Need for direction on what to do  
when there are conflicts and  
impacts on growth and natural  
living systems

Need to align with  
provincial and federal  
standards

Brownfield development  
and remediation–  
consideration and  
regulation standards

What effects will be  
measured and what will  
the CRB do with it?

Need for direction on what to do  
when there are conflicts and  
impacts between growth and  
natural living systems

## Economic Competitiveness & Employment

### CAO Consultation Recap

Funding model, cost sharing and non-residential revenue sharing – where does this fit?

Focus on transit and live + work connection

Clarification on diversification – oil and gas should be 'energy'

Missing global perspective - need bold future view that positions the region strategically in the global economy

Missing emphasis of Capital Region as a government centre, and knowledge-based economy

Too much focus on oil and gas sector, should recognize diversification away from energy

Integration of Land Use and Infrastructure

## CAO Consultation Recap

Address overlap between infrastructure development and economic development

How do we use infrastructure to greatest capacity?

REF process for infrastructure – Consider how to apply this? Transportation master plans as an opportunity

Already starting to coordinate and prioritize regional infrastructure priorities through transit committee

Missing targets for redevelopment vs. new greenfield development

Need to state overarching objective and for priority issues to focus on what are we trying to achieve – want for the region?

Revisit scale and scope of

issues

Infrastructure minimum baseline standards – need to relate to tiers, continuous service levels

## Agriculture

### CAO Consultation Recap

Need to define prime agricultural lands – soil, location, type, cost/benefit analysis

CRB needs to work with Province and establish leadership

Regional plan should establish agricultural baselines for local municipalities to address in local plans

Avoid overlap with economic competitive issues related to agriculture

Should agriculture be segregated as a separate land use and policy area?

Need to establish criteria for development on agricultural lands

Need for regional strategy and master plan for agriculture

## Transit & Mobility

# CAO Consultation Recap

Need to consider function of a road and what land use/built form it will serve before we build it

“Significant” mode shift  
where is this possible?  
Active transportation is not real alternative in rural areas – why is this a regional issue?

Transit investment strategy – why is this a Growth Plan issue?

Specialized transit in rural areas – why is this on the list of issues?  
Focus on equitable access to transportation

Industrial commuting – getting from home to work is a real issue that affects quality of life



## Communities & Housing Choice

# CAO Consultation Recap

Focus first on reinvestment in redevelopment of areas, and secondly, on investment in new greenfield areas

Community viability is related to employment in rural areas

Country residential – need to review with clear criteria. Should this be allowed in region?

Towns and villages need a 'piece of the pie' as it relates to economic growth

Focus on complete communities and on a social policy framework that contributes to quality of life

Recreation and service levels related to population growth is a gap

