



CRBnow: Apr/16 full steam ahead

Following a productive Board meeting March 10, we have direction for key 2016 initiatives.

1. Growth Plan Update (GPU) project: Decisions on the concept of a Metropolitan Structure for Growth Plan 2.0 and its Policy Objectives & Policy Directions have opened the door for preparation of the first draft of the new updated and integrated plan. The GPU consultants and CRB administration are now working hard to pull together the first iteration, incorporating all the approved elements and input from Board and stakeholder consultations to date. It will go in draft form to CAOs for their March 31 engagement. **A draft Table of Contents is scheduled for consideration at the April 14 Board meeting**, which, if approved, will enable the next important task of creating the first draft content for those chapters and the full plan.

2. Regional Economic Development is a go: The question of the nature of CRB's involvement in regional economic development has been answered. As per the Board's motion March 10, "**the Capital Region Board [will] incubate a formal regional economic development model, which [will] be independent of the CRB**". Administration was further directed "to seek Provincial support for the next steps, and report on progress in June". To meet that deadline I will be consulting with the Province and local experts so that I can advise on the best course of action to facilitate the emergence of this independent EcDev entity. A draft process will be distributed to CAOs for their input to kickstart the incubation.

3. CRB Mandate discussions: The Board's pre-MGA Review assessment of the CRB mandate that was requested by the Minister in October has determined that the **current regulation is generally permissive enough to allow the Board to fulfill its obligations now and into the future**. The formal response to the Minister, due by the end of March, will communicate that belief, and also note the decision on regional economic development, which the Minister also highlighted in her request for mandate input. Further investigations with regional stakeholders on a few other specific items is ongoing.

4. CRB Advocacy and Engagement: I believe a fundamental piece of CRB's work is the responsibility for **ensuring that our internal and external stakeholders are fully aware of the significance of our growth planning.** To that end I will be updating the AMC on CRB engagement activities for the last six months as the Committee discusses provincial advocacy for 2016 at a special meeting April 14.

Reminder: the [CRB Meetings Master Schedule](#), found on the CRB website under Publications, now includes a listing of meeting agenda items. The Master Schedule is updated regularly.

Malcolm Bruce, MSM
CRB CEO

Draft GP2.0: More CRB & stakeholder engagement added

New opportunities for community engagement - especially for Board and elected officials - have been added as the Growth Plan Update (GPU) Task Force enters the final stages of drafting Growth Plan 2.0. Says GPU Chair Roxanne Carr, "With several options to attend, we hope we can reach as many of Council members, local stakeholders and interested citizens as possible." The final draft of the plan is scheduled for consideration by the Board at its October meeting.

New engagement opportunities are:

- **In May** – Board CEO and the Project Manager embark on a “**Muni Road Show**”, travelling to meet with member municipalities individually to talk about the Growth Plan and how it impacts each of them.
- **On June 9** – Strathcona County will co-host a **Regional Town Hall Meeting** at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre following the June Board meeting there. All regional councillors will be invited in order to learn about and discuss the draft of Growth Plan 2.0.
- **From June 15-29** – The Task Force will again host five **Regional Road Shows** - similar to the ones hosted across the region last June – where Draft Growth Plan 2.0. will be introduced for feedback. The dates and final locations are being confirmed for announcement ASAP.
- **The July 14 Board meeting** – This will be a facilitated *In camera* meeting devoted to discussing the draft Growth Plan 2.0. Intended to be a frank session to review the concerns that will be identified in the May meetings with the Mayors, this meeting will be restricted to Board members, Board Alternates, and Task Force members.
- **At the September 8 Board meeting**, the Notice of Motion to approve the Final Plan on October 13, 2016 will come forward.

Board IRs (InfoRequests) and Committee minutes now in *reCAP*

In order to streamline Board Meeting Agendas, the Information Requests (IRs) and Committee and Task Force Minutes will be added monthly to *reCAP* and housed online.

- Board IRs
- [Advocacy & Monitoring Committee Draft Minutes](#)
- Governance, Priorities & Finance Committee Draft Minutes
- [Growth Plan Update Task Force Draft Minutes](#)

Quick & Noteworthy

CRB speaks to Municipal Government Board (MGB) March 21

CRB CEO **Malcolm Bruce** and Regional Project Manager **Neal Sarnecki** presented an information overview of the Capital Region Board to members of the MGB at their meeting in Red Deer March 21, 2016. Of particular interest were the Growth Plan, and the GPU and REF processes.

Join us for the *Collaborate to Compete* Symposium, Winnipeg June 2

Discover new paths and inspire action as we embark on regional economic development in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. Hear from regional and economic development stakeholders to consider just how this collaborative model is being used – or could be used – in Canada and North America:

- What conditions are necessary for a healthy, competitive and diversified region?
- Why must we work together to make this happen?
- How does the policy and regulatory environment, affordable housing, transportation and other infrastructure play a role in being a competitive diversified region?

Be there to participate!! For details, hotel rates and to register [CLICK HERE NOW](#)

Regional Housing Needs Assessments on Housing Committee agenda March 24

The draft versions of the remaining sub-regional housing needs assessment reports and the first-ever Regional Housing Assessment report are going to be considered at the March 24 Housing committee meeting. These needs assessment studies are the foundation of regional planning, and will feed into the creation of a standardized Sub-Regional Housing Plan Model with policy and program options and alternatives. A two day Workshop to that end will be held after Board approval of the Housing Need Assessments, now slated for April 14.

AMC to plan for advocacy priorities April 14

The Advocacy & Monitoring Committee (AMC) will meet for an extended strategy session following the April Board meeting. As our new fiscal year begins with the Federal (March 22) and Provincial (April 14) Budgets in place, the committee will look at positioning its work and preparing the appropriate stakeholders for the launch of the updated Growth Plan 2.0 later this year.

Regional Notes

- Congratulations to **Linda Cochrane** on her appointment as Edmonton City Manager
- **Strong Region:** Congratulations on successful "State of" addresses by the following CRB members in the last month:
 - Devon - **State of the Town**
 - Leduc and Leduc County - **State of Leduc Region**
 - St. Albert - **Imagine Possible - Business Breakfast**
 - Spruce Grove - **State of the City**
 - Sturgeon County - **State of the County**

REMINDER TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Look sharp. Either May 12 or June 9.

- **Board headshot photos** for use in the Growth Plan 2.0 report and 2015 Annual Report will be taken before the start of the May and June Board meetings. **Photographer will be available from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. each morning on May 12 and June 9.** Mark your calendar to have your photo taken at one of these sessions. For more information contact the CRB office.