

Request for Decision

Title	Local and Regional Agriculture Master Plans
Proposed Motion	<p>1. That Council direct Administration to prepare strategic recommendations relating to Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Agriculture Master Plan deliverables for Council’s consideration beginning in Q1 2019.</p> <p>2. That Council direct Administration to develop a project charter for a local Agriculture Master Plan, following the completion of the Regional Agriculture Master Plan process, with a report back to Council for decision.</p>
Administrative Recommendation	<p>Through the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board, Sturgeon County is engaged in the development of a Regional Agriculture Master Plan. Community and Regional Planning recommends committing resources to ensuring the County’s positions are well formed, and then to incorporating this into a local Master Plan following its completion.</p>
Previous Council Direction	<p>June 12, 2018 – Motion 176/18: That the Agricultural Engagement Strategy Report, as provided as Attachment 1, be accepted as a guiding document towards the development of an agricultural support strategy with a report back to Council in Q4 2018.</p> <p>June 12, 2018 – Motion 177/18: That the Mayor be authorized to submit the Agricultural Engagement Strategy Report findings (Sections 1.0 through 3.0) to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board, as part of requested input towards Phase I of the Regional Agricultural Master Plan development process.</p> <p>June 12, 2018 – Motion 178/18: That the Sturgeon County Strategic Plan be amended to clearly reference support for the agriculture sector as a community and Council priority, and as a key component of the County’s brand identity.</p>
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB), Sturgeon County is engaged in the development of a Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP). The RAMP process seeks to develop a regional plan for conserving and maintaining a secure supply of prime agricultural lands. This includes the development of tools and complementary policy.

- To ensure that the County's interests are articulated and protected through RAMP, specific reviews of RAMP policies is recommended. Key messages and advice would be provided for Council's consideration throughout the process, such as advice on:
 - Proposed regional agriculture strategy and policy;
 - Land evaluation site assessment (LESA) tool and frameworks;
 - Influences on the County's stakeholders and municipal business;
 - Other complementary areas that may require the County to articulate or defend its interests and/or collect information towards the development of a local Agriculture Master Plan.

- It is recommended that the development of a local Agriculture Master Plan be considered after the RAMP process concludes. At this time, it is anticipated that a local Master Plan could be based on the following approach:
 - Utilizing the Agriculture Services Board (ASB) as a governance resource;
 - Incorporating results of stakeholder engagements to date, which will form the foundation of the County's priorities;
 - Identifying additional stakeholder engagement required to confirm proposed priorities / actions within the Master Plan;
 - Referencing RAMP outcomes and approved regional policies, including their impact on the County and its stakeholders;
 - Developing priorities and specific supporting actions to deliver results on desired agricultural outcomes, focusing on municipal programs, services, policy, advocacy and strategic opportunities.
 - Note: Multiple internal departments would be involved (such as Community and Regional Planning, Agricultural Services, Economic Development, Current Planning and Development and others).

External Communication

- In 2018, the County conducted a significant community engagement, resulting in the approval of an Agricultural Engagement Strategy Report. This report was an initial deliverable for Phase I of the RAMP process, and the report was to also serve as a key input into future local agriculture master planning.
- As part of the local Agriculture Master Plan, further stakeholder engagement will be completed. This is expected to include targeted consultations with producers and other stakeholders regarding potential strategies and support tactics.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

- The development of regional recommendations and future Agriculture Master Planning at the local level will impact and reference many of Sturgeon County's key plans, including its Municipal Development Plan (MDP), Area Structure Plans (ASPs), Land Use Bylaw (LUB), economic development plans and agriculture program plans.

<p>Implication of Administrative Recommendation</p>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership – The development of recommendations relating to the EMRB’s Regional Agriculture Master Plan deliverables will ensure that the County’s interests are articulated and protected. This will also support the County’s reputation as a trusted collaborator in the region and inform the future development of a local Agriculture Master Plan.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>The development of strategic recommendations on RAMP deliverables will consume a moderate amount of administrative capacity in addition to the capacity consumed by supporting RAMP processes and committee work. Most of this effort is currently concentrated in Community and Regional Planning, with support from the Manager of Agriculture Services and external experts.</p> <p>When commenced, the development of a local Agriculture Master Plan will consume a relatively high amount of administrative capacity. The development of the Master Plan is expected to take four (4) to six (6) months, with stakeholder engagement adding another two (2) to three (3) months.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>The development of a local Agriculture Master Plan would be allocated the remaining funding (approximately \$40,000) from Service Enhancement 2018-SEOP#3 for a Sturgeon County Agriculture Master Plan.</p>
<p>Alternative Considered</p>	<p>1. Do nothing (do not approve the recommendation).</p>
<p>Implications of Alternatives</p>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If strategic recommendations on RAMP are not developed, municipal officials may lack information to effectively articulate and defend the County’s positions on various regional policies. • If a local Agriculture Master Plan is not pursued, an opportunity could be missed to review Sturgeon County’s specific programs, services, policies and other supports for agricultural producers. The County would also need to identify other means to align to regional priorities and policy. <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If strategic recommendations on RAMP and a local Agriculture Master Plan are not developed, Administration could focus on other priorities. <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>1. If strategic recommendations on RAMP and a local Agriculture Master Plan are not developed, Service Enhancement 2018-SEOP#3 could be</p>

marked as complete and remaining funding made available for other priorities.

- Follow up Action** If the recommendation is approved:
1. Administration (Community and Regional Planning with Agriculture Services) will work with agricultural experts to develop strategic recommendations on key RAMP deliverables.
 2. Administration (Community and Regional Planning with Agriculture Services) will schedule briefings with Council as required to share strategic RAMP recommendations.
 3. Administration (Community and Regional Planning with Agriculture Services) will work together to develop a project charter for a local Agriculture Master Plan, following the completion of the Regional Agriculture Master Plan process.
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Attachment(s) None.

**Report Reviewed
by:**



Travis Peter, Manager Community and Regional Planning



Collin Steffes, General Manager Integrated Growth Division



Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner / CAO

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.

Mission: Provide quality, cost effective services and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership			
<i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Consistent with neighborhood role (see MDP), master plans, policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers fiscal stability and sustainability</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Has a positive impact on regional and sub-regional cooperation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Respect the Natural Environment			
<i>We acknowledge the importance of a healthy environment and will minimize and monitor our impact on ecosystems (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Compliance with Provincial and Federal regulations and/or legislation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ensure effective environmental risk management</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community Identity & Spirit			
<i>We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan, (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Enhances service provision through community partnerships</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports Sturgeon County's cultural history</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planned Growth and Prosperity			
<i>We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Does the proposal align with the Integrated Regional Growth Strategy (map/policies) pg. 26 MDP</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers cumulative costs and long-term funding implications</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Targets growth around current or planned infrastructure</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities			
<i>We are committed to a safe, secure community, where our residents are respected and provided with access to opportunities. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Positive impact on residents' quality of life</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports and promotes volunteer efforts</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Provides programs and services that are accessible to all residents</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Operational Excellence			
<i>We have the organizational capability to deliver consistent and defined levels of service to all stakeholders in a professional, efficient, and cost effective manner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Staff have the knowledge, skills and capability to perform their jobs</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Streamlines operational processes and policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promotes engagement and professional interaction with stakeholders</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers a cost-structure which allows Sturgeon County to remain competitive within a regional, national and global context</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>