

Council Members' Updates on Agency and Initiative Appointments – B7

Update: Capital Region Board

Initiative Title: Capital Region Board

City Council Lead(s): Mayor D. Iveson, Councillor E. Gibbons, Councillor M. Walters

Department Lead(s): City Manager L. Cochrane, Chief Advisor Y.Oke, Senior Policy Advisor G. Davis

Objective: To plan for and manage the growth of the region in a strategic, coordinated and integrated way that preserves the unique characteristics of each municipality while ensuring the long term sustainability and prosperity of the region as a whole.

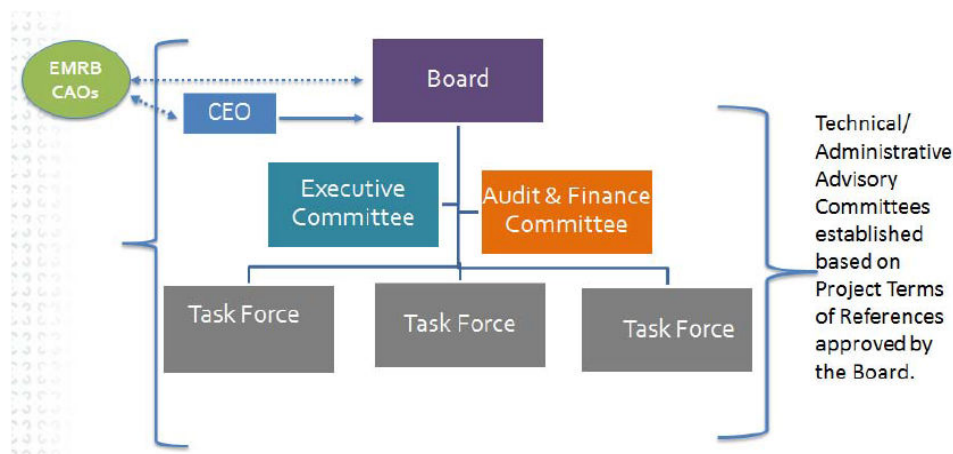
Key outcomes, projects or activities and their status as of July 4th, 2017:

- Changes to the Regional Board Regulation
 - The Capital Region Board (CRB) Regulation is the current foundation that creates the growth management board in its current form.
 - Two visits from Ministers of Municipal Affairs (Hon. Daniel Larivee and Hon. Shaye Anderson) in December 2016 and April 2017 provided the members of the CRB a clear outline of the proposed changes to the regulation.
 - These changes are proposed to be included in the new Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board Regulation, which is to be completed prior to the 2017 municipal election. They include a significant reduction in membership (24 to 13) and a change to the mandate, which will be increased to include economic development and a greater role in infrastructure and service planning.
 - When the new regulation is approved the CRB will transition into the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board.
- Growth Plan Update
 - While the new Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan was approved by the Board in October 2016, it still awaits approval from the Province.
 - Members of the Board met with members of Cabinet to present the new Growth Plan and share its benefits for the Government of Alberta.
 - No announcement has been made by the Government of Alberta on when the new Growth Plan may be approved.

- Transition

- A series of impending changes were anticipated by the CRB, including the new Regulation, Provincial approval of the new Growth Plan and transition to a new Board following the 2017 municipal elections.
- In order to account for these significant changes, a Transition Task Force was formed. The terms of reference provided the Task Force the responsibility to consider all aspects of how the Board operates and recommended changes to the overall governance structure.
- Once the EMRB Regulation is in place, the governance structure will be changed to have two standing committees (Executive, Audit & Finance) and will use task forces to complete specific projects, similar to how the Growth Plan Update was administered.

Board Committee, Task Force and CAO Standing Committee Governance Model



- 2017-2018 Budget

- In February 2017, the CRB approved its 2017-2018 budget and it included \$500,000 of member contributions to be provided after the proposed reduction in membership.
- Following the release of the 2017-2018 Provincial Budget, it was shared that there was an additional \$250,000 (\$2.5 million to \$2.25 million) reduction in base grant funding being provided to the CRB.
- A subsequent amendment to the CRB budget was made in May 2017 to account for this reduction. This further limited the projects that could be completed in the fiscal year.

- Incubation of Regional Economic Development

- The CRB successfully incubated the creation of an independent regional

- economic development entity.
- Following direction in March 2016, CRB Administration created an Interim Board of Directors of a future entity. This group, with CRB Administration, developed the necessary pieces to create a new entity and were able to get 15 municipalities to sign-on as early adopters in May 2017.
- The first meeting of the Entity's shareholders was held on June 8, 2017.
- This entity has since been incorporated as a Part 9 (non-profit) Company that operates independently from the CRB.
- **Regional Evaluation Framework 2.0**
 - Following Board approval of the new Growth Plan, it was clear that revisions would be needed to the Regional Evaluation Framework to ensure alignment. This Framework outlines a process by which municipal statutory plans are evaluated for compliance with the regional growth plan.
 - After significant discussion, in June 2017 the CRB recommended a new REF (2.0) to the Province for approval in tandem with the approval of the Growth Plan Update.

Future Steps:

- There are three remaining Capital Region Board meetings tentatively scheduled between now and the municipal elections. These meetings are expected to be cancelled pending any urgent business. The CRB currently has one remaining committee meeting scheduled between now and the municipal elections. All other regular meetings have been cancelled.
- It is anticipated that changes to the foundational Regulation will occur in 2017, ideally before the municipal elections. At that time the CRB will formally become the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB) with a reduced membership and expanded mandate.

Evaluation and Recommendation:

- The CRB has achieved regional collaborative successes over its 10 years. It is expected that as the CRB transitions into the EMRB, it will continue this success and grow more effective in growth management as its mandate increases.
- It is recommended that the City of Edmonton continue to participate, both politically and administratively, in the Regional Board going forward.
- It is recommended that the City's participation in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Economic Development Entity be added as a new activity as this Entity is independent from the CRB/EMRB.