

Regional Agriculture Strategy Overview

Committee of the Whole
October 10, 2024

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Purpose

To provide an overview of the Regional Agriculture Strategy (Phase 2) which will develop a regional approach to protecting agriculture from the pressures of population growth and a changing climate.



Regional Growth Strategy

- Long range, strategic plan
- Collective vision
- Broad range of region-wide and inter-jurisdictional issues



OUR LAND



OUR ECONOMY



OUR WATER RESOURCES



OUR HEALTH



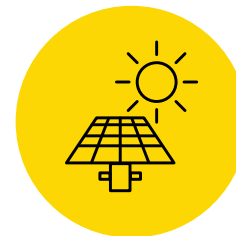
OUR FOOD



OUR HOUSING



OUR GOVERNANCE



OUR CLIMATE



OUR ECOSYSTEM



OUR TRANSPORTATION

2017 Priority Projects Plan

- Priority Projects Plan endorsed on July 24, 2017
- Projects accepted in principle
- Projects reviewed annually through the budget approval process



Five Year Action Plan

#	Project	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	Regional Flood Management Plan: Phases 2 and 3	█	█	█		
2	Regional Planning Lab	█	█	█	█	█
3	Regional Housing Needs Assessment		█			
4	Regional Growth Strategy Monitoring Program		█	█	█	█
5	Regional Citizen Survey		█			
6	Regional Housing Strategy			█		
7	Regional Growth Strategy Five-year Review			█		
8	Regional Agricultural Strategy				█	
9	Regional Employment Lands Inventory					█

Regional Agriculture Strategy (RAS)

Phase 1 (complete)

- Public engagement and consultation
- Background Report

Phase 2

- Development of the RAS



Phase 1 Process (complete)



1. Review and assess data, maps and reports



2. Engage key interest groups

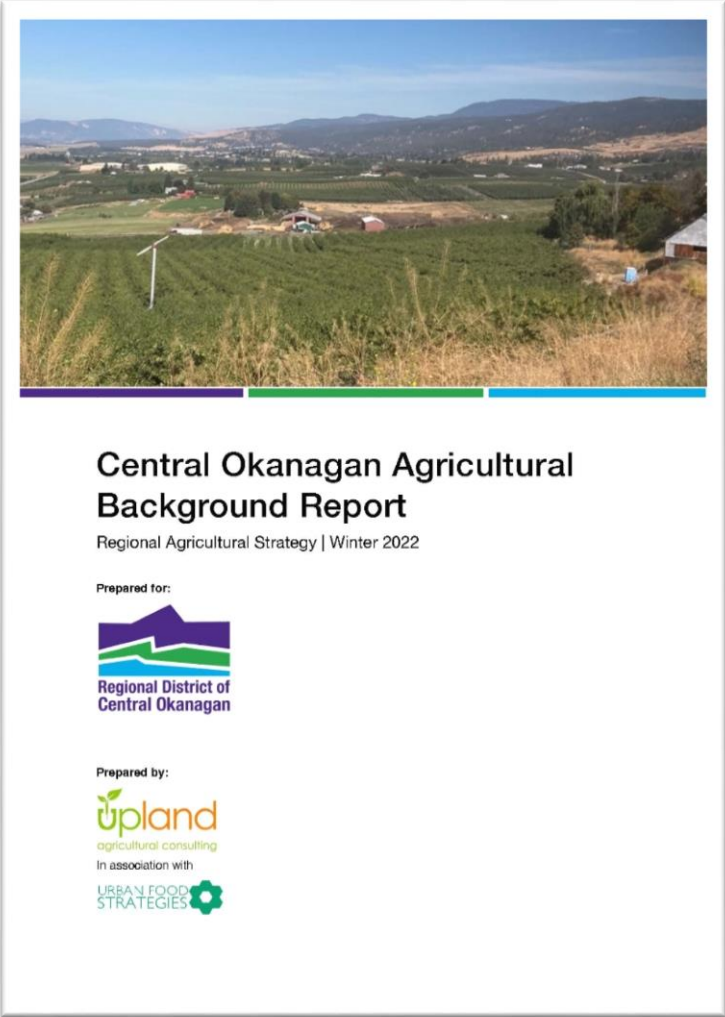


3. Prepare background report

Phase 1 Engagement (complete)

- Staff from Member Communities
- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- RGS Steering Committee
- Agricultural Sector Leaders
- Open House + Online Survey

RDCO Agricultural Background Report (complete)



Phase 2 Overview



OUR ECONOMY



OUR FOOD



OUR LAND



Soil Deposit and Removal

- Board's Strategic Priorities 2023-2026
- Regional soil management policy to be incorporated into the Regional Agricultural Strategy



Phase 2 Objectives



Develop a regional strategy to protect agricultural land



Promote resilience and the economic viability of farming



Encourage economically, environmentally, and socially beneficial agricultural practices

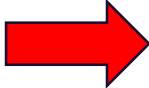


Promote food security, equity, health, and well-being of residents



Develop regional soil management policy

Project Timeline

Current Phase  Fall 2024

Project Initiation

Fall 2024

Setting the Vision and Areas of Focus

Winter/Spring 2025

Development of the RAS

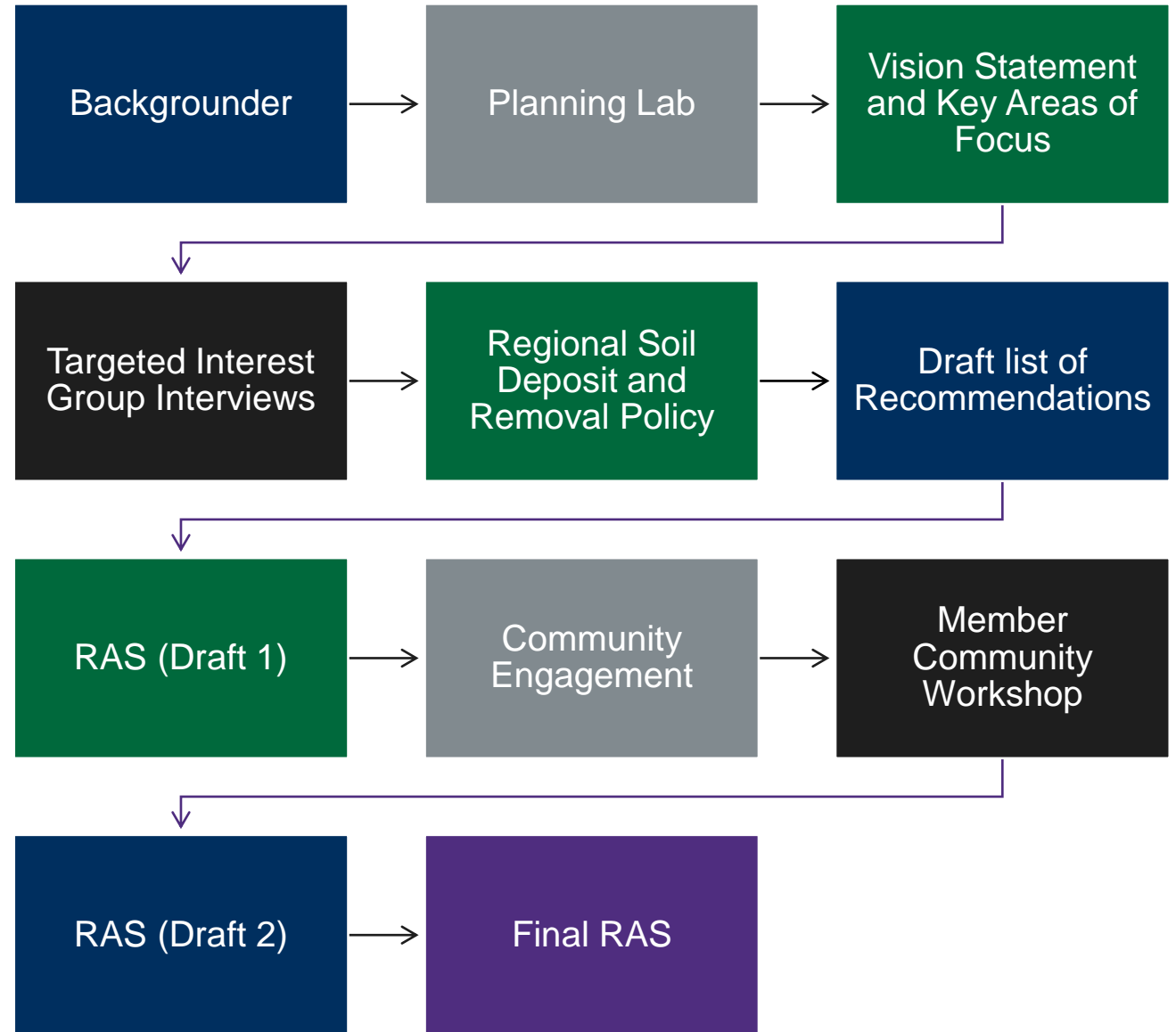
Summer 2025

External Review

Fall 2025

Project Wrap Up

Workplan



Working Group

- Comprised of technical experts, staff from member communities and key community groups
- Guide the process
- Key deliverables & project milestones



Phase 2 Engagement



Agricultural Sector
Leaders



Community
Organizations



Staff from Member
Communities



RGS Steering
Committee



Public Open House
+ Online Survey

Key Project Components

- *What We Heard* reports
- Regional Soil Deposit and Removal Policy
- Targeted Interviews and Community Engagement
- Workshop with member communities
- Regional Agriculture Strategy



Recommendation

THAT the Committee of the Whole receives the Regional Agriculture Strategy Phase 2 overview from the Director of Development and Engineering Services, dated October 10, 2024 for information.