



**SPOKANE COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS  
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2024**

<b>Steering Committee of Elected Officials Voting Members Present</b>	<b>Steering Committee of Elected Officials Non-Voting Members Present</b>	<b>Spokane County Staff Present</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Chair, Mayor Kevin Freeman, City of Millwood (present via zoom)</li> <li>-Council Member Rod Higgins, City of Spokane Valley</li> <li>-Council Member Michael Cathcart, City of Spokane (present via zoom)</li> <li>-Council Member Kitty Klitzke, City of Spokane</li> <li>-Commissioner Josh Kerns, Spokane County</li> <li>-Commissioner Amber Waldref, Spokane County</li> <li>-Council Member Micki Harnois</li> <li>-Mayor Cris Kaminskas, City of Liberty Lake (present via zoom)</li> <li>-Council member Dillon, City of Spokane (present via zoom)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Joel White, Spokane Homebuilders Association, Citizen-at-Large</li> <li>-Ned Wendle, Representing School Districts</li> <li>-Patrick Burch, Representing Fire Districts (present via zoom)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Robert Brock, AICP, Planner</li> <li>-Laurie Carver, Data Systems Analyst (present via zoom)</li> <li>-Elya Miroshin, Clerk</li> <li>-Scott Chesney, AICP, Director of Planning</li> <li>-Jessica Pilgrim, Legal Counsel (present via zoom)</li> </ul>

**CALL TO ORDER**

The March 20, 2024, public meeting of the Steering Committee of Elected Officials was called to order by Scott Chesney at 9:03 A.M. A quorum was present. Chair Freeman took the gavel at 9:05 A.M.

The meeting was accessible to the public at the Shadle Park Library, located at 2111 West Wellesley Ave, Spokane, WA, 99205, and via Zoom, with web and telephone links provided in the Spokesman-Review on March 5, 2024.

**WORKSHOP**

Heather Trautman and Mike Ulrich presented to the Steering Committee of Elected Officials (SCEO) a recommendation from the Planning Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) the first-round population allocation for the year 2046 using OFM’s medium population forecast. The recommendation is a multi-step process.

Round one will allocate population by creating a linear trend for each jurisdiction, adjust 2046 numbers to ensure the total Countywide population is OFM’s medium forecast, and make needed adjustments to avoid negative growth.

In round two, each jurisdiction will complete its own Land Capacity Analysis including other studies and adjust the numbers according to its ability to serve.

## **COMMENTS**

Council Member Klitzke asked how the numbers allocated to Rural and Unincorporated Urban Growth Areas this time differentiated from the previous 2017 projections, considering that the Rural area did not grow as projected. Mr. Freibott answered that the Rural numbers in 2017 were based on assumptions, unlike this time when the numbers came from the OFM population projections.

Joel White asked if the forecasted allocations from the last update were considered in the current update. Mr. Ulrich pointed out that OFM has adjusted the steepness of its trend line upward in reaction to a higher growth rate. Mr. White asked if each jurisdiction had gone back to check on their performance individually according to the last allocations. Ms. Trautman answered that as each jurisdiction moves forward with their land analysis in round two, analyzing growth and land use would become part of that process.

Council member Cathcart asked how much weight is given to current or recent growth trends in these projections and that he would like to see the projections compared to actuals from the last round. Mr. Cathcart asked to receive round two allocations in advance. Mr. Ulrich replied that the allocations were developed looking back to the year 2010 and weighing each year since then equally by using a simple regression from 2010 to 2046.

Commissioner Kerns asked if it's normal to see such big allocation shifts, such as the Unincorporated Outside and Unincorporated Inside Urban Growth Areas. Mr. Ulrich replied that percentages are based on the OFM data, stating that PTAC would look into whether it's a normal occurrence in previous years. Mr. Freibott also stated that the OFM projections are more so based on what has happened in previous years. The 2017 cycle overestimated growth in those areas, reflecting today's allocation shift.

Commissioner Waldref asked if joint planning will follow when Unincorporated and Incorporated Urban Growth Areas join when expansion within such an area is needed and who will be responsible for providing Capital Facility Services. Mr. Chesney responded that the goal is to have an annexation program discussed as part of joint planning.

## **MOTION**

Chair Kevin Freeman entertained a motion to adopt the January 24, 2024, minutes. So moved by council member Klitzke; seconded by council member Higgins. No discussion. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Paul Kropp, a member of the public, commented that the public should have more than a seven-day access to documents posted on the web prior to a meeting, as well as more accessible times and locations of meetings.

Council member Higgins moved to adjourn, seconded by Council member Klitzke. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 am.

  
Spokane County Steering Committee of Elected Officials, Chair Mayor Freeman

5/15/2024  
Date

Scott Chesney, AICP, Planning Director 

Elya Miroshin, SCEO Clerk, Spokane County Building & Planning