

## Spokane County Steering Committee of Elected Officials

**August 17, 2022**

**9:00 AM**

### **Voting Members Present:**

Rod Higgins, City of Spokane Valley, Chair  
Michael Cathcart, City of Spokane Council Member  
Terri Cooper, City of Medical Lake, Mayor  
Helen Dee Cragun, City of Deer Park Council Member  
Al French, Spokane County Commissioner  
Josh Kerns, Spokane County Commissioner  
Micki Harnois, Small Cities Representative  
Arne Woodard, City of Spokane Valley

### **Non-Voting Members:**

Joel White, Spokane Homebuilders Association, Citizen-at-Large

### **Spokane County Staff Present:**

Scott Chesney, Director of Planning, Spokane County  
Saegen Neiman, planner, Spokane County  
Laurie Carver, Data Systems Analyst II, Spokane County, IT Support  
Elya Miroshin, Clerk, Spokane County  
Susan Luna, Clerk, Spokane County  
Ray Nicholson, IT Support  
Doug Russell, IT Support  
Joel White

### **1. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Rod Higgins called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. A quorum was present at 9:35.

### **2. The Planning Technical Advisory summary of updates Presentation:**

Tirrell Black presented an update of the progress the PTAC has made with the Countywide Policies. She clarified the PTAC responsibilities and outlined the timeline for the proposed CWPP. She also explained GMA-required changes to each policy topics including Topic 1, UGAs; Topic 2, joint planning; Topic 3, contiguous and orderly development which collectively are a primary focus for the SCEO. PTAC recommends removing the level of service goals from Topic 3, so they may be managed by individual jurisdictions' capital facilities plans. Other topics addressed by PTAC are topics related to transportation, siting for essential public facilities, affordable housing, economic development, fiscal impact, and a new policy regarding tribal cultural resources as required by a new RCW. Policy Topic 4, Parks and Open Space is not required by the Revised Code of Washington State law. However, PTAC recommends preserving the policy topic without substantive changes.

The PTAC will return to Tribal Engagement with a new policy. A question about guidance from Commerce for the housing elements was put forth. Scott Kuhta addressed the committee stating that his department is providing housing guidance and strengthening the housing elements through legislative proposals this year and for tribal engagement within the next year. Mr. Kuhta was asked about a possible differentiation between reservation land and land trust. He stated that language which was added to the GMA for Countywide Planning Policies specifically addresses

Reservation Land and Seeded Land. Since Spokane County has neither, the county will encourage direct involvement from tribes who do have special interest. Tribal members do participate and have a voice in the PTAC meetings.

**3. Urban Growth Area Assessment and Land Quantity Analysis Methodology:** Scott Chesney addressed the committee to describe consideration to assess the Land Quantity Analysis methodology for a collective examination of growth patterns from the past for use as a forecast tool for the 2023 work plan. A projection and availability of current lands for development within the UGAs in the next 20-year horizon was suggested as an agenda item for the next month. Mr. Chesney explained that the LQA addressed development based on population growth and the PTAC will examine Industrial and Commercial development as well. Scott mentioned that the Capital Facilities Plans of the county and each jurisdiction will all have to take the adequate service of these areas into account.

A question was asked about whether Spokane County can consider the entire MSA when assessing growth and use of public utilities in areas that span both Washington State and North Idaho. Mr. Chesney answered that he and David Callahan, Community Development Director at Kootenai County, have begun meeting and discussing common themes and the coordination of the overall development of growth. From our own county perspective this area is essentially a unified economic unit. We will consider future growth patterns to accommodate approximately 600,000 to 700,000 in future growth. This topic will be revisited by the SCEO frequently to stay informed.

A question was brought up about traffic congestion on US 195 and I90 corridor and the Latah Valley corridor and a suggestion to reconsider allocations if the CFP cannot address the growth in this area. Additionally, if the growth could be rerouted to another area. Mr. Chesney explained this item would be discussed by the SCEO in conjunction with the individual jurisdictions who are in control of the planning and development of these areas.

A Question was asked about using localized policies to drive growth for limited volume infill near UGA areas, will those policies be used in the growth analysis for the UGA. Mr. Chesney answered that local policies can inform growth toward UGAs, and that information is useful to the Steering Committee.

A question about the DOT and if they should be involved in planning and development. Mr. Chesney answered they are completely integrated in planning and development, and they do participate in the PTAC meetings directly.

A comment was brought up about areas with no expectations of infrastructure investments and whether these areas should be removed from UGA boundaries so that it can be reallocated to a more timely and effective area which could help to address the Housing Crisis.

Mr. Kuhta mentioned that Commerce received full funding for comprehensive plan updated which can be seen on Department of Commerce grants page.

**4. Approval of the Minutes:** A role call was taken, and it was determined that a quorum was present. The minutes for January 19, 2022, April 20, 2022, and July 20, 2022, were presented for adoption. Arne Woodard moved to approve; Dee Cragun seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted by a vote.

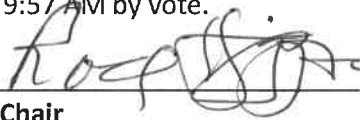
### **5. Next meeting**

September 21, 2022, at 9:00 AM. Center Place in Spokane Valley.

**6.Adjournment**

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn, it was moved by Arne Woodard then seconded by Micki Harnois. There being no further business before the Steering Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 AM by vote.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Rod Higgins, Chair

**Spokane County Steering Committee of Elected Officials**

Susan Luna

Clerk, Spokane County