

**MINUTES OF THE
GROWTH MANAGEMENT
STEERING COMMITTEE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

January 21, 2009

Chair Nancy McLaughlin called the meeting of the Growth Management Steering Committee of Elected Officials to order at 10:10 a.m. on January 21, 2009 in the Spokane Transit Authority's second floor Board Room at 1230 West Boone Avenue, Spokane, WA 99206.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy McLaughlin, Council Member, City of Spokane, Voting – Chair
Bill Gothmann, Council Member, City of Spokane Valley, Voting Alternate
Matthew Pederson, Mayor, City of Airway Heights, Voting
Al French, Council Member, City of Spokane, Voting
Allan Gainer, Mayor, City of Cheney, Voting
Wendy VanOrman, Mayor, City of Liberty Lake, Voting
Richard Rush, Council Member, City of Spokane, Voting
Ed "Chuck" Crockett, Mayor, Town of Latah, Voting
Diana Wilhite, City of Spokane Valley, Voting
Helen Cragun, City of Deer Park, Voting
Bonnie Mager, Spokane County Commissioner, Voting
Mark Richard, Spokane County Commissioner, Voting

NON VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sharon Colby, Fire Commissioner, Fire District No. 3

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Richard Munson, Mayor, Voting, City of Spokane Valley
Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner
Dan Mork, Mayor, Town of Millwood
Brenda Redell, Council Member, City of Medical Lake

Staff and interested parties as shown on the attached copy of the sign-in sheet.

- 1. Chair Nancy McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.**
- 2. Action on Minutes from November 19, 2008**

Moved Ms. Wilhite to approve the minutes of November 19, 2008 as written. Second by Mr. Gainer. Motion carried with Ms. Mager, Mr. Richard and Mr. Gothmann abstaining.

- 3. UGA Update Work Plan**

Greg McCormick, Planning Manager, City of Spokane Valley, and the newly elected Planning Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) Chair, presented an overview of the Urban Growth Area update process and the history of the Growth Management process in Spokane County. Mr. McCormick outlined the steps and

analysis that will be required for completion of the UGA update by 2011 and stated that a public participation process including four to five public meetings is planned. Mr. McCormick advised that the PTAC group will be meeting on January 26, 2009 to develop a more detailed work plan for the UGA update and that plan will be presented to the Steering Committee in February. Items to be completed in this update cycle include a finalization of the population allocations, an analysis of the current UGA capacity, a public participation program, analysis of capital facilities and an environmental review. Mr. McCormick emphasized the importance of developing joint planning between the cities and the County and completion of Interlocal Agreements and advised that the OFM numbers need to be recalculated as the most recent numbers were from 2006. He stated that he will discuss with the PTAC applying an annual multiplier that is within the range of growth to come up with a 2011 base population to move forward with the 20 year population projection. Mr. McCormick advised that OFM does release numbers on an annual basis but that the 20 year projection would not be released until 2011.

Mr. French asked what the percentage increase in populations has been since 2001. Mr. McCormick advised that he did not have the figures from 2001 on; however, the average annual increase from 2004 to 2008 is approximately 1.525 percent. Mr. French suggested looking at growth projections from 2001 forward.

4. Collaborative Grant Update

Susan Winchell, Director, Boundary Review Board, advised that Mr. Sheckler, the consultant on the grant project, was not able to attend today's meeting; however, she stated that the service delivery portion of the project has been completed and Mr. Sheckler is now working on completing the revenue options portion. Ms. Winchell advised that Mr. Sheckler will be meeting with the Mayors regarding the revenue portion of the grant project. Ms. Winchell explained that the service delivery assessment outlines which services are mandated to the County by the State of Washington, which are local services, and which services are provided on a contract basis. Ms. Winchell stated that one purpose is to help the cities understand the responsibilities of the County and that revenue sources for the county are more restricted.

Mr. Richard stated that the County acknowledges the importance of annexation to the cities, and that the County recognizes that fighting annexation and spending millions in lawsuits is not the best way to move the community forward or serve the citizens. He stated that annexations have a significant negative impact on County revenue. Mr. Richard stated that the need for the County to provide regional services has an impact on all county citizens. Mr. Richard acknowledged the collaboration efforts that have taken place thus far and encouraged the Committee members to continue to work toward a common effort.

Ms. McLaughlin suggested that a smaller subcommittee through the Council of Governments be established to work on these issues and address the legislative aspects of revenues and work toward agreements.

Ms. Mager expressed frustration that annexations are going forward without any dialog or analysis being done between the parties involved.

Ms. Colby advised that in her work with boards on a state level she has found that an informal discussion group working together on issues has been quite successful and recommended this type of discussion group to the Committee. Mr. Richard stated that in the discussion on annexation the need to maintain emergency services should be a priority.

Mr. Rush stated that revenue discussions need to move to the state level as statewide cutbacks have a significant effect on the cities' ability to provide services.

Ms. Winchell acknowledged the financial strain on the cities, however, she stated that the County is highly restricted by regulated services such as jails and courts and these services cannot be cut or adjusted.

Mr. Pederson acknowledged that the cities do have revenue sources that the counties do not and stated that the county provides a number of very large services, including road maintenance, that the cities rely upon, yet they have limited funding sources. Mr. Pederson stated cities should be advocating for the county because they rely heavily on the county to provide those services.

5. Other Topics for Discussion

Ms. McLaughlin reported that signed Interlocal Agreements have been received from Deer Park, Rockford, Airway Heights, Liberty Lake, and Medical Lake. Ms. McLaughlin advised that the Interlocal Agreement is on the January 26, 2009 agenda for the City of Spokane.

Mr. McLaughlin asked the PTAC to draft a letter to the School Districts and Water Districts to announce the vacancies for those positions as outlined in the Interlocal Agreement. Ms. Winchell advised that Sharon Colby is the board member representing the Fire Districts and a letter announcing the open seats for School Districts and Water and Sewer Districts will be drafted and presented to the Committee. Ms. Winchell stated that the Board of County Commissioners is charged to select a citizen representative from the Urban Growth Area and a similar letter could be drafted for the Commissioners.

Ms. Colby asked if a representative from Avista or other utility would be selected. Ms. Winchell advised that the Steering Committee determined there was no need to sit a member from utilities; however, in any land issues pertinent to the utilities they would be consulted for input to the PTAC.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on February 25, 2008 in the STA Boardroom.

There being no further business before the Steering Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Approved: Nancy McLaughlin
Chairman Nancy McLaughlin

Date: 2/25/09

Vickie Merriott, Clerk