

Spokane County Steering Committee of Elected Officials

January 19, 2022

Panelist Members Present:

Breean Beggs, Chair, City of Spokane Council President
Art Bubb, City of Airway Heights, Council Member
Al French, Spokane County Commissioner
Michael Cathcart, City of Spokane Council Member
Cris Kaminskas, City of Liberty Lake, Mayor
Helen Dee Cragun, City of Deer Park Council Member
Josh Kerns, Spokane County Commissioner
Lori Kinnear, City of Spokane Council Member
Mary Kuney, Spokane County Commissioner
Micki Hanois, Small Cities Representative
Kevin Freeman, City of Spokane

Non-voting Members Present:

Joel White, Spokane Home Builder's Association

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Breean Beggs called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. A quorum was present

Spokane County planning director Scott Chesney reviewed the role and responsibilities of the steering committee as a function of the Growth Management Act and as a recommending body to the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners.

2. Growth 20-year growth analysis process and expected results

Infill development observations

The SCEO discussed using a matrix to document growth over the past 20 years as a tool to understand how all parts of the county has grown and to offer an initial assessment of lands remaining in the communities various zoning classifications and in the designated Urban Growth Areas

Constituent communities are requested to complete this assessment using sub areas, such as neighborhoods, to afford a useful perspective on where growth has occurred and where areas may be "built-out" under current development regulations.

This effort will inform constituent communities as to the effectiveness of infill development policies as well as provide direction for the upcoming Land Quantity Analysis which is one critical tool to assess Spokane County Urban Growth Areas.

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Spokane County remains bound by the 2016 Settlement Agreement. That agreement prohibits the county from currently expanding the UGA—it allows for UGA lands to swap. The agreement does not preclude assessing the UGA as part of the Comprehensive Plan periodic update process.

Review of the Urban Growth Areas is a responsibility of the Steering Committee and will be in the committee workplan for the 2026 update.

There are “triggers” in the planning policies that require review of the UGA when met. These include, among others, faster population growth than forecast.

The county commits to facilitate and support joint planning as a function of regional governance and noted the overall intention to be a planning partner with all constituent communities.

3.Countywide Planning Policies

The Countywide Planning Policies were adopted in 1995 and most recently amended in 2011. Assessing the continued validity of current policies and examining new areas of policy interest will be a key function of the Steering Committee for 2022. This effort to assess and amend the CWPP will form the foundation for the Comprehensive Plan 2026 periodic update.

The challenges of county wide growth and its impacts were discussed. Benefits from policy management to address the rising housing crisis, diversify countywide urban growth, and guidance of analysis and joint planning were also expressed.

Steering Committee member Al French made a motion to create a CWPP subcommittee with members from, at least, the city of Spokane, city of Spokane Valley, and Spokane County. Lori Kinnear seconded the motion. After discussion a vote was taken. The motion carried to create a subcommittee, member Art Bubb, Airway Heights voted nay.

Steering Committee staff will establish a review and evaluation process for SCEO and PTAC. The SCEO will receive an outreach program for review and approval.

4.Outreach Public Participation Program Current program review and discussion

Mr. Chesney reported that the county is updating its 1998 Public Participation Program to reflect new technologies and virtual participation. Comments and suggestions are sought from committee members, PTAC, and those viewing the committee meeting.

These will be offered for additional public comment with an anticipated county Planning Commission public hearing and recommendation in the second quarter of 2022.

Steering Committee members are welcome to consider these for their constituent community use.

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5. Public Comment

Comments and questions from the public regarding issues other than those on this agenda were entertained via Zoom. Chat comments were gathered and appended to these minutes.

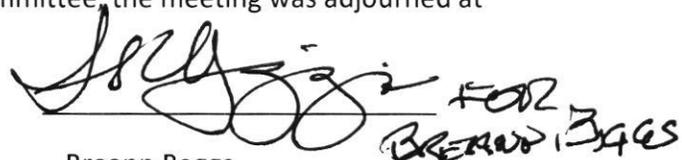
6. Next meeting

April 20, 2022, at 9:00 AM.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Steering Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM.

Approved:


Breann Beggs
Steering Committee Chair

Date: _____

8/17/22

Scott Chesney,
Spokane County Planning Director