



**SPOKANE COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS  
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING  
JANUARY 24, 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</li> <li>-Vice Chair, Commissioner Al French, Spokane County</li> <li>-Council Member Rod Higgins, City of Spokane Valley</li> <li>-Council Member Michael Cathcart, City of Spokane</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</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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Robert Brock, AICP, Planner</li> <li>-Laurie Carver, Data Systems Analyst</li> <li>-Elya Miroshin, Clerk</li> <li>-Scott Chesney, AICP, Director of Planning</li> </ul>

**CALL TO ORDER**

The January 24, 2024, public hearing of the Steering Committee of Elected Officials, was called to order by Chair Kevin Freeman at 9:03 A.M. A quorum was present.

The meeting was accessible to the public at the Spokane County Water Resource Center, located at 1004 North Freya Street, Spokane, WA, and via Zoom with web and telephone links provided in the Spokesman Review on January 9, 2024.

**MOTION**

Chair Kevin Freeman entertained a motion to adopt the October 18, 2023, minutes. So moved by Council member Higgins; seconded by Council member Cathcart. No discussion. The motion carries unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Chesney reviewed the Planning Technical Advisory Committee’s (PTAC) recommendation that the Steering Committee of Elected Officials (SCEO) recommend to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) the adoption of Office of Financial Management’s (OFM) medium population projection number 654,665. This will commit all jurisdictions within the County planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to this projection.

**Chair Freeman opened the 2026-2046 Spokane County Population Projection Public Hearing.**

No Comments.

**Chair Freeman closed the 2026-2046 Spokane County Population Projection Public Hearing.**

**MOTION**

Council member Cathcart moved to recommend adoption to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) the medium population projection; seconded by Council member Higgins. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**WORKSHOP**

Melissa Alofaituli introduced herself as the new Commerce representative for the Eastern Region, replacing Scott Kuhta.

**WORKSHOP**

**Tribal Participation:**

PTAC Chair, Heather Trautman, briefed the SCEO members of PTAC's recommendations on legislative changes in GMA regarding Tribal participation in the periodic update as well as the SCEO and PTAC roles in preparing for the 2026 update.

The first PTAC recommendation suggests the SCEO consult with both the leadership of the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and the Spokane Tribe of Indians regarding participation on the SCEO and their preferred form and level of participation.

The second PTAC recommendation suggests the SCEO allow each Tribe to have voting positions and that each Tribe should be allowed to elect a representative from within their government framework including non-elected individuals.

This might preclude an update of the Interlocal Agreement between agencies.

**COMMENTS**

Council member Cathcart questioned if there was flexibility in the SCEO structure, specifically to add an additional representative from the small cities. Mr. Chesney answered that it can be structured in any way the SCEO members see fit with the BoCC's final approval.

Commissioner French is in favor of Tribal participation as voting members on the SCEO recommending Interlocal Agreement reviewal as well as the proposed adjustment of representation as recommended by Council member Cathcart.

Patrick Burch proposed adding a Fire District representative as a voting member to the SCEO.

Council member Klitzke is in favor of Tribal participation as a voting member of the SCEO.

**The SCEO members directed staff to begin consulting with the two tribes to figure out what their preferred form and level of participation is. This may lead to the re-opening of the By-Laws.**

Council member Cathcart suggests the SCEO recommend to the BoCC to add the two Tribal voting member representatives while opening a sub-committee to look at the overall structure of the SCEO.

Commissioner Waldref strongly supports Tribal participation and being able to define what that is for themselves.

Ned Wendle voiced his interest in adding a School District voting member to the SCEO.

Staff will prepare proposals for PTAC study and a review by SCEO.

**Land Capacity Analysis/Population Allocations:**

Kevin Freibott presented PTAC's update of the Urban Growth Area (UGA) Land Capacity Analysis (LCA). The jurisdictions are nearing completion of their property analysis stage, which will then follow up with development capacity analysis. The PTAC's sub-committee is currently working on population allocation by splitting the countywide population into each jurisdictional area. Once the capacity analysis is complete, the second round would consider possible refinement to the jurisdictional population allocation.

**COMMENTS**

Council member Cathcart asked how State Legislation and local changes to middle housing affect projections for the Land Capacity Analysis. Mr. Freibott answered that under the Land Capacity Analysis, after identifying the land you have and determining what that land can hold, each jurisdiction will then come up with an assumed developmental factor in how they expect to grow, providing their own rationale within their report.

Commissioner Waldref asked how the not-yet-updated water system plans will balance the upcoming Land Capacity allocations. Mr. Chesney answered that a proposal to update the Coordinated Water System Plan countywide has been made parallel to the Urban Growth Area Analysis. Commissioner Waldref followed up by asking how different types of zoning affect the allocation decision-making. Mr. Chesney reminded that each individual jurisdiction would make its own analysis, determination, and recommendation. The County will then do the same to ensure that conclusions match. If there is a discrepancy, a re-examination will be made.

Ned Wendle informed the SCEO members that the Spokane County Superintendents expressed wanting to be pre-emptive and have more of a partnership on the forefront regarding planning population allocations.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was made.

**Council member Higgins moved to adjourn, seconded by Council member Cathcart. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 A.M.**



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Spokane County Steering Committee of Elected Officials, Chair Mayor Freeman

Date

Scott Chesney, AICP, Planning Director

*Scott Chesney*

Elya Miroshin, SCEO Clerk, Spokane County Building & Planning












# Adopted SCEO January 24, 2024, Minutes

Final Audit Report

2024-03-23

Created:	2024-03-20
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## "Adopted SCEO January 24, 2024, Minutes" History

-  Document created by Elya Miroshin (EMIROSHIN@spokanecounty.org)  
2024-03-20 - 7:43:48 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to mayor@millwood.us for signature  
2024-03-20 - 7:45:54 PM GMT
-  Elya Miroshin (EMIROSHIN@spokanecounty.org) added alternate signer mayor@millwoodwa.us. The original signer mayor@millwood.us can still sign.  
2024-03-21 - 3:01:31 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to mayor@millwoodwa.us for signature  
2024-03-21 - 3:01:31 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by mayor@millwoodwa.us  
2024-03-21 - 7:12:53 PM GMT
-  Signer mayor@millwoodwa.us entered name at signing as Kevin M. Freeman  
2024-03-23 - 0:01:18 AM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Kevin M. Freeman (mayor@millwoodwa.us)  
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-  Document emailed to Scott Chesney (schesney@spokanecounty.org) for signature  
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-  Email viewed by Scott Chesney (schesney@spokanecounty.org)  
2024-03-23 - 4:14:08 PM GMT
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