

Governor's Office of Planning and Budget  
State Capitol Complex, Suite E210  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2210  
Telephone (801) 538-1027

## Utah Population Estimates Committee

### Minutes

Monday, November 22, 2004

1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

#### *Committee Members*

##### Present:

Neil Ashdown	Chair
Scott Festin	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Mark Knold	Utah Dept. of Workforce Services
Nate Millward	Utah State Board of Regents
Patty Murphy	Utah State Office of Education
Pam Perlich	University of Utah
Blake Smith	Questar Gas
Mike Toney	Utah State University
Tom Williams	Utah Tax Commission
Walt Busse	LDS Church
Ken Sizemore	Five County Association of Governments
Shawn Eliot	Mountainland Association of Governments
Jeff Gilbert	Bear River Association of Governments
Mylitta Barrett	for Barry Nangle – DOH, Vital Records

##### Staff:

Robert Spendlove	GOPB
Peter Donner	GOPB
Morgan Lyon Cotti	GOPB
Effie Johnson	GOPB
Clara Walters	GOPB

##### Absent:

Barry Nangle	Utah Dept. of Health
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#### **Welcome and Introductions – Neil Ashdown, Committee Chair**

Neil Ashdown, Committee Chair welcomed everyone and introduced new members, Ken Sizemore from Five County Association of Governments and Jeff Gilbert from the Bear River Association of Governments.

#### **I. Approve November 28, 2003 Minutes**

Mike Toney made a motion to approve the November 18, 2003 minutes and Scott Festin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **II. Discussion of Estimates Methodology – Robert Spendlove**

Robert discussed the different methodologies (IRS, School, LDS, and UPEC) the Estimates Committee has been using in establishing the population estimates for Utah. He then went on to explain a problem that has come up in relation to the IRS method. Tom said that the IRS results of growth rates were influenced by tax cuts.

He then went on to introduce a new method utilizing total building permits issued in a certain period of

time and comparing them to houses being constructed. Using residential building permits to do housing stock (number of occupied housing units) and adding a factor of .98 to completed new units several sets of data can be pulled together to reflect what is actually happening. Also within the housing method, the term “group quarters” consists of prisons, nursing homes, university housing, etc.

Robert also discussed discontinuing the “no outlier” method because of its inaccuracy. By taking the simple average of the School, LDS, and Housing methods and identifying the populations as “low” or “high” a more comprehensive count could be determined.

The Committee agreed to use the housing method Robert suggested and discontinue the “no outlier” method.

### **III. 2004 State and County Estimates – Robert Spendlove**

The Committee looked at the growth of school enrollments, LDS membership, and housing units of each county in the state. A handout of this information and a computer presentation of the data were provided by Robert. The Committee also reviewed employment growth, building permits, and utility connections in conjunction with the official methods.

- A. Garfield, Millard and Morgan Counties** – The LDS count was dropped and the School and Housing averages were used.
- B. Piute County** – The School method was dropped and the LDS and Housing average were used.
- D. Salt Lake County** – The School and Housing averages were used and the LDS dropped in this county.
- E. San Juan County** – The LDS and Housing averages were used and the School average was dropped.
- F. Washington and Weber Counties** – In these two counties the LDS average was dropped and the School and Housing averages were used.

A simple average was used in determining the estimates for the remaining counties. Patty Murphy made a motion to accept all the county population estimates produced in the meeting as the official estimates of the Utah Population Estimates Committee. Blake Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sean asked how the Census got their population estimates? Neil and Robert explained that UPEC would submit its numbers to the Census Bureau and those numbers were used. Then in the 1990’s the Census Bureau bumped up their numbers. The Census uses IRS exemptions to establish population estimates.

Patty moved to adjourn the meeting, Mike seconded and the motion passed.

**The meeting was adjourned.**