



SCALE

Scott County Association For Leadership And Efficiency

Welcomes, introductions, and legislative priorities hallmarked the SCALE meeting on Friday, Jan. 11! After **Chair LuAnne Lemke** officially welcomed the newly elected officials to SCALE, Scott County Public Affairs Coordinator **Lisa Kohner** announced to the group that **Claire Robling** had joined the County in a legislative liaison/communications specialist role. The selection of Robling, a journalist and editor before she served for 16 years in the Minnesota Senate, was roundly lauded by SCALE members.

Following general introductions, Chair Lemke and **Vice Chair Joe Thill** presented a summary overview of SCALE — its history, founding principles, recent accomplishments, and ongoing initiatives — for the benefit of the state legislators present as well as the new local officials. “SCALE is a philosophy and an idea; it is about leadership, innovation, and risk-taking. But it’s also about recognizing and achieving collective influence... and it all comes down to relationships,” said Chair Lemke. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

After the 20-minute “Intro to SCALE” presentation, the *2013 Legislative Platform* was officially presented to the Scott County legislative delegation members present. Following a format similar to the December meeting, Scott County Commissioner **Jon Ulrich** addressed the issue of regional governance; County Project Manager **Lisa Freese** took up the various transportation-related priorities; Shakopee Mayor **Brad Tabke** enumerated SCALE’s economic development goals; Prior Lake-Savage School Board member (and current SCALE treasurer) **Lee Shimek** discussed the organization’s educational priorities; Park Manager **Mark Themig** reviewed the policy recommendation put forth by a DNR advisory committee on allocating parks and trails funding; and Prior Lake Mayor **Ken Hedberg** presented issues related to impaired waters. The full *2013 SCALE Legislative Platform* can be found [here](#).

Representative **Michael Beard** spoke first, acknowledging that the river crossing at Hwy. 101 was a significant priority for him as well as SCALE, and applauded the organization’s position on the recent Market Value Homestead Credit changes. “[Modifying the MVHC program] was the right thing to do,” he stated. Representative **Pam Myhra** then reiterated much of what Rep. Beard had said, and added that much of her legislative focus will be on early childhood and youth education issues. Senator **Kevin Dahle**, who was “...glad to be back,” commented that SCALE platform “looks great,” but noted that much of the early work of the Legislature will be tied up in budget issues — and addressing the \$1.1 billion state deficit. Representative **Tony Albright**, new to the House of Representatives, expressed his eagerness to be “... working closely on your behalf,” and remarked that he’d only gotten lost twice so far at the Capitol. (Representative **Kelby Woodard**, Senator **Dan Hall**, and Senator **Eric Pratt** were unable to attend, but had been apprised of the *Platform’s* priorities at the December meeting.)

Before New Prague Administrator **Michael Johnson** closed the meeting with a short update on recent news and events in the City, SCALE unanimously welcomed the Carver-Scott Educational Cooperative/ Minnesota River Valley Educational Cooperative into SCALE membership. Executive Director **Darrin Kermes** was present to accept the membership.

The next SCALE meeting, which will focus on changing demographics and a “Transit 101” primer, will be held on **Feb. 8, 2013, from 7:30—9:30 a.m. at Prior Lake City Hall**. Mark your calendars!