



SCALE

Scott County Association For Leadership And Efficiency

The SCALE general membership met Friday, Feb. 11 at Prior Lake City Hall. The meeting started with a legislative update from Scott County lobbyist **John Boland**, who spoke about the \$6.2 billion state budget deficit. Also noting that odd numbered years are usually not considered bonding years, he did state that he is currently working on a bill for \$2.2 million to complete the SCALE Regional Training Facility. Boland also touched on **Governor Mark Dayton's** process of appointing all members of the Metropolitan Council; currently, each Met Council district is down to four to eight candidates. SCALE would also like to see Scott County get sole representation, which would require a change in Met Council governance. Boland said he is confident there will be changes in how membership is apportioned.

After a brief introduction, Scott County Parks and Trails Program Manager **Mark Themig** updated SCALE on the recent Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between Three Rivers and Scott County. Themig said the new agreement focuses on expanding and developing the relationship through a collective approach toward regional park and trail operations. This natural resource-based system features 54,633 acres; 51 regional parks and reserves; seven special recreation features; 38 regional trails (231 miles); and 38 million visitors per year. The system is coordinated through the Met Council, with Scott County and Three Rivers serving as the park implementing agencies.

The new JPA encompasses all regional park and trail operations in the County (excluding The Landing). Three Rivers will be the operations and maintenance coordinating agency, retaining final decision making authority for Murphy-Hanrehan and Cleary Parks; Scott County will make available existing operating resources (parks staff, trail maintenance agreements, county programs, volunteers, et cetera), and will retain final decision-making authority for all existing and planned regional park and trail system units. Each organization will ultimately be governed by their respective boards and policy committees. The Scott County Parks Advisory Commission now advises both boards through the policy committee and the Park District provides a liaison to the Scott County Parks Advisory Commission. The agreement will allow opportunities to share expertise and resource while collaborating on specific initiatives in the overall Vision Plan. No additional financial commitments are required from either agency.

Following the presentation, SCALE Chair and Savage Mayor **Janet Williams** brought forward a slate of SCALE officer candidates. Prior Lake Mayor **Mike Myser**, Louisville Township Clerk **LuAnne Lemke**, and Jordan City Councilmember **Joe Thill** were recommended and approved as chair, vice chair, and secretary, respectively.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to committee and member comments. The Transportation and Economic Development Committee brought up its four-to-six week Strategic Economic Development Program process, which will include an analysis of where to focus attention for the next 20 years and how to leverage broadband services. The Community Culture Committee is training on Sharepoint in anticipation of a SCALE extranet site, and the Quality of Life Committee mentioned its work on tree preservation and planting, the Emerald Ash Borer, a green ordinance template, and water quality.

Chair Williams announced that elected officials and staff are invited to Minnesota State Department of Commerce Commissioner **Mike Rothman's** presentation on the anticipated spring flooding and the importance of flood insurance set for **February 18 at 12:30 p.m.** in the Scott County Emergency Operations Room in the Law Enforcement Center. He will also discuss what local governments can do to educate and increase citizen awareness; afterward, he will provide a tour of flood-prone areas.

The next SCALE meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 11, from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m., at Prior Lake City Hall. Please continue to check the SCALE website at www.scaleinfo.org for agendas, news, information, and committee updates!

"The mission of SCALE is to forge new and innovative ways in which government entities can collaborate to provide superior services while making the most of limited resources."