



On Friday, March 9, Prior Lake Mayor and Chair of the Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency **Michael Myser** welcomed a capacity crowd to Prior Lake City Hall. After brief introductions, several members of SCALE (Shakopee Administrator **Mark McNeill**, Jordan Mayor **Pete Ewals**, and Prior Lake City Manager **Frank Boyles**, among others) raised several concerns over HF389/SF270 (dealing with interim moratoria and park dedication issues) and HF2084/SF1664, which has implications for cities that opt for organized waste collection. **Representative Michael Beard** and **Representative Mark Buesgens** spent considerable time discussing several modifications that had been made to the bills (rendering them “less onerous” to local governments), explaining where the legislation was in the process, and noting that “... these bills were not crafted because you [the SCALE leaders] are a problem; you guys tend to play nice,” according to Rep. Beard. However, both legislators were quick to add that there are areas throughout the state in which “... property owners and private businesses do have problems [which overreaching governmental actions].” After more discussion, general consensus emerged in fostering more timely communication on state initiatives that may have consequences for local government.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a presentation led by **Brad Davis**, Scott County Planning Manager (and member of the SCALE Transportation and Economic Development technical team committee), summarizing the committee’s study findings as to economic development opportunities and challenges throughout the County. Joined by another team member, **Bruce Maus** (Senior Vice President, Grubb & Ellis/Northco Real Estate Services), they detailed the results from a corridor analysis that gauged various sites’ strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, major takeaways, and marketability — most of which pivoted on five primary determinants: location/proximity to major routes or population centers, land availability, land affordability, infrastructure, and population density. After discovering that Scott County had far fewer “pad ready” lots than would be desirable for strong economic development or expansion, the study partners decided to focus its efforts on prioritizing the “right place/right time/right market” corridors. (The presentation as well as the “SCALE Corridor Review Team Assessment” report can be found on the SCALE website at www.scaleinfo.org.)

“We determined that there are four primary locations in which SCALE should consider focusing its efforts,” Davis stated. Those areas included the 101 corridor and the 169/69 area (both in Shakopee), the area around Interstate 35 and CH2 (Elko New Market), and the 169/282 intersection (Jordan). During the follow-up discussion, Savage City Administrator **Barry Stock** was blunt: “What we’ve seen here is that investments are needed. We need to use the economic development tools that exist. And we need the political guts to use them. At some point, the economic floodgates are going to open again; will we be ready?”

Before concluding his last meeting as SCALE Chair, Prior Lake Mayor Mike Myser called for a motion on the Executive Committee’s slate of SCALE leadership candidates for 2012-2013. Upon unanimous consent, **LuAnne Lemke** (Louisville Township) will begin serving as Chair; Councilmember **Joe Thill** (City of Jordan) as Vice Chair; and Board Member **Lee Shimek** as Treasurer as of the April meeting.

The next SCALE meeting will be held on **Friday, April 13, at 7:30 a.m.** at the Prior Lake City Hall.

“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.”

www.scaleinfo.org