



SCALE

Scott County Association For Leadership And Efficiency

On Friday, April 8, members and guests of the Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE) gathered for a meeting that featured a legislative update; bylaw revisions and the approval of new members; and a summary overview of the Quality of Life Committee's work on addressing the potential Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) problems in Scott County.

In his first meeting as Chair, Prior Lake **Mayor Mike Myser** opened the meeting with a recognition of and plaque presentation to outgoing Chair, Savage **Mayor Janet Williams**. "Mayor Williams led this organization through positioning it for growth in positive directions," he noted. In accepting the plaque, Mayor Williams acknowledged the work and contribution of Savage Administrator **Barry Stock** and others in maintaining SCALE's success.

Scott County lobbyist **John Boland** then provided a brief overview of recent legislative developments, noting that the House and Senate had essentially wrapped up the committee work on tax and funding bills, but "... have yet to deal with the Governor." Remarking that **Governor Mark Dayton** has been "careful" to avoid threatening vetoes, Boland suggested that House and Senate leaders will likely try to meet with the Governor in the near future to avert a stalemate. **Senator Claire Robling**, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, added that the House and Senate members must come to some agreement on budget targets, "... [and] in some areas there is general agreement, in others we are further apart. But we're still about a month ahead of schedule, so it seems that we're in good shape."

The remainder of morning's meeting focused primarily on the SCALE efforts to combat "that little green bug, the Emerald Ash Borer," stated Savage Administrator Barry Stock. "Essentially, we want to put this community in a position of readiness; identify strategies, policies, and resources that may be needed; and work towards distributing the costs over a manageable period of time to lessen the economic impact of an ash blight," he explained.

Making it clear that the Quality of Life Committee's EAB management plan and associated recommendations were merely guidelines for all of the SCALE members to consider, "Each individual entity is ultimately responsible for adopting, amending, implementing, and updating their own plan," Stock said. Included with the presentation materials was a model ordinance for members to review and consider.

In addition to an overview of public education and communication methods the Committee intends to implement (e.g., website development, Arbor Day activities, the compilation of a resource list for residents, etc.), Stock noted that many communities are actively seeking residents willing to serve as "early detectors" of EAB. Scott County Natural Resource Program Manager **Paul Nelson** added that the **Minnesota Department of Agriculture** hosts a series of training events for those interested in becoming an "early detector."

Stock then discussed various strategies for enforcement, as "... it's better to be prepared than just respond." In addition to summarizing different response scenarios, he also noted that they are currently looking at potential disposal sites. For more information about the EAB planning process, check out [the Committee's PowerPoint here](#).

In the final official actions of the morning, SCALE members unanimously adopted several bylaw amendments that ease membership requirements, then – based on the adoption of these changes – formally welcomed the Three Rivers Park District and the Shakopee Area Catholic Schools as members.

Next month's SCALE meeting will be held on **Friday, May 13 at 7:30 a.m.** at Prior Lake City Hall.