



**SCALE**  
Scott County Association For Leadership And Efficiency

After a welcome by SCALE Chair Joe Thill (Jordan), last Friday's general meeting was kicked off by PIO/Crisis Communications subgroup member Amy Barnett (Savage), who informed attendees of plans for a tabletop exercise they may want to join. Planned for early fall, the scenario-based training would provide leaders with an opportunity to learn more about and practice the public information officer and/or spokesperson role should an emergency occur in their community. Interested in more details? Just click [here](#) to send them an e-mail.

Following Amy's announcement, Scott County Deputy Administrator Lezlie Vermillion encouraged everyone to attend the Highway Transitway Corridor Study Stakeholder Workshop, hosted by the Metropolitan Council from 8:30 a.m. to noon on June 28. The workshop will include a review and examination of potential transit corridors, including Highway 169. If your schedule allows, please plan on joining them -- attendance at the workshop could impact the future of transit routes and stations in the County. To RSVP, please contact the Metropolitan Council by June 21.

Getting to the morning's primary subject, Scott County Legislative Coordinator Claire Robling welcomed the County's legislative delegation. Rep. Michael Beard (Shakopee), Rep. Kelby Woodard (Belle Plaine), Sen. Kevin Dahle (Northfield), Rep. Pam Myhra (Burnsville), Sen. Dan Hall (Burnsville), Sen. Eric Pratt (Prior Lake), and Rep. Tony Albright (Prior Lake) were invited to provide their perspectives on the previous session's developments as well as thoughts on emerging legislative issues.

Touching largely on the topics of transportation, education, and taxes, Rep. Michael Beard noted that the session brought passage of the largest transportation funding bill in state history, saying "... we're going to see a lot of road construction going on."

Rep. Kelby Woodard reported that, at present, the State of Minnesota is "in good shape" financially, but recent progress could easily become derailed.

Sen. Kevin Dahle expressed satisfaction with the bipartisan effort that will create jobs through an expansion of Cambria in Le Sueur County. Another bipartisan success, Dahle noted, gives farmland owners more rights when it comes to negotiating with power companies wanting to place utility lines on their property. And while attempts to make progress on removing the Dan Patch Line "gag order" were unsuccessful this year, Dahle stated his ongoing commitment to the cause. In fact, he noted, students from Carleton College will be building a website about the history of the Dan Patch Line and why its development is important.

Rep. Pam Myhra dubbed the session "a rollercoaster." While Myhra stated that she's been pleased with increases in Local Government Aid (LGA) -- which includes \$40 million for counties in 2014 -- she shared her disappointment that funding approved for all-day, every day kindergarten wasn't less structured to allow districts to determine the best use of the early childhood funds.

Sen. Dan Hall briefly touched on the denial of Savage's request for TIF legislation, which would have set the stage for a gravel pit's transformation into a residential/commercial development. He expected the legislation to pass, but - in his words -- politics came into play in the final days of the session. Happy with the passage of a sales tax exemption for cities, Hall said he was generally frustrated by much of the other outcomes.

Sen. Eric Pratt noted the status SCALE has among his colleagues at the Capitol. "We talk about SCALE constantly," he said. "Few groups come together in this state like this group does." Pratt heralded increases in higher education funding, tuition freezes, and performance requirements for colleges. And he had praise for his fellow legislators: "While we don't [always] see eye to eye, issue to issue, I do think we work together very well."

Rep. Tony Albright provided the final legislative perspective, drawing on his experience as a member of the Capital Investment as well as the Jobs and Health Finance committees. The 2013 bonding bill provides for the full restoration of the Capitol, Albright said, as well as an expansion of the Minneapolis Veterans Home and much-needed flood mitigation projects. Albright also reminded the group that Scott County now has two Metropolitan Council representatives, due to redistricting.

With the legislative updates complete, Chair Thill gave Barry Stock (Savage) a moment to promote a brokers workshop slated for September 12 at Canterbury Park. The workshop is intended to show area brokers all that Scott County can offer their clients.

The meeting wrapped up with a quick message from Elko New Market Mayor Tony Gabriel. He shared his community's challenge of often being overlooked despite its attractive location just off of Interstate 35. He urged attendees: "Don't forget about us."

The next SCALE meeting will be held on Friday, August 9 at Prior Lake City Hall. Please note: there is no general membership meeting scheduled in July.