



The SCALE meeting on Friday, December 14 had one packed agenda! First, Jordan City Councilmember (and current SCALE Vice Chair) **Joe Thill** rose to formally recognize outgoing elected officials, namely: **Kevin Slack** of Belle Plaine Township; **LuAnne Lemke** of Louisville Township; **Tim Lies** of Belle Plaine; **Jason Ponsonby** and **Bob Hanna** of Elko New Market; **Pete Ewals** and **Sally Schultz** of Jordan; **Kristin Guerrette** of New Prague; and **Mike Myser** of Prior Lake. Vice Chair Thill took special recognition of LuAnne Lemke (who will serve out her term as SCALE Chair until March) and Mayor Mike Myser, who served as the 2011-2012 SCALE Chair. "It will be tough to follow in their footsteps," Thill noted. "I've enjoyed and respected their leadership, and I'll be happy to ride their coattails."

Following the recognition, Scott County Community Development Agency (CDA) Executive Director **Bill Jaffa** introduced **Stacy Crakes**, the newly hired business development manager for the "First Stop Shop" SCALE effort. Crakes, who comes to this position after a significant tenure in the private sector, holds a degree in engineering and an MBA from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management.

Shakopee Mayor **Brad Tabke** then introduced **Tamara Severtson**, the Mission Integration Coordinator for St. Francis Regional Medical Center. Severtson provided attendees with a summary overview of the multiple community health assessment and outreach initiatives recently and currently underway. "Essentially, we are trying to identify what we, as leaders, can do to improve the health outcomes for our residents," she said. Phase one of this large-scale effort — the collection and analysis of data — is largely complete; phases two (hearing from the community) and three (action planning) are either underway or slated to begin in the near future.

Following Severtson's presentation, Scott County Parks Manager **Mark Themig** and Three Rivers Park District Superintendent **Cris Gears** updated SCALE members on the ongoing partnership between the District and Scott County. Focusing primarily on recent achievements — e.g., the opening of Spring Lake Regional Park, acquisition of property for the planned Blakeley Bluffs area, the increasing popularity of Cedar Lake Farms Park, and the expansion of activities and events at Cleary Lake and Murphy Hanrehan, to name a few — Themig took care to illuminate how productive and efficient this partnership has been. "But beyond the dollars and cents we've saved," he added, "here's one true measure of our success. A young boy, after participating in a youth fishing event at Cedar Lake Farm, turned to his father and said 'Guess what, dad? I found out there is fun stuff other than watching TV!'"

SCALE members then tackled the review of the proposed 2013 legislative agenda, which focused primarily in three areas: better governance, better transportation systems, better economic development, and a better Minnesota. The specifics were presented by Chair Lemke, Vice Chair Thill, Scott County Commissioner **Jon Ulrich**, County Transportation Program Manager **Lisa Freese**, Mayor Tabke, Prior Lake-Savage School Board member **Lee Shimek**, Themig, and Mayor Myser. After some discussion about minor amendments, the membership voted to approve the draft platform and formally present it to the Scott County legislative delegation at the Jan. 11, 2013 meeting.

Finally, the SCALE leadership rose to present outgoing Senator **Claire Robling** with a plaque in appreciation for her tireless work on behalf of the community. "It has always been a pleasure and a source of pride to represent such a progressive, results-oriented community — a community who believes in working together for the common good," Robling said.

The next SCALE meeting, which will focus on the formal legislative presentation as well as a SCALE overview for newly elected officials, will be held on **Jan. 11, 2013, from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. at Prior Lake City Hall**. Mark your calendars!