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On April 16, 2010, Savage Mayor **Janet Williams** formally convened her first meeting as Chair of the Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE). In her first official duty, she presented outgoing SCALE Chair and Scott County Commissioner **Jon Ulrich** with a plaque commemorating his leadership over the last year. In related action, nominations for 2010-2011 SCALE Vice Chair and Secretary-Treasurer will be taken up in May.

Scott County Emergency Management Director **Chris Weldon** then provided an overview of severe weather awareness and preparation, focusing on "... sharing information, advancing the understanding of severe weather, and acknowledging *Severe Weather Awareness Week* (April 19—23, 2010)," he noted. The information presented ranged from the distinction between severe weather "watches" (where conditions "are favorable" for severe weather) and "warnings" (in which severe weather has been reported or is indicated by radar) and a summary of early warning systems to preparations all businesses and families should undertake at the beginning of every severe weather season. Weldon made specific mention of an emerging emphasis on lightning awareness, adding that lightning strikes occur on a year-round basis. More information — including Weldon's entire PowerPoint presentation — can be found on the SCALE website at www.scaleinfo.org.

Chair Williams then moved on to the primary agenda item, something she termed "a SCALE checkup." In essence, the Chair asked, the SCALE organization wanted to learn how to facilitate greater participation from and foster greater relevance for the membership, in particular the smaller cities, school districts, and townships. "We're trying to cultivate a culture of cooperation and learning from each other," Williams noted. After Belle Plaine Mayor **Tim Lies** expressed his concern that the smaller cities sometimes feel "second tier," former Credit River Township Clerk and former SCALE Chair **Jerry Maas** added that "...SCALE has been quite instrumental in developing a true regional approach to issues," and encouraged small-city leaders to take a more proactive leadership role with the SCALE Executive Committee. "After all, what happens to one of us happens to all of us," stated Chair Williams. "This is the very concept of SCALE."

In closing, Chair Williams updated the group on a recent meeting with HiPP — a Dakota County intergovernmental organization — and noted that although HiPP was structurally different from SCALE in a number of significant ways, she and Mayor **Mike Myser**, Commissioner Jon Ulrich, and Prior Lake Manager **Frank Boyles** will likely continue to attend HiPP meetings and gathering additional information as to how it and SCALE may be able to partner in future endeavors.

Before adjourning the meeting, Commissioner Jon Ulrich commended the SCALE membership for its successful efforts in securing the necessary funding to move the 169/494 interchange project forward, and Scott County Deputy Administrator **Lezlie Vermillion** reminded them of an upcoming Metropolitan Council/Department of Transportation meeting on May 5 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Scott County Law Enforcement Center in Shakopee.

The next SCALE meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 14, at 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."

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