



SCALE

Scott County Association For Leadership And Efficiency

The **August 13, 2010** meeting of SCALE started with a debriefing on the small group break-out sessions from the Intelligent Communities presentation and discussion. Four groups summarized their discussions:

Group 1: Is concerned about keeping a strong focus on farm and agriculture while economic development is being planned and that communications are vital in that effort. They would like to focus on retail and encourage the state in taking a stronger lead in broadband and fiber as well as marketing the County's dark fiber and researching what is available to interested business in order to develop a strong marketing plan.

Group 2: Supports the Intelligent Communities application and would like to move forward with a plan, possibly contracting it out – but having a central point of contact. They commented that fiber could improve home-based businesses and that there are existing employers that could be benefiting from fiber right now as well.

Group 3: Believing it is foolish to oppose innovation, this group would like SCALE to be on board with this as a regional and collaborative effort. Branding is important to the success of marketing to the region and state what SCALE is and what they have to offer in bringing economic development here. They would like to see a cost analysis of the broadband possibilities and would like a tighter definition of an intelligent community.

Group 4: Interested in further economic development of the region, but in order to attract business we need to understand their needs and have a customer friendly attitude – broadband should be a part of the development. They felt we are behind in identifying emerging jobs in the market and that education will look radically different in the future and will be delivered more remotely. This is a good opportunity for collaboration – we can provide the infrastructure, but not be the direct service provider.

After the four groups delivered their summaries, **Representative Michael Beard** addressed the group regarding the Minnesota Broadband Task Force and had copies of the Minnesota Ultra High-Speed Broadband Report for SCALE members to take and read. He also mentioned a recent article in the Star Tribune addressing broadband adoption rates. To read the article, visit <http://www.startribune.com/nation/100447924.html>.

At the conclusion of the Intelligent Communities discussion, a motion was made and unanimously approved to submit the technical assistance planning grant application to the Scott County CDA for the purpose of engaging a consultant to assist SCALE in evaluating options related to achieving Intelligent Communities designation and/or methods that will enhance the utilization of the County fiber network.

Teri Funk and Patricia Pettit presented *Heading Home – a 10 year Plan to End Homelessness*.

Homelessness exists in Scott County – it is more hidden than in other communities that have soup lines and shelters – but it exists. Heading Home is committed to increasing housing opportunities in Scott County along with increasing efforts across public and private resources to ensure housing stability for those in need.

Project Community Connect is an opportunity for local resources, businesses, community members, and government to come together for one day, November 23 at Canterbury Park to assist people in transition out of homelessness and poverty. For more information call 952-496-8453.

Mark Jacobs, from the Dakota-Scott Workforce Investment Board presented information on the services provided to employers and job seekers in Scott County while supporting economic development that will provide opportunities to transform lives through employment. He shared local statistics including unemployment rates, fastest growing occupations, labor projections, and insight in to the years ahead. Although there are about seven unemployed workers for every one job opening in the Twin cities region, by 2019 it is projected that there will be 246,000 more jobs and over 639,000 new workers will need to take jobs left vacant as people retire or leave their positions. Health care and information technology jobs will be some of the most in demand, and education beyond high school will be required for 17 out of the 20 fastest growing occupations.

A reminder that the HiPP/SCALE meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 21 from 4 - 6 p.m. at the Burnsville Performing Arts Center.

Also, you are invited to attend the Annual SMSC Wacipi or Pow Wow this Friday, Aug. 20 through Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010. Weekend admission with \$5 button purchase, 60 & older and 10 & younger admitted free. Visit <http://www.shakopeedakota.org> for more information.

“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.”