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On September 17, 2010, SCALE Chair (and Savage Mayor) **Janet Williams** convened the general meeting with a request for volunteers to participate in an emerging Nominations Committee, which will be charged with recruiting individuals for leadership positions in SCALE. Prior Lake City Manager **Frank Boyles**, Prior Lake-Savage School Superintendent **Sue Ann Gruver**, and former SCALE Chair **Jerry Maas** agreed to spearhead the Committee's efforts. Additional SCALE members are encouraged to join.

Moving on to the bulk of the morning's conversation, Savage City Administrator **Barry Stock** introduced **Gene Goddard** of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), who presented valuable information on its programs, current and expected statewide economic trends, and summary of recent corporate activity in Minnesota. After providing an overview of DEED's mission and organization (which includes workforce development, business and community development, and the management of capital assets), Goddard noted that — by current estimates — the current recession could be expected to span a total of 50 to 60 months (from its starting point). "We're still at the bottom of the economic curve," he stated. "We need to shift our state's economy in a way that's never been done before." Specifically, Goddard noted the number of basic manufacturing jobs that will, in all likelihood, not return to the economic landscape.

The information Goddard presented wasn't all negative, however: he was quick to point out Minnesota's competitive advantages relative to high-business growth areas such as North Carolina and Texas. Adding that the contemporary notion that the state is losing ground against its closest neighbors (e.g., Wisconsin, Iowa, and the Dakotas) is not factually supported — "We're really not in the same competitive pool" — Goddard explained that the Twin Cities market is consistently ranked first, second, or third by most of the economic experts, such as *CNN Money*. Due to our diverse economy, our large corporate headquarter sector, a local workforce with higher educational and skill levels, and generally good quality of life rankings — not to mention "our valuable public infrastructure" — the Twin City metropolitan area is poised to maintain and enhance its leadership, particularly in the fields of bioscience and medical device manufacturing, renewable energy and environmental technology, finance and insurance, information technology, and advanced manufacturing.

Following the DEED discussion, the various SCALE Committees — Community Culture, Service Delivery, Quality of Life, and Transportation and Economic Development — gave brief summaries of their recent activities.

In closing, Chair Williams invited the group to attend an upcoming joint meeting with HiPP (High Performance Partnership) — a Dakota County intergovernmental organization formed to forge better and more successful local government partnerships — on **Tuesday, September 21, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Burnsville Performing Arts Center.**

The next SCALE meeting is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 7, at the SCALE Regional Public Safety Training Facility near Jordan. Please continue to check the SCALE website at www.scaleinfo.org for agendas, news, information, and committee updates!

"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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