



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending September 26, 2008

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

DIRECTOR'S POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

Community Preservation Advisory Committee met on September 12. Included on the agenda were updates on quality of place, a report on the effectiveness of comprehensive plans, and a report of research and findings on site law. A panel presentation on downtowns was a major focus of the meeting, with four panelists presenting their views: Kristin Cady, Maine Downtown Center; Ali Worster, State Planning Office; Terry Ann Stevens, DECD; and Maggie Drummond, GrowSmart Maine. The presenters identified program, funding, and policy needs for downtowns. The next CPAC meeting is scheduled for November 13 from 12:30–4:30 p.m. in Room 214, Cross Building. **CONTACT: Sue Inches at 287–2989 or sue.inches@maine.gov**

Intergovernmental Advisory Commission holds meeting. On September 23, the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission focused on what the commission should try to accomplish going forward. Discussion topics included the Fund for Local and Regional Efficiencies, the implementation of school and jail consolidation efforts, how best to support government efficiency and effectiveness, and how to strengthen the commission itself. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the State and Local Government Committee Room. **CONTACT: Sue Inches at 287–2989 or sue.inches@maine.gov**

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



Recycling promoted at the Common Ground Fair. Again this year, SPO celebrated recycling and composting in a booth shared with the Maine Resource Recovery Association at the Common Ground Fair in Unity (see accompanying photo). With the 2008 *Maine Recycles Week* poster on display along with materials for the *Maine Recycles* ad campaign, fresh data maps, and compost bins, SPO greeted an audience that

always has great questions and lively discussions. **CONTACT: Bruce White at 287-5083 or bruce.white@maine.gov**

MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM

Maine Coastline highlights quality of place. The just-released fall 2008 issue of *Maine Coastline* features articles on Maine's quality of place, regional resource planning in Sagadahoc County, community-based performance standards, and small harbor improvements in Rockport. *Maine Coastline*, a newsletter of the Maine Coastal Program at SPO is published twice a year. It is available on-line at:

www.maine.gov/spo/mcp/news.php. **CONTACT: Theresa Torrent-Ellis at 287-2351 or Theresa.torrent-ellis@maine.gov**

LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE PROGRAM

Land for Maine's Future Board gives final authorization for 8 projects. At their regular business meeting on September 16, the Land for Maine's Future Board authorized staff to complete eight land conservation projects. The projects include:

- an important addition to the Colonial Pemaquid State Park at New Harbor, Bristol;

- a 4,947-acre parcel that will become a community forest in partnership between the Maine Department of Conservation and the Town of Amherst;
- the Saco River-Indian Cellar historic site with nearly one mile of frontage that the Town of Hollis will operate as natural space and public recreation area;
- a addition to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife's Lower Kennebec River Wildlife Management Area in Bowdoinham that includes significant frontage on the Cathance River;
- the first of two acquisitions by the Western Foothills Land Trust in Buckfield that will protect the lands surrounding South Pond;
- the acquisition of over 184 acres in Alna and Newcastle by the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association that will protect significant river frontage that is part of the Heart of the Watershed project;
- an 850-acre working forest parcel in Old Town that will become part of the Caribou Bog-Penjajawoc project lands; and
- a 70-acre farmland protection project of the Davis Farm in Durham, in partnership with the Royal River Conservation Trust.

CONTACT: Tim Glidden at 287-1487 or [Tim Glidden](#)

MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Maine Commission for Community Service solicits proposals for AmeriCorps grants. AmeriCorps is a national service program, which engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in team-based community service to meet critical needs in the areas of public safety, education, disaster services, environment, and human needs. Eligible applicants include: private or public non-profit organizations, state/local government, Native American Tribal governments, and institutions of higher education. Grant funds support AmeriCorps members' service and require local matches. FMI:

<http://www.maineservicecommission.gov/grants/>. **CONTACT:** Harold Shaw at 287-1588 or harold.shaw@maine.gov