



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

May 27, 2010

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.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

CEO program offering two workshops in basic training for legal issues. Durward Parkinson from the Law Firm of Bergen & Parkinson will be presenting this workshop. Issues covered include, but are not limited to; jurisdiction and authority of the code enforcement officer regarding State and local laws, employment issues, conflict of interest and incompatibility of offices, resisting political pressure, ethical use of authority, record-keeping, liability, municipal ordinance authority, ordinance interpretation, nonconforming uses and lots, subdivisions, and appeals and variances. Workshop dates are June 10th at the Wells Reserve and June 14th at Bangor Parks and Recreation Department. Registration information is available here:

http://www.maine.gov/spo/ceo/documents/LI_2010_Announcement.pdf . CONTACT: Brianne D. Hasty at 287-8058 or at Brianne.Hasty@maine.gov .

Janet Parker joins floodplain program. The floodplain management program is pleased to announce that Janet Parker has accepted the planner position in the floodplain management program at SPO. Janet will assist municipalities with adopting floodplain management ordinances that comply with National Floodplain Insurance program standards. This job will become very busy as FEMA produces new flood delineation maps for Maine's coastal counties over the next few years. Janet formerly worked as SPO's GIS coordinator. She is working on her master's in community planning and development at the Muskie School. She is a great addition to the team. Welcome, Janet! CONTACT: Sue Baker at 287-8063 or sue.baker@maine.gov

MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM

SPO welcomes summer interns. SPO hosts two interns this summer who will work on coastal and recycling projects. Benjamin Gadberry, a sophomore at the University of Maine at Farmington with special skills in writing, joins the Waste Management and Recycling Program. Ben will research the impacts of changes in recycling and help with communication efforts such as creating website information and producing other written and visual materials. Ben lives in Manchester, Maine, and in his off time enjoys skiing and windsurfing. Elliot Russell joins the Maine Coastal Program and will be working on several projects; 1) compiling studies and data on Taunton Bay and 2) assisting in the development of a Maine coastal atlas web portal. Elliot was here last summer helping us with the offshore wind demonstration initiative. In the fall, he will enter his third year at St Mary's College in Maryland studying physics. **CONTACT: Sam Morris at 287-8054 or sam.morris@maine.gov (recycling) or Matt Nixon at 287-1491 or matthew.e.nixon@maine.gov (coastal).**

LAND USE PLANNING

3rd Annual Active Communities Conference Focuses on the Built Environment. On May 19th, over 170 local officials and citizens from across the state gathered in Auburn to learn how to promote walking and biking by changing the built environment in their communities. For the third year, SPO co-sponsored this popular event which brings together professionals and citizens active in the fields of public health, transportation, planning, conservation, economic development and education to explore the synergies created when people can comfortably and safely get around without motorized transportation. The conference keynote speaker was Jeff Olson, Co-Founder of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals and an architect and planner who has been involved in bicycle and pedestrian, open space, active living and alternative transportation projects for more than 20 years. Mr. Olson provided examples from throughout the country and the world of communities successfully promoting active transportation, safety and economic development through physical changes to their streets and sidewalk systems. Other sessions included topics on funding opportunities, engineering options, safe routes to school, community success stories, and walking and biking audits. In addition to the State Planning Office, the conference was sponsored by the Maine Department of Transportation, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Maine Department of Conservation, Bicycle Coalition of Maine, and Maine Safe Routes to School Program. **CONTACT: Phil Carey at Phil.Carey@maine.gov or 287-3860.**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Heating Oil Prices Drop. The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its seasonal oil survey and found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at **\$2.66 per gallon**, down seven cents from last week. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$2.28 per gallon was found in the Southwest region. The highest price of \$2.90 per gallon was found in the Northern region. The statewide kerosene price average is \$3.03 per gallon at this time. The statewide average for propane based on a use of 600 gallons a year is \$2.67 per gallon. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$70.45. **CONTACT: Jeffrey Marks at 287-8927 or Jeffrey.marks@maine.gov .**