



## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

May 20, 2011

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.

### LAND USE PLANNING

**Chebeague Island plan aligns with growth act.** When Chebeague Island was a part of the Town of Cumberland, planning for the island's future was directed, in large part, from the mainland. Now that Chebeague Island is an independent municipality, it has been the responsibility of islanders to create a stand-alone comprehensive plan. The town's dedicated comprehensive planning committee completed drafting that plan earlier this year and submitted it for review to the state. The State Planning Office is pleased to announce that it has found the draft Chebeague Island Comprehensive Plan to be consistent with the Maine Growth Management Act. Congratulations to our newest island community!

**CONTACT:** Phil Carey at 624-6216 or [phil.carey@maine.gov](mailto:phil.carey@maine.gov)

**Tremont unanimously adopts comprehensive plan.** On May 11, the proposed comprehensive plan for the Town of Tremont was adopted at town meeting. The unanimous vote of the 73 citizens in attendance reflects the excellent work of the comprehensive planning committee in listening to and communicating with the citizens of the town. The State Planning Office found the Tremont Comprehensive Plan to be consistent with the Growth Management Act on January 4, 2011.

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## **LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE**

**LMF scoring committee to meet.** The scoring committee of the Land for Maine's Future Board will meet on May 25, starting at 9AM in Room 105 of the Cross Office Building. The Committee will review 38 LMF proposals, score them against the board's criteria, and make recommendations for project finalists to the Nominations Committee. The scoring committee meeting is open to the public, but the committee will not be asking for public comments.

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**LMF closes on New Sharon conservation parcel.** A 265-acre parcel of land at the north end of the Kennebec Highlands, adjacent to Long Pond, will remain a working forest track with guaranteed public recreational access, thanks in part to the Land for Maine's Future program. A conservation easement on the property will be held by the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance.

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## **MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**MCCS deploys volunteer reception center for emergency exercise.** In honor of [AmeriCorps Week](#), the Maine Commission for Community Service (MCCS) and VolunteerMaine AmeriCorps VISTA's participated in a mass rescue exercise that was conducted in Bar Harbor by the U.S. Coast Guard, the Town of Bar Harbor, Hancock County, and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. MCCS staff ran the volunteer reception center to assign roles to volunteers emergency responders. Staff processed 89 volunteers in just over one hour.

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**Grants available for STEM-based Service-learning.** MCCS, in partnership with Time Warner Cable's "Connect a Million Minds" initiative, seeks proposals from public schools to implement Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) based service-learning projects that increase student engagement, participation, and persistence while helping to address local community needs. For more information and to apply visit [our website](#). The deadline for applications is June 6, 2011.

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## **POLICY AND MANAGEMENT**

**Sue Inches resigns.** SPO's deputy director and director of policy has moved on to new endeavors. Sue Inches served SPO since 2002 and directed the office's policy and legislative initiatives. She worked on a variety of policy initiatives related to quality of place, energy, land use, regulatory reform, and natural resources.

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