



## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

*Week ending April 10, 2009*

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.

### POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Governor Baldacci announces *Mobilize Maine* initiative.** At a press conference on Monday, the Governor signed an executive order directing state agencies to collaborate with DECD and the state's six economic development districts to implement a regional, asset-based approach to economic and community development. The executive order supports *Mobilize Maine*, a collaborative partnership between DECD, Fairpoint Communications, Maine Quality of Place Council, and the regional economic development districts to foster locally-driven development strategies that are based on the indigenous strengths and authentic assets of the region. For more information: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/specialprojects/qualityofplace/index.htm>. **CONTACT:** Jody Harris at 287-5424 or [jody.harris@maine.gov](mailto:jody.harris@maine.gov) or Sue Inches at 287-2989 or [sue.inches@maine.gov](mailto:sue.inches@maine.gov)

### COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

**Electronics Recycling – Saturday, April 18.** The United Way and University of Maine at Augusta are sponsoring a collection event for old electronic equipment (computers, televisions, microwaves, camcorders, and more). The event will be held in the Augusta Civic Center Parking Lot from 9am – 3pm. For more information: [\(Information 1 MB\)](#).

### LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE

**Conservation Easement Registry launched.** The State Planning Office launched the

statewide registry for conservation easements this week. The registry was developed at the behest of the Legislature (33 MRSA, § 479C). All holders of conservation easements on real estate in Maine must register their easements annually and annually confirm the monitoring status of their easements. The deadline for registering this year is July 1, 2009. Beginning in 2010, the annual reporting deadline will be March 30. The registry has been set up on-line for easy use and management of the holder's information. To register or for more information: [Conservation Easement Registry](#)  
**CONTACT: Tim Glidden at 287-1487 or [tim.glidden@maine.gov](mailto:tim.glidden@maine.gov)**

### **LAND USE PLANNING**

**Beddington adopts zoning.** The Land Use Program is happy to report that the Town of Beddington (pop. 42) recently adopted its first local zoning ordinance. Staff from SPO and other agencies found the town's first comprehensive plan, on which its ordinance is based, to be exemplary, particularly with regard to its treatment of natural resource issues. Both the comprehensive plan and the ordinance were developed with technical assistance from the Washington County Council of Governments and financial assistance from the SPO Planning Grant Program. Beddington stands as a great example of what can be accomplished by the smallest of our communities. **CONTACT: Phil Carey at 287-3860 or [phil.carey@maine.gov](mailto:phil.carey@maine.gov)**

### **MAINE COASTAL PROGRAM**

**SPO adopts rule on methodology for scenic inventory in coastal areas.** As recommended by the Governor's Wind Power Development Task Force and required by legislation enacted last year (Title 35-A MRSA section 3457), SPO recently adopted a methodology for conducting an inventory to identify scenic viewpoints of state or national significance in Maine's coastal area. SPO rule, chapter 250, incorporates by reference the Office's *Scenic Assessment Handbook* (SPO, October 2008), which details the methodology. The rule provides for public participation in conduct of a scenic inventory employing the methodology and opportunity for public comment prior to SPO's acceptance of an inventory conducted by or for the office. Under state wind power siting laws, DEP or LURC, as applicable, must consider the potential adverse effects on "scenic resources of state or national significance" when evaluating an application for a grid-scale wind power development proposed for location in the statutorily prescribed "expedited area." Scenic viewpoints of state or national significance identified in several specified scenic inventories of coastal areas previously prepared by SPO as well as others that may subsequently be identified pursuant to the

newly adopted rule are among scenic resources covered by the law. A Downeast inventory of scenic resources that uses the methodology is being conducted for SPO in order to complete scenic inventories for the entire coastal zone. The methodology is spelled out in the *Scenic Assessment Handbook* available on-line at [http://www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/docs/scenic\\_assessment/ScenicAssessmentRpt\\_LowRes.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/docs/scenic_assessment/ScenicAssessmentRpt_LowRes.pdf). CONTACT: Todd Burrowes at 287-1496 or [todd.burrowes@maine.gov](mailto:todd.burrowes@maine.gov) (rule-making) or Jim Connors at 287-8938 or [jim.connors@maine.gov](mailto:jim.connors@maine.gov) (inventory methodology)

#### MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

**VolunteerFare Newsletter released.** The April 2009 issues of VolunteerFare describes the expansion of national service, the availability of AmeriCorps funds, the Maine HEARTH project, Volunteer Week in Maine, and upcoming events. It is available at: [http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=001tDLNDBb5\\_rxiXoQcSIQDdsNgdXN6FoP5VtzjbsLb5jUI9-Ti7lcPSx-k7rltNOWZfh5TsqjvkYsLZdvpPXaOiDzTw3Yfu2bmXipq5eK7ko8%3D](http://campaign.constantcontact.com/render?v=001tDLNDBb5_rxiXoQcSIQDdsNgdXN6FoP5VtzjbsLb5jUI9-Ti7lcPSx-k7rltNOWZfh5TsqjvkYsLZdvpPXaOiDzTw3Yfu2bmXipq5eK7ko8%3D)  
CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov)