

## Follow-on Tasks and Assignments from the First Council

The Governor's Council on Maine's Quality of Place made a total of 25 recommendations in two reports: their first report, *People, Place, & Prosperity*, December 4, 2007, and their final report, *Quality of Place and Job Growth: A New and Needed Maine Investment Strategy*, May 6, 2008

The Council assigned these recommendations to the State Planning Office and other agencies and organizations for implementation. This handout indicates responsibility and a timeline for completion.

**1. Continuing funding stream for LMF:** The Council recommended surveying alternative funding mechanisms used in other states and exploring the feasibility of a continuing funding stream for the Land for Maine's Future program.

Tasks and Status: The Trust for Public Lands is undertaking this study, which is expected to be completed this fall.

Timeline: Recommendations prepared for the 2009 legislative session.

Lead: Tim Glidden, State Planning Office, [tim.glidden@maine.gov](mailto:tim.glidden@maine.gov)

**2. Community preservation bond language:** The Council recommended that a Maine Community Preservation program, with an administrative structure similar to that of the Land for Maine's Future Board, be capitalized with bond issues over several years totaling \$50-100 million, to rehabilitate Maine's historic structures and fund related community improvements such as sidewalks, lighting, and public spaces.

Tasks and Status: SPO will prepare draft legislation to be ready this fall.

Timeline: Draft language prepared for the 2009 legislative session.

Lead: Jody Harris, State Planning Office, [jody.harris@maine.gov](mailto:jody.harris@maine.gov)

**3. Align the State's major land use laws for mutual consistency and coherence in support of Maine's Quality of Place:** The Council recommended an effort among agencies of jurisdiction to review these several laws and make recommendations for changes needed to sustain and enhance Maine's quality of place.

Tasks and Status: An interagency group is meeting and, over the summer, will brainstorm and develop legislative proposals for aligning land use laws to support quality of place. Work involves researching Maine laws and laws of other states, agencies developing their policy priorities, and seeking input from regional planners, Community Preservation Advisory Committee, and other interested parties.

Timeline: Recommendations and draft language prepared for the 2009 legislative session.

Lead: Sue Inches, State Planning Office, [sue.inches@maine.gov](mailto:sue.inches@maine.gov)

Intern: Ali Worster, State Planning Office, [ali.worster@maine.gov](mailto:ali.worster@maine.gov)

**4. Evaluate and identify gaps in Maine's downtown redevelopment programs:** The Council recommended evaluating programs and service delivery for downtown revitalization and creating options to support communities of all sizes and needs.

Tasks and Status: Working with the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Maine Development Foundation's Maine Downtown Center and their Maine Downtown Advisory Committee to design a survey to assess downtown development needs for

communities of all sizes. Analyze types of services provided by existing programs, identify initiatives and needs.

Timeline: Recommendations and draft language prepared for the 2009 legislative session.

Lead: Sue Inches, State Planning Office, [sue.inches@maine.gov](mailto:sue.inches@maine.gov)

Intern: Ali Worster, State Planning Office, [ali.worster@maine.gov](mailto:ali.worster@maine.gov)

**5. Regional landscape conservation best practices:** The Council recommended study of current regional conservation initiatives and publication of best practices to foster regional, landscape conservation efforts.

Work has commenced. Tasks include: conducting literature review, interviewing project and community leaders engaged in regional conservation initiatives, developing case studies and best practices.

Timeline: Publish report by September, 2008.

Lead: Tim Glidden, State Planning Office, [tim.glidden@maine.gov](mailto:tim.glidden@maine.gov)

Intern: Brett Richardson, State Planning Office, [brett.richardson@maine.gov](mailto:brett.richardson@maine.gov)

**6. LURC statute:** The Council recommended reassessment of the several subdivisions exemptions in the LURC statute that have encouraged dispersed development in the UT, and that SPO and LURC work with interested parties to find creative means to address these; and review of LURC's statute and staff resources to assure its ability to respond to increasing development pressures and their complexity.

Tasks and Status: Monitoring LURC comprehensive planning process. The draft LURC plan includes a major finding and supporting data showing that unregulated development is a key issue and makes recommendations to address this.

Timeline: Report findings and recommendations to the Governor's Office by November, 2008.

Lead: Sue Inches, State Planning Office, [sue.inches@maine.gov](mailto:sue.inches@maine.gov)

**7. Statewide trail network:** The Council recommended that the MaineDOT, in coordination with DOC and local and regional trail groups, identify and plan a statewide network of multi-use trails.

Tasks and Status: Convened working group of DOC and DOT to flesh out ideas for the plan. Drafting report outline for review by DOC/DOT. Plan will identify trends and include funding scenarios.

Timeline: Report will be completed by Oct. 1, 2008.

Lead: Sue Inches, State Planning Office, [sue.inches@maine.gov](mailto:sue.inches@maine.gov)

Intern: Andy Despres, State Planning Office, [andy.despres@maine.gov](mailto:andy.despres@maine.gov)

**8. Model form-based zoning ordinance:** The Council urged the development a model "form-based" zoning code that municipalities may adopt to support mixed-use development in downtowns and built up areas.

Tasks and Status: Conduct literature research, research existing ordinances, prepare model language.

Timeline: A primer on "form-based" codes will be prepared and made available to towns by November 2008.

Lead: Stacy Benjamin, State Planning Office, [stacy.benjamin@maine.gov](mailto:stacy.benjamin@maine.gov)

**9. Transportation funding:** The Council urged relieving reliance on expensive infrastructure through more effective transportation planning and related land use.

Tasks and Status: MaineDOT and SPO are now examining ways to incorporate quality of place planning and implementation into existing multi-modal corridor management planning.

Timeline: Recommendations by December 2008.

Lead: Sue Inches, State Planning Office, [sue.inches@maine.gov](mailto:sue.inches@maine.gov)

**10. Tourism industry workforce and product development:** The Council recommended that the UMS Center for Tourism Research and Outreach (CentTRO) is well-conceived and positioned to lead the effort to develop a statewide strategy for tourism workforce and product development, by catalyzing state-wide dialogue. It also urged the industry itself to take a leadership role in strengthening and resourcing Maine's tourism workforce and product development strategy.

Tasks and Status: CentTRO held a tourism summit in April 2008. A summit report that outlines findings and next steps is posted on-line at:

<http://www.umaine.edu/centro/news/Edu%20Summit%20FINAL%20Report%202008.pdf>

Timeline: Recommendations by December 2008.

Lead: CentTRO and tourism industry

**11. Hospitality and leisure education:** The Council recommended that hospitality and leisure be greatly enhanced in university and community college curricula, workforce education and training, research, and outreach.

Tasks and Status: UMS and MCCS to develop proposals and funding needs

Timeline: Recommendations by December 2008.

Lead: President Rich Pattenaude, University of Maine System and President John Fitzsimmons, Maine Community College System

**12. Community planning and historic preservation:** The Council recommended that community planning, architectural design, historic preservation, high-quality building techniques, and traditional and contemporary crafts arts be greatly enhanced in university and community college education, training, research, and outreach.

Tasks and Status: UMS and MCCS to develop proposals and funding needs

Timeline: Recommendations by December 2008.

Lead: President Rich Pattenaude, University of Maine System and President John Fitzsimmons, Maine Community College System

**13. Good design training:** The Council recommended that historic and neighborhood preservation training for local planning boards and state agency staff working with the built environment be developed and disseminated.

Tasks and Status: Maine Preservation will develop the training. SPO will explore how good design training program might be offered to citizen planning boards and professional planners.

Timeline: Training ready for delivery in summer 2009.

Lead: Greater Portland Landmarks, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, and Maine Preservation

**14. Landowners relations program:** The Council recommended that the state support and strengthen its Maine Landowner Relations Program to ensure continuing public access to private land.

Tasks and Status: Work involves examining creative ways to strengthen the state landowners relations program and meeting landowners needs; consulting with stakeholders; and developing proposals and funding needs

Timeline: Recommendations by December 2008.

Lead: Maine departments of Conservation and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

**15. State downtown revitalization policy statement:** The Council urged the Governor and Legislature to adopt a clear, unequivocal policy statement in support of Maine community and downtown revitalization.

Tasks and Status: Incorporate policy statement into community preservation bond language (see above)

Timeline: Draft language prepared for the 2009 legislative session.

Lead: Jody Harris, State Planning Office, [jody.harris@maine.gov](mailto:jody.harris@maine.gov)