

# FOREST PRODUCTS NEWS

MAINE FOREST PRODUCTS COUNCIL

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## LURC Hears "Green" Vision for Maine Woods

**By Patrick Strauch  
MFPC Executive Director**



Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) recently listened to a presentation from an array of environmental activist groups in which the participants laid out their comments on LURC's draft Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).

Speaking on March 5, at the Black Bear Inn in Orono, were representatives of the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM), the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), the Chewonki Institute, and others associated with the Northern Forest Alliance.

NRCM's Cathy Johnson kicked off the two hour presentation by voicing full support for both the vision of the Unorganized Territories put forth in the draft CLUP and the four primary "values" of the UT which are laid out in the draft CLUP's vision section. Speaking in her capacity as the Chair of the Maine Caucus of the Northern Forest Alliance, Johnson said that a broad range of conservation groups, such as the Isaac Walton League, the Sierra Club, and others, were in agreement that LURC's primary goal should be to protect those four "values."

Echoing Johnson's opinion was AMC's Dave Publicover, who followed Johnson's introductory remarks with the first extended presentation of the day. In Publicover's view, the draft CLUP's emphasis on remoteness as the defining characteristic of the UT is right on the mark. He pointed out that LURC's jurisdiction is larger than the Adirondack's but with 1/20<sup>th</sup> the population, and he argued that that low population density make the UT unique on the eastern seaboard. Natural forests still dominate the region,

*(Continued on page 4)*

### LURC Announces CLUP Workshop Schedule

The Maine Land Use Regulation Commission has announced its Public Workshop schedule at which it will be taking comment on the Workshop Draft of the 2008 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. These workshops are an opportunity for members of the public and interested groups to review the workshop draft of the plan and participate in public discussions in informal proceedings before a final draft is presented to the public for review and comment through the formal public hearing process.

#### Dates and Locations of Meetings

Sunday, April 27, 6 - 9 PM  
University of Maine, Fort Kent

Monday, April 28, 6 - 9 PM  
Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center

Tuesday, April 29, 6 - 9 PM  
Stearns High School, Millinocket, Maine

Wednesday, April 30, 6 - 9 PM  
Greenville High School, Greenville

Thursday, May 1, 6 - 9 PM  
Rangeley Inn, Rangeley

Monday, May 5, 6 - 9 PM  
Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland

Wednesday, May 7, 6 - 9 PM  
Augusta Civic Center, Augusta

Thursday, May 8, 6 - 9 PM  
University of Maine, Machias

#### How to Participate

All interested members of the public are invited to attend and offer comments that would have a bearing on this draft plan. Members of the public may simply attend the workshops and speak, or written comments can be sent to the Land Use Regulation Commission, 22 State House Station, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0022. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to [LURC@maine.gov](mailto:LURC@maine.gov). The deadline for comments is Friday, June 6th, 2008.

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## Presidents Message: Second Legislative Session Brings Numerous Challenges

For those of you who don't like puns, prepare to cringe: The Council spent a lot of energy in Augusta this winter, including work on two energy bills.

A critical issue for our manufacturing members is the cost of energy, especially electrical energy. We have been active spreading the message that little is being done to address the cost of electricity, even though the subject is on the front page with new windmill sites and discussions about ISO New England.

Two bills, LD 2254 and LD 2255, hit the Legislature on short notice. The first authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to withdraw from ISO New England if it is in the interests of Maine ratepayers. This decision was previously in the hands of the transmission providers, although the PUC plays a major role. Jim Robbins and Steve Schley testified on the of the bills, stressing that any change from ISO/NE would have to be based on a thorough analysis proving that the alternative is cheaper and better for Maine.

LD2255 is more complicated. It expands the PUC's authority to site transmission corridors, increases their oversight of the transmission companies and establishes The Office of Energy Independence and Security. The issue of primary importance to us is the ability to ensure reliability and cost benefits to Maine ratepayers for any new transmission infrastructure. Steve and Jim testified in support on this bill as well. I'd like to thank Jim, Steve, Michelle MacLean and the members of the technical and manufacturing committees for some



**Peter Triandafillou**

hurried work on these bills. The issues around electrical generation and transmission are complex, and there are many competing interests with valid concerns and positions. We were able to represent our membership with a clear voice and vision, and we will continue to press the message that Maine's electric rates are too high (second highest in the US!) and that we need action to reduce those rates.

This is a long-term problem that requires implementation of solutions that will take time to bear fruit. In particular, Maine needs to address its generating capacity, replacing expensive generators with lower cost alternatives like hydro and nuclear (at least in my opinion). Bear in mind that at the time we shut it down, Maine Yankee was producing power for less than three cents per kilowatt-hour. We can't start Maine Yankee up again, but we need something like it as a replacement.

### CLUP Review Continues

Discussions and work continue on LURC's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). These discussions include the staff and the Governor's office, and they show signs of being productive. Several of our members, including Sarah Medina and Steve

*(Continued on page 3)*

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Coleman, worked on critiquing the underlying data behind the draft CLUP's recommendations on development. They have done a good job showing how little has occurred in the interior of the Unorganized Territories, strengthening our argument that the current draft goes too far and threatens not only landowners, but the mills that depend on wood supply and the public that benefits from open access to these lands.

We expect this process to last for many months, and those of us involved need to be ready for the long haul. LURC has posted dates for the first work sessions. They can be found on the MFPC Web site and on the front page of this issue, and I encourage all those with an interest in land use policy, even if they are not directly involved with the UT, to participate.

Part of our work on the CLUP is facilitated by Winning Strategies. They've helped us with mailings, presentations, "champions" for the work sessions and with booths at the Sportsman's shows. They are a big help and deserve our thanks. Also, for those who own land in the UT, remember that we agreed to fund this effort, so expect a fund raising call from the Council.

### Lynx and Other Issues

In addition to these large issues, we continue to work on the Canada lynx and critical habitat designation, and a bill from DEP creating new rules for road construction. These items are still pending, and the Council is engaged.

At the University of Maine, Bruce Wiersma, former Dean of the Forestry Program, is hosting a newly formed study group called "Keeping

## MFPC Co-Hosts Green Forest Summit

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, speakers from across the country came to Portland's Marriott at Sable Oaks to offer their thoughts on the array of opportunities and challenges facing Maine as it works to promote the Maine Woods as a sustainable resource. Nearly 200 members of Maine's forest products, construction, and alternative energy sectors listened throughout the day to presentations on the impact that an emerging environmental consciousness is having on paper, building and energy markets.

The stage was set for the day's discussion by R. Neil Sampson, Founder and President of the Virginia-based Sampson Group, an international natural resource consulting group. Mr. Sampson began his remarks by observing that the four primary phenomena driving current environmental discussions are climate change, energy prices, food prices and water issues. He pointed to a variety of data that highlighted the increasing impact of these phenomena on both the natural environment and the economy. He also suggested a number of ways in which most, if not all, of these issues are going to increase the public's desire for assurances that the forest fiber they are using, regardless of the end prod-



uct, is coming from sustainably managed forests.

### Sector Presentations

After Neil Sampson's global overview, the morning presentations consisted of several speakers who offered perspectives from the paper, construction and alternative energy sectors. The message from the paper

sector, represented by Time, Inc.'s David Refkin and Hearst Enterprises' David Schirmer, was loud and clear: while there appear



to be no price premiums for certified fiber coming to paper makers any time soon, certification is increasingly going to be simply a cost of doing business as an increasingly concerned consumer base demands it.

While paper consumers have been increasingly mindful of sustainability issues over the past several years, that awareness is only beginning to take hold among clients, both residential and commercial, in the building sector. That was the message from the five speakers — including an architect, a wood broker, a retailer, a contractor, and a flooring manufacturer — who presented a variety of perspectives on current developments in the building markets.

Given the emerging interest, the future for green construction seems bright. At the same time, however, Hancock Lumber President Kevin Hancock appealed to the audience's common sense by pointing out that, whether certified or not, wood remains the most renewable natural

**LURC.....** (Continued from page 1)

Publicover said, with only “some” amount of rural development.

Because of the region’s remoteness, Publicover went on, Maine’s Unorganized Territories serve the valuable function of protecting a full range of natural wildlife species, while also offering recreationists a diverse range of recreational opportunities. Given the threats to biodiversity from an array of human activities, Publicover said, the UT should be approached as a “lifeboat” for ensuring biological diversity until the time when human society is living in a more environmentally sustainable fashion. The job of land planners, then, is to ensure that the “lifeboat” remains intact.

In Publicover’s view, there are a number of threats to the UT, including landowner changes, encroaching development and the increased pace of road construction in the UT. Also, he pointed to “recreational conflicts” between motorized and non-motorized recreationists as another emerging flashpoint with which LURC will have to contend.

### LURC History

Other speakers included Bill Townsend, an environmental lawyer and former LURC commissioner. In his remarks, Townsend argued that LURC must stay focused on the general welfare of the entire State of Maine, and not view the future of the UT as only being of interest to landowners and area residents.

“You are the inheritors of the duty to protect the general welfare,” Townsend said. He went on to point out that regulation of human activity in the larger interests of society is a long-standing tradition, and the regulation of forest practices should not be considered inappropriate or excessive.

Other speakers following Mr. Townsend included Bob Kimber, a writer who spoke primarily about the beauty of the UT and the role which “wilderness” plays in the psychology of modern society, and Greg Chute, from the Chewonki Foundation. A guide with Chewonki, Chute described the multiple-day, backcountry recreational opportunities that the UT affords visitors, and which cannot be found elsewhere in the eastern part of the United States.

### Policy Positions

To complete the presentation, NRCM’s Cathy Johnson came back to focus what the group considered the priority policy issues surrounding the goal of protecting the principal “values” of the jurisdiction as laid out in the draft CLUP. In her remarks, Johnson spoke to three particular issues: development, protection of the jurisdiction’s ecological values, and protection of the region’s opportunities for remote recreation.

On the issue of development, Johnson urged LURC to adopt policies that limit development and work to ensure its appropriate location. In particular, she advocated targeting existing service centers for any future development, as service centers currently have the infrastructure to support further growth.

As for ecological protection, Johnson recommended that LURC expand protection of headwaters streams, fishless ponds, vernal pools, and forested wetlands, and she advised them to implement previously created riparian harvesting standards, and to develop a comprehensive road policy to discourage the establishment of new roads.

Finally, Johnson said that there was clearly enough room in the UT for both motorized and non-motorized use and recreation, but she stated that LURC will need to protect the non-motorized opportunities in order to ensure that they are not lost.

### Other Meetings

As LURC staff pointed at the outset of the meeting, this was but one of several meetings which LURC or the staff have been holding in order to get input from stakeholders. The Commission recently announced its schedule for a series of public meetings (See “LURC Announces CLUP Workshop Schedule,” Page 1), at the end of which it will review both the remarks and comments it has heard in order to assess what changes should be made to the draft CLUP.

MFPC will keep members apprised of developments moving forward, and we urge all members to attend one of the public hearings in order to make your voice heard.

**Presidents Message.....(Cont. from page 3)**

Maine's Forests". I am one of the participants along with Bruce Bornstein. The first meeting featured a presentation from the State Planning Office titled "The Unsustainable Sustainable Maine Forest", and a presentation by me on the various forms of land ownership in Maine. I disagreed with a number of the conclusions in the Planning Office paper, and they have been gracious enough to incorporate my comments into another draft. The study group will meet over the next eighteen months. Bruce and I will keep you updated on the process.

Peter Vigue from Cianbro visited us at the last Board of Directors meeting to discuss the East/West transportation, transmission and communications corridor. As you know, Peter is a very engaging speaker, and he did a great job. For those of you who missed it, we can provide a copy of the slide show on the subject.

As you read this, spring breakup is underway. It has been a very long and hard winter, with deep snow, high fuel prices, mill closures and poor markets for all of us. Let us all hope and pray for a year that ends on a better note than it started. In the meantime, keep in mind that we work for a wonderful industry that has some of the best people anywhere. Even when times are tough, it's a pleasure to be associated with you and our industry.

**Gone Fishing!!!**



***Patrick and William Strauch***

Do you have any good fishing holes?  
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The Wood Products Manufacturers Association has selected beautiful Portland, Maine as the destination for their 2008 annual meeting. Located two blocks from Portland's working waterfront, the Portland Regency Hotel and Spa is the centerpiece of the historic Old Port Exchange.

Located on Casco Bay, Portland offers great entertainment and museums, antiques, galleries and Old Port shops, beautiful coastline, sandy beaches and much more. The Portland Regency is only 15 minutes to the heart of Freeport's outlets.

The average temperatures in Portland for the month of October are (low) 37 and (high) 58. And don't forget about the beautiful foliage season. Based on estimates for fall 2008, we should see some spectacular colors!

Be watching for updated information to come as we get closer to the dates. This information will be updated on the WPMA Website at [www.wpma.org](http://www.wpma.org) <http://www.wpma.org/wpma1.asp?id=42>. If you have any questions, please contact the WPMA office at (978) 874-5445.

We'll see you in Portland, Maine!

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# Russian Visitors

## The New Horizons Project

February 10 – 20 , 2008

This American-Russian Forestry Association (ARFA) trip was part of an ongoing information exchange. The primary region of Russia involved, so far, is the oblast of Tomsk. To date Russians have visited the New England area twice and Americans have been to Tomsk once. Trip organizers had help from numerous people across the region.

The purpose of their trip was to acquaint themselves with the all aspects related to forests in New England; businesses, management, research, markets, regulation, taxes etc.

In Maine they visited the Maine Forest Products council for an overview of the state. They traveled to Orono, after a lunch at Dysarts, and had an extensive tour of the wood technology laboratory and facilities. The following day, Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup>, they visited Seven Islands to where Kip Nichols discussed large ownership management. They then went to Rumford for a tour of the New Page paper mill. On Thursday, Barry Kelly took them through White River Lumber in Berlin, NH.

They had a packed itinerary across Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire, including wood pellet plants, furniture plants, sawmills, and many more, plus hockey games, skiing and opera.

### Some Feedback from the Russian Participants:

The Russian group was greatly impressed by the openness and willingness with which the U.S. business owners showed their operations

They gained a very positive image from the managers who conducted the tours, especially the pride in and knowledge of their companies that those managers displayed.

In their meetings with private landowners and investors, our Russian visitors

were impressed with the managerial practices which have been developed to maintain forest resources in sustainable conditions.

They educated us about the new regulatory structure created by the Russian Federal and regional governments to implement Russia's new Forest Code, designed to stimulate the development of Russian forestry industries and internal markets- biomass fuels, housing construction, and further development of the pulp and paper industries.

*(Continued on page 7)*



*Tomsk group visit the MFPC office*

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**Russian Visit. . . . .**(*Cont. from page 6*)

We also learned about the tax holiday and investment subsidies that the Russian government gives to government approved projects in the Siberian forest sector.



**Deer Task Force Releases Recommendations**

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIFW) recently released a number of recommendations that were produced by a deer task force created last year. The task force was charged with studying current deer management practices, particularly in the northern and eastern parts of the state, and making recommendations for improvement. MFPC's Patrick Strauch participated in the task force, along with representatives of the Maine Professional Guides Association, the Maine Bowhunters Association, Maine Audubon, and biologists representing MDIFW.

The group met eight times throughout 2007, and it conducted a review of existing programs and efforts related to creating, enhancing and maintaining critical deer habitats in Maine, as well as at programs designed to reduce predation of deer by coyotes. The group was also charged with establishing methods of controlling coyote populations.

In its report released this winter, the task force noted, "there are several inter-related factors that are likely causing low deer numbers in northern and eastern Maine. These include: the diminished quality of many deer winter areas, predation, illegal hunting, and the impact of the legal doe harvest during the regular archery deer season and the youth deer hunting day."

Based on these observations, the task force developed three key recommendations designed to enhance the deer population in northern and eastern Maine.

First, the task force recommended that MDIFW "convene a Species Planning Working Group that includes landowners to integrate the separate population and habitat management goals for deer, moose, bear, marten, and lynx into a unified set of habitat goals for northern and eastern Maine."

Next, the task force recommended that MDIFW "establish the Northern and Eastern Maine Deer Task Force to oversee and guide the implementation of recommendations and to meet at least annually to review process, evaluate progress in improving deer populations, update and refine goals with on-going research information, and consider economic factors."

**Industry Meeting with Maine DEP regarding Review and Compliance with Wet Deck Spraying of logs**

The Maine Department of Environmental Quality (DEP) recently alerted NELMA and the forest industry in Maine about their intent to review the practice of wet deck spraying of logs at facilities that are covered by the current "Multi-Sector General Permit" for stormwater discharge. NELMA in conjunction with the Maine Forest Products Council, held a meeting for forest industry personnel in Maine to meet with State DEP officials and inspectors to discuss their plans for a 2-year review.

(Continued on page 8)

**Deer Task Force. . . . .(Cont. from page 7)**

Finally, the task force recommended that MDIFW “establish a Deer Predation Working Group to review and update MDIFW’s current coyote control policy.”

MFPC will keep members apprised of developments concerning these recommendations moving forward.



*Peter Vigue, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Cianbro Companies speaking to the MFPC Board of Directors*

**Peter Vigue Pitches East-West Highway to MFPC Board**

The MFPC Board of Directors recently heard a presentation from Peter Vigue, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Cianbro Companies, on his company’s efforts to develop a 220-mile, \$1 billion, east-west transportation, utility and communications corridor from Calais, to Coburn Gore, Maine. With the goal of spurring economic development for the northeast region, the privately owned toll road will link Canada’s Atlantic Gateway with the Quebec-Ontario Trade Corridor.

In his presentation at MFPC’s headquarters in Augusta, Vigue articulated his belief that this project is vital to the economic health of the people and communities of northern Maine. He pointed out that whereas ten years ago 70% of Maine’s business activity involved the pulp and paper sector, that figure has dropped to less than 10%. Indeed, most of Maine’s business comes in from, and goes, out of state, and the purpose of the proposed highway would be to facilitate business development for citizens on all sides of the border.

Vigue pointed out that over the last decade, eight of Maine’s top ten investors have been Canadian companies, and he believes that it is critical for Maine and the Atlantic provinces to solidify their partnerships in order to compete successfully with the rest of the world.

An East-West highway, Vigue suggested, will improve connections between the Atlantic region and the US and Canadian heartlands, and it will also make transportation more efficient, thus reducing carbon emissions.

The project will be funded entirely from private sources, with no money at all coming from the Maine Department of Transportation. To complete the extensive permitting required for the project, Cianbro has partnered with The Louis Berger Group, one of the leading infrastructure engineering, environmental science and economic development operations in the world

The project schedule calls for feasibility studies to be completed in 2008, followed by permitting and engineering. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2011, with completion in 2014.

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## Green Summit. . . . . (Cont. from page 3)

Advisor to Governor Baldacci, a number of longtime participants from the forest products sector were recognized for their years of contribution. Specifically, Josiah and Kathleen Pierce were recognized for bringing honor to the State of Maine by being named 2007 National Tree Farmer of the Year by the American Forest Foundation.

Kurt and David Babineau, of Babineau Logging, Inc., were recognized for being named National Outstanding Logger of 2008 by the Forest Resources Association.

Finally, CLP's Mike St. Peter was recognized for his many years of contribution to the management of Maine's forests through the promotion and implementation of professional development for Maine loggers.

### Certification Specifics

For the afternoon session, the focus changed from a general overview of various sectors to the specifics of certification, both as it is expanding globally and as it increasingly developing in Maine.

Jon Pampush, Senior Ecologist with Metafore, Inc., provided attendees with a look at how certification is gaining ground around the world. He pointed out that, between 2000 and 2007, the number of certified forest around the world increased from 112 million acres to 750 million acres. He went out to say, however, that that figure constitutes less than 10% of the world's forest acreage. Consequently, the increased demand for certified forest products should translate into an advantage for those companies producing or using certified wood.

Following Mr. Pampush's overview of certification, a number of speakers looked more closely at certification in Maine and at new certification opportunities. Maine Forest Service Director Alec Giffen took a look at recent issues concerning certification in the Maine Woods, while Mike Thompson spoke about efforts by the state to streamline certification procedures in order to make it easier for small landowners to get certified.

Charley Levesque, of Innovative Natural Resources Solutions, described the role of Chain-of-Custody in certification, while Vicki Worden and Peter Taggart, of the Green Building Initiative and Taggart Construction respectively, described an array of emerging options in green certified building.

## Forest of Maine Teachers' Tour offers in-depth look at issues in woods, mills

This summer, the Forest of Maine Teachers' Tour will mark the start of its second decade of bringing educators into the field to learn about forest ecology, sustainable forest management, wildlife, outdoor recreation and wood-products manufacturing.

Many [participants] have said in their evaluations, "I thought this was a dying industry, but that couldn't be further from the truth," said Sherry Huber, executive director of Maine TREE Foundation, which sponsors the tours.

The tours do not shy away from tough issues about the forest. In meeting with loggers and foresters, mill owners and scientists, the teachers have a chance to discuss such topics as clear cutting, herbicides, diseases and insects, regulations and endangered species. The point is not to change the way people think, but to increase their understanding of the decisions made in the forest.

Two tours will be offered this year: Tuesday, July 15, through Friday, July 18, and Tuesday, July 29, through Friday August 1. The first will be based at Camp Wapiti, a sporting camp on Shin Pond, and visit locations in the Aroostook County/Baxter State park area. The second, out of The Birches on Moosehead Lake, will tour central and western Maine.

Each Four-day tour typically has 20-30 participants. Tours are offered at a nominal cost of \$75, which includes all transportation, lodging and meals. For more information, call (207) 621-9872 or email [mtf@gwi.net](mailto:mtf@gwi.net).

Maine TREE welcomes sponsors of teachers on either tour for a contribution of \$650. If you want to invite a specific teacher or would like us to assign one to be sponsored by you, simply contact Debie at Maine TREE, 626-9872 or [mtf@gwi.net](mailto:mtf@gwi.net).



*David & Kurt Babineau, Josiah Pierce, Mike St. Peter*

Patrick is planning summer tour series to reach out to the membership. Let us know if you are interested in sponsoring an event



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If you have questions or concerns about any forest practices in New Hampshire or Maine, or if you want information about forest tours, please call!

## Governor's Task Force Releases Report on Public Land Use

Following several meetings throughout 2007, the Governor's Task Force Regarding the Management of Public Lands and Publicly-Held Easements recently released its final report to the Legislature.

Created by Governor Baldacci in February, 2007, the purpose of the Task Force was, according to the report's Executive Summary, "to develop recommendations to improve the accuracy and availability of information regarding management of public lands in Maine, and to ensure that decisions made on behalf of these lands were being made in a fair manner, in a way that meets the full array of recreational interests in Maine now and into the future."

In particular, the Task Force was directed to:

1. "Create a baseline inventory of the existing management and recreational uses and types of access on public lands in Maine."
2. "Review and document the statutes, rules and guidelines that direct decisions regarding the management of and recreational uses on public lands in Maine."
3. "Collect information regarding the trends in recreational use in Maine."
4. "Identify strategies and resources necessary to reduce conflicts regarding recreational use on and access to public lands and to adequately plan for existing and future needs . . ."

In addition to articulating an array of "Understandings" designed to convey the range of perspectives that are regularly brought to bear on issues surrounding public lands, the Task Force made several recommendations. First, it recommended the creation of a Recreational Access and Conservation Forum. Comprised of environmentalists, landowners, sportsmen and outdoor recreationists, the forum would focus on, among other things, planning and sharing legislative and other agendas, addressing emerging conflicts, and creating "initiatives that all can support."

The forum would also be called on to "develop a vision of recreation and conservation needs over the next 50 years," and it would "identify current and projected needs for the full spectrum of uses for which Maine's public lands and easements could be suitable and would identify

*(Continued on page 11)*

**Governor’s Task Force . . . .(Cont. from page 10)**

gaps in habitat conservation, the ecological reserve system (and) recreational opportunities.”

Other recommendations included the creation of an independent scientific review panel “to evaluate progress in establishing and monitoring the ecological reserve system in Maine,” the “further development of backcountry recreational opportunities”, and the dedication of state resources to maintaining “essential connections with private landowners whose holdings abut, or may be connected with, public lands.”

The report went on to note, “Robust landowner relations programs at the State and conservation agencies are important, and must be actively supported by conservation and recreationist groups . . . Private recreationist and conservation groups whose members use private lands should be encouraged to develop their own landowner relationship programs as well.”

Finally, the report also encouraged the State to “invest strategically in acquisition and stewardship of conservation lands” and it recommended that the Forum “explore new sources and methods to assure sustainable funding for recreation and conservation.”

**Green Summit . . . . .(Cont. from page 9)**

**Wrap-up and Thanks**

At the end of the day, Neil Sampson spoke again to the audience, offering some closing thoughts based on what he’d heard throughout the day. His presentation, as well as the presentations of all those who used PowerPoint, can be downloaded from the MFPC website.

In addition to MFPC, the conference was presented by the Maine Pulp and Paper Association, SWOAM, the Independent Energy Producers of Maine, and the Maine Forest Service.

**The presenters would like to thank the conference’s sponsors:**

**Gold Level-** NewPage Corporation, Sappi Fine Papers, Verso Paper, Maine Forest Service, Time, Inc.

**Bronze Level –** Hearst Enterprises, TRC Environmental

**Morning Welcome-** Plum Creek Timber Co.

**Luncheon –** The Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc., Maine Professional Logging Contractors

**Reception –** E.D. Bessey & Son

**Cote Joins MFPC as Communications Director**



James Cote of Farmington has recently joined the Maine Forest Products Council as Communications Director.

Cote joins the Council after a successful career in political and grassroots outreach consulting.

Prior to joining the Council, Cote

worked as a political consultant for Winning Strategies Consulting Group and Eaton Peabody Law Firm, where he specialized in communications and advocacy for Maine’s natural resource based industries.

Cote has significant experience working for clients in the forest products industry. Past clients include Plum Creek Timber Company, Wagner Forest Management, and the Maine Forest Products Council. Cote has also played a key role in the success of Maine’s Natural Resource Network, and was appointed by Governor Baldacci in 2007 to sit on the Landowner-Sportsmen Relations Advisory Council. James’s responsibilities will include all aspects of communications management, including media relations and legislative advocacy. Much of his work will focus on member outreach and newsletter development. You can reach James at [jcote@maineforest.org](mailto:jcote@maineforest.org).



***Editors note:** The following editorial by Catherine Carroll, Director of the Land Use Regulation Commission, appears in this issue of the Maine Forest Products Council newsletter after a substantial outreach campaign conducted by the Council to inform the public of major flaws in the draft plan.*

*LURC has acknowledged that concerns over data and new language presented in the draft CLUP could and will be problematic. However, as of now, the Council has yet to receive any assurance from Catherine Carroll or the Land Use Regulation Commission, that the concerns of the Council have been taken into consideration and will be addressed.*

*Until changes take place, the Council will continue to reach out to members and the public about our concerns.*

## Maine Land Use Regulation Commission Comprehensive Land Use Plan revision By Catherine Carroll, Director

As you are aware, Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission ("LURC" or "the Commission") is currently engaged in the process of updating its Comprehensive Land Use Plan, its primary policy and planning document. The Plan was first adopted in 1976 and underwent complete revisions in 1983 and 1997. In recognition of the fact that it is important to periodically review and update the Plan in order to stay abreast of current trends and conditions, the Commission hopes to have a revised plan adopted within the next year. LURC would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the process that it has outlined for updating the Plan; clarify some points of confusion or concern, and reiterate that public involvement in this process is vitally important.

Updating the Commission's Comprehensive Plan provides the people of Maine with a valuable opportunity to have a public conversation about the characteristics that make the Jurisdiction unique and, most importantly, which characteristics we want to maintain in this important area of the state into the future. The process of updating the Plan has been divided into three phases: Phase 1 – Research; Phase 2 – Public Workshops; and Phase 3 – Public Hearings. The Commission has completed the first phase of this process, the research phase, and has produced a preliminary draft of the Plan to serve as the starting point for discussion. The Commission is just beginning the second phase of this process, public workshops. The public workshops will provide an opportunity for individuals to ask questions, provide comments, and shape the revision of the draft Plan. The public is also encouraged to submit written comments, and groups

are encouraged to request meetings with Staff to discuss the Plan.

The Commission has heard concern that it is updating the Plan without public input. The Commission does not intend nor desire this to be the case. The Commission feels strongly that public participation in the process is vitally important. Phase 1 - Research took a considerable amount of time and consequently delayed the transition to the subsequent phases. However, the Commission is now beginning the Phase 2 – Public Workshops and looks forward to hearing from as many different people as possible.

As we enter public workshops bear in mind that the preliminary draft is exactly that, a draft that is intended to serve as a starting point for discussion and will be revised based on the collective range of comments received. It is the Commission's experience that public participation in the planning process is limited in the absence of specific language that serves as a starting point. The Commission fully anticipates that the draft will be revised following the workshop phase and again following the public hearing phase.

With this in mind, the Commission encourages all parties to read the draft Plan and offer comments based on their own interpretation. The Commission has heard some interpretations of language which were not what it intended to convey and it is important to discuss these points of confusion. For example, some have expressed concern that the draft overemphasizes primitive recreation and will restrict motorized use in the UT. The Commission can comfortably assert that it is not the intent of the draft to elevate the importance of primitive recreation above all other types of recreation. Rather, the draft attempts to recognize that the jurisdiction offers opportunities for primitive recreation that are unique in the Northeast and thus worthy of special recognition (reflected in our Recreation Protection district). This draft Plan does not propose any further restrictions on motorized recreation; however, it does discuss the possibility of developing standards for trail construction in certain areas. **The above examples exemplify the importance of public participation in identifying areas of confusion, as well as substantive issues which warrant further discussion.**

Again, the Commission encourages you to read the draft Plan and offer comments on your thoughts, concerns, points of confusion, etc. That said, the Commission would like to briefly describe what it believes are the major points of the draft Plan that it hopes will be points of discussion during upcoming workshops. The 'workshop draft' of the Plan attempts to describe the Jurisdiction's unique qualities as follows. The area's working forest lands provide the backbone of the State's largest economic sector, the forest products industry. The area is rich in

*(Continued on page 13)*

## Catherine Carroll . . . . . (Cont. from page 12)

other natural resources as well: it contains the highest concentration of large, least developed lakes in the Northeast; the highest water quality ratings in the State; and the highest concentration of undeveloped, free flowing rivers in the East. These resources, coupled with a landowner history of providing public access, create abundant and diverse recreational opportunities, many of which are not found elsewhere in the Northeast.

The 'workshop draft' of the Plan also describes the steady development pressures on this landscape. 35 years of development trends data reveals that recent residential development is more dispersed than pre-1971 development. While 44% of the new dwellings permitted over the last 35 years were concentrated in 21 minor civil divisions, 56% of the new dwellings were located across 307 of the Jurisdiction's 459 minor civil divisions. Most importantly, at least 72% of these new dwellings occurred on lots that were not part of a subdivision and consequently were not reviewed regarding the appropriateness of their location. This information has focused the Commission's attention on two points: (1) current LURC zoning and regulations do not limit the amount or extent of dispersed development; and (2) there is significant potential for continued dispersed development. This is of great concern to the Commission since dispersed development often leads to the loss of productive forest lands, loss of access for tourism and recreation, diminished natural resources, and increased costs for providing services. The Commission strongly believes that development can be accommodated in the Jurisdiction with minimal impact to the other important values of the area, if it is located appropriately. The Comprehensive Plan provides an opportunity to discuss this issue and other issues, as well as possible solutions in a way that meets the needs of all Maine people, including landowners.

The Commission hopes that the 'workshop draft' of the Plan will provide a valuable starting point for public discussion and that the public will be actively engaged in the public process. The Commission believes that the two-part process of public workshops followed by public hearings will provide ample opportunity for the public to shape and improve the Plan. The Commission encourages you to review the draft Plan and information related to the revision process and give us your comments. The Commission has received a number of productive comments already that will improve and clarify future drafts.

The preliminary draft, as well as all other information related to the Commission's 2008 Comprehensive Land Use Plan revision can be found at: [http://www.maine.gov/doc/lurc/reference/CLUP\\_Overview.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/doc/lurc/reference/CLUP_Overview.shtml). Please call 287-2631 with any questions and send comments to [LURC@maine.gov](mailto:LURC@maine.gov).



### \*\*\*SAVE THE DATES\*\*\*

■ July 10th, MFPC  
Tournament - Bangor



Summer Golf

■ Sept. 21 & 22 MFPC Annual Meeting -  
Bethel, Maine (Sunday River)

**Calendar of Events**

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MAY

1	Public Workshop	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Rangeley
5	Public Workshop	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Portland
7	Public Workshop	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Augusta
8	Public Workshop	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Machias
8	Exec. Committee	9:00am - 12 noon	Augusta, MFPC
8	MFPC BOD Committee	1:00pm - 4:00pm	Augusta, MFPC
1	Public Workshop	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Rangeley

JUNE

12	Exec. Committee	9:00am - 12 noon	Augusta, MFPC
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**The Maine Forest Products Council**  
**535 Civic Center Drive**  
**Augusta, Maine 04330**