



# maine community development association

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## Maine Community Development Association

### Pine Tree Development Zone News

Early in 2003, Governor Baldacci introduced the Pine Tree Development Zone program to the legislation. Pine Tree zones use a combination of tax incentives to spur economic development in targeted areas of the state where unemployment is relatively high, and wages are relatively low.

Benefits to qualified new and expanding businesses include:

- \*80% Employment Tax Increment Financing for ten years;
- \*100% refund of corporate income tax and insurance premium tax for years one through five and 50% for years six through ten;
- \*Local option Tax Increment Financing that will not be counted against a municipality's existing TIF area and value caps; and
- \*Effective July 1, 2005: A 100% sales and use tax exemption for zone-related construction materials and equipment purchases.

Maine's DECD has also worked with Maine Public Service Company, Bangor Hydro Electric Company and Central Maine Power to negotiate significant utility discounts to qualified businesses locating in the zone.

Regional applications were received at the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development on January 30, 2004. On February 26, 2004, Governor Baldacci announced the location of the eight zones that have received preliminary designation. Four pre-designated zones included Aroostook County, Androscoggin Valley, Penobscot Valley, and Washington County-Downeast. In addition, four "at large" zones were designated: PenQuis, Kennebec Valley, Midcoast and Southern Maine. Qualified businesses will soon be able to begin seeking zone certification.

For information on the Pine Tree Zone Map and a listing of parcels, view the [www.mainebiz.org](http://www.mainebiz.org) website.

#### Special Interest Articles:

- \* **Pine Tree Development Zone News**
- \* **MCDA Special Meeting with DECD**
- \* **Upcoming MCDA Meetings**
- \* **Maine Office of Tourism**
- \* **Tourism Grants Available**
- \* **2004 Biathlon World Cup**
- \* **Community Development Block Grant Awards**
- \* **Maine Downtown Center**

# **Maine Community Development Association – Special Meeting with DECD to Review Rule Changes**

DECD is considering changes in the way it reviews and scores CDBG applications. MCDA recognizes that this is an opportune time to meet with DECD, prior to its 2005 Proposed Program rule making, and provide input. A Special Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, May 14. The meeting will be in the West Wing Conference Room at DECD in Augusta and will begin at 12:00 noon. This is a brown bag lunch meeting.

## ***Upcoming MCDA Meetings***

May, 2004 – General Membership Meeting  
In Conjunction with CDBG Implementation Day (Location TBA)

June 11, 2004 – General Membership Meeting  
Fort Fairfield

August, 2004 – General Membership Meeting  
In Conjunction with CD Appreciation Day (Location TBA)

September, 2004 – General Membership Meeting  
Joint Meeting with Maine Association of Planners (Location TBA)

October, 2004 – Annual Meeting  
In Conjunction with MMA Convention

## **Maine Office of Tourism**

The Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International (HSMAI) recognized the Maine Office of Tourism and their advertising agency, Warren Kremer Paino (WKP), with a total of six Adrian Awards for advertising excellence. HSMAI paid tribute to the Maine Office of Tourism and WKP during the 14<sup>th</sup> annual HSMAI Travel Industry International Awards Night Dinner.

The Office of Tourism's 2003 winter advertising campaign was recognized with a gold award for their complete retail campaign, a silver merit award for their newspaper ad and a bronze merit award in the category of advertising series. In addition, Maine's 2003 spring/summer advertising campaign received two silver merit awards in both the consumer magazine and television categories, and a bronze award in the complete campaign category.

## ***Tourism Grants Now Available***

New guidelines are now available for the designated regional tourism organizations wishing to apply for grants through the Office's Tourism Marketing Partnership Program. The main objective of this program is to create and implement programs designed to stimulate and expand the travel industry within Maine's eight tourism regions. Last year, the office awarded approximately \$700,000 in grants. The same amount is anticipated for this year. The funds available for the regional tourism program are based on a percentage of tax revenue generated by tourism spending from the previous fiscal year.

The deadline for the designated regional tourism organizations to submit their proposal is May 13, 2004.

## 2004 Biathlon World Cup

On March 3-6, 2004, Fort Kent hosted the first World Cup Biathlon ever held in New England. Athletes from over twenty nations around the world gathered in Fort Kent for a week of competition, culture and the celebration of sport. Biathlon combines the skills of rifle marksmanship with the physical demands of cross country skiing, is the most popular televised winter sport in Europe.

Inspired by athletes striving for excellence, the volunteers of Fort Kent, the St. John River Valley and Aroostook County, working with the support of the Maine Winter Sports Center, created an opportunity for tourism and economic development in the region. With over 80 television broadcasters and two dozen journalists covering the World Cup Biathlon, it was anticipated that more than 30,000,000 people around the world shared in this event.

The Maine Winter Sports Center (MWSC) is a non-profit, economic development corporation. Founded in 1999, the mission of the MSWSC was to re-establish skiing as a lifestyle in Maine. MWSC looked to leverage that lifestyle to create opportunity for rural, economically challenged communities of the state. The mission further addresses the devastating health issues facing youth. Maine is at, or near the top of the country in the incidence of childhood smoking, obesity, type II diabetes and asthma. MSWC is dedicated to reaching out to the children of Maine and getting them started on a healthy active lifestyle early in life.

## Community Development Block Grant Program

The 2004 CDBG program grant recipient announcements were made by DECD for the following programs:

<u>Public Facility</u>	<u>Public Infrastructure</u>	<u>Housing Assistance</u>
Beaver Cove \$125,000	Baileyville \$400,000	Housing Rehab. (2004)
Brooks \$250,000	Bowdoinham \$400,000	Etna \$300,000
Bucksport \$200,000	Clinton \$301,000	Greenville \$300,000
Canton \$250,000	Fort Fairfield \$185,000	Harmony \$300,000
Columbia Falls \$100,000	Fort Kent \$400,000	Limestone \$300,000
Danforth \$ 36,000	Gardiner \$400,000	Palmyra \$300,000
Detroit \$250,000	Machias \$400,000	Rockland \$300,000
Dresden \$ 62,000	Patten \$113,000	
Eastport \$250,000	St. Agatha \$400,000	Housing Rehab. (2005)
Mars Hill \$250,000	South Portland \$400,000	Amity \$300,000
Moscow \$ 50,000	Washburn \$400,000	Bucksport \$300,000
	West Bath \$300,000	Caribou \$300,000
		Van Buren \$300,000
		Waterville \$300,000
		Innovative Housing (2004)
		Canton \$400,000
		Searsport \$400,000
		Unity \$ 60,000
		Westbrook \$400,000



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