

Director's Message

Date: June 2, 2008

To: Partners and Employees of Oregon Housing and
Community Services

From: Victor Merced, Director

Congratulations, Lynn Schoessler.

Lynn has been named deputy director for the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, effective Wednesday, June 4.

Tim McCabe, OECDD interim director made the appointment.

“This is a great day for OECDD,” McCabe said. “The department is exceedingly fortunate to have a leader of Lynn’s caliber, a leader who has deep roots in Oregon’s rural communities, a leader who has Lynn’s extraordinary professional depth in finance and management.”

Schoessler’s appointment to the deputy position comes amid intense planning for the proposed realignment of OECDD. Schoessler has been working as the community development lead on behalf of OHCS in the realignment process.

Gov. Kulongoski announced the realignment on Monday, May 12, recommending that community development programs be moved from OECDD to OHCS. At that time, the governor named McCabe to be OECDD interim director. He had been the governor’s principal policy advisor for OHCS programs.

Pleased as I am for him, I must say Lynn's departure will leave a significant gap at Oregon Housing and Community Services. But we know his depth of knowledge and intellectual integrity will help drive a successful reorganization at OECDD from which all Oregonians will benefit.

Lynn has a strong career record in housing, community service, and community development positions in Oregon, including two high-level stints with Oregon Housing and Community Services.

Lynn has been the housing finance manager at OHCS since 2006. In this capacity, he supervises a variety of programs for financing low-income housing. In addition, he administers \$200 million of single-family loan activity annually and \$200,000 in down payment assistance, along with \$150 million in multifamily finance.

Prior to his current service with OHCS, Schoessler was the Oregon director of USDA Rural Development, named to that position by President Clinton in 1999. Schoessler supervised the funding of food banks, farm labor housing and a host of other federal programs that help support rural Oregon's infrastructure and anti-poverty work. He supervised an annual program budget of \$165 million and administrative budget of \$10 million.

From 1990 to 1999, he was deputy director at OHCS, and from 1988 to 1990, he was the predecessor agency's community resources manager.

His rural development experience in Oregon reaches back to the time he was housing programs director for a regional community action agency in La Grande. He later was the executive director of the regional housing authority serving Baker, Union, Wallowa and Grant counties.

Schoessler holds a degree in architecture from Washington State University and has done graduate study in public administration at the University of Washington.

Please join me in wishing Lynn all the best in his new role as deputy director of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

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