



TRACY OSCAVICH BECOMING LVPC ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR WITH BRUCE RIDER'S RETIREMENT

As the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission closes its 60th year of serving Lehigh and Northampton counties, it looks to a 2022 with new administrative leadership.

Bruce Rider, Director of Administration, will retire December 31, bringing an end to a stellar six years in which he helped stabilize LVPC finance and pension funds and guide the organization's growing role as a resource for data, development and social policy.

Rider's retirement opens the door for Director of Development Tracy Oscavich to take over as Director of Administration January 1.

"Bruce has been such a vital part of who we've become over the past six years. We're certainly going to miss his steady leadership," said Executive Director Becky Bradley. "But we're also excited for Tracy. She's been working side-by-side with Bruce for years and her experience really puts us in a great situation heading into 2022."

The changes also enable LVPC Controller Vicky Weidenhammer to take on more of the organization's financial duties.

Rider has been directing finance, human resources and administration at the LVPC since arriving in June of 2015. He's since helped navigate the LVPC out of the financial difficulties most organizations faced after the Great Recession, helping to stabilize finances and fully fund retirement accounts. He also worked with Bradley to craft a vision for an organization that reviews every development project filed in Lehigh or Northampton counties, manages a \$2.5 billion long-range transportation program, and serves as a policy, data and analysis resource to the Lehigh Valley's 62 municipalities and 687,000 residents.

Before arriving at the LVPC, Rider was the business manager for Crayola Experience and CEO/Executive Director of the YMCA of Bethlehem.

Now he'll be setting a new vision that involves traveling with his wife of 35 years, Leslie, growing his lifetime hobby as a classic rock band drummer and vocalist, fishing and spending time with his grandchildren.

"I plan to dive headfirst into retirement, but I know I'll miss this work," Rider said. "I'm proud of our work here because I always felt like I was part of a greater mission to have a positive impact on the community."

Rider privately made his retirement date known more than a year ago, enabling a smooth transition.

Oscavich arrived at the LVPC in 2014 as Associate Director of Development, before being promoted to Director of Development in 2018. She's been instrumental in managing the organization's communications and events, has helped win several competitive grants including the \$21.2 million federal grant awarded in November to build a commuter road and trail from Allentown to Whitehall Township, helps organize LVPC training programs and more recently is working to advance four multi-municipal plans that involve 31 communities. She also helped transform the organization's information technology, modernizing the LVPC computer network and enabling it to keep in-person and virtual contact with the public through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Oscavich will continue some of those tasks, while taking on new roles in human resources and coordinating the overall administrative and financial operations.

"I will certainly miss Bruce as a colleague, but he's really earned this next chapter in his life," Oscavich said. "I look forward to continuing our steadfast leadership, along with Becky and Vicki."

Oscavich had previously worked as Director of Land Recycling Initiative for the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp. after earning her Master of Arts Degree in Environmental Policy and Design from Lehigh University.

