

## STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

### USDA Rural Development Announces Executive Leadership Changes

**WASHINGTON, June 22, 2021** – USDA Rural Development Deputy Under Secretary Justin Maxson today announced Charles Stephens has been selected to serve as Assistant Administrator for Water and Environmental Programs.

Stephens has served his country for 25 years. He joined USDA in 2012. He most recently served as the Associate Deputy Administrator for the Specialty Crop Program. In this role, Stephens oversaw all program activities, which include inspection and auditing, market news, promotion and economics, and marking order and agreements. He began his career as a financial manager in the U.S. Army, serving from 1996 to 2006.

Stephens began his civilian career in 2006 as a Budget Analyst for the Defense Logistics Agency. When he joined USDA in 2012, he led a Farm Service Agency team responsible for managing the Commodity Credit Corporation budget. Stephens earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and his Master's degree in Public Administration. In 2015, Stephens completed the Leadership for a Democratic Society program at the Federal Executive Institute. He currently lives in Bethesda, Md., with his wife and four children.

As Assistant Administrator for Water and Environmental Programs for USDA Rural Development, Stephens will be responsible for the Water and Environmental Program portfolio. His division administers funding programs that provide financing to thousands of rural communities across the country. These programs ensure rural communities have sustainable access to safe, modern and reliable water and wastewater infrastructure.

Stephens began his new role on June 21, 2021. USDA encourages partners and stakeholders to reach out to Stephens in his new role to build on existing partnerships and forge new ones.

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