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COLUMBIANA COUNTY RECORDER

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Logan will head Ohio Department of Natural Resources for new governor
By TOM GIAMBRONI Journal Staff Writer

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Sean Logan is shown with his wife, Melissa, and the youngest of their three children.
LISBON — County Commissioner Sean Logan is leaving to work for the new governor.

Logan was named Tuesday by governor-elect Ted Strickland to become the next director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

“Sean truly believes in the potential of Ohio’s parks and natural resources, and he’s someone who will respect the rights of Ohio sportsmen and women,” Strickland said in a news release.

Strickland said he chose Logan because of his background and based on their working relationship.

“I know firsthand how bright and hardworking he is.”

Logan, 40, said Friday will be his last day as commissioner, and he officially becomes ODNR director after Strickland takes the oath of office Jan. 8.

“From camping and hiking, to hunting and fishing, our state parks and bountiful natural resources are a vast resource of recreation and economic strength for our great state. I look forward to ensuring that Ohio’s natural heritage will be enjoyed by Ohioans for generations to come,” he said.

The announcement comes a month after Strickland chose Logan to serve on his transition team as ODNR review coordinator. At the time there was speculation the appointment meant Logan had the inside track on the ODNR job.

Since Logan is a Democrat, the county party has the task of naming his replacement on the board of commissioners. County Democratic Party Chairman Dennis Johnson scheduled a meeting of the party’s central committee for 7 p.m. Jan. 10, at which time they will name a replacement for Logan as well as former county Treasurer Linda Bolon, who resigned after being elected state representative.

“We’re going to try to get this done as quickly as possible,” Johnson said.

The meeting will be held in the upstairs room at Patrick’s Chop House in Elkton.

One of those rumored to be interested in replacing Logan is county Recorder Craig Brown, a Democrat. Brown said he is considering applying for the appointment, although he is satisfied being recorder.

“It would be a wonderful opportunity to help the county and serve the public,” he said. “Being county commissioner is a tough job, and I think I can handle it.”

Brown said he will talk it over with his wife, family and friends to determine where “is the best place for me to serve at this time.”

Also being mentioned as a possible candidate is Wellsville school district Treasurer Penny Traina, who unsuccessfully ran for county auditor in the November 2006 election. Traina could not be reached for comment.

Logan’s appointment means he will be returning to Columbus, where he served 10 years as in the state legislature as the county’s state representative before being elected commissioner in 2000. While in the legislature, he served on the energy/environment and the agriculture/natural resources committees.

As commissioner, Logan has served as the board’s representative on the Little Beaver Creek Wild & Scenic River Advisory Committee, president of the Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Council, and on the governor’s task force on solid waste. He is a recipient of the county Federation of Conservation Clubs Outstanding Service Award.

Logan takes over at a time when ODNR funding is at one of its lowest levels ever.

“With any organization there’s challenges and opportunities,” he said.

The ODNR has a \$330 million annual budget and a staff of 2,200 permanent employees and 1,100 seasonal workers spread out among 15 divisions. ODNR oversees 74 state parks, state forests and 13 wild and scenic rivers, and regulates fishing, hunting and boating. Between 60 and 100 ODNR employees hold unclassified positions, which means they can be replaced at Logan’s discretion.

Strickland spokesman Keith Dailey said no salary has been established yet, but cabinet heads earn between \$54,900 and \$143,100, depending on the position.

A United Local High School graduate, Logan earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Muskingum College and a law degree from Capital University Law School. He and his wife, Melissa, have three children.

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