

**Date:** May 13, 2024  
**To:** Environmental Quality Commission  
**From:** Leah Feldon, Director  
**Subject:** Agenda item I, Informational item: Recognition of DEQ's Ambassadors of Public Service  
May 23, 2024, EQC meeting

**Purpose of item** DEQ and the commission will have an opportunity to recognize DEQ employees nominated by their colleagues as Ambassadors of Public Service, the annual State of Oregon award for public service.

**Background** Every year, DEQ joins with other agencies across the nation to celebrate [Public Service Recognition Week](#). Since 1985, Public Service Recognition Week is celebrated the first week of May to honor the people who serve our nation as Tribal, federal, state, county and local government employees.

As part of this event, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services requests nominations of employees that their agencies consider Ambassadors of Public Service. This year, DAS chose "Operational Excellence" as the theme for Public Service Recognition Week. DEQ is proud to honor the employees, listed below, who were recognized by their colleagues as exemplary for their operational excellence and as true ambassadors of the spirit of public service.

- Adam Coutu
- Cheryl Grabham
- Svetlana Lazarev
- Kristen Martin
- Lesley Merrick
- Vanessa Rose
- Kathleen Schuckman
- Julie Ulibarri
- Joe Westersund
- Leela Yellesetty

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Informational item: Recognition of DEQ's Ambassadors of Public Service  
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Page 2 of 2

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