

JOSHUA ELI KURTZ

301-512-9094 • JoshEKurtz@gmail.com • 1274 Robert Road Crownsville, MD 21032

EDUCATION

George Mason University

Master of Public Policy, May 2012

University of Delaware

B.S. in Wildlife Conservation, May 2008

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Cabinet Secretary

Annapolis, MD

January 2023-Present

- Serves as a key advisor to Governor Wes Moore on Natural Resource related policies and programs.
- Manages an agency of over 1,400 permanent positions and 500-700 seasonal positions with a total budget of over \$600M annually. The agency covers the entire state of Maryland and has several functions, from law enforcement, science, communications to land management.
- Provides strategic vision for the agency to align with Governor Moore's priorities and sets priorities through statute, regulation and agency policy.
- Develops leadership through talent acquisition and through the development of a robust management training program. Recruited a 14-person executive team with 7 direct reports to the Secretary.
- Communicates as the main spokesperson for the agency with press, legislators and the public. Regularly testifies in Congress, Maryland General Assembly and local jurisdictions.
- Leads several multi-jurisdiction efforts to restore our Natural Resources, including the Principal Staff Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Program where I coordinate the efforts of the 6 watershed jurisdictions and the District of Columbia. In this role I negotiate binding agreements, programmatic changes and funding allocations.
- Acts as the appointing authority for the agency, which means all personnel and human resources decisions are made by the Office of the Secretary.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Maryland Executive Director

Annapolis, MD

January 2021 – January 2023

- Provided strategic vision and leadership for the policy/advocacy, litigation, science and terrestrial restoration programs, as well as for CBF's Clagett Farm and the Maryland Oyster Restoration Center.
- Created the process for developing a 5-year strategic plan. Currently leading the development of the plan which focuses on achieving the 2025 Bay Blueprint. This plan will be CBF's first ever to chart the course for out-year action beyond the federal and state framework.
- Developed and manages the budget (approximately \$1.5M) for personnel, programing and capital expenses. Determines and manages appropriate grants and fundraising opportunities.
- Served as the primary relationship manager for key stakeholders and partners, including the Governor's Administration, MD General Assembly, Chesapeake Bay Commission, University System of Maryland, private restoration firms, conservation finance entities and various coalitions.
- Acted as the primary spokesperson and public face for the Maryland office by developing strategic communications plans, giving interviews and developing press engagement opportunities.

The Nature Conservancy

Policy and Government Relations Director

Bethesda, MD

June 2019 – December 2020

- Managed the budget (approx. \$400K) for the Government Relations Department and the Climate Mitigation Initiative. Completed budget forecasting, managed spending, grants and salaries for the department.
- Researched and developed policy and regulatory concepts to create climate resilient human and natural communities in Maryland and deliver clean water to residents.
- Supervised the policy and government relations team, led hiring, oversaw development of work plans, established roles and responsibilities and advised on career development.
- Created grass tops advocacy campaigns by activating trustees, partners and industry leaders to support conservation and climate policy in the Maryland General Assembly and DC City Council.
- Led the creation of a 5-year strategic plan for climate mitigation in Maryland and DC. Strategy has three pillars: community engagement, policy reform and decision-maker education.

The Nature Conservancy*Director of Policy Development*

Bethesda, MD

May 2016 – May 2019

- Identified best policy solutions to drive clean water and climate resilience in the Maryland General Assembly and District of Columbia Council.
- Translated our policy priorities into outreach materials and worked with Director of Government Relations to develop advocacy strategies to advance our priorities.
- Developed and launched the Climate Smart program in the MDCC Chapter. Solicited a grant from the MacArthur Foundation to fund listening sessions around renewable energy expansion and delivered a report based around land use challenges and solutions.
- Created the Youth Advocacy Training program in the Chapter to expand the next generation of conservation leaders. Built out a customizable module for training that can be tailored to specific audiences, geographies and governance levels.

The Nature Conservancy*Government Relations Manager*

Bethesda, MD

May 2015 – May 2016

- Created the strategic framework for the evolution of the government relations program to move beyond funding for conservation and protection and into restoration, climate resilience and clean water.
- Developed a budget letter and advocacy campaign for conservation programs that support our work.
- Developed and implemented a youth advocacy training program.

The Nature Conservancy*Policy and Program Associate*

Bethesda, MD

January 2013 – May 2015

- Tracked priority legislation and attended hearings to assist the Government Relations Director in establishing our policy priorities.
- Researched policy priorities and developed testimony and advocacy outreach materials.
- Assisted with outreach to the general public, partners and community groups.

The Human Rights Campaign*Operations Coordinator*

Washington, DC

July 2012-December 2012

- Managed inventory and supplies for an office of 250+ individuals.
- Coordinated, scheduled and staffed large events held at the office conference room
- Stewarded relationships with several vendors related to supplies, IT, storage and security.

Green Savings Cooperative*Research and Outreach Intern*

Bethesda, MD

May 2011- October 2011

- Conducted extensive research of potential supplier and organization members and created tailored marketing plans for each company, resulting in a 10% membership increase over six months.
- Prepared and presented educational displays about the cooperative's economic and environmental impact.
- Collaborated with the social media team to educate the public and recruit members through several platforms.

SKILLS

Microsoft Access, Excel, Word and Powerpoint, SPSS, ArcGIS 10, RAMAS, Report Preparation, Public Speaking, Research and Data Collection, and Scientific Data Management, AMS, Budget Management, Human Resources