

# Kelly Knutson



## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Director of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed**

September 2021 – Present

40 Hours/Week

Remote, New Jersey

- Coordinate with the Coalition’s steering committee to execute our watershed-wide strategic vision, priority policy objectives, and overall structural operations.
- Oversee the Coalition’s federal clean water and conservation advocacy through engaging the basin Congressional delegation in key legislative and appropriation requests.
- Maintain relations with foundations and fundraise to increase the Coalition’s impact as well as scope of work on both state, regional, and national scales.
- Effectively manage and spend down grants and cooperative agreements to ensure deliverables are being met and operations continue within budgetary means.
- Manage and professionally develop full-time employees in various subfields within government and public relations.

### **State Policy Manager, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed**

April 2019 – September 2021

40 Hours/Week

Remote, New Jersey

- Promote and defend funding for water and conservation programs throughout each basin state by fostering relations with respective agencies and legislators.
- Strengthen collaboration beyond political boundaries and engage a broad constituency of organizations through strategic bipartisan watershed-wide campaigns.
- Mobilize advocates and amplify voices on federal and state policies through member sign-on letters, action alerts, meetings with representatives, and lobbying events.
- Advance efforts to reduce single-use plastics from entering the Delaware River Watershed through increased advocacy and awareness on a state, regional, and federal level.
- Elevate the watershed through enacting roadside signage through partnerships with DOT's, offices of tourism, basin commissions, and other state agencies.

## **New York Field Organizer, National Audubon Society**

January 2017 – March 2019

40 Hours/Week

Albany, NY

- Developed and executed Ambassador trainings that strive to empower constituent voices in the political process and advocate for bipartisan climate solutions that benefit birds.
- Facilitated NY chapters involvement in Climate Watch, a citizen and community science initiative, which documents bluebird and nuthatch population responses to a warming planet using projected 2020 climate models.
- Coached high school and college students on working with local municipalities to encourage responsibly sited renewable projects that strive to lessen the negative impacts onto birds by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.
- Encouraged homeowners to plant native species that provide food, shelter and safe passage for birds, especially in urban dwellings through workshops and presentations.

## **Regional Field Director & Southern Tier Field Organizer, NextGen America**

November 2015 – August 2016

40 Hours/Week

Concord, NH

- Recruited and trained core volunteer networks in twenty towns throughout New Hampshire.
- Launched canvasses and phone-banks in targeted communities to identify climate voters.
- Supported local leader's environmental initiatives and rallied for stronger renewable policies on both town and statewide levels
- Shaped community perception of climate by integrating feasible actions into faith, agriculture and small business visions.
- Fostered awareness about the science and regional politics of climate change to town committees and state representatives.
- Increased organizational partnerships and influenced co-sponsored events to broaden membership.

## **EDUCATION**

Concordia College–Moorhead, MN

Graduating Class of 2015

B.A. Environmental Studies–Natural Sciences; Biology

## **ACCOLADES**

- Environmental Leadership Program, Delaware River Watershed Fellow, July 2021
- City & State, The 2023 Energy & Environment Power 100, August 2023
- UPenn's Water Resource Center, Regional Collaborative for Water Leadership, January 2024