

Louie V. Krak

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Experience

Governor's Office of Critical Investments, February 2022 – Present

- ♦ Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator responsible for coordinating funding and programmatic outcomes related to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022, as well as other competitive grant or loan programs sourced from the US Department of Energy (DOE), US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and US Department of the Interior (DOI).
- ♦ Works with staff across Commonwealth agencies, including the Pennsylvania Departments of Environmental Protection, Agriculture, and Conservation and Natural Resources, to maximize the amount of federal funds received under the IIJA, IRA, and related legislation and ensure programmatic and financial fidelity to federal guidance. Provides a central point for the coordination, management and reporting of all such funds, which will total more than \$2 billion for the portion of the Commonwealth's executive branches covered by this coordinator. Leads the Commonwealth's efforts to obtain up to \$500 million under EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Implementation Grant (CPRG) General Competition to create a statewide industrial decarbonization incentive program. will serve as lead for
- ♦ Serves as the lead for the commercialization of more than 100,000 acres of abandoned minelands controlled by the Commonwealth as well as the deployment of Enhanced Geothermal Systems technology and the transitioning of orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells to energy storage assets.
- ♦ Delivers public presentations at events, conferences, and webinars across Pennsylvania on opportunities to leverage IRA tax credits and other sources of federal funding across Pennsylvania including the Appalachian Carbon Forum 2024, Pennsylvania Municipal League Sustainability Conference, Southwestern Pennsylvania Coalition CPRG Implementation Workshop, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Decarbonization Forum.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection – Policy Office, June 2022 – February 2023

- ♦ Executive Policy Specialist responsible for liaising with the Energy Programs Office, Bureau of Air Quality, Office of Oil and Gas Management, Office of Active and Abandoned Mining Operations, Bureau of Laboratories, and Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator. Reviews and revises regulation packages, technical guidance documents, federal comment letters, advisory committee appointments and meeting materials, grant solicitation and award packages, Pennsylvania Bulletin Notices, and myriad internal and external reports.
- ♦ Organizes monthly planning meetings to facilitate discussions between program leadership, counsel, and the Policy Office's Regulatory Coordinator. Writes policy briefs, provides feedback on proposed legislation, and assists with program and project development, including the Agricultural Efficiency Rebate Program, Climate Action for Disadvantaged Communities project, and Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Fleet Pilot Program. Authored the [Driving PA Forward Interim Report](#) and the Pennsylvania Methane Overflight Study Final Report and co-authored the [Clean Energy Program Plan 2023-25](#).
- ♦ Responsible for attending advisory committee meetings, providing summaries for the Governor's Office and the Secretary, and vetting prospective appointee applications. Participates in the Interagency Solar Work Group; Electric Vehicle Interagency Work Group; Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage Work Group; Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Environmental Justice Subgroup; and Air Quality Monitoring Work Group.
- ♦ Pennsylvania Governor's Office (GO) Team representative for U.S. Climate Alliance (Alliance) responsible for attending bi-weekly, Alliance-wide coordination meetings, reviewing and circulating Alliance comment letters and guidebooks for GO approval, participating in embargoed White House and Environmental Protection Agency briefings, and attending semi-annual, in-person GO Team Planning Meetings.

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Farmland Preservation, October 2021 – June 2022

- ♦ Administrative Officer II responsible for reviewing easement purchase recommendation documents, including appraisals, surveys, title commitments, and agreements of sale to determine compliance with state law before presenting easement recommendations to the State Agricultural Lands Preservation Board for approval. Digitized easement boundaries for the state farmland preservation Geographic Information Systems (GIS) layer.

- ♦ Administered the Farm Vitality Planning Grant Program and the Beginning Farmer Realty Transfer Tax Exemption Program. Assisted Bureau Director with implementing Environmental Justice in farmland preservation by analyzing barriers to access for historically underrepresented BIPOC and LGBTQ farmers. Developed a proposal for an Urban Agriculture Acquisition Grant Program. Attended the New Horizons in Conservation Conference to understand the need for diversity, equity, and inclusion in conservation.

Ocean Surveys, Inc., June 2021 – October 2021

- ♦ Hydrographic analyst responsible for processing multibeam and side scan sonar data using GIS software.

Long Island Sound Ocean Cluster, October 2020 – June 2021

- ♦ Chief Operating Officer for Blue Economy venture building innovation hub focused on growing the seaweed industry in Long Island Sound (LIS). Responsible for staff organization, hiring, and leadership, project creation and management, and grant writing. Engaged with prospective clients and industry leaders and stakeholders, managed website and social media, planned and executed cluster events, and sold cluster memberships.
- ♦ Developed a kelp fertilizer student internship grant program. Hired and managed graduate student interns and oversaw their work to create and test a fertilizer made from locally harvested sugar kelp. Collaborated with CT kelp farmers to organize the first annual New England Kelp Harvest Week. Promoted the event on social media and news outlets. Organized a Harvest Happy Hour and networking event.

Graduate Research Assistant, January 2020 – May 2021

- ♦ Analyzed the dearth of processing infrastructure in the U.S. seaweed industry. Assisted in the creation of a Kelp Value Machine diagram for the Project Blue website, social media, and promotional materials. Co-authored, researched, and edited an academic article accepted for publication. Awarded grant funding for thesis research. Developed and lead a three-hour virtual design thinking workshop.
- ♦ Organized the 2020 Coastal Transitions Conference with over 300 participants from 14 countries. Provided technical assistance for virtual meeting sessions and managed the Whova virtual conference platform. Developed and implemented a video submission protocol for online presentations, directed and produced a welcome video for the conference website, and assembled and shipped large conference supply boxes.

Education

MS Environmental Studies, Southern Connecticut State University, January 2020 – May 2021 **GPA: 4.0**

Publications – 2021: Examining Opportunities for Geographic Market Differentiation, Blue Carbon Inclusion, and Nutrient Bioextraction in the U.S. Seaweed Industry; Enacting a just and sustainable blue economy through transdisciplinary action research. **2022:** Geographical considerations for capturing value in the U.S. sugar kelp (*Saccharina latissima*) industry; **2023:** The Evolution of Blue Carbon: Exploring the Burgeoning Role of Macroalgae in Carbon and Nitrogen Sequestration;

BA Geography, Southern Connecticut State University, January 2017 – May 2019

GPA: 3.98