



**For Immediate Release:**

January 17, 2024

**Contact:**

Margot Resto  
Lower Shore Land Trust  
100 River Street  
Snow Hill, MD 21863  
(O) 443-234-5587  
[mresto@lowershorelandtrust.org](mailto:mresto@lowershorelandtrust.org)

**Lower Shore Land Trust Announces Hire of New Executive Director**

The Lower Shore Land Trust is excited to announce its next Executive Director Matt Heim, who will begin February 1st.

Heim brings nearly 20 years of non-profit experience to Lower Shore Land Trust, the majority of which was based in local environmental initiatives. After spending several years in Memphis, TN managing a network of community gardens and urban farms, Matt and his wife Sara returned home to the Eastern Shore where Sara became the Assistant Director of the ShoreCorps AmeriCorps program at Salisbury University and he quickly rose to the forefront of environmental issues as the leader of a local campaign in opposition to offshore drilling for oil and gas in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Heim went on to serve as the first director of the One Water Partnership program at *Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake*. The program seeks to engage faith communities in Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. Under Heim's tenure, the One Water Partnership expanded from Baltimore City into the Lower Shore, Lancaster, Southern Maryland, Upper Shore, Harford County, and Howard County regions and grew from a staff of 1 to 6. The program also engaged over 3,000 volunteers and installed nearly 30 restoration projects on congregational properties.

In 2022, Heim joined Delmarva Public Media as the Deputy General Manager and Director of Development where he oversaw the establishment of partnerships with the Bay Journal and helped produce several environmentally focused programs in partnership with the *No, I Know* Podcast and Salisbury University's Environmental Studies Program.

Heim's experience over the years has involved managing multi-million-dollar budgets, overseeing fund-raising campaigns and developing a strong grant writing track record. He has run successful environmental advocacy campaigns that brought together diverse stakeholders from across the political spectrum and has worked for and with multiple lower shore environmental

organizations. Heim's educational background has focused on the environmental history of the lower shore, giving him a long-range view of landscape change.

The Land Trust's Search Committee had multiple qualified finalists for this position but were unanimous in their decision to hire Heim. Search Committee Chair and Board Chair Michael Lewis, states: "We were impressed not only with his background and experience, but with the seriousness with which Heim researched the organization. In addition to his experience, Heim articulated a carefully thought-out agenda for the leadership transition at the Land Trust, which illustrated both his values, vision, and practical organizational skills."

Heim will succeed long-time Executive Director, Kate Patton. After 18 years of serving the Land Trust, Patton announced her retirement last year. Patton leaves the organization in its strongest position since its inception, after years of continued growth and long-term stability, and is confident in her successor's abilities to successfully manage the transition of leadership and take the organization to the next level.

Heim says: "In many ways, this is a dream position for me. I love the Eastern Shore, I love its history, I love its natural beauty and wild places. I'm honored to be in a position where I can work with such dedicated people and contribute to the conservation and restoration of this place I feel fortunate to call home. The organization and legacy that Kate, the Land Trust staff, board, and volunteers, supporters and landowners have built is incredible. The Lower Shore is better because the Lower Shore Land Trust exists and I'm looking forward to helping shepherd the next chapter in its history."

###