



WLA 2019 Policy Priorities

STEERING COMMITTEE

Joseph Bonelli
University of Connecticut

Bonnie Burr
University of Connecticut

Paul Elconin
Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust

Gordon Gibson
Connecticut State Grange

Eric Hammerling
CT Forest & Park Association

Bryan Hurlburt
CT Farm Bureau Association

Terry Jones
Jones Family Farms

Kip Kolesinkas
Manchester

Nathan L'Etoile
American Farmland Trust

Henry Lord
New Haven

Susan Mitchell
New CT Farmer Alliance

Elisabeth Moore
Connecticut Farmland Trust

Amy Paterson
CT Land Conservation Council

Shannon Raider-Ginsburg
CT NOFA

Richard Roberts
Halloran & Sage

Kathy Ruhf
Land for Good

Jim Smith
Cushman Farm

Keith Stechschulte
Farm Credit East

Shannon Yearwood
End Hunger CT!

STAFF

Chelsea Gazillo - Director
cgazillo@farmland.org

Armando Paolino - Lobbyist

- Bonding – Support a bonding level of \$10 million for farmland protection programs
- CIA – Maintain the integrity and full funding levels for the Community Investment Act
- Support the Department of Agriculture as a stand-alone agency with appropriate funding and staffing at levels which support farmland preservation and agricultural programs to the greatest extent possible
- Advocate for policy to accelerate new & beginning farmers restoration grants – Reduce the 50% required match for the Farmland Restoration Grant Program to put more farmland into production
- Renewable Energy – support policy for the use of farm energy production that promotes ongoing farm operations
- PA 490 – Oppose policy changes that would limit access to farmland and/or accelerate the loss of working lands in Connecticut cities, municipalities, town and land trusts
- Support legalization of hemp production to increase farm viability
- Farmer and farm worker housing – support examination of farmer and farm worker housing & incentives
- Support a local option municipal open space and working lands funding mechanism
- Support efforts that increase the profitability of farms