

ATTACHMENT 9A

**Recommendations for Supervisor Appointment
Soil and Water Conservation Commission
March 18, 2026**

District	Name of Nominee	Replacing Name	Term	Willing to attend Basic Training	Willing to attend other meetings	Reason for Vacancy	Notes
Caldwell	Noah James Starnes	Russell Dellinger	Elected (22-26)	Yes	Yes (local, area, state)	Moving to appointed seat	Professional role as a Loan Officer with AgSouth Farm Credit. Relationships with local producers and firsthand insight into the financial challenges and opportunities facing modern agriculture.
Caldwell	Russell Dellinger	Jack Adams	Appointed (24-28)	Attended previously (2022)	Yes (local, area, state)	Retirement	Current Chair of Caldwell SWCD; has served on the board since April 2021. Valuable board member who has worked with the NC Forest Service for over 33 years.

Revised 3/16/2026

Fischer, Kristina

From: noreply@fs3.formsite.com on behalf of Formsite <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 3:30 PM
To: Fischer, Kristina
Subject: [External] Nomination for Supervisor Appointment Result #16193860

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Reference #	16193860
Status	Complete
Login Username	jwilson@caldwellcountync.org
Login Email	jwilson@caldwellcountync.org
Appointment or Reappointment	New Appointment
District:	Caldwell
Unexpired/Expired Term of Supervisor:	Rusty Dellinger
Elected/Appointed	Elected
Term of Office	December 2022 to December 2026
Name of Nominee:	Noah James Starnes
Nominee Mailing Address:	4542 Petra Mill Road
City:	Granite Falls
State:	NC
Zipcode:	28630
Nominee Email Address:	noah.starnes@agsouthfc.com
Nominee Mobile or Home Phone:	828-268-8153

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Age	27
Occupation:	Loan Officer for Ag. South Farm Credit
Education:	BS of Science and Agriculture of Science at NC State
Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee:	President of the Wilkes Area Poultry Association
Former Occupations or Positions of Leadership Contributing to Nominee's qualifications:	Feedmill at North Carolina State University AgSouth Farm Credit
If appointed, I am willing to attend Basic Training for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors within the first year after appointment?	Yes
The program and purpose of the soil and water conservation district been explained to me?	Yes
I am willing to attend and participate in (check all that apply)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local District Meetings• Area Meetings• State Meetings
Nominee Signature:	 
Typed/printed name:	Noah James Starnes
Date:	03/16/2026
Typed/printed name:	Russell Dellinger
Date:	03/16/2026

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Printed certification signature page for board approval. Only necessary if signature box is not signed above.	Russell Dellinger Signature.pdf (8 KB)
Resignation letter (only needed if vacancy is due to resignation).	Russell Dellinger - Letter.pdf (20 KB)
Is the nominee actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation?	Yes
Please explain the nominee's connection to agriculture:	Noah works daily with farmers as a Loan Officer for AgSouth Farm Credit.
Number of current District Supervisors actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation.	5
Will the appointment provide an opportunity to engage a segment of agriculture not currently being served?	Yes
Please describe how the nominee improves the ag diversity of the board:	Noah brings valuable diversity to the Caldwell Soil & Water Conservation District Board through his professional role as a Loan Officer with AgSouth Farm Credit. His daily work consists of supporting farmers, landowners, and rural businesses gives him firsthand insight into the financial challenges and opportunities facing modern agriculture.
Will the appointment bring new leadership skills to the board?	Yes
Please describe the new leadership skills the nominee brings to the board:	Noah's perspective will strengthen the Board's decision making by connecting conservation priorities with real-world economic consideration.

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Will the appointment strengthen the political connection/influence of the district, especially at the county level?	Yes
Please describe the new advocacy skills the nominee brings to the board:	Noah's experience with agricultural lending, risk management, and farm sustainability helps ensure that programs and initiatives remain practical, accessible, and beneficial to producers across Caldwell County.
Will the appointment provide representation from a portion of the county not currently represented?	No
Will the appointment improve opportunities to work with non-traditional partners?	Yes
Please describe how the appointment improves partnership opportunities for the district:	By bridging the gap between conservation goals and agricultural finance, Noah enhances the Board's ability to serve a broader range of landowners and promotes balanced, forward-thinking solutions for the community
Will the appointment improve the make-up of the board from an agricultural/nonagricultural perspective?	Yes
Describe how the appointment improves the non-ag representation for the board:	Through his daily work as a Loan Officer for AgSouth Farm Credit.
Will the appointment improve the diversity of the board?	Yes
Please describe how the appointment improves the diversity of the board:	Noah's daily work consists of supporting farmers, landowners, and rural businesses and it gives him insight into the financial challenges and opportunities facing modern agriculture.

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Has the nominee shown past involvement in an organization beyond the local level?	Yes
Describe how the nominee has been involved in an organization beyond the local level:	Noah is the President of the Wilkes Area Poultry Association. Noah is in charge of the organization of their meetings held once every two months and hosts two events per a year.
Will the appointment strengthen the District's opportunity to raise funds?	Yes
Please describe how the appointment strengthens the District's opportunity to raise funds?	Noah brings expertise, connections, credibility, and strategic skills to the Caldwell District.
Will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?	Yes
How will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?	Noah as already generously donated bags for the SENACD Meeting being held in Cherokee, North Carolina this upcoming August.
Last Update	2026-03-16 15:30:01
Start Time	2026-03-16 12:41:45
Finish Time	2026-03-16 15:30:01
IP	24.176.93.130
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18 March 2026

Attn: Soil and Water Conservation Commission

I, Russell Dellinger, being an elected member of the Caldwell County Soil and Water District Board of Supervisors, do hereby resign my elected position to fill the appointed position vacated by Mr. Jack Adams.

Russell Dellinger

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Dellinger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fischer, Kristina

From: noreply@fs3.formsite.com on behalf of Formsite <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 12:41 PM
To: Fischer, Kristina
Subject: [External] Nomination for Supervisor Appointment Result #16198948

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Reference #	16198948
Status	Complete
Login Username	jwilson@caldwellcountync.org
Login Email	jwilson@caldwellcountync.org
Appointment or Reappointment	New Appointment
District:	Caldwell
Unexpired/Expired Term of Supervisor:	Jack Adams
Elected/Appointed	Appointed
Term of Office	December 2024 to December 2028
Name of Nominee:	Russell C Dellinger
Nominee Mailing Address:	2438 Birchdale Drive
City:	Lenoir
State:	NC
Zipcode:	28645
Nominee Email Address:	255rdell@gmail.com
Nominee Mobile or Home Phone:	828-292-2358
Age	58

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Occupation:	Forestry Technician
Education:	High School Graduate/North Carolina Forest Service Ranger Training Program
Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee:	Caldwell SWCD Board Chair Member of Board of Directors for Gamewell Fire Department
Former Occupations or Positions of Leadership Contributing to Nominee's qualifications:	33 Years of Service for the North Carolina Forest Service. Retired as a Caldwell County Ranger in 2019.
If appointed, I am willing to attend Basic Training for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors within the first year after appointment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes• Attended previously (enter years of attendance below) (5)
The program and purpose of the soil and water conservation district been explained to me?	Yes
I am willing to attend and participate in (check all that apply)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local District Meetings• Area Meetings• State Meetings
Typed/printed name:	Russell C Dellinger
Date:	03/16/2026
Printed certification signature page for nominee. Only necessary if signature box is not signed above.	Russell_Dellinger_Signature.pdf (8 KB)
Typed/printed name:	Russell C Dellinger
Date:	03/16/2026
Printed certification signature page for board approval. Only necessary if signature box is not signed above.	Russell_Dellinger_Signature.pdf (8 KB)
Resignation letter (only needed if vacancy is due to resignation).	Caldwell_SWCD_January_12_2026_Minutes.pdf (99 KB)

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Optional additional documentation (e.g, candidate resume').

[Caldwell SWCD Meeting Minutes.pdf \(91 KB\)](#)

Is the nominee actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation?

Yes

Please explain the nominee's connection to agriculture:

Chairman Dellinger retired from the North Carolina Forest Service in February of 2019 after serving Caldwell County and the State of North Carolina for 33 years. Mr. Dellinger currently serves as a Forestry Technician for the North Carolina Forest Service once again since January of 2026.

Number of current District Supervisors actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation.

5

Will the appointment provide an opportunity to engage a segment of agriculture not currently being served?

Yes

Please describe how the nominee improves the ag diversity of the board:

Mr. Dellinger has enforced sediment and erosion control practices and Best Management Practices (BMP's) to assist with water quality.

Will the appointment bring new leadership skills to the board?

Yes

Please describe the new leadership skills the nominee brings to the board:

Mr. Dellinger currently serves as the Chairman for the Caldwell SWCD Board of Supervisors. Mr. Dellinger has served on the Caldwell SWCD Board since April of 2021.

Will the appointment strengthen the political connection/influence of the district, especially at the county level?

Yes

Please describe the new advocacy skills the nominee brings to the board:

Mr. Dellinger promotes effective advocacy and communication throughout Caldwell County by building relationships to our farmers and landowners throughout the Community.

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Will the appointment provide representation from a portion of the county not currently represented?	Yes
Describe how the appointment improves the geographic representation for the board:	Mr. Dellinger has worked with the North Carolina Forestry Service for over 33 years. Mr. Dellinger also served as the Caldwell County Ranger previously. Mr. Dellinger actually has gone back into the North Carolina Forestry Service as a Technician since January of 2026.
Will the appointment improve opportunities to work with non-traditional partners?	Yes
Please describe how the appointment improves partnership opportunities for the district:	This appointment improves partnership opportunities with the North Carolina Forest Service along with Tuttle State Forest and the Educational Programs they offer that are housed in Caldwell County.
Will the appointment improve the make-up of the board from an agricultural/nonagricultural perspective?	Yes
Describe how the appointment improves the non-ag representation for the board:	Mr. Dellinger is well advised to the many individuals within Caldwell County. Mr. Dellinger was born in Caldwell County and still resides her with his wife, Paula.
Will the appointment improve the diversity of the board?	Yes
Please describe how the appointment improves the diversity of the board:	Mr. Dellinger brings valuable diversity to the Caldwell Soil and Water Conservation District Board through his unique background with the North Carolina Forest Service. Mr. Dellinger is also a Conservationist by trade.
Has the nominee shown past involvement in an organization beyond the local level?	Yes
Describe how the nominee has been involved in an organization beyond the local level:	Serves as the current Chairman for the Caldwell SWCD Board of Supervisors Serves on the Board of Directors for the Gamewell Volunteer Fire Department as President Board Member for the Tuttle State Forest Foundation

Will the appointment strengthen the District’s opportunity to raise funds?	Yes
Please describe how the appointment strengthens the District’s opportunity to raise funds?	Mr. Dellinger connects the District to groups, networks, and citizens for outreach connections and to make sure that the Community's voice is heard.
Will the appointment strengthen the District’s education, marketing, and outreach efforts?	Yes
How will the appointment strengthen the District’s education, marketing, and outreach efforts?	Mr. Dellinger helps ensure that the District Programs consider the needs of the producers, homeowners, students, and future generations within Caldwell County.
Last Update	2026-03-16 12:41:09
Start Time	2026-03-16 11:22:40
Finish Time	2026-03-16 12:41:09
IP	24.176.93.130
Browser	Edge
Device	Desktop
Referrer	https://fs3.formsite.com/res/formLoginReturn

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4. **Treasurer's Report** – The Treasurer's Report was shared with the Supervisors. Supervisor Jack Adams offered a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Supervisor Mike Willis seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
5. Caldwell County Manager, Shane Fox addressed the Caldwell SWCD Board of Supervisors and Staff and gave a brief introduction.

INFORMATION ITEMS

5a. **Cost Share Program Update:**

- **14-2024-005 – Kirby – Grade Stabilization** – Starting the week of the 12th.
- **StRAP** – Caldwell remains a “High Need County.” Caldwell has applied for EWP. The StRAP window will open the week of 01/12.
- **Items for Decision:** Supervisor Mike Willis made a motion to approve the Clark Streambank Stabilization Project pending the StRAP Application Approval. Supervisor Ed Spivey seconded the motion and the motion carried.

5b. **NRCS:** The Deadline for Applications for Caldwell has been completed.
FY26 Applications – 8
Introduction to The Regulatory Agricultural Pilot Program

5c. **Division Update:** The RCW Application Process will roll out.
Division Update Meeting – 02/04 – Yadkinville
Donation in Memory of Marvin Cavanaugh

5d. **Programs Specialist Update:** Supervisor Mike Willis offered a motion to limit four tickets per Contest Candidate for the 2026 Caldwell SWCD Contest Night. Supervisor Jack Adams seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

5e. **Items for Decision:** Supervisor Jack Adams addressed the Caldwell SWCD Board Supervisors and Staff. Supervisor Adams asked that his wishes were respected as he turned in his decision to Retire from the Caldwell SWCD Board after a Term of 30 years. Supervisor Mike Willis Made a Motion to accept Supervisor Adams Retirement. Supervisor Ed Spivey seconded the motion, and the motion carried.