

COMMISSION HEARING RE: INQUIRY COMMITTEE DETERMINATION AND REFERRALS

Grounds for removal of District Supervisors are set forth in G.S. 139-7; any supervisor may be removed by the Commission upon notice and hearing for neglect of duty. Under 02 NCAC 59A .0301 (a), evidence of neglect of duty shall include, but is not limited to, the failure to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled district meetings, except when prevented by illness.

The Inquiry Committee outlined in 02 NCAC 59A .0302 met on July 1, 2025, and has sent one supervisor to the Commission for a hearing for neglect of duty.

Non-attendance at local board meetings, Edward Jones – Forsyth SWCD:

02 NCAC 59A .0301(c) requires District boards to notify the Commission in writing of any member that has failed to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, except when prevented by illness of the Supervisor. Notification from the District shall include explanation for non-attendance and the actions that the District board has taken to address the Supervisor’s attendance.

| District | Name | Explanation | Details |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|---|
| Forsyth SWCD | Edward Jones | Incarcerated | Has missed all meetings since attending in January 2025 |

The Inquiry Committee did not receive correspondence from Supervisor Jones. The Committee met in July 2025 and determined that there was evidence of neglect of duty. Correspondence related to this hearing was sent to Supervisor Jones and to his SWCD Board Chair. The letter sent Supervisor Jones was returned as undeliverable, “addressee unknown”.

Fischer, Kristina

From: noreply@fs3.formsite.com on behalf of Formsite <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 1:47 PM
To: Fischer, Kristina
Subject: [External] Supervisor Failure to Attend Result #15362358

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Report suspicious emails with the Report Message button located on your Outlook menu bar on the Home tab.

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Reference # | 15362358 |
| Status | Complete |
| District name | Forsyth |
| Name of supervisor that has failed to attend meetings | Edward Jones |
| Number of regularly scheduled meetings missed consecutively | 3 |
| Date of first meeting missed (month/year) | 1/2025 |
| Reason for non-attendance (if prevented due to illness of the supervisor, reporting not required) | Board member is incarcerated |
| Actions the district board has taken to address attendance (the Commission has guidelines to encourage participation in their District Supervisor Removal Guidance) | Not applicable |
| Contact name for questions regarding this submittal | Madeline Loman |
| Last Update | 2025-04-15 13:46:42 |
| Start Time | 2025-04-15 13:39:13 |
| Finish Time | 2025-04-15 13:46:42 |
| IP | 104.138.142.250 |
| Browser | Chrome |
| Device | Desktop |
| Referrer | N/A |



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Division of Soil and Water Conservation

David B. Williams
Director

Via Certified Mail: 7022 0410 0003 1130 2729

August 6, 2025

Edward Jones
Forsyth SWCD
1228 East Twenty Fourth Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

Dear Supervisor Jones,

As you are aware, pursuant to Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0301, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission received a report indicating that you had failed to attend three consecutive meetings of the Forsyth Soil and Water District beginning January 2025, and the matter was referred to the Commission's Inquiry Committee. By letter dated March 28, 2025 (*note, this was a typo, letter was sent May 28, 2025*), notice was sent notifying you of the referral and of your opportunity to provide documentation for the Committee's consideration; no correspondence was received.

The Committee met on July 1, 2025, and based on the information before it, the Committee found that a neglect of duty had occurred and referred the matter to the full Commission for a hearing pursuant to Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0302.

The hearing is scheduled to occur during the Commission's Business Meeting at the following location, date, and time:

Soil & Water Conservation Commission Business Meeting
Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.
Wayne County Agricultural Center – Farm Bureau Room
3114 Wayne Memorial Drive
Goldsboro, North Carolina

Pursuant to Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0301(h), you will be given an opportunity to address the Commission at the hearing and to provide any information to it that might be relevant to the matter. While you are encouraged to attend in person if you are able, you may also attend remotely via Microsoft Teams through a link that will be provided prior to the meeting. Please note that the manner in which you choose to attend, whether in-person or remotely, will not be held against you and no negative inferences will be

MAILING ADDRESS
Division of Soil and Water Conservation
1614 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1614

Telephone: 919-707-3770

LOCATION
Division of Soil and Water Conservation
216 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

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August 6, 2025
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drawn from it. However, please also be aware that the failure to attend the hearing may be considered evidence by the Commission that you have no objection to being removed pursuant to Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0301. A copy of the Commission's Rules can be found on the Division's website at <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation/district-supervisors/supervisor-training#ProgramRules-2204>.

Please let the Division know of your intent to participate and additional meeting details will be communicated. Communication can be sent to david.b.williams@ncagr.gov and kristina.fischer@ncagr.gov.

Finally, please note that the Committee's determination is not a final decision and that you continue to serve as a District Supervisor, along with the full rights, duties, and responsibilities of your position, unless and until the Commission makes a final determination on this matter. As such, you are strongly encouraged to ensure that you comply with the requisite attendance requirements for district meetings.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. You should not, however, contact any member of the Commission to discuss the matter prior to the hearing. Any written documentation or information you would like to submit prior to it should be directed to my attention, and it will be provided to the Commission prior to the hearing.

Thank you for your service as a District Supervisor.

Sincerely,



David B. Williams, Director
NCDA&CS DSWC

Cc: Forsyth Soil and Water Conservation District Chair, Toby Bost
Forsyth Soil and Water Conservation District
Elise McLaughlin, NCDA&CS DSWC

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