

# ATTACHMENT 16

## 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. Evidence of neglect of duty shall also include the failure of sitting Supervisors to meet training requirements set forth in 02 NCAC 59A Section .0200.

The Inquiry Committee outlined in 02 NCAC 59A .0302 met in May 2025 and has sent two supervisors to the Commission for a hearing for neglect of duty.

### Non-attendance at local board meetings, Cody Waters – Edgecombe 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
Edgecombe SWCD	Cody Waters	Schedule conflict	2 of 9 local meetings attended Dec 2023 – Nov 2024; 4 consecutive meetings missed, beginning August 2024.

The Inquiry Committee did not receive correspondence from Supervisor Waters. The Committee met in May 2025 and determined that there was evidence of neglect of duty. Correspondence related to this hearing was delivered to Supervisor Waters and sent to his SWCD Board Chair.

Supplemental attendance information for 2025 submitted by the Edgecombe SWCD is listed below.

Meetings held	Attendance
March 2025	Waters attended
April 2025	Waters attended
May 2025	Waters attended
June 2025	Waters attended

### Lack of Training, Trent Talbert - Pender SWCD:

02 NCAC 59A .0301(d)(2) requires the Division to submit a summary of Supervisor Training Credits by February 1 of odd years.

Under NC General Statute 139-7.2 and 02 NCAC 59A .0203, all supervisors are required to obtain a minimum of six Supervisor Training Credits per term of service.

**ATTACHMENT 16**

<b>District</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Elected / Appointed</b>	<b>2020-2024 STCs</b>	<b>Start Month</b>	<b>Start Year</b>
Pender SWCD	Trent Talbert	Appointed	0.00	September	2021

The Division has received copy of correspondence where Trent Talbert resigned, effective July 8, 2025.

## Fischer, Kristina

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**From:** noreply@fs3.formsite.com on behalf of Formsite <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2025 5:18 PM  
**To:** Fischer, Kristina  
**Subject:** [External] Supervisor Failure to Attend Result #15236322

**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.

<b>Reference #</b>	15236322
<b>Status</b>	Complete
<b>District name</b>	Edgecombe
<b>Name of supervisor that has failed to attend meetings</b>	Cody Waters
<b>Number of regularly scheduled meetings missed consecutively</b>	4
<b>Date of first meeting missed (month/year)</b>	8/2024
<b>Reason for non-attendance (if prevented due to illness of the supervisor, reporting not required)</b>	Schedule Conflict
<b>Actions the district board has taken to address attendance (the Commission has guidelines to encourage participation in their District Supervisor Removal Guidance)</b>	None
<b>Contact name for questions regarding this submittal</b>	J. Scott Kiser
<b>Last Update</b>	2025-02-28 17:18:26
<b>Start Time</b>	2025-02-28 17:13:52
<b>Finish Time</b>	2025-02-28 17:18:26
<b>IP</b>	98.97.154.185
<b>Browser</b>	Chrome



**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 5355

May 23, 2025

Cody Waters  
Edgecombe SWCD  
577 Myers Road  
Rocky Mount, NC 27801

Dear Supervisor Waters,

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 Edgecombe Soil and Water District meetings during the period beginning December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2024, and the matter was referred to the Commission's Inquiry Committee. By letter dated March 14, 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. Your District also reported that you missed four consecutive meetings beginning in August 2024; two of nine meetings were attended during the reported timeframe.

The Committee met on May 12, 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, July 23, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.  
Gov. James G. Martin Building, NC State Fairgrounds Gate 9  
4285 Trinity Road  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607

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 drawn from it. However, please also be aware that the failure to attend the hearing may be considered

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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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](mailto:david.b.williams@ncagr.gov) and [kristina.fischer@ncagr.gov](mailto: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: Edgemombe Soil and Water Conservation District Chair, Harold Thompson  
Edgemombe Soil and Water Conservation District  
Taryn Thompson, NCDA&CS DSWC

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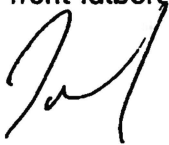
To: Buron Lainer, Pender County Soil and Water Vice President

Mr. Vice President Lainer

After many years of service as a District Supervisor for Pender County Soil and Water, I regret to inform you that I will resign my position as of 8 July 2025.

Thank You!

Trent Talbert

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Trent Talbert', written in a cursive style.