

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR NOMINATION OF SUPERVISOR FOR APPOINTMENT OR REAPPOINTMENT

A vacancy on a district board of supervisors presents a unique opportunity for that board. The board should use this opportunity to nominate for appointment a supervisor candidate who can provide knowledge and leadership to improve the district's ability to address more of the natural resource needs for more of the constituents of the district. The NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission approved the following guiding principles to guide local soil and water conservation districts when evaluating candidates for appointment and recommending supervisors for reappointment. It is suggested that the local Board consider these recommendations when nominating a supervisor to the Commission.

1. Because agriculture is North Carolina's number one industry and because of the importance of soil and water conservation to production agriculture, the Commission strongly recommends that at least two members of each district board be actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agriculture operation. Examples of an "agriculture operation" include those operations that are eligible to participate in the Agricultural Cost Share Program, or fall within the definition of "Agriculture," as provided in N.C.G.S. § 106-581.1. **If the board does not already have two or more members that meet this criterion, will this appointment satisfy this Commission recommendation?**
2. An effective board of supervisors requires motivated members with strong leadership skills and diverse knowledge of natural resource needs in the district. **Will the appointment bring new leadership skills to the board?**
3. A strong district is led by supervisors who are effective at approaching elected and appointed officials to advocate for resources and policies needed to meet the conservation priorities in the district. **Will the appointment strengthen the political connection/influence of the district, especially at the county level?**
4. **Will the appointment provide representation from a portion of the county not currently represented by a supervisor?**
5. North Carolina agriculture is growing increasingly diverse. Often, non-traditional agricultural operations require focused outreach from leaders they believe understand their unique needs. **Will the appointment provide a better opportunity to work with a segment of agriculture not currently being served?**
6. Many districts have built relationships with other organizations who share interest in natural resource conservation. **Will the appointment improve opportunities to work with non-traditional partners (e.g., land trust, forest landowners, grant making organizations, environmental advocacy groups)?**
7. Although most districts have traditionally focused assistance to agricultural land users, districts have authority and programs available to work with all land uses to address natural resource concerns. **Will the appointment improve the make-up of the board from an agricultural/nonagricultural perspective?**
8. Often a district can improve its ability to reach traditionally underserved groups and its overall public support by increasing the diversity of its board. **Will the appointment improve the diversity of the board?**
9. One key to a successful district is the willingness of the district supervisors to study and learn from the successes of other districts and other organizations. It is often instructive to observe a supervisor candidate's involvement in other organizations (e.g., trade groups, civic clubs, church). **Has the nominee shown past involvement in an organization beyond the local level?**
10. The success of a district's programs will often depend on its ability to gain sponsorship and support from private businesses and individuals. **Will the appointment strengthen the District's opportunity to raise funds?**
11. Among the most visible district activities are environmental education, marketing, and public outreach. These programs are often key to achieving widespread public support for the district. **Will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?**

§ 106-581.1. Agriculture defined.

For purposes of this Article, the terms "agriculture", "agricultural", and "farming" refer to all of the following:

- (1) The cultivation of soil for production and harvesting of crops, including but not limited to fruits, vegetables, sod, flowers and ornamental plants.
- (2) The planting and production of trees and timber.
- (3) Dairying and the raising, management, care, and training of livestock, including horses, bees, poultry, and other animals for individual and public use, consumption, and marketing.
- (4) Aquaculture as defined in G.S. 106-758.
- (5) The operation, management, conservation, improvement, and maintenance of a farm and the structures and buildings on the farm, including building and structure repair, replacement, expansion, and construction incident to the farming operation.
- (6) When performed on the farm, "agriculture", "agricultural", and "farming" also include the marketing and selling of agricultural products, agritourism, the storage and use of materials for agricultural purposes, packing, treating, processing, sorting, storage, and other activities performed to add value to crops, livestock, and agricultural items produced on a farm, and similar activities incident to the operation of a farm.
- (7) A public or private grain warehouse or warehouse operation where grain is held 10 days or longer and includes, but is not limited to, all buildings, elevators, equipment, and warehouses consisting of one or more warehouse sections and considered a single delivery point with the capability to receive, load out, weigh, dry, and store grain. (1991, c. 81, s. 1; 2005-390, s. 18; 2006-255, s. 6; 2013-347, s. 2; 2017-108, s. 8.1.)