

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
June 15, 2023

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met on June 15, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The following record of that meeting was maintained.

Board Members Present by Video Conference

Rick Elam

Board Members and Staff Present at Board Office

Charles Prince, Chair
Annette Pridgen, Vice-Chair
Gary Walker, Secretary
David Bridgers
William Kelly
Willie Sims, Jr.
Andy Wright, Executive Director
Sharee Brewer, Associate Director, Investigations
Vicki Snowden, Licensing Administrator
Lane McNeal, Compliance Administrator

Others Present at Board Office

Ed Wiggins, Attorney General's Office
Dan Gardiner, Postlethwaite & Netterville, CEO
Jim Koerber, EAG Gulf Coast
Lauren Hensgens, Legal Counsel, EAG Gulf Coast

Others Present by Video Conference or Telephone

Ed Jones, MSCPA Liaison
Karen Moody, MSCPA CEO

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Willie Sims.
2. The minutes from the May 5, 2023 meeting were approved.
3. Previously approved licenses are available for signature at the Board Office.
4. The Board took note of the next two scheduled Board meetings. July 11, 2023 will be a Special Called meeting followed by August 10, 2023 for a Regularly Scheduled meeting.

I. General (Continued)

5. Reviewed proposed dates and times for future meetings/conferences:

2023 Dates:

June 22-25	MSCPA Convention, Destin, FL
June 27-29	NASBA West Regional Meeting, Kansas City, MO
July 11	10:00 a.m. Special Board Meeting
August 10	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
September 21	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at Jackson State University
Oct 29-Nov 1	NASBA Annual Meeting, New York, NY
November 9	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
December 15	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. The NASBA State Board Report, Spring 2023, was discussed.
2. AICPA Pipeline Acceleration Plan – Version 4, was discussed.
3. A Minnesota Society of CPAs publication – “Broadening the Pathways to CPA...,” was discussed.
4. AICPA State Legislative & Regulatory newsletter, was discussed.

III. Administration

1. Balance Sheets, Funds 3845 and 3850 as of May 31, 2023, were reviewed.
2. The FY2023 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the eleven months ended May 31, 2023, was reviewed.
3. If available under State Personnel Board salary targets, the Board ratified the Executive Director decision to award 6% pay increases to all staff.
4. Separately, the Board adopted by unanimous vote the following resolution:

The salary of the Executive Director is approved for an increase of 6%, or an annual increase of \$6,075.68, effective July 1, 2023. This will result in a new annual salary of \$107,337.04.

5. MS Department of ITS Quote for Candidate App Update was noted.
6. 2023 State Board profiles, provided by NASBA, were reviewed.
7. Additional per diem days were approved.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board noted staff approval of 107 candidate applications (38 initial, 69 reexam) for 149 Sections of the computerized CPA examination received since the May 5, 2023 meeting
2. The following actions on applications for CPA licenses, reciprocals, reinstatements, and CPA firm permits were unanimously approved/ratified by the Board unless otherwise noted:

Applications for Original CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Justin Dean Atwood	8411	Approved
Jack Nathan Blumenthal	8412	Approved
Hallie McKinley Bufkin	8413	Approved
Karis Anne Cox	8414	Approved
Jaggars Lynn Denley	8415	Approved
Logan Massie Gage	8416	Approved
Ashley S. Kittrell	8417	Approved
Garrett Reid Mills	8418	Approved
Steven Ford Winford	8419	Approved

Applications for Reciprocal CPA License Approved & Issued by Staff

Name	Number	Action
Caroline Rose Guilbeau	R8409	Approved

Applications for Reinstatement of CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Jennifer Johnston Heafner	5829	Approved
Amy H. Reed	4930	Approved

Applications for CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Name	City, State	Number	Action
Jessielyn Cameron CPA dba Tyson Financial	Jackson, MS	8420	Approved
Smith CPA Firm PLLC	Jackson, MS	8421	Approved

Application for Reinstatement of a CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Number	Name	City, State	Action
F1446	Lindsay James CPA PLLC	Moselle, MS	Approved
7509	Cooper Travis & Company	Nashville, TN	Approved

V. Continuing Professional Education

- The Board members unanimously authorized the following actions on CPE Sponsor programs applications/Individual requests submitted for approval.

Sponsor/Title	Dates	Hours	Action
Al Petrie Advisors 1. Louisiana Energy Conference	5/30- 6/1/2023	20	Approved
Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan, Levens & Favre 1. 25 th Annual Accounting and Auditing Update	5/23/2023	8	Approved
Dale Carnegie (via MW Industries) 1. MW Industries Leadership Development Training	9/13/2022	8	Approved
Delta Chapter of CPAs 1. 2023 Accounting and Auditing Update (for Nonissuers)	5/17/2023	8	Approved
Estate Planning Council MS 1. Natural Resources & Real Estate 2. Real Estate, Business & Discount Valuations in 2023 3. Business Valuations 4. State Income Tax of Trusts	1/10/2023 2/14/2023 3/14/2023 5/10/2023	1 1 1 1	Approved Approved Approved Approved
Harper, Rains, Knight & Co. 1. Compliance & risk Management 2023 Update	5/18-19/23	16	Approved
MS Department of Revenue 1. Ethics, Confidentiality, Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination	Various	1	Approved
Petroleum Accountants Society of MS 1. Owner Relations Portal Environments	6/7/2023	1	Approved

VI. Rules and Regulations

1. NASBA’s recommendation for implementation of 30-month window for exam Grades was approved.
2. A CPA firm request for early implementation of 30-month window was discussed.
3. Discussion of a CPA firm request for interpretation of MS Code 73-33-1(4)(a) was tabled.
4. The Board /Legal Recommendation of Early Implementation of other pending rules changes (Accounting Education).
5. Representatives of EisnerAmper CPA firm (“EA”) discussed with the Board their alternative practice structure. Board staff highlighted the requirements of Rule 3.1.9 when CPAs practice through a non-CPA firm. EA representatives were asked to submit examples of advertisements/disclosures with the Rule 3.1.9 language to Board Staff.
6. Other issues with AICPA alternative practice structures were discussed.

VII. Enforcement Matters

1. The Board heard a report from Associate Director Sharee Brewer regarding the regulatory activities from May 6, 2023 to June 15, 2023:

Activity	Number
Cases Opened Beginning of Period	20
Cases Opened	0
Cases Closed ①	1
Cases Open End of Period	19
Open Cases Referred to Members	0

VII. Enforcement Matters (continued)

① Cases Closed:

Case 2023.002 involved a firm whose resident manager died unexpectedly and successor manager failed to renew the firm permit. As a result, firm was out of compliance for more than one year. A Stipulation and Consent Order was agreed to acknowledging the violation of statute and rule. Order called for a \$500 financial penalty and was approved at previous Board meeting. Firm permit was reinstated. Financial penalty was paid. Matter was closed.

2. Ms. Brewer then discussed the open cases presented on the active case log.

VIII. Trial Board Hearing

Continuation Order 2022.113 was approved
(Kelly recused)

Executive Session / Adjournment

Following a call for any further business, the Board chair proposed entering into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. After consulting the Board's legal counsel, the Board was informed they had proper cause to enter into Executive Session and voted unanimously to close the meeting and enter such Executive Session.

Within the Executive Session, discussion was held but the Board took no action. The Board emerged from Executive Session and resumed the open meeting. The open meeting was continued by announcing that no action had been taken during the Executive Session. The open meeting was then adjourned.

These minutes were adopted by unanimous vote of the Board Members present at the July 11, 2023 Board Meeting.

For the Board:

Gary Walker
Board Secretary