

**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
June 17, 2021**

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met telephonically on June 17, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The following record of that meeting was maintained.

Board Members Present by Video Conference

David Bridgers, Chair
William Kelly, Vice Chair
Charles Prince, Secretary
Rick Elam
Angela Pannell
Mark Peach

Board Members Absent

Willie Sims, Jr.

Board Staff Present at Board Office

Andy Wright, Executive Director
Sharee Brewer, Associate Director, Investigations

Legal Counsel Present at Board Office

Pete Cajoleas, Special Asst. Attorney General

Others Present by Video Conference or Telephone

Vicki Snowden, Board Licensing Administrator
Annette Pridgen, MSCPA Chair
Ed Jones, MSCPA/Board Liaison

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Charles Prince.
2. The minutes from the May 7, 2021 meeting were approved.

I. General (Continued)

3. The Board reviewed and approved tentative meeting/activity dates for 2021:

2021 Tentative Dates:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| June 22-23 | NASBA Virtual Regional Meeting |
| June 22-27 | MSCPA Convention; Destin, FL |
| August 5 | 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting |
| September 16 | 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting |
| October 22 | 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting |
| Oct. 31- Nov. 3 | NASBA Annual Meeting; San Diego, CA |
| December 10 | 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting |
| December 11 | New CPA Ceremony |

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. The Spring 2020 NASBA State Board Report was discussed.
2. A Letter from Institute of Management Accounts regarding concerns over dropping management/cost accounting from required curriculums was discussed.

III. Administration

1. The Cash in Treasury for Funds 3845 and 3850 as of May 31, 2021 was reviewed.
2. The FY 2021 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the eleven months ended May 31, 2021 was reviewed.
3. The New CPA Ceremony was discussed.
4. Additional Per Diem days were approved.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board noted staff approval of 109 candidate applications (26 initial, 83 reexam) for 151 Sections of the computerized CPA examination received since the May 7, 2021 meeting.
2. The following actions on applications for CPA licenses, reciprocals, reinstatements, and CPA firm permits were unanimously approved by the Board unless otherwise noted:

Applications for Original CPA License

| Name | Number | Action |
|-----------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Sadie Marie Anderson | 8107 | Approved |
| Price Thomas Atteberry | 8108 | Approved |
| Penny Lorraine Dyer | 8109 | Approved |
| Shanequa Evonne Grayson-Akpandjar | 8110 | Approved |
| Jeni Khambhati | 8111 | Approved |
| Samantha A. McBride | 8112 | Approved |
| Austin T. Norton | 8113 | Approved |
| John M. Rogers | 8114 | Approved |
| Marshal A. Salley | 8115 | Approved |
| Kennon Bailey Turner III | 8116 | Approved |

Applications for Reciprocal CPA License

| Name | Number | Action |
|------------------------|--------|----------|
| Hannah Claire Farmer | R8117 | Approved |
| Aileen G. Foley | R8118 | Approved |
| Justin R. May | R8119 | Approved |
| Elizabeth Mead Randall | R8120 | Approved |
| Rebekah H. Summerville | R8121 | Approved |

Applications for Reinstatement of CPA License

| Name | Number | Action |
|----------------------|--------|----------|
| Julia G. Bradley | 7273 | Approved |
| D. Stevens Dearman | 4821 | Approved |
| Chelsey Neal Henley | 7100 | Approved |
| Cassandra S. Lee | 5088 | Approved |
| Charles Guy Lowe III | 4231 | Approved |

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (Continued)

Applications for CPA Firm Permit to Practice

| Name | City, State | Number | Action |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------|----------|
| Alexander & Williams LLC | Dallas, TX | 8105 | Approved |
| Sarah McClure, CPA | Carthage, MS | 8106 | Approved |

Amendments to Registered Firms

| No. | Name | City, State | Change |
|-------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| F1708 | Elliot Davis, LLC | Greenville, SC | Address Change |

Application for Reinstatement of a CPA Firm Permit to Practice

| Number | Name | City, State | Action |
|--------|-----------------------|---------------|----------|
| F1658 | Denise C. Dampier CPA | Charlotte, NC | Approved |

3. The Board members heard a brief presentation from the Executive Director on CPA Exam Transition to the Evolution Model.

V. Continuing Professional Education

1. The Board members unanimously authorized the following actions on CPE sponsor programs applications submitted for approval.

| Sponsor/Title | Dates | Hours | Action |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|----------|
| AFWA – Jackson Chapter 1. What Could Go Wrong: Understanding Internal Controls | 1/14/2021 | 1 | Approved |
| 2. Tax Policy Update for 2021 and Beyond | 2/10/2021 | 1 | Approved |
| 3. Crash Course in Estate Planning | 5/20/2021 | 1 | Approved |
| Delta Chapter of CPAs 1. 2021 Accounting and Auditing Update (For Nonissuers) | 5/25/2021 | 8 | Approved |
| Electric Cooperatives of MS 1. Broadband Accounting Seminar | 5/11-12/2021 | 6 | Approved |
| Estate Planning Council of MS 1. Market Update | 1/12/2021 | 1 | Approved |
| 2. Tennessee Trust Benefits | 2/9/2021 | 1 | Approved |
| 3. SECURE and CARES Act | 3/9/2021 | 1 | Approved |
| 4. The Best Income Tax Planning for High Income Individuals | 5/11/2021 | 1 | Approved |
| Office of MS Physicians Workforce 1. GME Finance Workshop | 5/7/2021 | 5 | Approved |
| William F. Taylor 1. Ethical Considerations for the Accounting Profession | Various | 4 Ethics (3 General; 1 MS Rules) | Approved |

2. The Board members unanimously authorized the following actions concerning CPE request from individuals.

| Sponsor/Title | Dates/Type | Hours | Action |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|
| Tennessee CPA Journal Recruiting, Onboarding and Working During COVID-19: Employers Speak Out | Co-Author Publication | 15 | Approved |
| Working During COVID – 19: Staff Observations <i>Requested by Mark Jobe</i> | Co-Author Publication | 15 | Approved |

VI. Rules and Regulations

1. The Board members present unanimously approved the following Resolution for procedural changes for reciprocal license applications:

The Board delegates its authority to approve and issue reciprocal licenses under Rule 2.6.6. to the Executive Director.

VII. Regulatory Matters

1. The Board heard a report from Associate Director Sharee Brewer regarding the regulatory activities from May 8, 2021 to June 17, 2021:

| Activity | Number |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Cases Opened Beginning of Period | 18 |
| Cases Opened | 11 |
| Cases Closed ① | 8 |
| Cases Open End of Period | 21 |
| Open Cases Referred to Members | 3 |

① Cases Closed:

Case **2019.040** involved an out of state firm that received a fail rating on a peer review report conducted on the firm’s system of quality control which included audits performed under generally accepted Government Auditing Standards. The findings in the report were substantial and the firm is continuing to perform such audits. As the firm is currently in their next peer review year, the case was settled with a Consent Order that required if the firm does not receive a pass rating on this current peer review report, the firm will submit to pre-issuance reviews until such time as it receives a pass rating on a review where governmental audits are examined. The Consent Order did not contain a financial penalty and was approved by the Board at the May 7, 2021 meeting. Matter was closed.

Cases **2020.025** involved an individual licensee who performed a review report for the state Board of Contractors without having a firm permit issued by the Board. The licensee subsequently obtained a firm permit and reported no other engagements subject to peer review. The case was settled with a Stipulation and Consent Order which required the firm to schedule an accelerated peer review with a date acceptable to the Board if they become engaged to perform any engagements subject to peer review in the future. The order contained a \$500 financial penalty and was approved by the Board at the May 7, 2021 meeting. Matter was closed.

VII. Regulatory Matters (continued)

Case **2020.032** involved a licensed firm that made multiple false statements to the Board allowing the firm to obtain at least two inadequate peer review reports. As the firm is currently in their next peer review year, the case was settled with a Consent Order that required if the firm does not receive a pass rating on this current peer review report, which includes an audit performed in compliance with generally accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAS), then pre-issuance reviews will be performed moving forward on any audit performed in compliance with GAS until the firm receives a pass rating on a review which contains audits performed in compliance with GAS. The Consent Order contained a \$6,000 financial penalty and was approved by the Board at the May 7, 2021 meeting. Matter was closed.

Case **2020.037** involved a firm that received a peer review report with a second pass with deficiencies rating on their engagement review. The highest level of engagement performed was a review. The case was settled with a Stipulation and Consent Order which required the firm to schedule an accelerated peer review with a date acceptable to the Board if they become engaged to perform reviews or audits in the future. The order did not contain a financial penalty and was approved by the Board at the May 7, 2021 meeting. Matter was closed.

Case **2020.109** involved an individual licensee with a CPE reporting deficiency at December 1, 2020. Case was resolved with a Stipulation and Consent Order requiring documentation of licensure in another state. The order included a \$100 financial penalty for failing to report the exemption to the detail reporting of CPE. The Board approved the Stipulation and Consent Order at the May 7, 2021 meeting. Matter was closed.

Case **2021.004** involved a firm that received a peer review report with a fail rating on their engagement review. The highest level of engagement performed was a compilation. The case was settled with a Stipulation and Consent Order which required the firm to schedule an accelerated peer review with a date acceptable to the Board if they become engaged to perform reviews or audits in the future. The order did not contain a financial penalty and was approved by the Board at the May 7, 2021 meeting. Matter was closed.

Case **2021.006** involved a firm on whom the Board received a complaint from a member of the public which alleged the firm failed to comply with professional standards in the performance of audit work on a municipality. Respondent firm engaged a specialist to review their workpapers on the audit at issue in order to provide an appropriate answer to the Board. The specialist's report was filed with the Board in answer to the complaint as well as remitted to the complainant. Complaint was determined to be meritless and the matter was closed.

Case **2021.007** involved a firm that made a potential false statement. Investigation opened to determine an answer. Investigation uncovered that the statement made was not false and the matter was closed.

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

MSBPA Minutes

June 17, 2021

VIII. Trial Board

A Continuance Order was approved on **Case 2019.217**.
(Kelly Investigative Committee)

MSBPA Minutes

June 17, 2021

APPROVED:

Chair

Board Member

Vice Chair

Board Member

Secretary

Board Member

Board Member