

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
August 7, 2020

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met telephonically on August 7, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The following record of that meeting was maintained.

Board Members Present by Video Conference

David Bridgers, Vice Chair (Served as Chair)
William Kelly, Secretary
Willie Sims, Jr.
Angela Pannell
Mark Peach
Charles Prince

Board Members Absent

Rick Elam, Chair

Board Staff Present at Board Office

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

Legal Counsel Present at Board Office

Ed Wiggins, Special Asst. Attorney General

Others Present by Video Conference

Ed Jones, MSCPA Representative
Annette Pridgen, MSCPA Chairwoman
Karen Moody, MSCPA President/CEO

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Ed Jones.
2. The minutes from the June 18, 2020 meeting were approved.

I. General (Continued)

- 3. The Board reviewed and approved tentative meeting/activity dates for 2020:

September 17	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
October 16	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
October 17	New CPA Ceremony (Postponed)
November 1-4	NASBA Annual Meeting (Virtual Platform)
December 17	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

II. National Regulatory Concerns

- 1. The NASBA RECAP, July 21, 2020 was discussed.
- 2. The NASBA Board decision on CPA Evolution was discussed.
- 3. NASBA Quarterly Communications Pack was discussed.
- 4. NASBA State Board Report, Summer 2020 was discussed.

III. Administration

- 1. The MSBPA Balance Sheets, Funds 3845 and 3850, as of June 30, 2020 was reviewed.
- 2. The FY 2020 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the twelve months ended June 30, 2020 was reviewed.
- 3. The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, Fund 3845 for the twelve months ended June 30, 2020 was reviewed.
- 4. The Executive Director discussed the Governor’s Executive Orders related to COVID-19, the budget appropriation for FY2021, and lease renewal negotiations.
- 5. Additional per diem days were approved.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board noted staff approval of 87 candidate applications (25 initial, 62 reexam) for 111 Sections of the computerized CPA examination received since the June 18, 2020 meeting.
2. Window 2 (Mar – June, 2020) examination scores for 84 candidates, 95 examination sections were accepted by the Board.
3. 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
Charles Ross Bell III	7965	Approved
James William Busby	7966	Approved
Matthew Simmons Cauthen	7967	Approved
Forrest Lee Rogers Davidson	7968	Approved
Justin Colby Estes	7969	Approved
Olivia Ashton Glass	7970	Approved
Cole Christopher Jones	7971	Approved
Edwin Close Kirby II	7972	Approved
Kameshia Beatrice Latonya Mays	7973	Approved
Jake Roman Pincus	7974	Approved
Lesley Morgan Stegall	7975	Approved
Heath Dickerson Walt	7976	Approved

Applications for Reciprocal CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Katelyn Olivia Eaton	R7977	Approved
Tammy W. Schramm	R7978	Approved

Applications for CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Name	City, State	Number	Action
Henley CPA, PLLC	Madison, MS	7963	Approved
Simmons CPA, PLLC	Ridgeland, MS	7964	Approved

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (continued)

3. Applications (continued)

Amendments to Registered Firms

No.	Name	City, State	Change
7262	Dwayne Braswell & Associates, LLC	Birmingham, AL	Name Change from B. Dwayne Braswell, CPA

4. Proposal for “remote proctoring” of the CPA Exam was discussed. Board unanimously resolved to have the Executive Director write a letter of opposition pending further detail.

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
PSG Special Assets, Inc. 1. Lender Liability Blueprint	Various	16	Approved
T.E. Lott & Company 1. PPP Flexibility Act	6/10/2020	2	Approved
2. PPP Fley – Revised App	6/25/2020	3	Approved
3. PPP Loan Forgiveness	7/24/2020	3	Approved

VI. Rules and Regulations

1. Status report on OLRC - review of pending rules changes, was discussed.
2. Conferees not concurring on the “Fresh Start Act” Amendments in SB2759, was discussed.
3. Reconsideration of the education rules based on NASBA recommendation was discussed.

VII. Regulatory Matters

1. The Board heard a report from Associate Director Sharee Brewer regarding the regulatory activities from June, 18, 2020 to August 7, 2020:

Activity	Number
Cases Opened Beginning of Period	29
Cases Opened	1
Cases Closed ①	8
Cases Open End of Period	22
Open Cases Referred to Members	2

① *Cases Closed:*

Case **2019.015** involved an unlicensed individual who provided a business card to a client reflecting their use of the CPA title. Client told new tax preparer who was a CPA and provided business card which was faxed to the Board office. At the advice of former legal counsel, the matter was turned over to the Attorney General's office Consumer Affairs Division. Case remained open for some time as a precaution. The matter was then closed.

Case **2019.232** involved a former licensee a complaint was submitted on alleging the use of the CPA title. After multiple unanswered attempts to reach the former licensee and being unable to obtain any corroborating evidence, the matter was then closed.

Case **2019.234** involved an individual licensee who was disciplined and fined by the SEC. The licensee, who carried a CPA-Retired license, agreed to cancellation. The matter was then closed.

Case **2019.240** involved an out of state firm permit holder who received a peer review report with a fail rating on a system review which included employee benefit plans. The firm signed a Stipulation and Consent Order, approved by the full Board at the June, 2020 meeting, which required an accelerated peer review if the firm subsequently performed audit work for Mississippi-based clients. The matter was then closed.

Case **2020.003** involved an unlicensed individual who purportedly performed a review report for the State Board of Contractors. The review report was rejected by the BOC. Individual blamed staff but stated in writing they would insure this did not happen again. The matter was then closed with a strongly worded letter.

VII. Regulatory Matters (continued)

Case **2020.009** involved an individual licensee and firm permit holder who completed a review report for the State Board of Contractors which was undeclared on the license renewal applications filed resulting in a false statement made to the Board. The firm's owner signed a Consent Order which was approved by the full Board at the June, 2020 meeting. The matter was then closed.

Case **2020.010** was opened to determine if a sole proprietor firm had failed to comply with the Board's compliance assurance program. Investigation determined that the firm had not failed to comply, so the matter was then closed.

Case **2020.022** involved the sole proprietor firm referenced above in Case **2020.009**. Case was opened and closed in LARS to allow the discipline to be reported against the individual license as well.

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

VIII. Trial Board

Trial Board Hearing:

A Continuance Order was approved on **Case 2019.217**. Vote was unanimous with Board Member Kelly recused.
(Kelly Investigative Committee)

Consent Order for Board Approval related to deficiencies noted in the performance of work subject to Peer Review:

A Consent Order was approved on **Case 2019.023** involving a firm permit holder who received a third pass with deficiencies rating on the firm's peer review. The order requires the firm to schedule post issuance review monitoring by a firm acceptable to the Board which will continue until the firm receives a pass rating on their peer review. The order does not contain a financial penalty. Vote was unanimous with Board Member Peach recused.
(Peach Investigative Committee)

VIII. Trial Board (continued)

Stipulation and Consent Order for Board Approval related to deficiencies noted in the performance of work subject to Peer Review:

A Stipulation and Consent Order was approved in **Case 2019.240** involving an out of state firm who received a second peer review report with a pass with deficiencies rating on the firm's system review which included GAGAS audits and Single Audit compliance. The firm has not performed any work subject to peer review for any Mississippi-based clients. The stipulation and consent order requires the firm to schedule an accelerated peer review with a date acceptable to the Board if they become engaged to perform audits for Mississippi-based clients in the future. The order does not contain a financial penalty. Vote was unanimous with Board Member Peach recused.

(Peach Investigative Committee)

MSBPA Minutes

August 7, 2020

APPROVED:

Chair

Board Member

Vice Chair

Board Member

Secretary

Board Member

Board Member