

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
January 23, 2025

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met in regular session on January 23, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Board Office, 5 Old River Place, Suite 104, Jackson, MS 39202. The following record of that meeting was maintained. (In Person X; Video Conf. T)

Board Members Present

X Gary Walker, Chair
T Willie Sims, Jr., Vice-chair
T Bill Kelly, Secretary
T David Bridgers
T Ricky Bullock
X Charlie Prince
X Annette Pridgen

Board Members Absent

None

Board Staff and Others Present

X Sharee Brewer, Executive Director
X Elizabeth Greenwood, Associate Director
T Danielle Parrish, Licensing Administration Trainee
X Chelye Amis, Board Legal Counsel from Attorney General's Office
T Karen Moody, MSCPA President/CEO
T Josh Norris, MSCPA/MSBPA Liaison

I. General

1. The Board called the meeting to order.
2. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Willie Sims, Jr.
3. The Board held a roll-call to establish a quorum: 7 Board Members Present and 0 Board Members Absent.
4. After motion by G. Walker, seconded by C. Prince, the Board adopted the agenda for the day's meeting.
5. After motion by B. Kelly, seconded by W. Sims, the Board approved the minutes of the Board meeting held on December 13, 2024.
6. The Board noted there are new certificates available for signing.
7. New Officers for the 2025 calendar year were elected in compliance with Rule 8.2.3. Officers were elected. After motion by A. Pridgen, seconded by W. Sims, the Board voted unanimously to elect Gary Walker, Chair. After motion by A. Pridgen, seconded

by C. Prince, the Board voted unanimously to elect Willie Sims, Jr., Vice-chair. After motion by C. Prince, seconded by R. Bullock, the Board voted unanimously to elect Bill Kelly, Secretary.

8. The Board noted the next Board meeting would be held March 20th on the campus of Mississippi College.
9. After motion by B. Kelly, seconded by A. Pridgen, the Board approved moving the dates of the May Board meeting and CPA Ceremony to the following week. The following dates, places, and times for future meetings in 2025 were then reviewed.

March 20	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting, campus of Mississippi College
March 25 – 27	NASBA Executive Director & Legal Counsel Conf., Clearwater, FL
May 16, Friday	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
May 17	10:00 a.m. CPA Ceremony, Two Mississippi Museums
June 17-19	NASBA Western Regional Meeting, New Orleans, LA
June 18-25	MSCPA Annual Convention, Sandestin, FL
June 24-26	NASBA Eastern Regional, Philadelphia, PA
August 7	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
September 25	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
October 26-29	NASBA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
November 13	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
December 11	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. An update from NASBA Peer Review Compliance Committee was discussed.
2. The NASBA email “A Review of the CBE and UAA Exposure Drafts Process” was discussed.

III. Administration

1. Cash in Treasury - Funds 3845 and 3850, as of December 31, 2024 was presented.
2. FY2025 Revenues and Expenditures for December, 2024 and FYTD, Fund 3845 was presented.
3. FY2025 YTD Summary Financials of Budget Authority, December, 2025, Fund 3845 was presented.
4. After motion by R. Bullock, seconded by A. Pridgen, the Board accepted the financial reports as presented above.

5. After motion by W. Sims, seconded by B. Kelly, additional per diem days for the Board members were approved.
6. The Executive Director advised the Board that Vicki Snowden, Licensing Administrator, had tendered her notice of plans to retire effective May 1, 2025. Staff will be meeting to put together plans to pay tribute to Vicki for her years of service to the MSBPA. Board was advised that notice of a Performance Review would be conducted by auditors of the State Auditor's Office beginning soon with tentative plans to be completed by the end of March, 2025.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The summary of candidate applications received since the previous Board meeting was presented. Staff had approved 82 candidate applications (21 initial, 61 reexam) for 100 sections of the CPA examination which had been received since the December 13, 2024 Board meeting.
2. The following actions related to individual licenses and firm permits were approved or ratified by the Board as follows:

Applications for Original CPA Licenses

Motion made by B. Kelly, seconded by C. Prince

Name	Number	Action
Elizabeth Graves Ball	8615	Unanimously Approved
David Wallace Brittingham	8616	Unanimously Approved
Anna Caroline Callender	8617	Unanimously Approved
Chandler James Coleman	8618	Unanimously Approved
Cody Lee Hawks	8619	Unanimously Approved
James Swayze McLemore	8620	Unanimously Approved
Brendon Elliott McLeod	8621	Unanimously Approved
Thomas Richard Milne III	8622	Unanimously Approved
Pollyanna Patterson	8623	Unanimously Approved

Applications for Reinstatement of CPA License

Motion made by B. Kelly, seconded by W. Sims

Name	Number	Action
Eric S McIntyre	5609	Unanimously Approved
Colt Seth Thompson	8324	Unanimously Approved

Applications for Initial Firm Permits

Motion made by B. Kelly, seconded by D. Bridgers

Name	Number	Action
Audit & Advisory Services, LLC	8602	Unanimously Approved
BT Advisors	8603	Unanimously Approved

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	8604	Unanimously Approved
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	8605	Unanimously Approved
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	8606	Unanimously Approved
Inspired Financial Planners, LLC	8607	Unanimously Approved
Jeff Arnold, Esq., CPA	8608	Unanimously Approved
John Russell and Associates Inc.	8609	Unanimously Approved
K. P. Daire, CPA PLLC	8610	Unanimously Approved
Life Stewardship, LLC	8611	Unanimously Approved
Paula Thomas, CPA	8612	Unanimously Approved
Tara B. Stigall	8613	Unanimously Approved
Warren Averett, LLC	8614	Unanimously Approved

Applications for Amendments to CPA Firm Permit Registration

A motion was made by B. Kelly, seconded by A. Pridgen

No.	Name	City, State	Action
F1644	BDO USA, P.C.	New York, NY	Unanimously Approved Address Change
7211	Bruntlett & Associates, PLLC	Raleigh, MS	Unanimously Approved Address Change
7846	CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	Addison, TX	Unanimously Approved Address Change
7669	David W. Stevens LLC	Brandon, MS	Unanimously Approved Name Change from David Webb Stevens, CPA
7187	Funderburk CPA LLC	Lucedale, MS	Unanimously Approved Address Change
8528	Kelly McElhaney CPA	Ocean Springs, MS	Unanimously Approved Address Change
F1532	Quinn A. Rigby CPA PLLC	Biloxi, MS	Unanimously Approved Address Change

Applications for Reinstatement of Firm Permit

Motion made by B. Kelly, seconded by W. Sims

Name	Number	Action
Chadwick R. Miller, CPA	F1290	Unanimously Approved

V. Rules and Regulations

1. The list of current State Legislative bills of interest was discussed.

VI. Enforcement Matters

1. After motion by W. Sims, seconded by A. Pridgen, the following report of regulatory activities between December 14, 2024 and January 23, 2025 was unanimously ratified by the Board:

Activity:	Number:
Cases Open Beginning of Period	30
Cases Opened	10
Cases Closed ①	14
Cases Open End of Period	26
New Case Referrals to Board Members	0

① Cases Closed:

Case 2023.155 involved an individual with a revoked license that appeared on a state website with the title of CPA. Website removed individual. Matter was closed.

Case 2024.125 involved a firm permit holder dropped from AICPA peer review program for not completing their peer review. Firm completed their peer review and received a pass rating. Matter was closed.

Cases 2024.129 involved an individual licensee who 1) did not report all Continuing Professional Education for the 2023-2024 year, 2) had obtained their required 40 hours, and 3) requested informal settlement of their case. Order required the licensee to document to the Board the 40 hours obtained. Licensee had not originally requested a medical waiver and therefore had not been previously presented to the Board for approval of that request. Through the investigation however, staff determined licensee qualified for a medical waiver and documentation was provided. This order was presented to the Board to ratify the decision of the Executive Director to waive the financial penalty for failing to report 40 hours of CPE obtained by August 1, 2024 because of medical documentation provided. Matter was closed.

Case 2024.152 involved an individual licensee with a CPE reporting deficiency at August 1, 2024. Case was closed after licensee requested cancelled status in writing.

Cases 2024.165, 2024.167 and 2024.172 involved individual licensees who 1) did not report Continuing Professional Education for the 2023-2024 year, 2) had obtained their

required 40 hours, and 3) requested informal settlement of their case. Orders required the licensee to document to the Board the 40 hours obtained by June 30, 2024. Orders called for a \$250 financial penalty for failing to report the 40 hours obtained by August 1, 2024. All financial penalties have been paid. Matters were closed.

Cases 2024.171 involved individual licensee who 1) did not report Continuing Professional Education for the 2023-2024 year, 2) were licensed and primarily employed in another state of licensure and in compliance with that other state's CPE rules thereby qualifying for an exemption, 3) failed to report that exemption, and 4) requested informal settlement of their case. Order required documentation to the Board of active licensure in the other state and called for a \$100 financial penalty for failing to report the exemption claimed. License was verified through ALD as actively licensed in the applicable state and financial penalties have been paid. Matter closed.

Cases 2024.229 involved an individual licensee who 1) did report their Continuing Professional Education for the 2023-2024 year, 2) had not obtained the required 40 hours, 3) had not requested an extension of the Board to obtain CPE when they learned of the deficiency, and 4) requested informal settlement of their case. The order required the licensee to obtain the deficient CPE hours, an assessment of 50% penalty hours on the deficiency, and to document all to the Board. Order called for a \$250 financial penalty for failing to obtain the required hours by June 30, 2024. The financial penalty has been paid and hours documented. Matter closed.

Case 2024.236 case opened under a cancelled permit number in error. Closed and opened under correct permit number.

Case 2024.237 involved a firm permit holder who was disciplined by the Minnesota Board of Accountancy for a renewal issue which found that fewer than 2/3 of the firm partners renewed their individual licenses by the time the firm permit was renewed. This resulted in a violation of MBOA rules. The firm was censured and fined \$15,000. The firm permit holder was actively licensed in Mississippi at the time, but we have no such rule and it has not been our practice to duplicate discipline without just cause. Consequently, the matter was closed.

Case 2024.238 involved a firm permit holder disciplined by the Indiana Board of Accountancy. The firm had entered into a final order with the Securities and Exchange Commission on a client company's audit which had not been performed independently. The Indiana Board order fined the firm for \$1,000 and issued them a warning. Investigation found no nexus with Mississippi. Matter was closed.

Case 2025.003 involved a firm permit holder disciplined by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB") after a quality control review on a particular client company's audit. PCAOB censured the firm, imposed a civil penalty of \$200,000 and required remedial actions. Investigation found no nexus with Mississippi. Matter was closed.

Case 2025.004 involved a disclosure on the firm permit renewal application of a partner of the firm pleading guilty to a crime in Minnesota. Investigation determined the crime had no

relation to the practice of public accounting and partner is not individually licensed in Mississippi. Matter was closed.

2. An excerpt of the currently active cases was presented from the Board's licensing system.

VII. Trial Board Hearing

The following Continuation Orders (all issued under Elam Investigative Committee – Dr. Elam is now retired from the Board) were presented on advice of legal counsel:

Continuation Orders in Cases 2024.130, 2024.141, 2024.151, 2024.166, and 2024.188.

All noted cases were issued Notices of Hearing and Complaint (NOHC) for a Trial Board hearing to be held December 13, 2024 to address failing to report CPE for the 2023-2024 compliance period. Board staff were unable to determine through assigned certified mail tracking numbers that NOHC were delivered in a manner which constitutes service per recent case law. Through advice of legal counsel, continuation order approval requested to afford time determine if these licensees will have license closed for non-renewal by mid-February. In such case, the matter can be closed with nothing further. Following motion by W. Sims, seconded by A. Pridgen, orders were unanimously approved, with B. Kelly recused.

Stipulation and Consent Orders for **Cases 2024.163** involving an individual licensee who 1) did not report Continuing Professional Education for the 2023-2024 year, 2) had not obtained their required 40 hours, 3) had not requested of the Board an extension to obtain their CPE when they learned of the deficiency, and 4) requested informal settlement of their case. The order requires the licensee to obtain the deficient CPE hours, an assessment of 50% penalty hours on the deficiency, and to document all to the Board. Through the investigation staff determined licensee would have qualified for a medical waiver had one been requested of the Board. This order is presented requesting the Board to ratify the decision to waive the financial penalty. All hours have been documented. Following motion by A. Pridgen, seconded by W. Sims, order was unanimously approved, with B. Kelly recused.

After motion by B. Kelly, seconded by C. Prince, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn. These minutes were adopted by unanimous vote of the Board Members present at the March 20, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

For the Board:

William Kelly
Board Secretary