

**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
June 16, 2022**

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met on June 16, 2022, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The following record of that meeting was maintained.

Board Members Present by Video Conference

William Kelly, Chair
Charles Prince, Vice Chair
David Bridgers
Willie Sims, Jr.
Mark Peach

Board Members and Staff Present at Board Office

Annette Pridgen, Secretary
Rick Elam
Andy Wright, Executive Director
Sharee Brewer, Associate Director, Investigations
Lane McNeal, Compliance Administrator
Vicki Snowden, Licensing Administrator

Others Present at Board Office

Ed Wiggins, Special Asst. Attorney General

Others Present by Video Conference or Telephone

Ed Jones, MSCPA/Board Liaison
Karen Moody, MSCPA President

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Charlie Prince.
2. The minutes from the April 29, 2022 meeting were approved.

I. General (Continued)

3. The Board reviewed and approved proposed meeting/activity dates for 2022:

2022 Proposed Dates:

June 22-26	MSCPA Convention, Destin FL
June 27-29	NASBA Eastern Regional, White Sulphur Springs, WV
August 4	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
September 8	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
Oct. 30- Nov. 2	NASBA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
November 4(Friday)	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
November 5	New CPA Ceremony
December 8	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

4. Report of Board Oversight Committee on Peer Review Administration was tabled to be considered at the next Board meeting.

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. The Expansion of International CPA Exam Testing Locations was discussed.
2. The Proposed Exam Transition Policy – Credit Extensions was discussed.

III. Administration

1. The Cash in Treasury for Funds 3845 and 3850 as of May 31, 2022 were reviewed.
2. The FY 2022 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the eleven months ended May 31, 2022 was reviewed.
3. Comparison of State Board profiles created by NASBA was reviewed.
4. Additional Per Diem days were approved.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board noted staff approval of 115 candidate applications (38 initial, 77 reexam) for 170 Sections of the computerized CPA examination received since the April 29, 2022 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. Certificate #8275 was not used.

Applications for Original CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Sarah M. Buchanan	8285	Approved
Melissa Ann Crowder	8286	Approved
Erik D. Handshoe	8287	Approved
Kayla Jo Martin	8288	Approved
Aaron M. Rainey	8289	Approved
David Dixon Stone	8290	Approved
Madeline Elizabeth Thames	8291	Approved

Applications for Reciprocal CPA License Approved & Issued by Staff

Name	Number	Action
Matthew G. Bowen	R8276	Ratified
Wesley Dee Elliot	R8277	Ratified
Brittany W. Hill	R8278	Ratified
Thomas Joseph Kessler III	R8279	Ratified
Sarah L. Murphy	R8280	Ratified
Charles Howard Seeman	R8281	Ratified
Randy H. Scofferman	R8282	Ratified
Jennifer C. Weis	R8283	Ratified

Applications for Reinstatement of CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Ginger Walker Jones	5352	Approved

Applications for CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Name	City, State	Number	Action
KVLSM LLP	Woodbury, NY	8284	Approved

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (continued)

Amendments to Registered Firms

No.	Name	City, State	Change
F1100	MJD & Associates LLC	Gulfport, MS	Address Change
F0650	Sayle Sandifer & Johnson LLP	Greenville, MS	Name Change from Sayle Sandifer & Associates LLP
F0742	Carolyn Ray Wakefield CPA	Madison, MS	Address Change

Application for Reinstatement of a CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Number	Name	City, State	Action
F1656	Gary Beech, CPA	Carriere, MS	Approved
F1658	Denise C. Dampier CPA	Charlotte, NC	Approved
F1633	D. L. Purvine CPA PLLC	Vanceboro, NC	Approved
F1513	Donna Ragland CPA	Collinsville, MS	Approved

3. A special request from candidate #15525 was considered and approved in regard to the education requirement for the CPA Exam.

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
Alexander Van Loon Sloan Levens & Favre 1. 24 th Annual Accounting and Auditing Update	5/24/2022	8	Approved
Checkpoint Learning 1. Ethics for Mississippi CPAs	Online Self Study	4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved
CPA Selfstudy.com 1. Mississippi Ethics for CPAs	Online Self Study	4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved
CPE247.com 1. Ethics for Mississippi	Online Self Study	4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved

V. Continuing Professional Education (continued)

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

Sponsor/Title	Dates	Hours	Action
Estate Planning Council of MS			
1. Market Update	1/11/2022	1	Approved
2. NFT and Digital Asset Fundamentals	2/8/2022	1	Approved
3. Charitable Giving: 2022 Updates	3/8/2022	1	Approved
4. Managing Trusts Effectively	5/10/2022	1	Approved
Grantham Poole			
1. Ethics – MS Rules (Donna Ingram)	5/25/2022	1 Ethics MS Rules	Approved
Harper, Rains, Knight & Company			
1. Annual Longshore Conference	3/24-25/2022	13	Approved
Kaplan Financial Education powered by SmartPros			
1. Ethics for Mississippi	Online Self Study	4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved
LearnFormula Inc.			
1. A Basic Ethics Guidebook for Mississippi CPAs	Online Self Study	4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved
MasterCPE LLC			
1. Ethics For Mississippi	Online Self Study	4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved
MS Department of Revenue			
1. 2022 Legislative Update	5/3/2022 5/4&10/2022 5/5/2022	2	Approved
Petroleum Accountants Society of MS			
1. Major Changes – COPAS AP 2005 vs COPAS AP 2022	6/7/2022	1	Approved
Jim Martin, CPA, CGMA/Real World Seminars of Georgia			
1. Applying the AICPA Code of Conduct and MS Rules and Regulations in the Real World	5/17/2022	4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved
Surgent McCoy CPE, LLC			
1. Mississippi Ethics for CPAs	Online Self Study	4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved
WebCE, Inc.			
1. Personal and Professional Ethics for Mississippi CPAs	Online Self Study	4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved

VI. Rules and Regulations

1. An Alabama Rule Change – Sale/Discontinuance of a Practice, was discussed.
2. Mississippi Board Rules regarding peer review were discussed.
3. Possible Change to Calculation of 18 months for Exam Grade Expiration was discussed.

VII. Regulatory Matters

1. The Board heard a report from Associate Director Sharee Brewer regarding the regulatory activities from March 4, 2022 to June 16, 2022:

Activity	Number
Cases Opened Beginning of Period	25
Cases Opened	74
Cases Closed ①	81
Cases Open End of Period	18
Open Cases Referred to Members	1

① Cases Closed:

Case 2021.019 involved an individual licensee who performed a review engagement which was submitted to the State Board of Contractors. The engagement was undeclared on the individual license renewal amounting to a false statement made for the purpose of renewing a license. The engagement met the definition of the practice of public accounting which was performed without a firm permit issued by the Board in violation of state law. Additionally, the individual licensee failed to obtain a peer review on the noted engagement. The licensee consented to discipline in a Consent Order which included payment of a financial penalty of \$500. Matter was closed.

Case 2021.067 involved an individual licensee who performed the practice of public accounting as secondary employment and had done so without a firm permit. A firm permit was obtained and the matter was closed.

Case 2021.184 involved an individual licensee who potentially performed the practice of public accounting without a firm permit. Investigation determined that the work did not meet the definition of the practice of public accounting and therefore a firm permit was unnecessary. Matter was closed.

VII. Regulatory Matters (continued)

Case 2021.187 involved a business entity who issued a review report for a client which was filed with the State Board of Contractors (“BOC”). The BOC rejected the report and forwarded it to the Board office. After multiple attempts to reach the business entity without a response, the matter was closed.

Case 2021.190 involved an individual licensee who pled guilty to a felony charge of conspiracy to commit embezzlement. The action was a violation of Board rule 6.17.10. Licensee consented to discipline in a Consent Order which included revocation of individual license and payment of a financial penalty of \$1,000. Matter was closed.

Case 2022.001 involved an individual licensee and firm permit holder who caused confidential information contained in a client’s records to be used in the tax records of another client when an independent contractor refused to provide a tax identification number for compensation reported by the second client. The firm permit holder agreed to settlement of the matter, without discipline, and the payment of a financial penalty of \$500. Matter was closed.

Cases 2022.035 and 2022.038 involved individual licensees in CPA-Retired status. Licensees were working but investigation determined the work being performed did not meet the definition of the practice of public accounting and therefore no violation of Board rule 2.5.1. was taking place. Matters were closed.

Case 2022.036 involved a firm permit holder who advertised their firm under a name that does not agree with the name on the firm permit. The firm permit holder requested a name change to the permit and said change was granted at the most recent Board meeting. Matter was closed.

Case 2022.039 involved an individual licensee who was performing the practice of public accounting with a firm permit but for a business entity who did not meet the definition of a CPA firm. The advertisements for the business entity did not contain the appropriate disclosure per Board rule 3.1.9. In follow-up to the inquiry, the business entity documented the addition of the appropriate disclosure in their advertisements. Matter was closed.

Case 2022.040 involved a formal complaint received against an individual licensee of the Board which alleged the licensee had changed the beneficiary on a life insurance policy. Documentation obtained from the licensee showing they were not the owner of the policy and would not have been able to change the beneficiary. Matter was closed.

Cases 2022.041 and 2022.107 involved firm permit holders who were sent by certified mailing a Notice of Default for non-renewal of their firm permits. These cases were opened to track the closure of the firm permit after such notification. Matters were closed.

Cases 2022.109, 2022.110, and 2022.111 involved out of state firm permit holders who performed audits or reviews for clients who submitted reports to the State Board of Contractors. The two firms who performed audits documented the reported business entities were based in their states and not Mississippi resulting in no violation being noted. The firm who performed a review was able to clarify an issue with their state’s firm permit resulting in no violation by that firm either. Matters were closed.

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

VII. Trial Board

Consent Order presented for Board Approval:

Consent Order was approved for **Case 2019.028**. Case involved a firm permit holder who received a fail rating on their firm's system peer review which contained audits performed in compliance with Government Auditing Standards. The firm has decided to cease the performance of audits. The firm agreed to settlement of the investigation by signing a Consent Order which includes an agreement that should the firm become engaged to perform audit work in the future, the work will be subject to pre-issuance reviews until such time as the firm receives a pass rating on a peer review containing audit work. There was no financial penalty assessed.

(Pridgen recused)

These minutes were adopted by unanimous vote of the Board Members present at the August 4, 2022 Board Meeting:

For the Board:

Annette K. Pridgen
Board Secretary