

**MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
March 3, 2022**

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met telephonically on March 3, 2022, beginning at 10:00 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
Rick Elam
Mark Peach
Willie Sims, Jr.

Board Members and Staff Present at Board Office

Annette Pridgen, Secretary
Andy Wright, Executive Director
Sharee Brewer, Associate Director, Investigations
Vicki Snowden, Licensing Administrator

Legal Counsel Present at Board Office

Ed Wiggins, Special Asst. Attorney General
Bob Graves, Hearing Officer

Others Present by Video Conference or Telephone

Josh Norris, MSCPA/Board Liaison
Karen Moody, MSCPA President/CEO
Lori Busick, Court Reporter

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Charles Prince.
2. The minutes from the January 27, 2022 meeting were approved.

I. General (Continued)

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

2022 Proposed Dates:

Apr. 25-27	NASBA E.D. and Staff Conf., Clearwater Beach, FL
April 29	10:30 a.m. Board Meeting
April 30	New CPA Ceremony
June 7-9	NASBA Western Regional, Colorado Springs, CO
June 16	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
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
October 21 (Friday)	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting
October 22	New CPA Ceremony
Oct. 30- Nov. 2	NASBA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
December 8	10:00 a.m. Board Meeting

4. The *Statement of Economic Interest* for Board members is due to MS Ethics Commission by May 1, 2022, was noted.

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. NASBA CPT President’s visit to Jackson State University was discussed.
2. NASBA State Board Report, Winter 2022, was discussed.
3. 2024 Infrastructure Changes to the CPA Exam were discussed.

III. Administration

1. The Cash in Treasury for Funds 3845 and 3850 as of January 31, 2022 was reviewed.
2. The FY 2022 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the seven months ended January 31, 2022 was reviewed.
3. Additional Per Diem days were approved.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board noted staff approval of 65 candidate applications (12 initial, 53 reexam) for 87 Sections of the computerized CPA examination received since the January 27, 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:

Applications for Original CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Garrett Andrew Basham	8243	Approved
Charles William Boatright	8244	Approved
Zoe Grace Cain	8245	Approved
Campbell Hixon Geary	8246	Approved
Nishu Gupta	8247	Approved
Virginia Camille Olson	8248	Approved
Austin James Paulding	8249	Approved
Mackenzie Nikole Riley	8250	Approved
Joseph Marsalino Sclafani	8251	Approved
Bryan M. Sumner	8252	Approved
Kimarrion Dwayne Whitfield	8253	Approved
Jonathan D. Wilkerson	8254	Approved

Applications for Reciprocal CPA License Approved & Issued by Staff

Name	Number	Action
Gregory Allen Miller	R8255	Ratified

Applications for Reinstatement of CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Belinda C. Henderson	3536	Approved
Morgan Brister Hegi	6072	Approved
Jeffery Wayne Horner	5991	Approved
Jessica Marie McCarthy	6166	Approved
Kelly L. McQueen	2481	Approved
Steven Terry Page	3242	Approved

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (continued)**Applications for CPA Firm Permit to Practice**

Name	City, State	Number	Action
Debra L. Baldinger, CPA	Ocean Springs, MS	8235	Approved
Beal CPA LLC	Pass Christian, MS	8236	Approved
Bolinger Segars Gilbert & Moss LLP	Lubbock, TX	8237	Approved
Crystal Chesney CPA	Philadelphia, MS	8238	Approved
Lacy Dean, CPA	Eupora, MS	8239	Approved
Clea Hogan CPA LLC	West Point, MS	8240	Approved
Jennifer Nahlik, CPA	Perkinston, MS	8241	Approved
J. Walker & Company PC	Lake Charles, LA	8242	Approved

Amendments to Registered Firms

No.	Name	City, State	Change
F1041	Courtney McCollum, CPA PC	Jackson, MS	Address Change
F1049	L. John Walpole, CPA	Olive Branch, MS	Address Change

Application for Reinstatement of a CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Number	Name	City, State	Action
F0215	Tony Chance & Company PC	Forest, MS	Approved
7421	Bradley Lake Hogan, CPA	Orange, CA	Approved
7140	KHA Accountants PLLC	Flower Mound, TX	Approved
7511	Kristin Maddox CPA LLC	Gulfport, MS	Approved
F1652	Kelly L. McQueen CPA PA	Greenwood, MS	Approved
7424	Russon & Johnston CPAs	Agoura Hills, CA	Approved

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
JN Productions CPE 1. Ethics for MS CPAs	Online Self Study	4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved
USM School of Accountancy 1. Accountancy and Auditing Update and Ethics	5/17- 18/2022	12 including 4 Ethics (3 General 1 MS Rules)	Approved

VI. Rules and Regulations

1. Pending Bills of Interest in the State Legislature, were discussed.
2. Correspondence with Secretary of State’s office regarding review of Rules & Regulations under 29 by 29 plan, was discussed.
3. Tackle the Tape Initiative “Points to Consider” previously transmitted to Secretary of State, was discussed.
4. Small CPA firm seeking exemption from its final peer review was discussed. The Board determined that such exemptions should not be granted.

VII. Regulatory Matters

1. The Board heard a report from Associate Director Sharee Brewer regarding the regulatory activities from January 28, 2022 to March 3, 2022:

VII. Regulatory Matters (continued)

Activity	Number
Cases Opened Beginning of Period	50
Cases Opened	2
Cases Closed ①	16
Cases Open End of Period	36
Open Cases Referred to Members	1

① **Cases Closed:**

Case 2018.021 involved an out of state firm who received a second consecutive pass with deficiencies on their peer review. The peer review was completed and firm permit closed before case was closed. Licensee allowed to retire license when the out of state firm closed. Matter was closed.

Case 2021.024 involved a firm who had an undeclared review report issued to the State Board of Contractor (“BOC”). Investigation determined the firm had remained in peer review and was in one which was passed at the time of issuance of the report. Investigation determined the undeclared work was oversight since peer review had not been avoided. Matter was closed.

Case 2021.065, 2021.186, and 2021.191 involved unlicensed individuals issuing review reports for the BOC. The reports were rejected by the BOC and unlicensed individuals contacted to inform of language in state law. Unlicensed individuals responded they would not perform again and the matters were closed.

Case 2021.101, 2021.104, 2021.111, 2021.112, 2021.123, 2021.131, 2021.132, 2021.149, and 2021.154 involved individual licensees who requested informal settlement after the issuance of final notice letters sent by regular mail and email on October 5. All notices were sent to the addresses of record in the licensure file. All these cases were settled with stipulation and consent orders at the January Board meeting, through obtaining an affidavit for retired status, or written notice requesting cancellation of license. Matters were closed.

Case 2021.183 involved an individual licensee who reported on their license renewal they performed the practice of public accountancy but there was no Board record of a firm permit. Licensee was unaware of the rule and had been doing consulting work. Licensee obtained a firm permit at the January Board meeting as advised. Matter was closed.

Case 2021.189 involved an individual licensee who reported on their license renewal they performed the practice of public accountancy but there was no Board record of a firm permit. Licensee was contacted and stated they had changed jobs to work in industry and moved out of state. Matter was closed.

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

VII. Trial Board

A Trial Board Hearing was held on **Cases 2021.100, 2021.110, 2021.113, 2021.118, 2021.124, 2021.129, 2021.150, and 2021.180** involving individual licensees who did not report Continuing Professional Education for the 2020-2021 year. The licensees for these cases have either made no response to any correspondence or other attempts to reach licensees or made no actional response to any correspondence or other attempts to reach licensee and obtain necessary information from which Board staff could offer an informal settlement.

(Bridgers Recused)

No respondents for these cases attended the hearing. Legal Counsel Wiggins requested that since no respondents showed for the hearing, and all cases were facing the same charge, that the cases be consolidated as to be deliberated at one Executive Session. The Board, acting as a Trial Board, decided to hear the cases together to potentially deliberate all cases during one Executive Session.

The Board members present unanimously voted to convene as the Trial Board for the purpose of considering matters related to noncompliance with 2020-2021 Continuing Professional Education requirements and failure to respond to Notices of Hearing and Complaint. The Investigating Board Member, David Bridgers, was recused and did not participate in the hearing. Edward Wiggins, Jr., Special Assistant Attorney General, was the presenting attorney. Bob Graves, Special Assistant Attorney General, served as the Hearing Officer.

Within the Trial Board, the Board heard evidence from Sharee Brewer, Associate Director – Investigations, concerning the respondents’ alleged violations mentioned above. Ms. Brewer testified that legal and proper notice was delivered to the respondents at their address of record on file with the Board. As noted above, no Respondents appeared at this hearing.

After hearing testimony and closing arguments, the Board unanimously voted to close the meeting for the limited purpose of considering whether or not they had a proper subject matter to go into Executive Session upon motion by Board member Sims, seconded by Board member Pridgen, the Board voted unanimously to consider Executive Session. Consideration

was given with advice of Hearing Officer Graves that the Board had proper subject matter to go into Executive Session whereupon motion by Board member Pridgen, seconded by Board member Sims, the board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session. Having announced this stated purpose, the Board then entered into Executive Session for this specific purpose.

Within the Executive Session, the Board took the following actions: The Board determined, based upon clear and convincing evidence, to accept the findings of fact presented to the Board that the respondents had indeed violated the Board Rules and Regulations as charged. Motion made by Board member Peach, seconded by Board member Elam, and voted to revoke the respondents' CPA licenses (license numbers: 5633, R2709, 2702, R3496, 1765, 8030, 7858, and 5183) and assess fines (civil penalties) at \$1,000 plus administrative costs of \$150.00 each. Votes were – For: Unanimous; Against: None; Absent: None; and Recused: Bridgers.

Upon conclusion of this business, the Board unanimously voted to come out of Executive Session and resumed the open meeting. The Board came out of Executive Session and resumed the open meeting by announcing the actions and votes it had taken in Executive Session.

Stipulation and Consent Orders for Board Approval:

A Stipulation and Consent Order for **Case 2021.102** was approved involving an individual licensee who 1) did not report Continuing Professional Education for the 2020-2021 year and 2) qualified for an exemption to the detail reporting of CPE by being primarily employed in another state of licensure. The order calls for a \$100 financial penalty. Licensure in the other state has been verified through ALD as active and in good standing and financial penalty has been paid.
(Bridgers recused)

Stipulation and Consent Orders for **Cases 2021.031, 2021.040, 2021.085, 2021.109, and 2021.137** were approved involving individual licensees who 1) did not report Continuing Professional Education for the 2020-2021 year and 2) had obtained their required 40 hours. The orders required the individual to document their CPE to the Board and called for a \$250 financial penalty. All hours have been documented and financial penalties paid.
(Bridgers recused)

Stipulation and Consent Orders for **Cases 2021.096, and 2021.148** were approved involving individual licensees who 1) did not report Continuing Professional Education for the 2020-2021 year and 2) did not obtain the hours required for the compliance period. The orders required the individual to obtain the deficient CPE, an assessment of 50% penalty CPE hours, and to document all to the Board. The orders call for a \$500 financial penalty. All hours have been documented and financial penalties paid.
(Bridgers recused)

A Stipulation and Consent Order in **Case 2021.025** was approved involving a firm who received a second consecutive peer review report with a pass with deficiencies rating on the firm's system review which included audits subject to GAGAS and employee benefit plans. The stipulation and consent order requires the firm to continue in post-issuance reviews of these noted engagements until such time as they receive a pass on a peer review which includes audits subject to GAGAS and employee benefit plans. The order does not contain a financial penalty.

(Prince recused)

APPROVED:

Chair

Board Member

Vice Chair

Board Member

Secretary

Board Member

Board Member