

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
May 16, 2025

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met in regular session on May 16, 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
X Richard Bullock
X Charlie Prince
X Annette Pridgen

Board Members Absent

NONE

Board Staff and Others Present

X Sharee Brewer, Executive Director
T Danielle Parrish, Licensing Administrator
T Lane McNeal, Regulatory and Compliance Investigator
T Chelye Amis, Board Legal Counsel, Attorney General's Office
T Karen Moody, MSCPA President/CEO
T Ed Jones, MSCPA/MSBPA Liaison

I. General

1. The Board called the meeting to order.
2. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Ed Jones.
3. The Board held a roll-call to establish a quorum: 7 Board Members Present and 0 Board Members Absent.
4. After motion by C. Prince, seconded by A. Pridgen, 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 March 20, 2025.
6. The Board noted there were new certificates available for signing.
7. The Board noted the next Board meeting would be held Thursday, August 7, 2025 at the Board office.

8. The following dates, places, and times for future meetings in 2025 were reviewed.

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. The Comment Letter of the Administration Committee which was submitted on behalf of the Board to address the changes to the UAA Model Law was reported.
2. The email from NASBA advising that the Directors of the Boards of NASBA and AICPA have approved Model Legislation for a New CPA Licensure Path was discussed.
3. The email from NASBA's Peer Review Compliance Committee addressing new Peer Review guidance and best practices was discussed. The guidance contains a recommendation that should a firm enter into an agreement with the administering entity of the peer review program that they will be ceasing the performance of the services contributing to the deficient peer review report that the Board follow-up by having the firm enter a similar agreement with the Board. Following a motion by a. Pridgen, seconded by B. Kelly, the Board approved this being included in the staff's handling of peer review deficiency cases moving forward.

III. Administration

1. Cash in Treasury - Funds 3845 and 3850, as of April 30, 2025 was presented.
2. FY2025 Revenues and Expenditures for April, 2025 and FYTD, Fund 3845 was presented.
3. FY2025 YTD Summary Financials of Budget Authority, April, 2025, Fund 3845 was presented.
4. After motion by C. Prince, seconded by R. Bullock, the Board accepted the financial reports as presented above.

5. After motion by W. Sims, seconded by C. Prince, additional per diem days for the Board members were approved.
6. Travel authorizations for out of state travel in June, 2025 were reviewed and a change to the previous approval for W. Sims was discussed. Board member Sims will be attending the NASBA Eastern Regional instead of the NASBA Western Regional approved at the previous meeting. After motion by B. Kelly, seconded by A. Pridgen, the Board approved this out of state travel authorization.
7. The Executive Director advised the Board of other business as follows: ED's upcoming vacation, new computer equipment ordered for staff, opening of the CPE reporting system for year ended June 30, 2025, plans for filling the staff vacancy, addressing alternative practice structures on annual firm permit renewal application and initial application. ED requested Lane McNeal to address the Board on the status of the 2024 CPE audit.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The summary of candidate applications received since the previous Board meeting was presented. Staff had approved 113 candidate applications (10 initial, 103 reexam) for 153 sections of the CPA examination which had been received since the March 20, 2025 Board meeting.
2. After motion by B. Kelly, seconded by R. Bullock, the exam grades presented for Quarter 1 were accepted.
3. 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 W. Sims

Name	Number	Action
Anna Beachum Arnold	8674	Unanimously Approved
Mandy Elizabeth Boyd	8675	Unanimously Approved
Olivia Rebecca Bryde	8676	Unanimously Approved
Lauren Elizabeth Davis	8677	Unanimously Approved
Thomas Charles Iupe, Jr.	8678	Unanimously Approved
Kelli Erin Miller	8679	Unanimously Approved
Jonathan B. Moorman	8680	Unanimously Approved
William M. Roberts	8681	Unanimously Approved
Weston Dean Shepherd	8682	Unanimously Approved
Elizabeth Blair Stockett	8683	Unanimously Approved

Applications for Reciprocal CPA Licenses*Motion made by B. Kelly, seconded by C. Prince*

Name	Number	Action
Stanford Fenton Beauchamp	R8659	Unanimously Approved
Joseph William Castillo	R8660	Unanimously Approved
John Paul Goble	R8661	Unanimously Approved
Kaolin Curtis Levatino	R8662	Unanimously Approved
William James Robinson	R8663	Unanimously Approved
Neely M. Whites	R8664	Unanimously Approved

Applications for Initial Firm Permits*Motion made by B. Kelly, seconded by A. Pridgen*

Name	Number	Action
Berman Hopkins Wright & Laham CPAs and Associates, LLP	8665	Unanimously Approved
Clearview Advisory Group	8666	Unanimously Approved
David Ewing, Jr. CPA	8667	Unanimously Approved
DyniCo Strategies, LLC	8668	Unanimously Approved
M Tidwell, CPA & Associates LLC	8669	Unanimously Approved
Neely Whites CPA, PLLC	8670	Unanimously Approved
Sheila Franklin-Buie, CPA LLC	8671	Unanimously Approved
SuggsJohnson, LLC	8672	Unanimously Approved
Woods CPA & Advisors, LLC	8673	Unanimously Approved

Applications for Reinstatement of Firm Permit*Motion made by B. Kelly, seconded by C. Prince*

Name	Number	Action
Ernst & Young LLP	F1247	Unanimously Approved
Ronald G. Applewhite, CPA	F1517	Unanimously Approved
The SMP Firm, CPA, PLLC	8167	Unanimously Approved

4. Board notified of a request received from the foreign-credentialed applicant for licensure denied licensure at the March, 2025 Board meeting to reconsider the Board's denial of licensure. Legal counsel advised the Board's statutes do not provide an appeals process to an applicant for licensure. No action taken by Board.

V. Continuing Professional Education**1. Application for Continuing Professional Education Credit***Motion made by C. Prince, seconded by A. Pridgen*

Sponsor/Program Title	Dates	Hours	Action
Beacon Hill Financial Educators 1. Ethics for Accountants: Mississippi	Online Self-Study	4; 3 General 1 MS Rules	Approved
CPASelf-study.com 1. Mississippi Ethics for CPAs	Online Self-Study	4; 3 General 1 MS Rules	Approved
Electric Cooperatives of MS 1. Spring Accounting & Finance Section Meeting	5/1-2/25	9	Approved
Estate Planning Council of MS 1. Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Meetings (1 hr each meeting)	Sept Oct Nov Dec 2024 Jan Feb March May 2025	1	Approved
Hood Companies, Inc. 1. 2025 Finance Summit/Controller Conference	4/23-24/2025	8; 3 General 1 MS Rules	Approved
MY-CPE LLC 1. Mississippi Ethics: Leading with Integrity and Engagement 2. Mental Health & Ethics: Creating a Culture of Support 3. The Social Impact of AI: Ethical Considerations for Businesses	Online Self-Study Online Self-Study Online Self-Study	1 MS Rules 2 General 1 General	Approved
Professional Education Services 1. Ethics and Professional Conduct for Mississippi CPAs	Online Self-Study	4; 3 General 1 MS Rules	Approved
Surgent McCoy CPE, LLC 1. Mississippi Ethics for CPAs	Online Self-Study	4; 3 General 1 MS Rules	Approved

The University of Southern MS 1. Annual CPE Event – School of Accountancy and Beta Alpha Psi (Bill Taylor)	4/25/2025	4; 3 General 1 MS Rules	Approved
Western CPE 1. Accountant Ethics for MS	Online Self- Study	4; 3 General 1 MS Rules	Approved
Business Education Innovation Journal 1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at a Pervasively Sectarian University: College-going Experiences of Students with Hearing Disabilities	Publication	20	Approved

V. Rules and Regulations

1. The Executive Director informed the Board that an appropriation bill for FY2026 had not been approved by the legislature to date but staff were hearing a special session was expected.
2. The request of the 29 X 29 Partners group to remove residency from the rules for sitting for the CPA exam and licensure was discussed. Advice from legal counsel that residency was in the statute and rules are to promulgate the statute. No action taken.
3. A request to pursue a rule change removing most of the last section of the Schedule of Fees under Other was discussed. Motion made by B. Kelly, seconded by A. Pridgen, to edit and bring a proposed and marked-up version to the next Board meeting for approval.

VI. Enforcement Matters

1. After motion by C. Prince, seconded by W. Sims, the following report of regulatory activities between March 21, 2025 and May 16, 2025 was unanimously ratified by the Board:

Activity:	Number:
Cases Open Beginning of Period	31
Cases Opened	39
Cases Closed ①	5
Cases Open End of Period	65
New Case Referrals to Board Members	2

① **Cases Closed:**

Case 2024.235 involved a licensed CPA firm who received a fail rating on their peer review with the highest level of engagement being a review. Firm cooperated with the peer review program, Board investigation, and making the corrective actions required of peer review committee. Matter was closed.

Case 2024.239 involved a Texas-based CPA firm who is dually licensed in Mississippi and reprimanded by the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy. Board investigation determined no nexus to the state of Mississippi. Matter was closed.

Case 2025.002 involved an Ohio-based CPA firm who is dually licensed in Mississippi and disciplined by the SEC. Board investigation determined no nexus to the State of Mississippi. Matter was closed.

Case 2025.012 involved a licensed CPA firm who provided a potential false statement on their firm permit renewal. The firm reported they had not completed engagements subject to peer review when in fact they had. However, the firm had remained in compliance with Board rules by remaining enrolled in the peer review program and had not missed a peer review. Board investigation didn't yield any facts to indicate the potential false statement was more than an error and made to avoid peer review, so the matter was closed.

Case 2025.064 involved a licensed CPA firm on which a public complaint was received. An investigative case was opened for documenting the receipt of the complaint. The complaint was reviewed and determined to be meritless. Matter was closed.

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

VII. Trial Board Hearing

A Consent Order for **Case 2025.013** was presented for approval. Case pertained to a Licensee who performed a review report on financial statements submitted to the State Board of Contractors. The report met the definition of the performance of the practice of public accounting which required a firm permit per §73-33-1(2). The engagement however was performed without a firm permit in violation of the statute. Licensee consents to the violation noted in the consent order of discipline against the individual license. Consent order calls for the payment of a civil penalty of \$1,000. The licensee has 30 days to pay the penalty. After motion of B. Kelly, seconded by R. Bullock, Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Order. W. Sims as the Chair of the Investigative Committee abstained from the vote.

There were no further items for consideration. After motion by B. Kelly, seconded by W. Sims, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

These minutes were adopted by unanimous vote of the Board Members present at the August 7, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

For the Board:

William Kelly
Board Secretary