

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY
MINUTES
September 17, 2020

The Mississippi State Board of Public Accountancy met telephonically on September 17, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The following record of that meeting was maintained.

Board Members Present by Video Conference

Rick Elam, Chair
David Bridgers, Vice Chair
William Kelly, Secretary
Willie Sims, Jr.
Angela Pannell
Mark Peach
Charles Prince

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 or Telephone

Vicki Snowden, Board Licensing Administrator
Josh Norris, MSCPA Representative
Annette Pridgen, MSCPA Chairwoman
Karen Moody, MSCPA Executive Director

I. General

1. The Board opened the meeting with an invocation from Willie Sims.
2. The minutes from the August 7, 2020 meeting were approved.

I. General (Continued)

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

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

II. National Regulatory Concerns

1. NASBA Announces 2020 Accounting Education Research Grant Recipients.
2. The NASBA comments regarding AICPA Ethics Exposure Draft were discussed.
3. Executive Director mentioned Ethics Exposure Draft for Staff Augmentation – comment period thru December 8.

III. Administration

1. The MSBPA Cash in Treasury, Funds 3845 and 3850, as of August 31, 2020 was reviewed.
2. The FY 2021 Budget to Actual Comparison – Fund 3845, for the two months ended August 31, 2020 was reviewed.
3. Additional per diem days were approved.

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms

1. The Board noted staff approval of 102 candidate applications (25 initial, 77 reexam) for 141 Sections of the computerized CPA examination received since the August 7, 2020 meeting.
2. 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
Zachary Q. Borne	7983	Approved
Haruna T. Craig	7984	Approved
Dylan Ray Lewis	7985	Approved
Jordan Lee Richter	7986	Approved
Peyton MacKenzie Rutherford	7987	Approved
Emily Grace Trawik	7988	Approved

Applications for Reciprocal CPA License

Name	Number	Action
William Thomas Brand	R7989	Approved
Darcy Anne Daniel	R7990	Approved
Karen Cherie DeVore	R7991	Approved
John Howard Hatcher	R7992	Approved
Ashley Kay Loze	R7993	Approved
Monica Roberts Thames	R7994	Approved

Applications for Reinstatement of CPA License

Name	Number	Action
Cole Jameson Durant	6117	Approved
Dana Maher Fleming	3828	Approved
William David King	5318	Approved

Applications for CPA Firm Permit to Practice

Name	City, State	Number	Action
Alexander CPA, PLLC	Jackson, MS	7980	Approved
Collier, LLC	Canton, MS	7981	Approved
Dana M. Fleming, LLC	Pass Christian, MS	7982	Approved

IV. CPA Examination, Licensing & Firms (continued)

3. Applications (continued)

Amendments to Registered Firms

No.	Name	City, State	Change
F0278	Donnell CPA Group	Hattiesburg, MS	Name Change from Robert E. Donnell III, 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
Delta Chapter of CPAs 1. Accounting & Auditing Update	8/7/2020	8	Approved
Alexander Van Loon Sloan Levens Favre 1. Accounting & Auditing Update	8/21/2020	8	Approved
Jones Walker LLP 1. Property Tax Update	8/26/2020	1	Approved
University of Mississippi 1. Banking & Finance Symposium	9/6/2020	4	Approved
Silas Simmons, LLP 1. Accounting & Auditing Update	10/30/2020	8	Approved

2. The Board members present unanimously authorized the following actions concerning CPE request from individuals.

Sponsor/Title	Dates	Hours	Action
Journal of Accounting and Finance 1. Auditor Independence Clarification – PCAOB Requirements <i>Requested by Drs. Kayla Booker & Quinton Booker</i>	Publication	30 Each	Approved

VI. Rules and Regulations

1. OLRC gave final approval to Rule 5.1 change on August 27, 2020.
2. Secretary of State’s “Tackle the Tape Initiative” announcement was discussed.
3. MSBPA’s “Points to Consider” relative to “Tackle the Tape” were discussed.
4. AG Lynn Fitch’s column about new powers of OLRC was discussed.

VII. Regulatory Matters

1. The Board heard a report from Associate Director Sharee Brewer regarding the regulatory activities from August 8, 2020 to September 17, 2020:

Activity	Number
Cases Opened Beginning of Period	22
Cases Opened	3
Cases Closed ①	6
Cases Open End of Period	19
Open Cases Referred to Members	2

① Cases Closed:

Case **2019.023** involved a firm permit holder who received a third pass with deficiencies rating on the firm’s peer review. A consent order was presented to the full Board at the August, 2020 Board meeting. The order required 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 did not contain a financial penalty. The matter was then closed.

Case **2019.222** involved a out of state licensee working as a controller for a hospital in Mississippi and holding out as a CPA. The respondent was approved for licensure by the Board at the August, 2020 Board meeting. The matter was then closed.

VII. Regulatory Matters (continued)

Case **2019.233** involved an unlicensed individual who completed a review report for the State Board of Contractors (BOC). The report was rejected by the BOC and forwarded to the Board. The purported performer of the engagement as well as the address noted on the report was determined to be fraudulent. After multiple attempts to locate the individual, the matter was then closed.

Case **2019.238** involved an out of state firm permit holder who received a peer review report with a second pass with deficiencies rating. The firm signed a Stipulation and Consent Order, approved by the full Board at the August, 2020 Board meeting, which required an accelerated peer review if the firm subsequently performed audit work for Mississippi-based clients. The matter was then closed.

Case **2020.006** involved a firm permit holder who received a third pass with deficiencies rating on the firm's peer review. The sole proprietor firm permit holder sold their practice to another firm after completing the peer review. The remaining firm was contacted who stated the former firm permit holder continued to work with them but only in a tax practice capacity. The matter was then closed.

Case **2020.017** involved a former licensee who had a business license with the Secretary of State's office as well as a Linked In account showing him as a CPA when his license had been revoked. The former licensee closed the business license and opened another under a correct name. Also, the Linked In account was closed. The individual blamed their staff for the occurrence. The matter was then closed.

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**.
(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 2020.015** involving an individual licensee and firm permit holder who performed an engagement for the State Board of Contractors which was undeclared on the individual license renewal and firm permit application received by the Board on December 11, 2019. The order contains a civil penalty of \$500.
(Bridgers Investigative Committee)

APPROVED:

Chair

Board Member

Vice Chair

Board Member

Secretary

Board Member

Board Member