

**State of Alaska
Department of Commerce, Community and
Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing**

BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY

**MINUTES OF MEETING
April 25, 2025**

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2), and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Public Accountancy was held April 25, 2025.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Beth Stuart, at 9:30 a.m. Those present, constituting a quorum of the Board were:

Mark Diehl, CPA
Rachel Hanks, CPA
Beth Stuart, CPA
Donovan Neal, CPA
James Doughty, CPA

Present from the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, were:

Cori Hondolero, Executive Administrator
Roger Rouse, Investigator III (agenda item #9)
Jennifer Summers, Senior Investigator (agenda item #9)
Sylvan Robb, Director (agenda item #12)

Visitors present included:

Crista Burson, Alaska Society of CPAs (AKCPA)
Andrew Bergene
Daniel Rosano
Ayush Gajadien

Agenda Item 1 – Introductions

The Board welcomed new member James Doughty and all members/staff present provided brief introductions.

Agenda Item 2 – Review Agenda

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Mr. Diehl, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the agenda as written.

Agenda Item 3 – Review Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the last meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Diehl, seconded by Ms. Hanks, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2025 meeting as written.

Agenda Item 4 – Ethics Report

It was determined that there was nothing to report.

Agenda Item 5 – Public Comment

There was no one present that made a request to address the Board.

Agenda Item 6 - Alaska Society of Certified Public Accountants (ASCPA)

Ms. Burson was present and provided a listing of current Society activities:

1. Alaska Society of CPAs Board of Directors met Wednesday, April 23rd.
2. 2025 Annual Meeting is Wednesday, May 28th – Friday, May 30th at Windsong Lodge in Seward. Request a member of the State Board of Public Accountancy to speak on Friday, May 30th.
3. AICPA Spring Council is May 13th – 15th, 2025 in Washington, D.C. We will meet with our U.S. Senators and Representative to lobby for issues impacting the profession including:
 - Tax Policy: As Congress begins contemplating tax policy changes as part of the 2025 reconciliation bill, we will share framework to analyze proposals and change tax rules.
 - STEM: The profession supports reintroduction of House and Senate bills that would allow existing K-12 STEM grant funding to be used for accounting education.
 - 529 Savings Plan: The profession supports the *Freedom to Invest In Tomorrow's Workforce Act*, which will expand the use of 529 savings plans to cover postsecondary credentials.
 - IRS Issues

4. Bi-weekly Tax Round Table Meetings virtual – next meeting is Tuesday, April 29th at noon.

5. 2025-2026 AKCPA Board of Directors Election Results

President-Elect: Kelly Mayes

Treasurer: Dominique Kurth

Secretary: Glen Dunn

Directors: Meghan Carson Munoz, Alyssa Larsen, Grant Todd & Kelly Ward

Hagelbarger Scholarship Director: Margaret Hernandez

6. Advocacy –

- Proposed Regulation Changes – The AKCPA Legislative Committee reviewed and provided feedback to our Board of Directors. A comment letter is forthcoming.

- Alaska Bills Tracked

HB 121 – Accounting; Practice Privilege

AKCPA Board of Directors sent letter of support on March 10th and continue to assist with coordinating expert, invited and public testimony.

SB 99 – CPA as Private Professional Conservators

Introduced by Senator Robert Myers, SB 99 allows a licensed CPA to qualify automatically for licensure as a professional conservator.

SB 73 – Marijuana: Tax/Registration; Income Tax

Introduced by Senator Matt Claman. While most language contained in the bill pertains to Marijuana businesses there is language included that would reinstate the small corporate exemption that sunset in 2024 and impacted Alaska based C Corps.

- 2025 Proposed Uniform Accountancy Act Changes Exposure Draft – The latest exposure draft issued on March 4th with comments due by May 3rd. The AKCPA Board of Directors are responding with a comment letter.

Agenda Item 7 – Pre-Read Items (CPA Exam & Correspondence)

Copies of recent exam surveys were included in the meeting packet.

The Board reviewed the correspondence in the meeting packet and noted that none of the items required response.

Agenda Item 8 – NASBA Updates

UAA Exposure Draft

The Board reviewed the exposure draft and determined that a response was not necessary.

Meetings

Western Regional meeting – June 17-19, 2025 - Mr. Neal, Mr. Doughty and Ms. Hondolero designated to attend.

Annual Meeting – Chicago, IL – October 26-29, 2025 – Ms. Hanks and Ms. Hondolero designated to attend.

Committees

Ms. Hanks & Mr. Diehl – Communications Committee – The committee is working on the amount of emails being sent by NASBA. The communications department at NASBA can assist with newsletters; Boards need to create all content. There are also one-page infographics that can be created and other free services.

Agenda Item 9 – Investigative Report

Investigator Rouse and Senior Investigator Summers joined the meeting.

Investigator Rouse provided a summary of the investigative report in the packet.

The current report covered the period January 24, 2025 to April 14, 2025.

- 49 open cases
- 9 closed cases

The Board inquired about the oldest cases; Investigator Rouse indicated that he hoped to have some of those cases closed soon.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Diehl, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of reviewing investigative matters.

The Board entered executive session at 10:37 a.m.

The Board went back on the record at 10:52 a.m.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Neal, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the Imposition of Civil Fine (ICF) for case #2022-000046.

*Mr. Diehl was the reviewing Board member and abstained from voting.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Diehl, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the Imposition of Civil Fine (ICFs) for cases #2024-000083, 2024-000165 and 2024-000330.

*Ms. Stuart was the reviewing Board member and abstained from voting.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Neal, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the license surrender for cases #2024-001190, 2024-000119, 2022-000869 and 2022-000870.

The Board thanked the investigators for the report that was presented.

Agenda Item 10 – Disciplinary Matrix

The Board reviewed the updated version of the matrix that had been emailed to all members. A few additional edits were noted. Senior investigator Summers stated that once adopted, the matrix should be posted to the Board website.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Diehl, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to adopt the disciplinary matrix and add today's date to it.

Agenda Item 11 – Board Business

ED Report

Board vacancy – two seats vacant (2 public members).

Division staffing – Ms. Hondolero is assisting with other programs; time worked on other programs is charged accordingly. The Division is down to one regulations specialist, so there may be delays in processing projects.

Revenue/Expenditure Report & Fees

The FY25Q2 report was included in the meeting packet.

AKCPA Annual Meeting

The Society annual meeting will be held in Seward May 28-30; the business meeting will take place on May 30th. Mr. Diehl will be attending the meeting and will provide an overview of State Board activities during the business meeting.

Agenda Item 13 – Application Review

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks, seconded by Mr. Diehl, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to enter into executive session for the purpose of reviewing applications.

The Board entered executive session at 11:25 a.m.

The Board went back on the record at 11:42 a.m.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Diehl, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to approve Andrew Bergene, Luke Fulp, Jane Salgado, Abram Tooyak and Alana Wheaton for licensure by exam.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Diehl, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to table the licensure by exam application of Jackson French; applicant has not met the requirements of 12 AAC 04.185(b) and 12 AAC 04.151(a).

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Diehl, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to deny the licensure by exam application of Chitra Shamnani; applicant does not meet the requirements of 12 AAC 04.151.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Diehl, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the reinstatements of Akinbayo Akinpelu, Oliver Bussiek, Sasha Alexander Haggemuller and Wolf-Heinrich Werling.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Hanks seconded by Mr. Diehl, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the firm permits of Baldwin Moffitt Behm LLP and Financial Fairy LLC.

Agenda Item 13 – Administrative Business

Confirm Upcoming Meeting Dates/Locations

- June 5, 2025 – teleconference to review/adopt regulations.
- August 22, 2025
- November 14, 2025

Agenda Item 12 – Statutes/Regulations

Legislation

Ms. Stuart provided an update – HB121 has passed the House; Senate hearings will start soon.

Sylvan Robb, Division Director joined the meeting to discuss some current legislation with the Board.

HB158/SB145 – Universal Temporary Licensure – Establishes a pathway for the Division to issue temporary licenses to qualified professionals. Eliminates need for professionals to submit applications for both temporary and permanent licenses.

Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) – Portability for licensing; 43 US jurisdictions have joined the NLC and 6 more have bills pending. The nursing Board and licensees support this legislation.

Regulations

The project currently out for public comment closes on May 9, 2025. The Board will review comments received and act on the project at the June 5th teleconference.

There was discussion about goals for the next year. The Board determined that it wanted to restart participating in joint luncheons with the State Society. The Board will coordinate the luncheon as part of the next in-person meeting in November.

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Doughty; seconded by Mr. Diehl, and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cori Hondolero
Executive Administrator

Approved:



Beth Stuart, Chair
Alaska Board of Public Accountancy

Date: 6/5/25