

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

**BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY**

**MINUTES OF TELECONFERENCE**

**May 7-8, 2020**

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2), and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled teleconference of the Board of Public Accountancy was held May 7-8, 2020.

**Thursday, May 7, 2020**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Leslie Schmitz, at 9:02 a.m. Those present, constituting a quorum of the Board were:

Leslie Schmitz, CPA  
Don Vieira, CPA  
Wesley Tegeler, CPA  
Don Rulien, CPA  
Marja Beltrami, CPA  
Karen Smith, Public Member (items 9, 10, 11)

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

Cori Hondolero, Executive Administrator  
Amber Whaley, Senior Investigator (agenda item #6)  
Greg Francois, Chief Investigator (agenda item #6)  
Erika Prieksat, Investigator III (agenda item #6)

Visitors present included:

John Rodgers, representing the Alaska Society of CPAs  
Crista Burson, representing the Alaska Society of CPAs  
Katrina Salazar, CPA, NASBA Regional Director  
James Cox, representing the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) (agenda item #11)  
Kathleen Thompson, representing the Alaska Society of CPAs (agenda item #11)

### **Agenda Item 1 – Review Agenda**

The Board reviewed the agenda and added NTS/score extension discussion under item #7, added that Katrina Salazar would be calling in under Item #8 and added re-evaluated meeting location for August meeting under item #14.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Ethics Report**

It was determined that there was nothing to report.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Review Meeting Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the last teleconference meetings.

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Tegeler, seconded by Mr. Rulien, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the February 3-4, 2020, February 11, 2020, March 27, 2020 and the April 23, 2020 teleconference meetings as written.**

### **Agenda Item 4 - Alaska Society of Certified Public Accountants (ASCPA)**

Mr. Rodgers provided a summary of current AK Society activities:

- Covid19 response:
  - Starting March 25<sup>th</sup> no live events/travel through August
  - Annual meeting will be virtual on May 28<sup>th</sup>
  - CPE – no live events; all webcast
  - Spring council meeting was virtual
  - Regional council will be virtual/highly abbreviated
- Leadership academy – postponed
- Letter to the Governor – inclusion of CPAs as essential
- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) information posted on Society website
- Society had a Zoom social hour
- Biweekly meetings/tax roundtable via Zoom went to weekly, but has slowed down since April 15<sup>th</sup> and included an average of 12-15 participants
- Membership renewals due by May 31st

### **Agenda Item 5 – Public Comment**

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

### **Agenda Item 6 – Investigative Report**

The Board had two matters that had been loaded to OnBoard for their review; late renewal matters resulting in imposition of civil fine agreements.

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Tegeler seconded by Ms. Beltrami, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to accept the imposition of civil fine for case #2020-000201.**

\*Ms. Schmitz abstained from voting on this matter

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Tegeler seconded by Mr. Vieira, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to accept the imposition of civil fine for case #2020-000304.**

\*Ms. Schmitz abstained from voting on this matter

The Board had a brief discussion about civil fines (\$250 for individuals/\$500 for firms) and if the amounts were high enough to discourage late renewal/unlicensed practice. Ms. Beltrami indicated noncompliance with CPE requirements was more concerning to her; what other guidelines are not being followed – peer review, etc. The Board discussed the possibility of raised rates on January 1<sup>st</sup> vs the current 60 days before late renewal fees start. Ms. Schmitz brought up the idea of mandatory CPE audit for those who renew late. The Board decided to inquire with the regulations specialist regarding options for amending the regulations to allow for late fees starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Hondolero indicated that some programs require reinstatement if the license lapses. Mr. Rulien asked for comparisons of the last few renewal periods to see if the lapsed numbers were similar. Ms. Schmitz and Ms. Hondolero will ask the regulations specialist about ways to change the late renewal fee start date.

Senior Investigator Whaley called in to present the investigative report. Chief Francois and investigator Prieksat also called in, to be available to answer any questions that the Board might have.

It was noted that there are 20 open matters and 8 were closed. The Board asked about the status of the 2019 cases, as they are older. Investigator Whaley stated that these may still be in the complaint stage and under review. Ms. Schmitz asked about the status of the assigned investigator. Investigator Whaley indicated that there is no new update on Investigator Akers; a decision has been made to assign Dawn Bundick to the Board. She has been with the Division for a long time and has past experience with the CPA program. Ms. Schmitz asked how the case assignments would work. Investigator Whaley stated that

previously assigned investigators would finish the cases assigned to them and investigator Bundick would take on any new incoming cases.

Ms. Schmitz brought up the email that had been sent to Board members regarding an ongoing investigative matter. She noted that she had immediately asked Board members to delete the email without reading it and Ms. Hondolero had sent it to investigations for response. Chief Francois stated that he had contacted the individual and informed him that he needed to refrain from contacting Board members. All questions/comments should be directed to investigations because the Board members need to remain objective to be able to take action if the matter ever comes before them. Chief Francois provided the Board with a brief investigative overview and noted that it is the goal to have cases closed within 180 days.

It was noted that Ms. Schmitz, investigator Whaley and chief Francois were scheduled to meet before covid19 happened. They agreed to set a new date to meet via Zoom. The Board thanked investigator Whaley, investigator Prieksat and chief Francois for calling in to speak with the Board.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – CPA Exam**

Katrina Salazar, CPA and NASBA Regional Director (Pacific Region) joined the meeting.

Ms. Schmitz stated that Prometric sites were shut down on March 16, 2020. There was a dark period that had started March 13<sup>th</sup> and the next window was supposed to open April 1<sup>st</sup>. Some states have deemed the CPA exam essential and in those states, they are starting to reopen the test centers. Prometric sites test more than just the CPA exam, so there is also other demand for the times/seats that will become available. 34 states have started the reopening process and sites will be following social distancing requirements, reducing testing capacity during a period of increased demand.

States/Jurisdictions are choosing to handle extension requests differently. Some are granting blanket extensions and some are still reviewing requests on a case by case basis. The recommendation from NASBA for consistency is to offer blanket extensions for both NTS and exam scores that have expiration dates between April 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020; with all being extended to December 31, 2020. Ms. Salazar noted that Prometric was adding hours and days to help accommodate demand. Overall they are anticipating a 20% reduction in availability; they will operate this way for about two months and then will re-evaluate.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – NASBA Updates**

Ms. Salazar provided updated NASBA meeting information.

It was noted that even with everything covid19 related, all NASBA operations are still happening and committees are continuing to meet. Current topics include:

- Firm mobility
- Anti-regulatory issues are still active
- UAA committee still meeting – model rule changes (evolution of CPA, code of conduct, CPE reciprocity)
- CPT ethics training – an enforcement option for states

Ms. Schmitz asked about CPA evolution. Ms. Salazar stated that there will still be only one license. There will be no labels; license will not designate which specialty was passed. The model rules will be exposed for public comment (approximately June – August), the Board should provide feedback.

Ms. Salazar also provided a brief overview of CPE reciprocity and noted that it is for those who hold dual licensure; like mobility. Ms. Salazar will forward additional information to the Board.

The Board thanked Ms. Salazar for participating in the meeting and sharing all the information with the Board.

### Meetings

Western/Eastern Regional Meetings – These will be virtual this year (6/1/2020 Western and 6/8/2020 Eastern).

Annual Meeting – still set as in person November 1-4, 2020

ED Conference – will be in Clearwater, FL – April 12-14, 2021.

### Committees

Ms. Schmitz – CBT Administration Committee – recent teleconference – Reviewed exam site closure/reopening issues and talked about exam/NTS extensions.

Ms. Beltrami – Legislative Support Committee – met today; Alaska has anti-regulation legislation that was introduced. Accountants are being thrown in the bucket for deregulation and there is potential public harm. Some states may be issuing licenses if all conditions passed except for exam; license valid until the pandemic is over and licensee allowed to take exam once things open back up. Ms. Beltrami noted that she thinks it would be good for the State society to be involved in the deregulation conversation. Mr. Rodgers stated that the AICPA is watching this closely; they are nervous about the net and everyone it was going to catch. Could bring the legislation up to the Society Board; Ms. Beltrami will forward the information.

Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) was formed to help with tools to respond to the anti-regulation movement. John Johnson (NASBA) will be putting together a packet for State Societies.

Mr. Rulien – Uniform Accountancy Act (UAA) Committee – there is an upcoming meeting May 18<sup>th</sup>, they will be discussing CPA evolution and NOCLAR.

### **Agenda Item 9 – Board Business**

The Board recapped their discussion on extending exam scores and NTS and took the following action:

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Beltrami seconded by Ms. Smith, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to extend all NTS and exam scores expiring April 4, 2020 through December 30, 2020 TO December 31, 2020.**

### **ED Report**

The Board reviewed the report that was in the packet. There was discussion about assigned staff working for other programs. Ms. Hondolero noted that time worked for other programs is charged to that program.

### **Revenue/Expenditure Report**

The Board reviewed the 3rd quarter revenue/expenditure report.

### **Agenda Item 11 – Statute/Regulation Projects**

James Cox and Kathleen Thompson joined the meeting.

The Board reviewed the letter from legal services dated 2/24/20.

The Board had received the draft bill to review along with questions from the legislative legal section.

- 1) The Board wants to leave this in the bill.
- 2) Okay to keep/put back AS 08.04.680 (8) & (10).
- 3) Yes, this is what the Board wants; thanks.

Ms. Schmitz will work with Ms. Brewer-Tarver to answer questions, compare drafts and then respond to the letter.

12 AAC 04.185 – Ms. Schmitz will look at this section and prepare her comments/recommendations for the August meeting. Mr. Viera also mentioned that he would be willing to assist in reviewing this section. The Board wondered if adjustments within the University of Alaska (UAA) system would be required.

There was discussion about UAA specifically being listed in the regulation; maybe it would be better to leave it to “accredited” college/university only.

12 AAC 04.160, 04.165 and 04.175 – Ms. Smith and Mr. Rulien will look at these and recommend updates for the references and notary requirements. Samples were provided in a past meeting packet.

Ms. Beltrami will review and provide comments on reciprocity.

12 AAC 04.390 CPE publications – Amend to require Board approval by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the renewal year. This will allow the licensee time to obtain additional hours if the Board does not approve everything they request.

Ms. Hondolero requested that the comments/recommendations be sent to her by mid-July for inclusion in the August meeting packet.

### **Agenda Item 10 – Correspondence**

The Board reviewed the correspondence contained in the packet; there were no items that required Board response.

The meeting was recessed at 3:41 p.m., until Friday, May 8, 2020.  
Some members stayed to start file review.

### **Friday, May 8, 2020**

### **Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Leslie Schmitz, at 9:02 a.m. Those present, constituting a quorum of the Board were:

Leslie Schmitz, CPA  
Donovan Rulien II, CPA  
Don Vieira, CPA  
Marja Beltrami, CPA  
Wesley Tegeler, CPA  
Karen Smith, Public Member

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

Cori Hondolero, Executive Administrator

### **Agenda Item 12 – Review Agenda**

No changes were made.

**Agenda Item 13 – Application Review**

Board members reviewed applications and took the following action:

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Smith seconded by Mr. Tegeler, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve score extensions for scores expiring under the policy adopted by the Board on 5/7/2020; eligible scores will be extended to 12/31/2020 for the following candidates:**

- Reem Alali
- Jatin Aneja
- Kanika Arora
- Anoushka Baghla
- Kimblin Batson
- Surabhie Bhatnagar
- Matthew Bogan
- Kimiko Furuya
- Ramzi Ghazzaoui
- Yui Goto
- Christopher Hardcastle
- Tadashi Hisamatsu
- Omar Issa
- Vibhor Praduman Jain
- Fares Kassis
- Natassia Loney
- Hailey Messick
- Toshihiko Muramatsu
- Ibrahim Mushanwar
- Yohko Nakamura
- Venkata Ponasanapalli
- Sushant Rattu
- Joksy Simon
- Angela Yeung
- Eri Yoshida
- Maria Olson
- Disha Acharya
- Priyanka Penugonda
- Varshitha Nadipineni
- Nicole Newton
- Thao Tran
- Maria Ramirez



**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Rulien seconded by Ms. Smith, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to deny Mahmoud Atmeh's request for reinstatement of FAR score; 12 AAC 04.200(i), credit not lost due to circumstances beyond applicant's control.  
\*AUD will be extended to 12/31/2020 under the adopted Board policy.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Rulien seconded by Ms. Brewer-Tarver, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to deny Jasiv Singh's request for extension of BEC score; 12 AAC 04.200(i), credit not lost due to circumstances beyond applicant's control.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Smith seconded by Mr. Rulien, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve extension of BEC & FAR scores to 12/31/2020, under the adopted Board action, but that it is too early to request extension for REG (score is already valid until 2021).**

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Rulien seconded by Mr. Vieira, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to deny Salwa Kassab's request for reinstatement of AUD score; 12 AAC 04.200(i), credit not lost due to circumstances beyond applicant's control.  
\*FAR will be extended to 12/31/2020 under the adopted Board policy.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Smith seconded by Ms. Beltrami, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Keisuke Inaoka's application to sit for the CPA exam.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Rulien seconded by Ms. Smith, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to table the application of Roman Boikov for licensure by exam; applicant must meet educational requirements (accounting concentration/24 semester hours of accounting courses).**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Smith seconded by Ms. Beltrami, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Andres Castro, Tsz Cheng, Thomas Jackson Jr., Marie Francine Javier, Ryan Mackie and Todd Valli (pending receipt of official transcripts) for licensure by exam.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Smith seconded by Mr. Tegeler, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve Kyla Delgado and Lucas Smith for licensure by reciprocity.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Smith seconded by Ms. Beltrami, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve the Out-of-State firm permits of Briggs & Veselka Co., LLP and Jonathan Cushman, CPA LLC.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Smith seconded by Mr. Tegeler, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve the random CPE audits of:**

- Kevin Anfderheide
- Tonia Baklanova
- Vadym Bilyk
- Tom Blickenstaff
- Helen Bush
- Maria Chukova
- Amanda Dayton
- Billie DeVore
- Andree Djiondjang
- Kristen Droge
- Xin Fan
- John Fisher
- Monica French
- Bela Giroux (Kazakhova)
- Philip Granberry
- Randy Hamilton
- Daniel Jensen
- Jyoji Komatsu
- Evelynna Kuhr
- Dinara Magadeva

- Nathalie Martin
- Cheryl McNeil
- Stanislav Mishin
- Cynthia Morgan
- Chizuru Ohara
- Ksenia Polikakhina
- Jessica Robinson
- Alexander Rasskazov
- Yanje Shao
- Sol Moon Shin
- Tracy Steelman
- Carrie Strickland
- Karl Swanson
- Satzhan Temirgaliyev
- Stephen Tibbs
- Carrie Tosoni
- Aziz Tursunov
- Tatyana Vlasova
- Traci Weiland
- Paul Welp
- Kurt Wong

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

**RESOLVED** to deny the CPE audit of Julee Duhrsen; lack of documentation. The Board could verify 7 hours in 2018 (including ethics) and 18 hours in 2019 with certificates of completion.

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

**RESOLVED** to table the random audit of Taras Kulyk; request clear documentation of 2019 hours and make sure that ethics hours being claimed are clearly identified.

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

**RESOLVED** to table the random audit of Daksha Mulay; request verification of the ethics hours being claimed via certificates and/or course outlines.

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

**RESOLVED to approve the random audit of Vincent Schmoyer.**

**\*ACCA hours fall under 12 AAC 04.320(a)(1)**

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Vieira seconded by Ms. Beltrami, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to table the random audit of Christopher Sopp; request necessary information to document compliance with 12 AAC 04.340, 04.350 and 04.360.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Rulien seconded by Mr. Vieira, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to deny the CPE audit of Donald Hester; 88 hours required (20 per year minimum not met). Any hours earned to meet the requirement cannot be claimed again on a future renewal. Standard consent agreement, without falsification fine.**

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Rulien seconded by Mr. Tegeler, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to deny the CPE audit of Anida Akhмурzina; 1 hour of the required ethics as earned after the close of the renewal period.**

**\*renewal application indicated ethics (& all other CPE hours) were complete by 12/31/19.**

#### **Agenda Item 14 – Administrative Business**

##### **Confirm Upcoming Meeting Dates/Locations**

- August 13-14, 2020 in Anchorage (Zoom meeting)
- October 29-30, 2020 in Anchorage (Zoom meeting)
- February 8-9, 2021 in Juneau (if active legislation)

##### **Task Lists**

###### **Leslie Schmitz**

- Respond to 2/24/20 letter from legal services. Work with Ms. Brewer-Tarver to answer questions and compare drafts
- Set up Zoom meeting with Chief Francois and Investigator Whaley
- 12 AAC 04.185 - Look at regulations regarding accounting concentration for possible changes for credit earned by testing (CLEP/DANTES, etc.)

###### **Karen Smith & Don Rulien**

- Review regulation regarding professional references and application form to suggest possible changes for the Board to consider (12 AAC 04.160, .165 and .175)

Marja Beltrami

- Review licensure by reciprocity requirements for possible update

Don Vieira

- Work with Ms. Schmitz on review of 12 AAC 04.185

Cori Hondolero

- Prepare statement for website regarding Board action to extend exam scores and NTS
- Ask regulations specialist what would be required to have late renewal fees start on January 1<sup>st</sup> (cc Chair when email is sent)

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Tegeler seconded by Mr. Rulien, and approved unanimously, it was:**

**RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.**

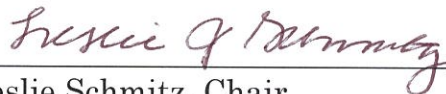
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Cori Hondolero  
Executive Administrator

Approved:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Schmitz, Chair  
Alaska Board of Public Accountancy

Date: 8/13/2020