

**MINUTES**  
**UTAH BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY**  
**October 04, 2023**  
**Hybrid Meeting with anchor location in Room 474**

**CONVENED:** 1:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNED:** 3:04 p.m.

**Bureau Manager:**  
**Board Secretary:**

Tracy Taylor  
Katie Corak

**Board Members Present:**

Peter Mann, Vice Chair  
Brian Deppe  
Geri Douglas

**Board Members Absent:**

Robert Anderson, Chairperson  
David Young

**Guests:**

Susan Speirs, UACPA  
William Perry  
Alexis Olson

**DOPL Staff Present:**

Lisa Lynn, Compliance Specialist

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

**DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Approve Minutes:

Ms. Douglas made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 02, 2023 meeting. Mr. Deppe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Compliance Update:

Ms. Lynn provided the Board with a Compliance report. Item noted with no action taken.

Investigations Update:

Ms. Taylor provided the Board with an investigations update. Item noted with no action taken.

**DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEMS:**

NASBA Fall 2023 FOCUS  
Questions Survey:

The Board reviewed a survey from NASBA about how Utah is navigating various issues and how NASBA can best assist our board. The Board completed the survey and provided feedback to NASBA about how include all stakeholders in discussions regarding directional changes to avoid any unintended consequences. The Board provided an example of the continuing debate over education credit hours required for licensure (120 vs 150). Ms. Taylor collected the information and will submit it to NASBA.

## Exam Credit Relief Initiative:

The Board reviewed a proposal from the AICPA to reinstate exam credit for CPA Exam candidates who lost credit during the COVID-19 Pandemic from January 30, 2020-May 11, 2023. This initiative is endorsed by 65 of the 100 largest CPA firms in the country. Ms. Taylor also provided the Board with the exact number of Utah candidates who lost credit during that time period, as well those who lost credit from May 11, 2023-July 1, 2023 who would benefit from the initiative. The Board previously extended exam credit to June 30, 2025, for candidates with exam credit from July 1, 2023-January 1, 2024 during a previous meeting when adjustments in anticipation of CPA Evolution were discussed. In total, it would be 221 Utah candidates who would benefit. The Board also reviewed documentation from two candidates who provided their own experiences and how this initiative would benefit them as they progress to licensure. Mr. Deppe raised the question of why the two largest firms did not endorse the initiative, but indicated that the absence of their endorsement would not change his line of thinking. Mr. Mann asked if any states had approved this initiative yet or if there was a general feel for how other states would respond. Ms. Taylor reported that no western region states had approved this initiative and state board administrators were equally split in thinking their boards would approve it and not knowing how their board would vote. All board members present indicated they were in favor of the initiative. Ms. Douglas shared her experience of watching staff at her firm navigate testing challenges during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and Mr. Deppe explained that passing one or two sections over three years ago, and then attempting to pass the remaining exam sections now will bring its own set of challenges. Therefore, it's not a given that everyone who receives the exam credit relief will succeed. Mr. Mann, explained he agreed with Mr. Deppe, and that he views the initiative as a way to reduce barriers to licensure. Mr. Deppe asked whether Utah approving credit relief would cause problems with people who tested in other states that did not approve credit relief when attempting to obtain licensure in Utah. Ms. Taylor explained that it would not, because the exams would become a substantial equivalency question; and since they did pass the same CPA exams, it would be difficult to justify denying licensure to those

applicants. Mr. Deppe made a motion to follow the recommendation outlined in the letter from AICPA to grant credit relief to those who had test credit expire between January 30, 2020-June 30, 2023. Ms. Douglas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

William Perry-Exam Credit:

Mr. Perry's exam credit extension request was reviewed as part of the Credit Relief Initiative discussion because his BEC and REG exam credits expired in 2022, during the time period the Credit Relief Initiative covers. Since the Board voted to approve the Credit Relief Initiative, Mr. Perry's exam credit was reinstated, thus Mr. Perry did not address the Board.

**CLOSED MEETING:**

Mr. Deppe made a motion to close the meeting to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Ms. Douglas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**REOPEN MEETING:**

Mr. Deppe made a motion to reopen the meeting. Ms. Douglas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURN:**


Adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

*Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.*

Date: 01/12/2024

X: Robert Anderson  
Robert Anderson (Jan 12, 2024 14:48 MST)  
Chairperson, Utah Board of Accountancy

Date: 01/12/2024

X:   
Bureau Manager, Division of Professional Licensing

