

**MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 10, 2025**

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The Mississippi Tort Claims Board meeting was held on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 1:30 p.m., in Room 138, Woolfolk State Office Building, 501 North West Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Mr. Phillip Buffington, Chairman  
Ms. Christina Kelsey, representing MS Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney  
Ms. Kim Turner, representing Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch  
Mr. Tate Lewis, representing David McRae, Mississippi State Treasurer  
Ms. Denita Griffith, representing MS Department of Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell  
Ms. Brittney Thompson, representing Liz Welch, Director, MS Department of Finance and Administration  
Mr. Ted Lampton, representing Chris Wells, MS Department of Environmental Quality

Also present were:

Mr. Bert Emrick, MS Department of Finance and Administration  
Mr. Patrick Black, MS Department of Finance and Administration  
Ms. Amanda Rayburn, Tort Claims Board  
Ms. Karen McKlemurry, Office of Insurance/Tort Claims Board Staff  
Ms. Lori Paes, Tort Claims Board

Mr. Phillip Buffington, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Christina Kelsey to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2025 meeting. Ms. Brittney Thompson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Matt Stephenson, The Burkhalter Group, who presented the Actuarial Report and Assessment. Ms. Kim Turner made a motion to approve the assessment and Mr. Tate Lewis seconded, The motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Patrick Black, Administrator, who presented a list of 92 political subdivisions with the recommendation of Board approval for renewal of Certificates of Coverage. Ms. Kelsey made a motion to approve and Mr. Ted Lampton seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Black then asked that the Board consider delegating this as an administrative action to the Office of Insurance – Tort, allowing the certificates to be approved as they are reviewed in order to prevent a long delay in sending certificates to the entities. The Board would then receive a list at the meeting of those approved, as well as any certificates with issues being brought before the Board for discussion. Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve delegating the issuance of certificates as they are approved to the Tort staff. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Chairman recognized Ms. Lori Paes, who presented the financial report.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Jeff Wilson, who provided an overview of the current investment reports.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Patrick Black, who presented two attorneys recommended for addition to the Defense Attorney Register. Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve, and Ms. Turner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman again recognized Mr. Black, who provided an overview of the recent risk management services provided, in the absence of Mr. Steve Milner.

There was no Old Business.

In New Business, Mr. Black requested that the Board consider pushing back the regular meeting date to the third Thursday. Mr. Lewis made the motion and Ms. Kelsey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Lewis seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.



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PHILLIP BUFFINGTON, CHAIRMAN