

**MISSISSIPPI AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION**

**Regular Meeting/Teleconference of the Board of Directors**

Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Mississippi Public Broadcasting Board Room

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**TEAMS Videoconference**

**MINUTES**

Call to Order 10:12AM

Chairman Mackey

Roll call/Establish quorum

Marvin Jeter

Members Present: Dr. Ormella Cummings, IHL Rep; Dawn Barham, Member;  
Cory Custer, Member; Charles Cowan, Member

Members via TEAMS: Dr. Shawn Mackey, Chair/MCCB; Ric Sawyer, Member;  
Judy Nelson, MDE Rep;

MPB Staff Present: Royal Aills, MPB ED; Anna Neel, MPB COO; Alicia Harris,  
MPB CFO; Dr. Marvin Jeter, COS; Bobby Wicker, HR Director;  
Randy Evans, IT

Also Present: Sarah Mann, Board Counsel, Office of the Attorney General;  
Angela Ferraez, MPB Foundation Executive Director

Guests Present via TEAMS: Gemma Hooley, NPR; Marta McLellan Ross, NPR;  
Tony Cavin, NPR

Introduction of Visitors & New Members

Chairman Mackey

New Board Member, Mr. Charles Cowan to At-Large Governor-Appointed Seat

*Attorney with Wise Carter Law Firm - Comments*

New Board Member, Mr. Corey Custer to At-Large Governor-Appointed Seat

*Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff-External Affairs - Comments*

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Mackey

*With a motion by O. Cummings/second by D. Barham, the agenda was adopted  
unanimously without changes.*

Approval of Minutes

Tab 1

Chairman Mackey

May 14, 2024, Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes

*Consideration & Vote to Accept/Amend Meeting Minutes*

Marvin Jeter

*With a motion by D. Barham /second by O. Cummings, the May 14 Meeting  
Minutes were approved unanimously without changes.*

Chairman's Report

*Notes for Board Members Hotel Reservations Process*

Chairman Mackey

Marvin Jeter

Old Business

*None*

Chairman Mackey

New Business

- Nomination & Election of New Vice Chair

*Member Ric Sawyer was nominated by Chairman Mackey/second by O. Cummings for the position of MPB Board Vice Chair. The vote was unanimous, and R. Sawyer was named MPB Board Vice Chair*

- Discussion of Proposed Board Retreat

*After some discussion, it was recommended that the board consider a frugal retreat to follow the January Board Meeting.*

*With a motion by R. Sawyer/second by S. Mackey, January 14, 2025 was designated for the first meeting of 2025 with a retreat immediately following the board meeting at a location in the Jackson area. This decision was approved unanimously.*

- Executive Director Report                      *Tab 2*                      Royal Aills
  - *Welcome to new board members*
  - *Recognition of successes in Education/Content/Engineering*
  - *News from NPR – New Directions discussed by NPR guests via TEAMS*
  - *FY25 Budget*
  - *Review of FCC Consent Decree*
  - *Emergency Funding for MPB Building Repair*

*With a motion by O. Cummings/second by D. Barham, the FCC Consent Decree was approved unanimously.*

*C. Custer pressed NPR staff about bias in their newsroom. He asked for specific changes that have been implemented to combat bias. Following that discussion, C. Custer requested that MPB Leadership continue to hold NPR accountable for implementing legitimate observable and quantifiable changes to combat bias in their newsroom.*

Division Reports

- Finance    *Tab 3*    Alicia Harris

3A Monthly Financial Report June

3B Approval of Expenses over \$50,000

Building Maintenance – Perry Atherton, IHL

*With a motion by R. Sawyer/second by D. Barham, the Projected Expenses over \$50,000 were approved by unanimous consent.*

- Human Resources                      *Tab 4*
- Foundation Report
  - *MS Ag & Outdoor Expo*
  - *Holiday Antiques Showcase – October 10*
  - *Reflections on FY24 Budget*
  - *Projections of FY25 Budget*
  - *Possible Endowment this year*

Bobby Wicker  
Angela Ferraez

Consideration of Executive Session

Chairman Mackey

*It was determined that executive session was not necessary.*

Adjournment

Chairman Mackey

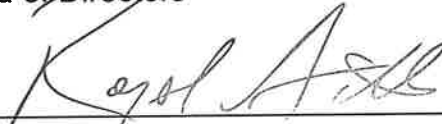
*With a motion by R. Sawyer/second by D. Barham, a recommendation to adjourn passed unanimously at 12:12PM.*

**SIGNED, this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.**



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Dr. Shawn Mackey, Chairman  
Board of Directors



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Royal Aills  
Executive Director