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2	State of Alaska
3	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
4	DIVISION OF CORPORATION, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
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6	BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD
7	Minutes of the meetings from Tuesday, April 2, 2019 – Thursday, April 4, 2019
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9	By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.86.030, and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62
10	Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Big Game Commercial Services Board was held at the Ted Stevens
11	Anchorage International Airport, Tuesday, April 2, 2019 – Thursday, April 4, 2019.
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13	The Chair brought the meeting to order at 8:35 am on Tuesday, April 2, 2019
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15	Agenda Item - Roll Call
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17	Board Members Present Constituting a Quorum:
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19	Henry Tiffany-Licensed Registered Guide-Board Chair
20	Larry Van Daele-Board of Game Representative
21	Michelle Heun-Licensed Transporter
22	Tom Harris-Private Land Owner @8:37 am
23	Jason Bunch-Registered Guide Outfitter
24	Cash Joyce – Licensed Transporter
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26	Board Members Absent:
27	Nicholas Jackson- Private Land Owner - UNEXCUSED
28	Adam Trombley-Public Member-Vice Chair - UNEXCUSED
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30	Staff Members present:
31	Dawn K Hannasch-Records and Licensing Supervisor
32	Lee Strout-Investigator
33	Rebecca Powers- Occupational Licensing Examine via teleconference
34	Robert Auth-Board Counsel @9:45 via teleconference
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36	Members of the Public Present:
37	Jeff Burwell
38	Dan Montgomery
39	Loren Karro
40	Wayne Kubat
41	
42	Agenda Item - Review the Agenda: The board reviewed the approved agenda. The board was pleased
43	with the four separate opportunities that the public will have to address the board with their comments
44	Board Chair, Henry Tiffany informed the board that they have a full three days of meetings.
15	

#### Agenda Item - Ethics:

Board Chair, Henry Tiffany, shared that he has been participating in testifying on behalf of the board, during the legislative session. Board Member Jason Bunch stated that he, too, has been working with Mr. Tiffany to inform the legislators of the board position to the different house and Senate bills. The board did not see either of these as ethics violations as everyone was appointed by the board to testify.

Board member Tom Harris – Private landowner, resigned immediately. Mr. Harrisstates that he believes a conflict of interest exists between his objectives and the purpose of the Big Game Commercial Services Board. Mr. Harris plans to continue to foster his relationship with the BGCS board and the industry. Board member Jason Bunch stated that he would like to see Mr. Harris stay as he brings a unique perspective to the board. Mr. Tiffany agreed that Mr. Harris' input had been appreciated.

Board member Larry Van Deale stated that while working for fish and game, he was a part of one of the investigations that the board will be reviewing later that day.

Board Chair Tiffany did not see any of the above statements as ethical issues.

#### Agenda Item - Review/Approve Meeting Minutes:

Hearing nothing further, Mr. Tiffany moved the board's attention to the drafted meeting minutes from the January 2019 meeting.

In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Cash Joyce, with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve the drafted meeting minutes from the January 2019 meeting.

#### <u>Agenda Item – Division/Fiscal Update:</u>

Division Administrative Officer Melissa Dumas joined the meeting via telephone at 8:50 am to review the board's 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financial report. Ms. Dumas went through all aspects of the report and commended the board again on their fiscal conservancy. The division believes that the board may end the fiscal year with a small positive balance. Ms. Dumas provided the board with a fee analysis that shows the projections for the next four years. At this time, the division is not recommending a change in fees. After a vigorous discussion, the board agreed with the division.

In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Cash Joyce, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to recommend no fee changes to the division at this time.

Jason Bunch – YES
Cash Joyce – YES
Michelle Heun – YES
Henry Tiffany – YES
Larry Van Daele – YES

Records and Licensing Supervisor Dawn Hannasch provided the board with an update on behalf of the division. Ms. Hannasch introduced the board to their new staff member, Rebecca Powers, who joined the meeting via teleconference. Ms. Hannasch shared with the board that Ms. Powers has already

created some helpful avenues for RGO/MGO & Transporters to upload their hunt/transport records into their MYLICENSE. She has also worked with RLS Chelsea Childress to provide a way for licensees to pay their annual filing fee on their MYLICENSE account. Ms. Powers has the program caught up, and most hunt records processed. Ms. Hannasch stated that Ms. Powers is already an asset to the board and this industry. The board encouraged the division to continue exploring ways to integrate technology.

#### Agenda Item - Senate Bill 43:

Board chair, Henry Tiffany, explained that SB 43 was introduced by Senator Wilson and is a reauthorization of the board. The Sunset Audit recommended the board be renewed for 6 years, which Senator Wilson has carried. Amendments have been added to SB 43.

Public comment regarding renewing the board for six years: Loren Karro, GUIR941 – In favor of extending the board. Wayne Kubat, GUIM147 – Supports reauthorization for six years. Dan Montgomery, GUIM173 – Supports reauthorization for six years. Lyle Becker, GUIR1276 – Supports reauthorization for six years.

In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Jason Bunch, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to support extending the Big Game Commercial Services Board another six years.

Jason Bunch – YES
Cash Joyce – YES
Michelle Heun – YES
Henry Tiffany – YES
Larry Van Daele – YES

Amendment 4: An amendment to insert the word "hold" - If a person is convicted of a state or federal hunting, guiding, or transportation violation with a certain prison sentence or fine, currently, they cannot receive or renew their license. By adding the word "hold" in, if a person is convicted of such criminally, the board is authorized to immediately suspend license and activities until the civil investigation has been completed.

In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Jason Bunch, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to support including the word "hold" under AS08.54.605.a.

Jason Bunch – YES
Cash Joyce – YES
Michelle Heun – YES
Henry Tiffany – YES
Larry Van Daele – YES

Amendment 5: Regarding eligibility for Master Guides – Recommends applicants hold licenses for 15 years rather than 12 of the last 20, must submit 45 names and a higher percentage must come back positive, and no violations or been under any disciplinary action within the last 15 years of the date of application.

In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Jason Bunch, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to support the concept of Amendment 5 and articulate the board's discomfort with #4 and what the board's original intent and the suggestion was and continue to be.

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Jason Bunch – YES Cash Joyce – YES Michelle Heun – YES Henry Tiffany – YES Larry Van Daele – YES

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Board Chair Tiffany will write a letter to Senator von Imhof on the board's behalf stating they unanimously support reauthorization of the board for six years, unanimously support the inclusion of the word "hold", and that they unanimously support the concept of the changes in A5, but #4 is not worded the way the board intended so other board members will offer to help develop language that does not include the "paperwork violations" stipulation.

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Break: 10:09 - 10:19

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#### Agenda Item – Public Comment:

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Board Chair Tiffany stated the board is making an effort to open public comment more regularly, with three additional opportunities available.

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Wayne Kubat – Master Guide GUIM147
 Mr. Kubat thanked the board for their service and the opportunity to speak. He provided handouts of his testimony and statues from 1994 and 1997. His opinion is that the current Statues & Regulations as a whole are more dysfunctional, confusing, and contradictive of each

other than anything he's ever seen. He believes part of that is because the board was sunset in 1995 through 2005. Many things changed from 94-97 without board oversight. He strongly disagrees with the conclusions reached in the flow chart on page 58 of the board packet. A lot of different people can get a lot of different viewpoints. The flowchart concerns Statute and Regs 08.54.610(e) – regarding Registered Guides, and 12 AC 75.240(f) – supervision regulations requiring a supervising contracting or Class-A Guide in the same GUA if using an Assistant Guide. 75.240 (f) went into effect in 1997. The "one size fits all approach" might work for marine operations, but not for interior operations that require bushcraft access. Mr. Kubat feels 12 AC 75.240(f) contradicts, conflicts, and confuses the statue 08.54.610(e), 08.54.630(b)(3), 08.54.790(7), and 12 AAC 75.240(i) and all of its subsections. 08.54.610(e), references a contracted hunt and doesn't exclude contracted hunts when an Assistant Guide is in charge. 08.54.630(b)(3) says that an Assistant Guide can take charge of a camp if the contracting guide is in the field and participating in the hunt. 08.54.790 defines "in the field" as off a road system pretty much anywhere in the state as long as you are not in conflict with a city, town, or village. 12 AAC 75.240(i) is a new regulation added in 2014 that specifically refers to 08.54.610(e) talking about the supervision of a contracted hunt. Bunch states that F section references the

Assistant Guide, but if you look in statute 08.54.610(e), it says a Registered-Guide Outfitter contract hunts as a contracting guide for a guided hunt shall be primarily in the field, and in the

field means off the road system, supervising and participating in the contracting hunt – it

doesn't say contracted hunt run by Class-A or Registered – it doesn't rule out an Assistant – it's

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talking about a contract hunt. Mr. Kubat basically feels (f) contradicts two statutes. In the real world, communication quality and capability are much more important for supervision than is proximity. Mr. Kubat believes 12 AAC 75.240(f) is an attempt to control guides in the absence of Guide Use Areas more so than something that improves supervision. Mr. Kubat displayed a map of Guide Use Areas and pointed out that distances within the same or neighboring GUAs can vary between 15 and over 200 miles. No consideration is made for the mode of transportation. Mr. Kubat would appreciate more participation by stakeholders at board meetings and suggests that any policy changes should include a well-attended subcommittee process. Suggested Policy: The Board finds that an assistant guide can take charge of a camp and provide guide services if the contracting guide is in the field in the same or neighboring GMU + up to 50 miles. See 08.54.610(e), 08.54.630(b)(3), and 12 AAC 75.240(i). Proposed changes to 12 AAC 75.240 Supervision – No changes to (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (h). Changes to (f) should state the contracting registered-guide outfitter or a noncontracting registered guide-outfitter or class-A assistant guide supervising an assistant guide shall be in the field and participating in the contracted hunt to direct and monitor the big game hunting services provided to the client... Changes to (i) should state: For the purposes of the requirement in AS 08.54.610(e) for the supervision of a contracted hunt, the contracting registered guide-outfitter may plan, direct, and monitor a contracted hunt... In conclusion, Mr. Kubat does not believe his policy or regulation recommendations "dumb down" the supervision requirements in any way but instead allowed the contracting guide to provide a better service.

Board Member Responses: Mr. Bunch thanked Mr. Kubat for his testimony. He spent at least 10-12 hours on this in one day. He has a presentation on supervision and would like for it to be viewed in a sub-committee setting. Mr. Kubat brings up valid points, but repercussions to changes have a ripple effect. Supervision is a topic that is one of the higher-level topics of discussion recently by troopers and the forest service. The top priority of the board once we get past Sunset.

Board Chair Tiffany: The whole industry and all the different agencies have to get on the same page to make it clear what can and can't be done. He understands the intent behind Mr. Kubat's testimony. The system should be cohesive that everyone understands, and it should be a priority moving forward.

## Agenda Item – Regulation Review:

Mrs. Hannasch pointed out that pages 68-71 are the drafts from the regulation specialists from the work the board did at the January meeting, most significantly regarding the change pertaining to Sworn Statements and Permits in relation to Guide Use Area Registrations. The regulations process was briefly explained to the board. This draft is not in the board packet due to the recent date the document was received. The draft will be sent to licensees via mail, email, and website posting. An explanation of the public comment process for regulation changes is posted on the Big Game Commercial Services Board website.

In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Jason Bunch, with a roll call vote, it was approved to send drafted regulations 12 AAC 75.230(a)&(f)(g), 12 AAC 75.260(e), 12 AAC 75.400(e), 12 AAC 75.450(d), 12 AAC 920(b)(c)(d) & (e) out for public comment.

Jason Bunch – YES
 Cash Joyce – YES
 Michelle Heun – YES
 Henry Tiffany – YES
 Larry Van Daele – YES

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#### **Agenda Item - Proposed Regulations:**

1. To add language to 75.460(b)(2) says an affidavit signed by the Registered-Guide Outfitters or another person certifying that the Registered-Guide Outfitters has been involved in a minimum of 3 harvests or hunts on guided or non-guided hunts for that species.

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In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, the proposed regulation will not move forward.

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Jason Bunch – No Cash Joyce – No Michelle Heun – No Henry Tiffany – No Larry Van Daele – No

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Board's Action: None

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2. 75.240(i) Supervision - For purposes of the requirements in AS 08.54.610(e) for supervision of a contracted hunt and in addition to the requirements of this section, the contracting Registered-Guide may plan, direct, and monitor a contracted hunt 1(a) while primarily in the field and indaily communication with a Class-A or noncontracting registered guide supervising the hunt.

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In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Jason Bunch, with a roll call vote, the proposed regulation will not move forward.

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Jason Bunch – No Cash Joyce – No Michelle Heun – No Henry Tiffany – No Larry Van Daele – No

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Board's Action: Pass proposal to subcommittee

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3. Statute 08.54.720 – Allow appropriate buffer areas between hunters and camps in order to avoid disrupting hunts and hunting experiences. In game management Unit 9, a person holding any class of guide or transporter license may not place a camp within five miles of a legally permitted year-round structure built before 2010 being used for big game guiding purposes, unless agreed upon a written agreement between the involved parties.

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In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Jason Bunch, with a roll call vote, the proposed regulation will not move forward.

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Jason Bunch - No

Cash Joyce - No Michelle Heun - No Henry Tiffany - No Larry Van Daele - No

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Board's Action: Pass proposal to the subcommittee. Board Chair Tiffany proposed to establish an Ethics subcommittee to explore 75.440(13). Cash Joyce volunteered to chair the subcommittee. The first subcommittee meeting will be held at the December board meeting.

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4. Add a new regulation, perhaps in our regulations under the stipulations to renew any class of guide license, that if a licensee has been convicted of a criminal violation and received a fine of XX amount and/or received a sentence of XX amount, then their license is immediately suspended until which time the Big Game Commercial Services Board can formally review and consider their case.

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After much discussion with Mr. Robert Auth via teleconference:

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In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Cash Joyce, with a roll call vote, the proposed adoption of a regulation mirroring the proposed amendment in A4 of SB43 will move forward.

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Jason Bunch - Yes Cash Joyce - Yes Michelle Heun – Yes **Henry Tiffany – Yes** Larry Van Daele - Yes

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Board's Action: Hold off until HB43 outcome.

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Lunch Break: 12:00 - 1:15

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**Agenda Item: Master Guide Requirements:** 

regard to paperwork violations?

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Returning from the lunch recess, Mr. Tiffany brought the group's attention back to the task of reviewing the suggested regulation changes concerning Senate Bill 43. The board will send a letter to Senator Von Imhof supporting the 6-year renewal, with concerns regarding renewal, specifically with #4.

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Public Comments Related to SB 43:

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- Clarification Guides must have a clean record for 15 years to get their Master Guide License.
- Lorren Karro Guides should not be penalized for paperwork errors. Concerns from GUI Supervisor Hannasch – Define knowingly. How do you prove knowingly, in

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In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Cash Joyce, with a roll call vote, the board approves a letter to senator Von Imhof as written and expressed to the board by Chairman Tiffany. Regarding SB 43 with an amendment letter, the Big Game Commercial

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Services board unanimously supports the reauthorization of the board for six years. The board unanimously supports the A4 amendment, which will add the word "hold" to AS

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08.54.605 (a). The board unanimously accepted the concept of the A5 amendment and was in support of all aspects of it except the proposed change to (b)(4). As it is currently written, the board believes A5 (b)(4) was misinterpreted by legal services which drafted the proposed A5 (b)(4) language and was not written as the board originally intended, and as such the board cannot support (b)(4) as currently written. The board intent behind this proposed statutory change is to raise the standards and requirements for the licensee to obtain a Master Guide license to ensure they have not had any substantial violations or convictions under AS 08.54.720 and to provide authority to the board to deny a licensee who does not qualify. The board would like to respectively suggest the following language to (b)(4), which the board could unanimously support as written "(b)(4). Has not been the subject to disciplinary action under this chapter or been convicted of a violation of any state or federal law or regulation related to hunting or to the provision of big game hunting or transportation services under AS 08.54.720 within the 15 years preceding the date of application and." To be consistent, the board recommends the following language be struck from (f)(2) and added in the A5 amendment to Section 3 AS 08.54.610 (f)(3), "Who is convicted of a violation under AS 08.54.720 of any state law or federal or regulation related to hunting or the provision of big game hunting or transportation services."

Jason Bunch – Yes Cash Joyce – Yes Michelle Heun – Yes Henry Tiffany – Yes Larry Van Daele – Yes

#### Agenda Item: Survivorship:

The board appreciates all of the work Former Board Member Sullivan put into his survivorship presentation, it was not productive to send multiple through, but just one. Survivorship is a top priority. Mr. Joyce commented that position statements are a "may" rather than a "shall." Ms. Hannasch reminded the board that position statements cannot be written about Statutes and Regulations that do not exist. They are provided, so the public, law enforcement, and the division have a clear understanding of the board's stance and interpretation of issues. Mr. Bunch proposes the board tackles survivorship with legislatures in an exception under one of the current Statutes, then clarify the exception under Regulation for that Statute. The subject of survivorship will be tabled until the board can look at and discuss other routes of implementation that aren't as complicated. Board Chair Tiffany is very proud of the guide industry for helping out one another in tragic situations.

#### **Agenda Item: Subcommittee Meetings:**

Board Chair Tiffany commended Mr. Bunch for his efforts on the supervision flow chart.

After Mr. Sullivan's resignation, the Statutes & Regulations subcommittee is now without a chair. Board Member Jason Bunch offered to chair the Statutes & Regulations subcommittee but would have to give up the education/exam subcommittee. Board Chair Tiffany will chair the education/exam subcommittee.

#### **Agenda Item: Exam Rewrite**

Mr. Bunch informed the board that GMU exams 1-5 have been reviewed by Master Guides in those

units and provided excellent feedback. He has a map recommendation but is a time-consuming project. Board Chair Tiffany has rewritten 12 of the GMU exams but still needs to work on the maps. During the January exam, Ms. Hannasch reported that no questions were challenged on the new RGO exam.

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Break: 2:45 - 2:54

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Agenda Item: Tongass National Forest Collaborative Review MOU

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Mr. Bunch presented the board with the details of the Collaborative Review MOU between the Tongass National Forest and the guiding community in Southeast Alaska. Inadequacies following policy in the transfer of permits/land use authorizations prompted testimony and discussion in order to get on the same page with CBPL.

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In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Jason Bunch, with a roll call vote, the board agreed to send their recommendations and support of the MOU to the director of CBPL.

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Jason Bunch – Yes Cash Joyce – Yes Michelle Heun – Yes Henry Tiffany – Yes Larry Van Daele – Yes

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**Agenda Item: Public Comments** 

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Board Chair Tiffany opened the floor to public comments, giving ten minutes to speak.

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Loren Karro – Registered Guide GUIR941

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meetings. Ms. Karro would like to address fieldcraft standards that Mel proposed. Many years ago, Mel suggested after some tents were tied to his cabins, and the board passed a two-mile buffer just for unit 9. However, what happened after that was – a cabin was built that could have conceivably been within two miles of someone's long-standing land-use agreement with the state, meaning they were permanent by DNR and would have to be vacated. That was changed and taken out, with Mel's agreement that would not work because people could build a cabin, and not only could no one else put a camp there, but existing long-standing LAS's would be defunct. If someone wants to build a cabin, DNR will send out a notice of the request for permission to build to anyone that has a nearby LAS, to the village, and to the native corporations – but they have never denied one unless it's something that's already been identified by board of game as critical habitat. DNR could say it doesn't matter who has a 20year LAS and has been operating for 20 years there – they would have to go on. Before 2010 they were told it was illegal. When they were discussing these, they talked about putting it everywhere, but different areas required different separations – for instance, a 2 or 5-mile separation on a mountain may not only not be necessary; it's not even conceivable. Each area is quite a bit different. The restriction only applies to put in camps – they can still come up and hunt next to the cabin, but they couldn't put a camp there. She understands Mel's problem and

is willing to work on that sort of thing. She just wanted to put the history out there and why it

Ms. Karro thanked the board for their work, time, and effort. She will miss Dawn at the board

wasn't applied across the board. She also wanted to bring up testing — every year, the written RGO exam has to be reviewed very slightly. She will ask the Board of Game if they have any easy ways around those changes. We have to look for any changes to the Board of Game Regulations and Big Game Commercial Services Board Regulation. If there's anything on the test regarding the change of regulation, they have to change the question or add questions. Her original idea with the committee with the test was to change the questions a little every year. There was only supposed to be 124 questions, with questions rotated in and out. With Regulations, this is necessary, and she does not mind doing it because it wouldn't take her very long.

Board Chair Tiffany thanked Ms. Karro for all her work on the exam, the background clarification on the 2-mile and 5-mile perimeter, and for all the time she's put in being a participant at the board meetings.

Ms. Hannasch informed the board that the Regulations Specialist sent a FAQ Worksheet that the board will need to fill out for every regulation just put forward to him.

In accordance with the provisions of Alaska Statute 44.62.310(c), I, Larry Van Daele, seconded by Cash Joyce, with unanimous consent, move to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the decision of the judicatory proceeding, in the matter of Stephen Hicks, agency number 2017001107 and 201800018. The Office of Administrative Hearings case # 18-0539-GUI. The parties, their attorneys, and all members of the public will be excluded from this deliberative session. The Administrative Law Judge will be invited to remain with the board during the deliberative session.

Executive Session 3:35 - 4:08

In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Cash Joyce, with unanimous consent, the board moves to adopt the decision of the ALJ as modified under 44.64.060(e)(3). The modification to make this a permanent revocation per statue and regulations 08.54.710(c)(1).

> Jason Bunch – Yes Cash Joyce – Yes Michelle Heun – Yes Henry Tiffany – Yes Larry Van Daele – Yes

 Board Chair Tiffany expressed his concerns that this particular case is egregious. There were many violations, and the State and ALJ have made a strong case, and he will certainly support the recommendation of the ALJ with the amended language that this is to include a permanent revocation.

There was a lot of thought put into this particular record and decision and looked at by many different angles. It's been investigated by the State Troopers as well. This issue needs to be addressed to keep the industry professional and safe.

Mr. Bunch stated that he would vote in favor. When registered guides fail to exercise the standard of care, it reflects poorly on and can negatively impact the profession as a whole. Additionally, because the work of guides is necessarily carried out in remote areas where oversight is minimal, licensee integrity and honesty are paramount to the efficient regulation of the industry. When licensed guides act in a manner that causes their honesty into question, violating hunting laws and engaging in a way to disguise their illegal activities, they impair the trust that is necessary to the regulation of the industry.

In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Cash Joyce, with unanimous consent, moves to The Big Game Commercial Board moves into deliberative session under AS 44.62.31(d), seconded by Jason Bunch, with unanimous consent, solely to make the decision in the following judicatory proceeding in the matter of Thomas Shankster, agency number 2018000561, Office of Administrative Hearings case number 180734GUI. The parties, their attorneys, and all members of the public will be excluded from this deliberative session. The Administrative Law Judge will be invited to remain with the board during the deliberative session.

Executive Session: 4:13 - 5:22

In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Cash Joyce, with a roll call vote, in regard to the case of Mr. Shankster, with regard to the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge, Alaska Statutes 08.605(a)(a)(1), Alaska Statute 08.710(c)(1), Alaska Statute 08.710(a)(1), he recommends that a fine of \$20,000 is imposed with \$10,000 stayed. The stayed portion will be paid if the first \$10,000 is not paid by January 2025. He also recommends that there be immediate revocation of the license, and the individual cannot reapply until January 2025. He also recommends a public reprimand.

Jason Bunch – Yes Cash Joyce – Yes Michelle Heun – Yes Henry Tiffany – Yes Larry Van Daele – Yes

Board Chair Tiffany appreciates and supports Judge Lebo's assistance with this case. There is a lot to this case. Fortunately, in this industry, we don't have a lot of cases that are as big or egregious as this, so, there is not a lot of precedence to fall back on to compare to a similar case. Mr. Shankster clearly has a pattern over 14 years, 2002-2016, of violations that definitely justify this immediate revocation of his license. It is within the board's authority under 08.54.710, as mentioned in the motion. Under the circumstance, this is an appropriate action by the board. It should be noted that this is higher, or a more severe action than the division or Administrative Law Judge recommended, but when violations of this nature occur against the resources, which are a public resource, and against many clients and public trust over many years, it justifies this level of action.

Mr. Bunch stated that he would vote in favor of this motion. When registered guides fail to exercise the standard of care, it reflects poorly on and can negatively impact the profession as a whole. Additionally, because the work of guides is necessarily carried out in remote areas where oversight is minimal, licensee honesty and integrity are paramount to the efficient regulation of the industry. When licensed guides act in a manner that causes their honesty into question, violating hunting laws and engaging in a way to disguise their illegal activities, they impair the trust that is necessary to the regulation of the industry.

Mr. Joyce will vote to approve. Obviously, there is a failure. He exhibited a failure to uphold the statutes and regulations set forth.

Ms. Heun will vote in favor of board actions. Clearly, this board needs to continue to uphold the integrity of the industry. The actions committed by this individual, the violations, circumstances clearly

	Alaska Big Game Commercial Services Board April 2, 3 & 4, 2019 – Anchorage Alaska
514 515	support the disciplinary action the board has agreed upon.
516	Mr. Van Daele agrees that this is a serious violation, and they are raising the penalty above what the
517	Administrative Law Judge suggested because there is no precedent. When he wrote his
518	recommendation, he went with the matrix, which is based on precedent. This case will set a precedent
519 520	and can be used in the future. It's not a total revocation for a lifetime for this individual. It allows him to reapply in January 2025, but it is still a fair assessment of the seriousness of this situation and a
521	balanced approach to it.
522	balanced approach to it.
523	Recess: 5:30
524	Necess. 5.50
525	State of Alaska
526	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
527	DIVISION OF CORPORATION, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
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529	BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD
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532	By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.86.030, and in compliance with the provisions of AS44.62
533	Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Big Game Commercial Services Board was held at the Ted Stevens
534	Anchorage International Airport, Tuesday, April 2, 2019 – Thursday, April 4, 2019.
535	
536	The Chair brought the meeting to order at 8:40 am on Wednesday, April 3, 2019
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538	Agenda Item - Roll Call
539	Doord Marchan Drocont Constituting a Occurrent
540 541	Board Members Present Constituting a Quorum:
541 542	Henry Tiffany-Licensed Registered Guide-Board Chair
543	Larry Van Daele-Board of Game Representative
544	Michelle Heun-Licensed Transporter
545	Jason Bunch-Registered Guide Outfitter
546	Cash Joyce – Licensed Transporter
547	
548	Board Members Absent:
549	Nicholas Jackson- Private Land Owner-UNEXCUSED
550	Adam Trombley-Public Member-Vice Chair - UNEXCUSED
551	
552	Staff Members present:
553	Dawn K Hannasch-Records and Licensing Supervisor (RLS)
554	Lee Strout-Investigator

Rebecca Powers- Occupational Licensing Examine via teleconference

**Members of the Public Present:** 

Wayne Kubat Gary Wall

Jeff Burwell

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559

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**12 |** Page

- 561 Dan Montgomery
- 562 Coke Wallace
- 563 Tom Atkins
- 564 Tim Nelson
- 565 Joe Frantz
- 566 Mel Gillis
- 567 Kathy Frederue

568569

#### Agenda Item: Review Agenda:

570 571

The board reviewed the agenda.

572573

#### Agenda Item: Regulations Project:

574 575

- The board reviewed the recommended statute and regulations changes from the public:
- 576 12 AAC 75.460(b)(2) from Mark Enyert
- 577 12 AAC 75.240 from Lance Kronberger
- 578 AS 08.54.720 from Mel Gillis
- 579 Continuing education requirements from Henry Tiffany

580 581

The board chose not to move on any of the recommendations at this time, as they would like to complete the projects that they are currently working on before creating new ones. The board thanked the public for their recommendations.

583 584

582

Master Guide Requirements

585 586

Board member Larry Van Daele provided the board with his research concerning the requirements for a master guide outfitter license. The board will revisit the topic at its December 2019 meeting.

587 588 589

Survivorship

590591592

The board had reviewed the statute & regulations subcommittee recommendations for statute changes concerning survivorship at the January 2019 meeting. Lance Kronberger provided the board with recommendations. The board decided that this is not a topic that they can tackle right now, but will revisit in the future.

593 594 595

Break 9:30 - 9:48

596 597

#### **Agenda Item: Public Comments:**

598 599

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602

Wayne Kubat addressed the board. He commented on the first sunset from 1995-2005, recommended that the board attempt to make the regulations more to that time frame since the legislators placed all regulations into statute when the board sunset, and he encouraged the board to be more like Department of Natural Resources, "making the requirements about keeping licenses in compliance not about catching people doing things wrong."

603 604

#### **Agenda Item: Subcommittee Reports:**

605 606 607

• Examination re-write – Jason Bunch informed the board that his goal is to begin updating the 26

GMU exams in the next year. The RGO written exam could also use a brief update now that it has been used a few times.

- Supervision Jason Bunch presented the supervision flow chart
- Transporter The committee is working on a proposal to the board on creating a new class of transporter license. Board member Cash Joyce stated that the Federal FAA laws trump state laws and requested that staff add the information for part 91 to the website.

The other subcommittees had nothing to report.

Felons and Firearms – tabled until July 2019

**Lunch break 12:00 – 1:20** 

- Agenda Item: Old Business:
  - UVC Jason Bunch and Dawn Hannasch stated that this is a work in progress. The board will revisit at its July 2019 meeting.
  - Wildlife videos as part of sanctions the board will revisit this topic at a later date.

#### **Agenda Item: New Business:**

 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulations change – The board reviewed the submitted changes to the DNR regulations. There were no changes that would affect the board or its licensees.

• Position Statement - Guide Licenses Can Only Be Held By A Natural Person – the board reviewed the drafted position statement. The approved statement will be placed on the board website.

In a motion duly made by Larry Van Daele, seconded by Jason Bunch, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to adopt the drafted position statement on a natural person holding a license, as written.

Jason Bunch – Yes Cash Joyce – Yes Michelle Heun – Yes Henry Tiffany – Yes Larry Van Daele – Yes

• Annual Report – the board reviewed the drafted 2019 annual report.

In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to adopt the drafted 2019 Annual Report as written.

Jason Bunch – Yes
Cash Joyce – Yes
Michelle Heun – Yes
Henry Tiffany – Yes
Larry Van Daele – Yes

#### **Agenda Item: Public Comments:**

Coke Wallace – Mr. Wallace explained to the board and the public that he received a "Non-disciplinary Letter of Advisement" for the division on February 12, 2019. Mr. Wallace gave his opinion on the situation and believed that DNR is harassing him. He also stated that DNR should not be in charge of the concession program.

#### Agenda Item: Investigations & RLS delegation

Investigator Lee Strout presented the board with the investigative report for November 27, 2018

 March 28, 2019. Investigator Strout opened 60 matters and closed 39. Currently, there are 44 individuals on probation. Nine are on "hold," and six are in the process of being released due to completion.

 • Investigator Strout and Board Investigator Robert Auth explained to the board what a "Non-disciplinary Letter of Advisement" is. The letter is only information to the licensee and does not go into their file.

#### Break 3:42 - 4:00

Once the board came back from a brief break, RLS, Dawn Hannasch explained to the board, that the way their regulations are written, if there is a "yes" answer or a non-disclosure in an initial or renewal application, the board has to review and either approve or deny the license. Ms. Hannasch recommended that the board consider allowing the division to review the application, and if no further need for investigations is required per the division's policy and procedural manual #28, the Records and Licensing Supervisor can approve the license issuance. Allowing the RLS to do this will lessen the files that the board has to review, get individuals to work faster, and allow staff to continue with processing.

In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Larry Van Daele, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to allow the division to review the application, and if no further need for investigations is required per the division's policy and procedural manual #28, the Records and Licensing Supervisor can approve the license issuance.

Jason Bunch – Yes Cash Joyce – Yes Michelle Heun – Yes Henry Tiffany – Yes Larry Van Daele – Yes

Investigator Lee Strout and RLS Dawn Hannasch presented the board with applications and other investigative material for their consideration.

In accordance with the provisions of Alaska Statute 44.62.310(c), I, Larry Van Daele, seconded by Michelle Heun, with unanimous consent, move to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing (2) subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion, with board staff to be present.

Alaska Big Game Commercial Services Board
April 2, 3 & 4, 2019 – Anchorage Alaska

Cliff Larson

702	Executive Session 4:00 – 5:46
703	Over the board over head a statile are all Parad Challettees. Tiffice the callettee in Pill 07.
704	Once the board went back onto the record, Board Chair Henry Tiffany brought up House Bill 87.
705	After a vigorous discussion, the board requested that Board Chair Tiffany draft a letter of opposition to
706	Representative Tuck. Board member Larry Van Daele requested to be excused from the conversation
707	since HB87 directly affects the Alaska Board of Game, which he is also a member. Chair Tiffany approved
708	the recusal of member Van Daele.
709	
710	Recess at 5:55
711	
712	State of Alaska
713	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
714	DIVISION OF CORPORATION, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
715	
716	BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD
717	Minutes of the meetings from Tuesday, April 2, 2019 – Thursday, April 4, 2019
718	
719	By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.86.030, and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62,
720	Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Big Game Commercial Services Board was held at the Ted Stevens
721	Anchorage International Airport, Tuesday, April 2, 2019 – Thursday, April 4, 2019.
722	
723	The Chair brought the meeting to order at 8:37 am Thursday, April 4, 2019
724	
725	Agenda Item - Roll Call
726	
727	Board Members Present Constituting a Quorum:
728	
729	Henry Tiffany-Licensed Registered Guide-Board Chair
730	Larry Van Daele-Board of Game Representative
731	Michelle Heun-Licensed Transporter
732	Jason Bunch-Registered Guide Outfitter
733	Cash Joyce – Licensed Transporter
734	,
735	Board Members Absent:
736	Nicholas Jackson- Private Land Owner-UNEXCUSED
737	Adam Trombley-Public Member-Vice Chair –UNEXCUSED
738	
739	Staff Members present:
740	Dawn K Hannasch-Records and Licensing Supervisor (RLS)
741	Lee Strout-Investigator
742	Rebecca Powers- Occupational Licensing Examine via teleconference
	Repecca Powers- Occupational Licensing Examine via teleconference
743	Manushava of the Dublic Duccourt.
744	Members of the Public Present:
745	John D. Wilson
746	Jusdi Doucet
747	Britt Williams

- 749 David Griffin
- 750 Loren Karro
- 751 Dan Montgomery
- 752 Tony Kavaluk
- 753 Gary Wall
- 754 Dan Montgomery
- 755 Jeff Burenezy
- 756 Jim Christy
- 757 Coke Wallace
- 758 Mel Gillis
- 759 Tim Nelson
- 760 Tom Atkins

761 762

#### **Agenda Item: Review the Agenda:**

763 764

The board reviewed the approved agenda.

765 766

#### **Letter of opposition to House Bill 87:**

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Chair Tiffany presented the board with the drafted letter of opposition to Rep. Tuck on behalf of the board.

769 770 771

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In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to accept the letter of opposition to HB87 as drafted by Chair Henry Tiffany and have staff forward it as required.

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Jason Bunch – Yes
Cash Joyce – Yes
Michelle Heun – Yes
Henry Tiffany – Yes
Larry Van Daele – RECUSED

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"The Big Game Commercial Services Board unanimously voted to oppose SB 87, which is identical to HB 137. The Board feels strongly that such a bill, which sets new restrictions on nonresident hunters, should first be recommended by the Board of Game and the advisory committees, allowing for open democratic process and public input. The Board of Game is the regulatory authority that passes regulations to conserve and develop Alaska's wildlife resources. If there is a need to restrict a hunt for conservation purposes, then that decision should remain with the Board of Game. The Big Game Commercial Services Board sees HB 137 setting limits in law and preventing the Board of Game from acting in its authorized capacity on this issue. This is clearly the purview of the State of Alaska Board of Game and not the Legislatures, and so we, the State of Alaska Big Game Commercial Services Board, strongly oppose HB 137. I would also like to add that Mr. Larry Van Daele recused himself from the HB 87 vote since he is the Board of Game representative on the Big Game Commercial Services Board."

791 792

#### **Agenda Item: Investigative Outcomes - On the Record:**

793 794 795

Chair Tiffany requested that the board direct its attention to the investigative matter that they reviewed

796 the previous day. 797 798 In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, it was 799 resolved to approve the registered guide outfitters license application for Bradford Burns. 800 801 Jason Bunch – Yes 802 Cash Joyce - Yes 803 Michelle Heun – Yes 804 **Henry Tiffany – Yes** Larry Van Daele - Yes 805 806 807 In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Cash Joyce, with a roll call vote, it was 808 resolved to approve the registered guide outfitters license application for Casey Johnson. 809 810 Jason Bunch - Yes 811 Cash Joyce – Yes 812 Michelle Heun – Yes Henry Tiffany - Yes 813 814 Larry Van Daele - Yes 815 816 In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the registered guide outfitters license application for Daniel Ondersma. 817 818 819 Jason Bunch - Yes 820 Cash Joyce – Yes Michelle Heun – Yes 821 822 **Henry Tiffany – Yes** 823 Larry Van Daele - Yes 824 825 In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the registered guide outfitters license application for Johnny Richardson. 826 827 828 Jason Bunch - Yes 829 Cash Joyce - Yes 830 Michelle Heun – Yes 831 Henry Tiffany – Yes 832 Larry Van Daele - Yes 833 834 In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, itwas 835 resolved to approve the transporter license application for Viaggio Charters, LLC. 836 837 Jason Bunch – Yes Cash Joyce - Yes 838 839 Michelle Heun – Yes 840 **Henry Tiffany – Yes** 841 Larry Van Daele - Yes 842 In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, it was 843 resolved to approve the assistant guide license application for Mark Schwartzes. 844 845 Jason Bunch – Yes 846 Cash Joyce - Yes 847 Michelle Heun – Yes 848 **Henry Tiffany – Yes** Larry Van Daele - Yes 849 850 In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, it was 851 resolved to approve the assistant guide license application for Kristopher Richard. 852 853 854 Jason Bunch – Yes 855 Cash Joyce – Yes 856 Michelle Heun – Yes **Henry Tiffany – Yes** 857 Larry Van Daele - Yes 858 859 860 In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the assistant guide license application for Drake Williams. 861 862 Jason Bunch - Yes 863 864 Cash Joyce – Yes 865 Michelle Heun – Yes 866 **Henry Tiffany – Yes** 867 Larry Van Daele – Yes 868 869 In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to approve the master guide outfitter license application for Luke Randall. 870 871 872 Jason Bunch - Yes 873 Cash Joyce – Yes 874 Michelle Heun – Yes 875 **Henry Tiffany – Yes** 876 Larry Van Daele - Yes 877 878 In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, it was 879 resolved to approve the assistant guide license application for Mark Schwartzes. 880 Jason Bunch - Yes 881 882 Cash Joyce – Yes 883 Michelle Heun – Yes 884 Henry Tiffany - Yes Larry Van Daele - Yes 885 886 887 In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to adopt the consent agreement for case #2015-001267, for George R Jobe. 888 889 890 Jason Bunch - Yes

891	Cash Joyce – Yes
892	Michelle Heun – Yes
893	Henry Tiffany – Yes
894	Larry Van Daele – Yes
895	Larry vari bacic 163
896	In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Cash Joyce, with a roll call vote, it was
897	resolved to adopt the consent agreement for case #2019-000068, for Scott Newman.
898	resolved to adopt the consent agreement for case #2019-000008, for Scott Newman.
899	Jason Bunch – Yes
900	Cash Joyce – Yes
901	Michelle Heun – Yes
902	Henry Tiffany – Yes
903	Larry Van Daele – Yes
904	Larry vari Dacie – res
905	In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Cash Joyce, with a roll call vote, it was
906	resolved to adopt the consent agreement for case #2016-001162, for Michael W Renfro.
907	resolved to adopt the consent agreement for case #2010-001102, for whichaer w kenno.
908	Jason Bunch – Yes
909	Cash Joyce – Yes
910	Michelle Heun – Yes
911	Henry Tiffany – Yes
912	Larry Van Daele – Yes
913	Larry vari Daele – res
914	In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Michelle Heun, with a roll call vote, it was
915	resolved to adopt the consent agreement for case #2018-001427, for Tracy B Vrem.
916	resolved to adopt the consent agreement for case #2010-001427, for fracy b vient.
917	Jason Bunch – Yes
918	Cash Joyce – Yes
919	Michelle Heun – Yes
920	Henry Tiffany – Yes
921	Larry Van Daele – Yes
922	
923	In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Cash Joyce, with a roll call vote, it was
924	resolved to adopt the consent agreement for case #2018-001339, for Joe Shuster.
925	,
926	Jason Bunch – Yes
927	Cash Joyce – Yes
928	Michelle Heun – Yes
929	Henry Tiffany – Yes
930	Larry Van Daele – Yes
931	
932	In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Cash Joyce, with a roll call vote, it was
933	resolved to adopt the consent agreement for case #2019-000046, for Tony Dingess.
934	
935	Jason Bunch – Yes
936	Cash Joyce – Yes
937	Michelle Heun – Yes
938	Henry Tiffany – Yes

939 Larry Van Daele – Yes

In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Cash Joyce, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to accept the license surrender from Dale L Lackner, case #2017-000921.

 Jason Bunch – Yes Cash Joyce – Yes Michelle Heun – Yes Henry Tiffany – Yes Larry Van Daele – Yes

In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Cash Joyce, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to accept the license surrender from Casey Richardson, case #2017-000920.

Jason Bunch – Yes Cash Joyce – Yes Michelle Heun – Yes Henry Tiffany – Yes Larry Van Daele – Yes

In accordance with the provisions of Alaska Statute 44.62.310(c), I, Larry Van Daele, seconded by Jason Bunch, with unanimous consent, move to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the decision of the judicatory proceeding, in the matter of Jim West, agency number 2013-000923. The parties, their attorneys, and all members of the public will be excluded from this deliberative session. The Administrative Law Judge will be invited to remain with the board during the deliberative session.

Executive Session 9:15 - 9:30

In a motion duly made by Jason Bunch, seconded by Cash Joyce, with a roll call vote, it was resolved to adopt the consent agreement for Jim West, case #2013-000923.

Jason Bunch – Yes Cash Joyce – Yes Michelle Heun – Yes Henry Tiffany – Yes Larry Van Daele – Yes

## **Agenda Item: State & Federal Agency Updates:**

 Department of Fish & Game – Tony Kavalock and Larry Van Daele presented for DFG; they thanked
the board for their work and for partnering with the DFG. They have seen a small reduction in
spending but nothing on the wildlife side.

• Department of Natural Resources, South-Central Regional Land Office - Cliff Larsen presented an update to the board regarding their regulations. The board had reviewed the changes at their meeting yesterday.

	, , ,
986	
987	<ul> <li>Mental Health Trust - David Griffin presented information that their organization has received a</li> </ul>
988	lot of inquirers about opening lands for hunting. He also stated that his organization would like
989	to help the board with the updating of their maps.
990	
991	Agenda Item: Legislation Update:
992	
993	The board reviewed the position statements and letters of opposition for HB19, SB18, and SB87. Staff
994	will post on the board's website for the public.
995	
996	Lunch 12:00 – 1:24
997	
998	Agenda Item: Public Comments:
999	
1000	Dan Montgomery Loren Karro provided public comments to the board.
1001	
1002	Agenda Item: State & Federal Agency Updates:
1003	
1004	<ul> <li>Alaska Wildlife Troopers – Major Chastain presented updates for his organization. Staffing was</li> </ul>
1005	highlighted.
1006	
1007	Agenda Item: Administrative Business:
1008	
1009	The board planned the meetings and exams for 2020:
1010	NA l. 47, 40, 0, 40, 2020
1011	March 17, 18, & 19, 2020
1012	Possibly, Fairbanks – the board needs to send staff justifications for meeting in Fairbanks so that staff
1013	can provide the information to the Division in the travel justification.
1014 1015	December 1, 2, & 3, 2020 in Anchorage
1015	December 1, 2, & 3, 2020 in Anchorage
1017	Agenda Item: Correspondence:
1018	Agenda tem. correspondence.
1019	The board reviewed the correspondence provided by staff in the packet. No action was needed.
1020	The bound reviewed the correspondence provided by stair in the pastical no detion was needed.
1021	Agenda Item: Application Question #1:
1022	
1023	The board worked on drafting a new question for the application. They believe that the current
1024	questions are ambiguous and difficult for applicant to understand. They will provide staff with a copy to
1025	pass along to the board's attorney for review and recommendations.
1026	
1027	The draft reads:
1028	
1029	Question #1: Have you ever been convicted of a felony/misdemeanor or are you currently charged with
1030	a felony/misdemeanor?

#### April 2, 3 & 4, 2019 - Anchorage Alaska 1032 Including, but not limited to 1033 1.any military offenses 1034 2.any drug or alcohol-related offenses 1035 3.domestic violence 1036 4. any fire-arm related offenses 1037 1038 "convicted" mean 1039 1. found guilty by a judge or jury 1040 2.enter a plea of "guilty" or "no contest" 1041

Alaska Big Game Commercial Services Board

1042

Questions #2: Have you ever been fined for any fishing, hunting or guide related incident in the past 10 years?

1043 1044 1045

The board requested that staff send the drafted language onto the DOL for suggestions.

1046 1047

Hearing nothing further, Board Chair Henry Tiffany adjourned the meeting at 3:07

1048 1049

Respectfully submitted,

1050 1051 1052

1053 1054 Dawn K Hannasch

1055 Records and Licensing Supervisor

1056 1057

1058 1059

1060 Henry Tiffany 1061 1062

**Board Chair** 

June 8, 2021

Date