

1 State of Alaska  
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
3 DIVISION OF CORPORATION, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING  
4

5 BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
6 Minutes of the meeting on March 30, 2020  
7

8 By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.86.030, and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62,  
9 Article 6, a special meeting of the Big Game Commercial Services Board was held via teleconferencing  
10 March 30, 2020; originating from Juneau.

11  
12 **The Chair brought the meeting to order at 11:32 am**

13  
14 **Board Members Present Constituting a Quorum:**

15 Henry Tiffany - Licenses Registered Guide-Board Chair  
16 Larry Van Daele - Board of Game Representative  
17 Pete Buist - Public Member  
18 Jason Bunch - Registered Guide Outfitter  
19 Michelle Heun - Licensed Transporter  
20 Adam Trombley – Public Member  
21

22 **Board Members Absent:**

23 Nicholas Jackson- Private Land Owner ***UNEXCUSED***  
24

25 **Staff Members present:**

26 Renee Hoffard – Executive Administrator  
27 Jean Bennett – Licensing Examiner  
28

29 **Public in attendance:**

30 15 members of the public called into the meeting. As no oral comments were scheduled for this  
31 meeting, the attendees were not asked to identify themselves.  
32

33 **Agenda Item:**

34 This meeting was called to discuss and determine policy regarding GUA registration and the associated  
35 fees during the current COVID-19 pandemic in response to inquiries from license holders.  
36

37 The board had 2 questions to consider.

- 38 1. Can the \$300 annual filing fee be waived for 2020 if associated hunts are affected by COVID-19?
- 39 2. Can guide use area registrations and/or fees be waived for spring hunts that may be affected by  
40 COVID-19?  
41

42 The board had requested written comments be submitted to Ms. Hoffard prior to the board meeting.  
43 The board received 1 comment provided by Mr. Richard Rohr, Master Guide GUIM69. Mr. Rohr was in  
44 favor of leaving the current fees in place.  
45

46 Chair Tiffany asked the board to consider the questions under the presumption that the spring seasons  
47 would be closed due to the current situation.  
48

49 The board discussed the various pros and cons for waiving either of the fees. It was determined that  
50 many of the guides would have already submitted guide use area registrations and the associated fees.  
51 Unfortunately, by following the statutes for guide use area registrations there is not allowance for  
52 waiving the fees. The guide licensing program has been in a deficit for the past several years and a  
53 waiver of the fees would result in a loss of approximately \$225,000. Any typical year can see a number  
54 of factors that would result in a guide not being able to work in an area that they had already registered  
55 in. The board felt that they did not have the authority to waive statutes, that authority most likely  
56 would fall to the governor.

57  
58 It was pointed out that in the past many guides have submitted the annual filing fee at the time of  
59 submitting complete hunt records and/or requesting additional records. Ms. Hoffard stated that the  
60 division would not be enforcing the March 31 due date for the filing fee. Should guides submit records  
61 for processing, the division will request the fee at that time if it has not already been received.

62  
63 Larry Van Deale informed the board that Board of Game is considering options for the spring bear hunts,  
64 the Board of Game will be holding a special meeting in April to make a decision on those topics.

65  
66 Chair Tiffany thanked the board for meeting to discuss these issues and respectfully requested they  
67 make themselves available should future special meetings be called due to the impact of the COVID-19  
68 pandemic on the guide industry.

69  
70 Having completed the discussion before the board, Chair Tiffany adjourned the meeting.

71  
72 *Off record at 12:03 pm.*

73  
74  
75 Respectfully Submitted,

76 *Fannie Renee Hoffard*  
77 \_\_\_\_\_  
78 Renee Hoffard  
79 Executive Administrator

11/30/2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

80  
81  
82 \_\_\_\_\_  
83 Henry Tiffany  
84 Board Chair

11/30/2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date