

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 March 23-25, 2021  
7

8 By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.86.030, and in compliance with the provisions of  
9 AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Big Game Commercial Services Board originated  
10 from Anchorage at 550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, March 23-25, 2021; this meeting was held via Zoom.  
11

12 Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
13

14 **The Chair brought the meeting to order at 9:04 am**  
15

16 **Board Members Present Constituting a Quorum:**

17 Jason Bunch - Licensed Registered Guide-Board Chair  
18 Jerry Burnett - Board of Game Representative  
19 Martin Boniek - Licensed Transporter  
20 Pete Buist - Public Member  
21 Aaron Bloomquist - Registered Guide Outfitter  
22 Adam Trombley – Public Member  
23 Mike Flores – Licensed Transporter  
24 Ely Cyrus – Private Landowner  
25

26 **Staff Members present:**

27 Renee Hoffard – Executive Administrator  
28 Thomas Bay – Licensing Examiner  
29 Lee Strout – Investigator  
30 Jared Famularo – Investigator, Probation monitor  
31 Melissa Dumas – Administrative Officer  
32

33 **Members of the Public Present over the 3-day meeting included:**

34 Mark Richards - Executive Director, Resident Hunters of Alaska  
35 Sam Rohrer – President, Alaska Professional Hunters Association  
36 Thor Stacey – Alaska Professional Hunters Association  
37 Michelle Heun  
38 Dick Rohrer  
39 Joe Klutsch  
40 Kurt Whitehead  
41 George Siavelis  
42 Mike Zweng  
43 Alisha Decker  
44 Zach Decker  
45 Cabot Pitts  
46 Gary “Butch” King

47 Mark Rownhorst  
48 Chris Zwolinski  
49 Wayne Kubat  
50 Paul Chervenak  
51 Jerry Cates  
52 Dan Montgomery  
53 Al Barrette  
54 Pete Barela  
55 Jeremy Ruesink  
56 Mark Bell  
57 Dave Morris  
58 Tony Lee  
59 Loren Karro  
60 Pete Mueller  
61 James Smith  
62 Anna Deal  
63 Jim Jansen  
64 Henry Tiffany  
65 Johnny Richardson  
66 Chad Reel

67  
68 Chair Bunch welcomed new board members:  
69 Aaron Bloomquist, Registered Guide-Outfitter GUIR1259  
70 Martin Boniek, License Transporter GUIT862  
71 Ely Cyrus, Private Landholders/Restricted  
72 Jerry Burnett, Designated Board of Game Representative/Restricted

73  
74 **Agenda Item - Review Agenda:**

75 The board reviewed the agenda that was approved by Board Chair Jason Bunch.

76  
77 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous  
78 consent, it was resolved to adopt the daily agenda as written.**

79  
80 **Agenda Item - Ethics Disclosures:**

81 The board members had no ethics disclosures.

82  
83 **Agenda Item - Review Meeting Minutes:**

84 The board reviewed draft meeting minutes for the November 30 – December 2, 2020 meeting  
85 held by the board which was held via Zoom in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Hoffard  
86 informed the board that there was 1 correction to be noted in the draft before them; the draft  
87 references the “Castle” case which should be the “Cassell” case.

88  
89 **In a motion duly made by Adam Trombley, seconded by Ely Cyrus with unanimous consent,  
90 it was resolved to approve the November 30 -December 2, 2020 meeting minutes as  
91 amended.**

92

93 **Agenda Item - Annual Report:**

94 The board discussed the annual report as required yearly. The report reflects the work  
95 completed by the board over the past year as well as setting goals and objectives for the  
96 coming fiscal year. Any potential expenditures should also be noted in the annual report such  
97 as travel. Chair Bunch proposed adding an expenditure of up to \$6000 per fiscal year for travel  
98 for the investigator, Lee Strout, to complete in the field travel with applicable state agencies  
99 such as the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. Investigator Strout is to report on the field travel during  
100 the board's annual meeting held in November/December. The board also anticipates holding  
101 face-to-face meeting in fiscal year 2022; the winter meeting in Anchorage and spring meeting  
102 to be held in Fairbanks.

103  
104 Chair Bunch will draft the narrative statement. Mr. Bloomquist and Chair Bunch will draft goals  
105 and objectives based on the guides; Mr. Flores and Mr. Boniek will draft goals and objectives  
106 based on transporters. The drafts will be combined by Ms. Hoffard and submitted to the board  
107 via OnBoard for voting prior to the division deadline.

108  
109 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Pete Buist with unanimous**  
110 **consent, it was resolved to adopt the budget proposals as outlined for the Fiscal Year 2022**  
111 **annual report. Investigative Travel; 2 trips not to exceed \$6,000 per fiscal year. Winter**  
112 **meeting, Anchorage. Spring meeting, Fairbanks.**

113  
114 *Break at 9:46 am*

115 *Return at 10:17 am*

116

117 **Agenda Item - Public Comment:**

118 Michelle Heun, License Transporter GUIT1063. Welcomed new board members. She would  
119 like the board to recommend reducing the annual filing fee to \$150 or \$200. Has a regulations  
120 proposal before the board for discussion 3/24/2021.

121

122 Dick Rohrer, Master Guide GUIM69. Welcomed new board members and spoke to program  
123 finances. He believes there is an error in the fee analysis for the annual filing fee and projected  
124 revenue will actually be a great deal lower than estimated. He recommends the division take a  
125 closer look and not reduce the fee at this time.

126

127 Sam Rohrer, Master Guide GUIM204. President, Alaska Professional Hunters Association.  
128 Welcomed new board members and thanked the board for ongoing support.

129

130 Kurt Whitehead, Master Guide GUIM211. Has concerns that there may be enforcement issues  
131 with Ms. Heun's proposal to amend 12 AAC 75.450(b)(13).

132

133 Chair Bunch closed public comment.

134

135 *Break at 10:46 am*

136 *Return at 10:55 am*

137

138 **Agenda Item - Division Update/Fiscal Report:**

139 Administrative officer Melissa Dumas joined the meeting to provide the division update and  
140 review the fee analysis in advance of upcoming renewal. Mrs. Dumas reviewed the Fiscal Year  
141 2021 2nd quarter fiscal report. The program has received \$175,685 in revenue for FY2021.  
142 Investigations expenditures so far for this year were \$73, 244 and non-investigative  
143 expenditures were \$65,434 for a total of \$211,193 in expenditures. Therefore, the program  
144 ended the quarter with a surplus of \$334, 726. Fiscal year 2021 is a non-renewal year and the  
145 surplus will be used to cover the expenditures of the program through the renewals in Fiscal  
146 year 2022.

147  
148 Mrs. Dumas reviewed the fee analysis with the board and Mr. Rohrer's previous comment  
149 regarding the annual filing fee was brought to her attention. The board discussed the various  
150 fees associated with the program. Staff had suggested that the fee for the game management  
151 unit exams be reduced to be more reflective of the time and effort administering the exam  
152 takes. The board expressed concerns of the division reducing fees too soon when they may not  
153 have a clear picture of what expenses may be. At this time the two licensing staff members  
154 they have are not fully charging time to the Big Game Commercial Services program and there  
155 are a variety of factors that will impact the current budget of the program.

156  
157 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Pete Buist with unanimous**  
158 **consent, it was resolved to recommend to the division and Director Chambers that the only**  
159 **fee adjustment for the Big Game Commercial Services Board be a reduction in the fee for the**  
160 **Game Management Unit examination/reexamination fee. The suggested reduction is 50 %,**  
161 **making the proposed fee \$200 per examination.**

162  
163 The board thanked Mrs. Dumas for joining them to discuss the fiscal report and fee analysis.

164  
165 ***Break for lunch at 11:46 am; return to record at 1:30 pm***

166  
167 **Agenda Item - Public Comment:**  
168 Kurt Whitehead, Master Guide GUIM211. Opposed to L. Kronberger's proposal to amend 12  
169 AAC 75.240, doesn't feel the requirements should be reduced. Supports more education and  
170 more discipline.

171  
172 Aaron Frenzel, Captain Alaska Wildlife Troopers. Spoke to Ms. Heun's proposal to amend 12  
173 AAC 75.450(b)(13). Persons are exempt from licensing if providing accommodations at a  
174 permanent structure on property they own; however, accommodations has never been defined  
175 and the board may want to consider what accommodations is. Issues may occur when items  
176 provided at the permanent structure are then taken into the field crossing the lines from what  
177 is allowed for transporters into what is allowed for guides. There may also be variances for  
178 marine transporters.

179  
180 Mark Richards, Executive Director - Resident Hunters of Alaska. Wanted to make a brief  
181 comment in regard to the issue of game processing equipment. Following Nov/Dec meeting  
182 contacted several transporters and let the know of the discussion regarding legality of vacuum  
183 sealers; recommended they remove them from their websites and stop offering that service.

184

185 Wayne Kubat, Master Guide GUIM147. Believes Mr. Kronberger’s proposal is already allowed  
186 under current statutes and regulations Class-A assistant guides.

187  
188 Chair Bunch closed public comment.

189  
190 **Agenda Item - Investigations Unit:**

191 Probation Monitor Jared Famularo provided the probation report. At the time of the report  
192 there were 23 licenses holders on probation, 20 of whom were in compliance. Since November  
193 12, 2020, 4 license holders were released from probation. Mr. Famularo explained some of the  
194 measures taken to reach the individuals not in compliance with their probation; board members  
195 asked if the division would accept 3<sup>rd</sup> party request for contacts as some in attendance at the  
196 meeting may be able to contact those individuals. Mr. Famularo stated that at this time the  
197 division would certainly be interested in pursuing any viable method of establishing contact.

198  
199 Investigator Strout provided his investigative report for the time period of November 25, 2020  
200 through March 11, 2021. The report reflected 38 open cases and 18 closed cases.

201  
202 Chair Bunch announced that the board will be entering executive session to discuss  
203 investigative issues and the board will not return to the record for board business for the  
204 remainder of the day. The meeting will call to order again at 9:00 am, March 24, 2021.

205  
206 **In accordance with the provisions of Alaska Statute 44.62.310(c), I, Mike Flores move to go**  
207 **into executive session for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the**  
208 **reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.**  
209 **Board staff to remain for the session. Ely Cyrus seconded the motion. Motion passed via**  
210 **unanimous consent.**

211  
212 **Off record at 2:18 pm**  
213 **Return to record 5:09 pm**

214  
215 **For the record:** Aaron Bloomquist was excused from executive session by Chair Bunch at 4:49  
216 pm before board discussion of case numbers 2020-000906 and 2020-000899.

217  
218 Chair Bunch called recess until 9:00 am March 24.

219  
220 Off record at 5:11 pm.

221 **Wednesday, March 24, 2021**

222  
223 The Chair brought the meeting to order at 9:03 am

224  
225 **Board Members Present Constituting a Quorum:**

226 Jason Bunch - Licensed Registered Guide-Board Chair  
227 Jerry Burnett - Board of Game Representative  
228 Martin Boniek - Licensed Transporter  
229 Pete Buist - Public Member  
230 Aaron Bloomquist - Registered Guide Outfitter

231 Mike Flores – Licensed Transporter  
232 Ely Cyrus – Private Landowner

233  
234 **Board Members Absent:**

235 Adam Trombley – Public Member; EXCUSED

236  
237 **Staff Members present:**

238 Renee Hoffard – Executive Administrator  
239 Thomas Bay – Licensing Examiner  
240 Lee Strout – Investigator

241  
242  
243 **Agenda Item - Summary/Motions 3/23/2021 Executive Session:**

244  
245 **On a motion duly made by Pete Buist, seconded by Ely Cyrus, via roll call vote, it was**  
246 **RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2019-000531; providing 17**  
247 **hunts without valid guide use area registrations. Motion passed;**

248

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist	X			
Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			
Ely Cyrus	X			
Adam Trombley				X
Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

249  
250 **On a motion duly made by Pete Buist, seconded by Mike Flores, via roll call vote, it was**  
251 **RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2020-001124; providing 5 hunts**  
252 **without valid guide use area registrations. Motion passed;**

253

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist	X			
Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			
Ely Cyrus	X			
Adam Trombley				X
Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

254  
255 **On a motion duly made by Pete Buist, seconded by Aaron Bloomquist, via roll call vote, it was**  
256 **RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2020-001114; as part of a Rule**  
257 **11 plea respondent was convicted of bear baiting with sport caught fish. Motion passed;**

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist	X			
Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			
Ely Cyrus	X			
Adam Trombley				X
Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

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On a motion duly made by Pete Buist, seconded by Aaron Bloomquist, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2020-000495; providing 2 hunts without valid guide use area registrations. Motion passed;

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist	X			
Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			
Ely Cyrus	X			
Adam Trombley				X
Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

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On a motion duly made by Pete Buist, seconded by Aaron Bloomquist, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2021-000046; 2 counts of violating hunting season and bag limits for goats, Unit 12. Motion passed;

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist	X			
Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			
Ely Cyrus	X			
Adam Trombley				X
Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

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On a motion duly made by made by Pete Buist, seconded by Aaron Bloomquist, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2021-000034; providing 1 hunt without valid guide use area registrations. Motion passed;

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist	X			

Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			
Ely Cyrus	X			
Adam Trombley				X
Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

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On a motion duly made by made by Pete Buist, seconded by Aaron Bloomquist, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2020-001131; harvest of sub-legal moose. Motion passed;

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist	X			
Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			
Ely Cyrus	X			
Adam Trombley				X
Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

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On a motion duly made by made by Pete Buist, seconded by Aaron Bloomquist, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2019-001052; Non-resident youth harvest in a restricted resident only youth hunt. Motion passed;

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist	X			
Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			
Ely Cyrus	X			
Adam Trombley				X
Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

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On a motion duly made by made by Pete Buist, seconded by Mike Flores, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2021-000172; as part of a Rule 11 plea respondent was convicted of transporting/possessing illegally taken game. Motion passed;

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist	X			



Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			
Ely Cyrus	X			
Adam Trombley				X
Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

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On a motion duly made by made by Pete Buist, seconded by Ely Cyrus, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2020-000899; multiple paperwork violations for guide use areas and hunt records. Motion passed;

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist			X	
Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			
Ely Cyrus	X			
Adam Trombley				X
Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

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On a motion duly made by made by Pete Buist, seconded by Aaron Bloomquist, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2019-000946; violation of supervision regulation. Motion passed 6 to 1;

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist		X		
Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			
Ely Cyrus	X			
Adam Trombley				X
Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

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Ms. Hoffard asked the board to hold on any more motions at this time; it is 9:30 and scheduled time for public comment.

**Agenda Item - Public Comment:**

Aaron Frenzel, Captain Alaska Wildlife Troopers – declined to comment at this time.

Lance Kronberger, Master Guide GUIM221. Spoke in support of his proposal to amend 12 AAC 75.240, supervision in efforts to clean up the program regulations. Volunteered to serve on a sub-committee if the board decides to form one to look at this issue.

313 Albert Williams – was not on the line

314

315 Kurt Whitehead – was not on the line

316

317 Mark Richards, Executive Director - Resident Hunters of Alaska. Had previously requested  
318 transporters to be removed from the requirements of the proposed professional development  
319 requirement and would like the transporter sub-committee to take that topic up to further  
320 discuss the issue. Supports Ms. Heun’s proposal to amend 12 AAC 75.450(b)(13).

321

322 Rich Young, Private property owner in support of Mr. Danfords proposal for a regulation for  
323 buffer areas. Stated he has regular conflicts in the fields with local guides and would like to see  
324 the board take action to address this issue.

325

326 Henry Tiffany, Master Guide GUIM144. Not in support of Mr. Petersons proposal to amend 12  
327 AAC 75.460. Appreciates Mr. Danfords position but reminded the board they had been advised  
328 by Department of Law that they do not have the authority to establish buffer areas. Supports  
329 Ms. Heun’s proposal to amend 12 AAC 75.450(b)(13). Feels that Mr. Kronberger’s proposal to  
330 amend 12 AAC 75.240 has merit but recommends the board move it to a sub-committee for  
331 additional review. Fully supports the proposed professional development regulations.

332

333 Dan Montgomery, Master Guide GUIM173. Could support Mr. Peterson’s proposal to amend  
334 12 AAC 75.460; that would be a lot of field experience but would recommend changing it to add  
335 at least one guided hunt to the draft language. Does not support Mr. Danford’s proposal; feels  
336 that 5 square miles is too large of a buffer area. Disagrees with Mr. Kronberger’s proposal as  
337 currently written.

338

339 Zach Decker, Registered Guide GUIR1263. Supports Mr. Peterson’s proposal but it needs to be  
340 modified to include a guided hunt. Feels that Ms. Heun’s proposal covers a grey area in  
341 regulations. Asked the board to look at how buffer areas would affect guides in Southeast  
342 Alaska before considering Mr. Danford’s proposal; 5 square mile buffer areas could potentially  
343 eliminate numerous guiding opportunities in the region. Supports the exam portion of the  
344 proposed professional development regulations but has some issues with the portions for  
345 Master Guides.

346

347 Chair Bunch closed public comment.

348

349 **On a motion duly made by made by Pete Buist, seconded by Mike Flores, via roll call vote, it**  
350 **was RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2020-000906; multiple hunt**  
351 **record violations, contract violations, and two (2) actionable guide use area violations.**

352 **Motion passed;**

353

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist			X	
Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			

<b>Ely Cyrus</b>	X			
<b>Adam Trombley</b>				X
<b>Mike Flores</b>	X			
<b>Jason Bunch, Chair</b>	X			

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*Break at 10:19 am*  
*Return at 10:30 am*

**Agenda Item – Regulations Proposal(s), New proposals:**

The board discussed each of the five proposals before them and considered the comments submitted by the public so far throughout the meeting. Before discussion began, Chair Bunch reminded the board members that no action would be taken on any of the proposals 3/24/2021; there is an agenda items scheduled for 3/25/2021 for that. The intent is to allow for the board to hear any and all oral comments prior to making any decisions to take action on the proposals.

- A. *N. Peterson; Amend 12 AAC 75.460 to add the requirement of having personally harvested a minimum of three (3) for that species.*

Mr. Bloomquist and Mr. Buist brought up points regarding the validity of having the species-specific requirement at all and then focused the discussion on caribou being included in the five species that have additional requirements for registered guides.

- B. *F. Danford; AS 08.54.720 addition of a 5-square mile buffer area/boundary around permanent year around lodgers in Guide Use Area 13-02.*

Chair Bunch reminded the board that per advice from the Department of Law the board does not have the authority to establish regulations regarding property. The board’s authority lies with enforcing the ethical practices of the guides and transporters licensed by the program.

- C. *M. Heun; Amend 12 AAC 75.450(b)(10) and (13). (b)(10) is correction of a typo “filed” should be “field”; (b)(13) removes “game processing”*

Ms. Hoffard informed the board that the proposed amendment for (b)(10) is not needed; the typo is only found in the on-line version of the regulations; division staff will make the necessary correction. The board as a whole supports the intent of the amendment for (b)(13) as it helps prevent potential waste of the animals harvested.

- D. *L. Kronberger; Amend 12 AAC 75.240 to allow a Master Guide to supervise a non-contracting registered guide certified in the game management unit to conduct/guide a hunt from anywhere in the state of Alaska as long as the contracting Master Guide is as follows: in the field conducting hunts in another of his GUA’s and is having daily communication with the non-contracting registered guide who is conducting/quiding the hunt. The non-contracting registered guide must be accompanying and personally quiding the client.*

The board recognizes inconsistency between statutes and regulations regarding supervision and after brief discussion decided this proposal would best be handled in a sub-committee for further scrutiny. The sub-committee will draft additional language and consult with the

395 Department of Law through Ms. Hoffard with results to be provided at the Nov-Dec 2021 board  
396 meeting.

397  
398 *E. Professional Development Sub-Committee; provide a new section of regulation providing*  
399 *for professional development of licensee holders of the program. This amendment was*  
400 *drafted in sub-committee meeting held January-February 2021.*

401 The board held a brief discussion regarding the proposal; they support the draft proposed by  
402 the sub-committee and are interested in what the public has to say about the proposed  
403 language moving forward.

404  
405 ***Break for lunch at 11:28 am; return to record at 1:32 pm***

406  
407 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous**  
408 **consent, it was resolved to amend the draft agenda for March 25, 2021; moving “Regulations**  
409 **Proposals” to 10:15 am in consideration of board member schedules. Sub-committee**  
410 **meetings will be moved to 3:00 pm.**

411  
412 **Agenda Item - Public Comment:**

413 Michelle Heun, License Transporter GUIT1063. Recommended the board seek to amend AS  
414 08.54.591, membership of the board. Historically it has been difficult to fill both private  
415 landholder seats, she recommends the board seek to have that seat changed to either a  
416 licensed Assistant Guide or licensed Class-A Assistant Guide. Assistant and Class-A Assistant  
417 Guides hold the majority of the licenses for the program and should be represented on the  
418 board in her opinion.

419  
420 Ben Gilles, Registered Guide GUIR1293. Supports Mr. Kronberger’s proposal to amend  
421 supervision regulation; also supports the professional development proposal. Was surprised  
422 when reviewing the list of violations and hopes education leads to reduction in fee in the  
423 future.

424  
425 Zach Decker, Registered Guide GUIR1263. Supports Mr. Peterson’s proposal; suggests the  
426 board consider eliminating the random animal selection portion of the practical examination  
427 and upgrade the testing program. Had questions regarding Ms. Heun’s proposal – how would  
428 this differ from fishing regulations regarding mutilating the animal beyond recognition.

429  
430 Kurt Whitehead, Master Guide GUIM211. Not in support of any proposal to loosen the guide  
431 requirements for the industry.

432  
433 Chris Zwolinski, Master Guide GUIM145. Does not agree with removing the species-specific  
434 requirements from regulation.

435  
436 Dick Rohrer, Master Guide GUIM69. Species-specific regulation was adopted in 2006 and was  
437 intended to raise the professionalism of the industry; feels it should be left in place. Cautioned  
438 the board to carefully consider any changes that would require statute changes as that often  
439 leads to unintended consequences.

440

441 Lance Kronberger, Master Guide GUIM221. His proposal to amend supervision regulation is not  
442 intended for a statute change but feels the species-specific regulation is invalid and could go  
443 with supervision. Feels there is some merit for master guides to have special opportunities.  
444

445 George Siavelis, Master Guide GUIM150. Supports the proposal for professional development  
446 and feels it should apply to transporters. Ongoing education could reduce the number of  
447 investigations and ensure everyone knows what is and is not allowed. Sympathizes with Mr.  
448 Danford but feels it isn't realistic to have the 5-mile buffer area based on mining operations and  
449 other permanent structures. Thinks it is a good idea for transporters to be allowed processing  
450 equipment on their boats, private lodges and homes so the clients don't have to bring things  
451 with them to Alaska.  
452

453 Al Barrette, Class-A Assistant Guide GUIC765. Is a Board of Game member but is not  
454 representing the Board of Game at this meeting. Fully supports Ms. Heun's proposal, salvage of  
455 meat is the highest priority. If the proposal doesn't move forward he feels the board should  
456 define what "game processing equipment" is – plastic bags, gloves, aprons, etc. Unless Mr.  
457 Peterson's proposal receives unanimous support is not in favor; not sure all personally  
458 harvested animals grant experience needed for guiding hunts. Not sure if the online exams  
459 found on the Fish and Game website will actually provide education being sought with  
460 professional development proposal but would support if the meeting attendance requirement  
461 could be met via Zoom or teleconference.  
462

463 Ms. Hoffard stated for the record that at a minimum a teleconference line is available at all  
464 board meetings so that members of the public in rural communities can call in to listen to the  
465 meetings; it is the intention of the division to continue that moving forward.  
466

467 Aaron Frenzel, Captain Alaska Wildlife Troopers answered some clarifying questions board  
468 members had regarding game processing and Ms. Heun's proposal to amend 12 AAC  
469 75.450(b)(13).  
470

471 Mark Richards, Executive Director - Resident Hunters of Alaska. Supports Mr. Danford's  
472 proposal as he considers it to be an ethical issue not a property issue. Fully supports Mr.  
473 Heun's proposal and the intent behind it. Supports professional development but does not  
474 think it should apply to air taxi transporters based on the continuing education already required  
475 to maintain their pilots license.  
476

477 Anna Deal; private citizen. Family owns and lives in remote cabin in the western Alaskan range.  
478 Called in to voice support for Mr. Danford's proposal for 5-mile buffer area. Conflicts between  
479 her family and local guides have increased in the past few years and are becoming increasingly  
480 tense. Numerous negative encounters with guides competing for the same animals inside their  
481 own camp. Encounters have ranged from heated verbal altercations to guides driving ATV's  
482 through the camp right next to tents; flying low and circling when on stalks with youths; setting  
483 up many non-permanent structures and then leaving tarps, out-house buckets and garbage  
484 when leaving. Overall, poor stewardship of the land in general.  
485

486 The board strongly encouraged Ms. Deal to contact Investigator Strout and file complaints,  
487 Captain Frenzel also encouraged Ms. Deal to contact her local Wildlife Trooper. Ms. Deal asked  
488 for Inv. Strout's contact information and Ms. Hoffard stated she had emailed that to her.

489  
490 Chair Bunch closed public comment.

491

492 *Break at 2:46 pm*

493 *Return at 3:02 pm*

494

495 **Agenda Item – Education Session; Dick Rohrer:**

496 Dick Rohrer, Master Guide GUIM69 and Chair Bunch presented an education session regarding  
497 guide business administration. The session covered a variety of topics that are supported by  
498 statutes and regulations. They reviewed a checklist of items to be checked yearly for business  
499 preparation and a list of licensing program specific items that guides should routinely check the  
500 status of to ensure compliance. They reviewed definitions in statute that guides need to know  
501 before providing services and spoke to various things that should be noted in contracts. A  
502 sample hunt record was reviewed and sections that are frequently left incomplete were  
503 pointed out. The UVC process was explained as well. Mr. Rohrer recommended guides make a  
504 list of paperwork needed in the field and a list of paperwork to be completed after the hunt.  
505 A list of public meetings that may affect guide business was provided as well as a list of helpful  
506 tips. All information was provided on a power-point presentation which will be posted to the  
507 program website.

508

509 Chair Bunch called recess until 10:00 am March 25.

510

511 Off record at 4:02 pm

512

513 **Thursday, March 25, 2021**

514

515 The Chair brought the meeting to order at 10:02 am

516

517 **Board Members Present Constituting a Quorum:**

518 Jason Bunch - Licensed Registered Guide-Board Chair

519 Jerry Burnett - Board of Game Representative

520 Martin Boniek - Licensed Transporter

521 Pete Buist - Public Member

522 Aaron Bloomquist - Registered Guide Outfitter

523 Mike Flores – Licensed Transporter

524

525 **Board Members Absent:**

526 Adam Trombley – Public Member; EXCUSED

527 Ely Cyrus – Private Landowner; EXCUSED

528

529 **Staff Members present:**

530 Renee Hoffard – Executive Administrator

531 Thomas Bay – Licensing Examiner

532 Lee Strout – Investigator

533

534 **Representative from Federal/State agencies present:**

535 Douglas Vincent-Lang; Commissioner Department of Fish and Game

536 Eddie Grasser, Division Director, Department of Fish and Game

537 Tony Kavalok, Assistant Director Department of Fish and Game

538 Cliff Larson, Natural Resources Manager, Department of Natural Resources

539 Candice Snow, Department of Natural Resources

540 Amber-Lynn Taber, Department of Natural Resources

541 Nikki Potter, Department of Natural Resources

542 John Forbes, Department of Natural Resources

543 Kristen Ulery, Department of Natural Resources

544 Ben Hagedorn, Department of Natural Resources

545 Chandler Long, Trust Resource Manager, Mental Health Land Trust

546 Jusdi Doucet, Deputy Director, Mental Health Land Trust

547 Zach Million, Bureau of Land Management

548 Mabel Kaleak, North Slope Borough

549

550 **Also, present:**

551 Bob Koenitzer, McKinley Research Group, LLC on behalf of APHA

552

553 **Agenda Item – New Business; Potential Regulations projects March 2021 proposals:**

554

555 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores it was proposed start a**  
556 **regulations project by accepting the proposal made by Nathan Peterson to amend 12 AAC**  
557 **75.460(b) to add (3) personally harvested a minimum of three for that species”. The motion**  
558 **was amended by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Jerry Burnett and passed with unanimous**  
559 **consent to start a regulations project by amending 12 AAC 75.460(a) to read “A registered**  
560 **guide-outfitter who was initially licensed on or after July 30, 2006, and who wishes to**  
561 **contract to guide a hunt for sheep, moose, brown bear, or mountain goat, must have the**  
562 **specific species named on the registered guide-outfitter’s license as an authorized species.”;**  
563 **removing “or caribou,” from the regulation.**

564

565 Following previous advice from the Department of Law the board declined to take action on  
566 Mr. Danford’s proposal for a 5-mile boundary/buffer area.

567

568 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores and passed with**  
569 **unanimous consent it was proposed start a regulations project by accepting the proposal**  
570 **made by Michelle Heun to amend 12 AAC 75.450(b)(13) to read: (13) include the following**  
571 **statement: “A licensed transporter may not provide vehicles, fuel, camping, hunting or any**  
572 **hunting services such as skinning, caping, or cleaning of game, glassing, and packing in the**  
573 **field, including from a permanent structure or on a boat on salt water. ”; by removing “game**  
574 **processing equipment”.**

575

576 The board chose to not take action on Lance Kronberger’s proposal to amend 12 AAC 75.240,  
577 Supervision. The proposal was sent to sub-committee for further research.

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In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Pete Buist and passed with unanimous consent it was proposed start a regulations project by accepting the proposal made by the Professional Development sub-committee to create:

**12 AAC 75.150. Professional development for assistant guide, class A assistant guide, registered guide-outfitter, master guide-outfitter, and transporter licensees.**

**(a) For renewal of any class of license, the applicant must complete a refresher examination prepared by the board under AS 08.54.600.**

**(b) An applicant for a registered guide-outfitter license, must provide evidence of attendance to a minimum of three Big Game Commercial Services Board meetings either telephonically, through video conferencing, in person or by another means approved by the board.**

**(c) An applicant for a Master Guide-Outfitter license must provide evidence of attendance to a minimum of five Big Game Commercial Services Board meetings and participation as a proctor in at least three regularly scheduled registered guide oral exam sessions. For this requirement; participation refers to the willingness and availability to participate as attested by the chairperson of the board or a board member delegated with this responsibility.**

**(d) The requirements listed in this section will be documented on a form provided by the department and signed by the chairperson or a delegated board member at the time of completion.**

In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Pete Buist and passed with unanimous consent it was proposed start a regulations project to amend 12 AAC 75.145(b)(2) to read **“(2) limited liability company, proof of either articles of organization or registration in good standing under AS 10.50;”** replacing **“poor”** with **“good”**.

Following a brief discussion, the board requested to hear oral testimony regarding this regulations project as well as the UVC regulations project from the Nov/Dec 2020 meeting at the July teleconference which will be limited to a 1-day meeting.

The board formed the following sub-committees to work on specific topics in advance of the winter 2021 meeting:

Supervision; Chair Aaron Bloomquist

Partnerships/LLC’s; Chair Aaron Bloomquist

*Break at 10:56 am*

*Return at 11:30 am*

**Agenda Item - Public Comment:**

Jim Jansen, Private citizen. In support of Mr. Danford’s proposal for a buffer area. Mr. Jansen and his family own a permanent camp in Unit 19. They have had numerous conflicts which have disrupted hunting experiences and comprised the safety of the family.

The board encouraged Mr. Jansen to file complaints with investigative staff and wildlife troopers in the future.



624

625 Al Barrette, Class-A Assistant Guide GUIC765. Wanted to clarify comments he made 3/24/21;  
626 his personal hunting experiences are not reflective of how he conducts himself in the field as a  
627 Class-A Assistant Guide.

628

629 Wayne Kubat, Master Guide GUIM147. Spoke to some of the changes he has seen in regard to  
630 regulations over his career in the industry; volunteered to serve on the supervision sub-  
631 committee.

632

633 Kurt Whitehead, Master Guide GUIM211. Feels that having clear and concise method of  
634 identifying licensed guides and transporters in the field could aid in resolving some of the  
635 conflicts.

636

637 Dan Montgomery, Master Guide GUIM173. Volunteered for the supervision sub-committee  
638 and feels that the board should move towards requiring assistance guides also have species-  
639 specific licenses.

640

641 Zach Decker, Registered Guide GUIR1263. Feels guides need to do a better job at public  
642 relations and try to work with locals where they intend to be guiding. Volunteered to serve on  
643 sub-committees were needed.

644

645 **Break for lunch at 11:58 am; return to record at 1:01 pm**

646

#### 647 **Agenda Item – APHA Economic Impact Study 2020**

648 Bob Koenitzer of McKinley Research Group, LLC presented a summary of the economic impact  
649 study completed by APHA based on data collected in 2019. The guide industry directly  
650 employed 1,380 people and circulated \$57.4 million in the Alaska economy as labor income and  
651 spending for good and services. Data showed 59% of guide spending occurs in rural areas of  
652 Alaska in the form of wages, air transportation, fuel, food, and supplies. An estimated 223,500  
653 pounds of game meat was shared with Alaskans by guides and guided hunters in 2019; 167,600  
654 pounds shared with rural residents and 55,900 pounds shared with urban residents. The  
655 estimated value of replacing the shared meat with beef is \$2.3 million, that breaks down to  
656 \$1.8 million for rural communities and \$447,000 in urban areas. Recipients include Native  
657 communities, elders, needy families with children, traditional food programs, and those who  
658 enjoy game meat but can no longer hunt. Game meat is nutritionally and culturally rich and is  
659 an important part of many Alaskans' diet. \$9.7 million in total of Alaska Department of Fish and  
660 Game Wildlife Fund revenue was generated by guided and unguided visiting hunter purchases  
661 of licenses and big game tags. In 2019, through fees collected by the Fish and Game Fund,  
662 resident and non-resident hunters provided \$12.8 million (27%) of the ADF&G Division of  
663 Wildlife's \$47.1 million budget. Fish and Game funds are used to leverage Pittman- Robertson  
664 funds which totaled \$20.7 million in 2019. Combined, Fish and Game Fund and Pittman-  
665 Robertson funds generated 71% of Division of Wildlife expenditures in 2019. Nonresidents  
666 spent \$700 on hunting licenses/tags on average, compared with \$35 among Alaska residents.  
667 Guided nonresident hunters generated even more on average, at \$1,237 per hunter.

668

#### 669 **Agenda Item - State and Federal Agency Updates**

670 Alaska Department of Fish & Game (F&G): Commissioner Douglas Vincent-Lang, Director of  
671 Wildlife Conservation Eddie Grasser, and Assistant Director Tony Kavalok a provided an update  
672 from F&G. The department is closely monitoring events as they unfold to anticipate actions by  
673 the new federal administration in regard to gun control. They are evaluating their budget and  
674 working to spend the Pittman-Robertson funds received as those funds can only be used for  
675 certain expenditures. F&G has been working on projects to increase revenue over the past year  
676 due to COVID-19 and feels they are on the right track. They are optimistic that with the  
677 availability of vaccines that by 2022 some, if not the majority, of hunting, guiding and fishing  
678 will resume in Alaska.

679  
680 Alaska Wildlife Troopers – Captain Aaron Frenzel joined the meeting to provide a brief update  
681 from the troopers. The troopers have 89 funded positions statewide that are currently all  
682 filled. There are 4 troopers that will be retiring this spring which will result in vacancies but  
683 there will be a spring academy to try and fill those spots. There are some new troopers out in  
684 the field, he encouraged guides to meet with the new troopers. The troopers did a division  
685 wide communication push – many troopers reached out to guides and transporters this past fall  
686 to work on building working relationships and open channels of communication with the  
687 industry. Captain Frenzel felt that effort was successful and is something he will continue to  
688 push from the troopers. Enforcement – so far nothing too major is trending, mostly guide use  
689 area issues that will hopefully start declining. He mentioned his attendance at the meeting on  
690 3/24/21 to discuss the sub-committee for supervision and the regulations proposals considered  
691 by the board. If it is not possible for Captain Frenzel to serve of the supervision sub-committee  
692 he would like to have a trooper on the committee.

693  
694 Dept. Of Natural Resources (DNR) – John Forbes provided a brief overview of DNR services; the  
695 various permits and fees associated with DNR services. DNR has 3 regional offices; Anchorage  
696 for South-Central, Fairbanks for the Northern region and Juneau for Southeast. DNR has made  
697 some technological updates in the past few months; an improved version of the Alaska mapper  
698 program which is an interactive mapping program that allows the user to research and verify  
699 state land ownership and land usage connected to DNR case file records. They also developed  
700 a new website that is more organized and easier to navigate; it has access to all forums, fact  
701 sheets and applications.

702  
703 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Zach Million provided an update from BLM. He reviewed  
704 the 3 districts of the BLM and the recreation programs it provides. He briefly discussed the  
705 varied permits for commercial activity on BLM land. BLM has completed approximately 65% of  
706 the special recreation permit 5year audit. He answered questions from the board.

707  
708 Mental Health Trust – Chandler Long provided a short recap of the Mental Health Land Trust.  
709 She spoke in regard to the new guide use area permit program that was implemented in April  
710 2020, right at the onset of COVID. Several of the parcels are open for bidding for permits and  
711 the trust is looking at options for short-term permits opposed to the current 5-year terms of  
712 the permits. The trust statutorily must maximize revenue generation from trust land, which in  
713 turn funds beneficiary programs across the state of Alaska. The trust provides funding for  
714 programs like criminal justice reentry access, local treatment centers, and social services.

715

716 Board of Game – Jerry Burnett provided an update from the Board of Game (BOG). Larry Van  
717 Daele was elected Chair of Board of Game in January 2021 and asked Mr. Burnett to serve as  
718 liaison to the BGCSB. BOG met March 18 and took some actions. They decided to reissue the  
719 call for proposals since they had voted to move their regulatory cycle ahead one year.  
720 Proposals previously sent in will still be considered and new proposals will be added.

721

722 *Break at 2:32 pm*

723 *Return at 3:01 pm*

724

725 **Agenda Item - Sub-Committee meetings:**

726 *A. Exams: the exam committee has been working to update the maps for game management*  
727 *unit certification exams. DNR has assisted in the past but that staff member moved to a*  
728 *new position; the division will work with DNR admin staff to create an RSA so the program*  
729 *will pay the cost of DNR staff time to fix the maps. The committee is also working on some*  
730 *ideas to change the oral portion of the practical exam to add some more professionalism to*  
731 *the exam and anticipates having more information for the board at the December 2021*  
732 *meeting.*

733 *B. Transporters: the transporter committee will be looking at the breakdown of new*  
734 *transporter licenses issued in efforts to prioritize their efforts. They will be looking at the*  
735 *professional development and how to tailor it to transporters. The committee also plans to*  
736 *look into bringing back the identifying decal that was previously used for licensed*  
737 *transporters; it may prove useful for enforcement to easily identify licensed transporters.*

738 *C. Survivorship/successorship: the committee met several times over the past few months and*  
739 *prepared draft language that the Department of Law advised them the board does not have*  
740 *the authority to adopt. The committee has sent documentation of the intent to Department*  
741 *of Law and will work with Megyn Weigand over the coming months to prepare new*  
742 *language that falls under the proper authority; they anticipate providing the draft to the*  
743 *board at the July or December 2021 meetings for consideration.*

744 *D. Professional Development: the committee submitted a proposal of draft language for board*  
745 *consideration. At this time there are no further meetings of this committee are scheduled.*

746

747 **Agenda Item - Administrative Business:**

748 The board tentatively the following meeting dates with the understanding that teleconferences  
749 may be called as needed:

750

751 July 21, 2021 teleconference to be held via Zoom; Ms. Hoffard to verify with board members  
752 June 1 to ensure proper public notice procedures are followed.

753

754 November 30 – December 2, 2021 with practical exams December 3; will be scheduled for  
755 Anchorage with the understanding that the meeting will occur via Zoom if travel is not  
756 approved due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns.

757 **Agenda Item - Task list:**

758 A. Annual report drafts:

759

1. Jason Bunch – Narrative statement

760

2. Mike Flores and Martin Boniek – goals/objectives for transporter

761

3. Jason Bunch and Aaron Bloomquist – goals/objectives for guides

762

4. Renee Hoffard – budget requests, meetings, staff, legislative audit information

763 B. UVC:  
764 1. Renee Hoffard – letters to guides that incorrectly used codes in 2021 audit

765  
766 **In a motion duly made by Jerry Burnett, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous consent, it**  
767 **was resolved to adjourn the meeting.**

768  
769 Off record at 3:50 pm.

770  
771 Respectfully Submitted,

772 *Fannie Renee Hoffard*  
773 \_\_\_\_\_

774 Renee Hoffard  
775 Executive Administrator

July 27, 2021  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date

776  
777 *Jason J Bunch*  
778 \_\_\_\_\_

779 Jason Bunch  
780 Board Chair

27 July 2021  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date