

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 July 23, 2021
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8

9 By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.86.030, and in compliance with the provisions of
10 AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Big Game Commercial Services Board originated
11 from Juneau, 333 Willoughby Ave.; this meeting was held via Zoom.
12

13 Friday, July 23, 2021
14

15 **The Chair brought the meeting to order at 12:28 pm**
16

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

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

25 **Board members absent:**

26 Adam Trombley – Public Member *EXCUSED*
27 Mike Flores – Licensed Transporter *EXCUSED*
28 Clay Nordlum – Private Landowner *EXCUSED*
29

30 **Staff Members present:**

31 Renee Hoffard – Executive Administrator
32 Thomas Bay – Licensing Examiner
33 Lee Strout – Investigator
34 Amber Whaley – Senior Investigator
35 Megyn Weigand – AAG, Dept. of Law
36

37 **Members of the Public Present included:**

38 Mark Richards - Executive Director, Resident Hunters of Alaska
39 Michelle Heun
40 George Siavelis
41 Mike Zweng
42 Al Barrette
43 Johnny Richardson
44 Isaac Dueling
45 Rick Hoskins
46

47 **Agenda Item - Review Agenda:**

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

49

50 **In a motion duly made by Ely Cyrus, seconded by Pete Buist with unanimous consent, it was**
51 **resolved to adopt the daily agenda as written.**

52

53 **Agenda Item - Review Meeting Minutes:**

54 The board reviewed draft meeting minutes for the March 23-25, 2021 meeting held by the
55 board. Ms. Hoffard informed the board that there were corrections to grammar and spelling as
56 well as the addition of Michelle Heun to attendees.

57

58 **In a motion duly made by Ely Cyrus, seconded by Jerry Burnett with unanimous consent, it**
59 **was resolved to approve the March 23-25, 2021 meeting minutes as amended.**

60

61 **Agenda Item - Public Comment for Regulations project currently out for public comment:**

62

63 Mark Richard, Executive Director of Resident Hunters of Alaska. Supports the amendment to
64 12 AAC 75.450. Would like the transporter subcommittee to meet and discuss how the
65 proposed professional development regulations should or should not apply to transporters.

66

67 Al Barrett, Class-A Assistant Guide GUIC765. Did not see the urgency in amending 12 AAC
68 75.105 to match the statute. Would like the board to set goals for what they hope to
69 accomplish with the professional development regulations. Recommends the board not
70 remove "equipment" from 12 AAC 75.450 as it may cause confusion. Suggested the board
71 clarify that the refresher exam for the professional development regulations must be passed,
72 not simply taken as those are two very different things.

73

74 Michelle Heun, License Transporter GUIT1063. Supports the amended language for 12 AAC
75 75.450 as suggested by Mr. Barrett to only remove "game processing" but leaving in
76 "equipment". She feels that would meet the intent of the proposal that was presented to the
77 board regarding this regulation amendment. This regulation amendment doesn't change the
78 intent, it only helps prevent potential waste of animals harvested

79

80 No one else on the call asked to provide comment, Chair Bunch moved forward with the
81 agenda but did not close public comment so anyone that chose to would have the opportunity
82 to speak.

83

84 **Agenda Item – Board Business:**

85 Chair Bunch brought to the board the ongoing issue of buffer areas and conflict in the field.
86 DNR had requested the board discuss this issue as they had received a request for a permit that
87 would have two guide businesses right next to each other and DRN did not have cause to deny
88 the new permit application. The board will have to look at these situations on a case by case
89 basis until they come up with a solid mechanism to defuse conflict and congestion in the field.
90 The board discussed the issue at length but did not take action. The board may form a sub-
91 committee to continue working on this topic.

92 Ms. Hoffard and OLE Tom Bay brought forward a question regarding verification of licensure
93 from Canada. British Columbia recently changed how assistant guides are credentialed. The
94 government no longer issues a license to assistant guides, they are issued a certificate from the
95 professional organization that is endorsed by the government. The government does still
96 provide enforcement for violation for those certificate holders. An individual that is interested
97 in pursuing licensure in Alaska brought this to the attention of staff, he felt it is an undue
98 burden on him to provide the information as required for all applicants. After discussion with
99 the board and Mr. Isaac Dueling, a member of the public on the call who is a Canadian citizen, it
100 was determined that while it is a lengthy process it is not something unique to this applicant.
101 All applicants must provide verification of licensure in other states and/or Canada and that
102 verification must include any violations; this may require verification from multiple sources to
103 meet the requirements as the goal is to ensure public safety.
104

105 Ms. Hoffard informed the board that she ordered the yearly order of hunt records. In an effort
106 to reduce the number of incomplete records submitted, highlights will be added to the hunt
107 records indicating areas that must be filled out. A new set of instructions will be mailed with
108 hunt records moving forward. Also, guides that hunt in more than one GUA should list all
109 GUA's on the hunt record but circle or mark the area that the animal was harvested in if it was
110 a successful hunt.
111

112 **Agenda Item - Public Comment for Regulations project currently out for public comment:**

113 Chair Bunch closed public comment at 2:06 pm after confirming that no one on the call wanted
114 to provide oral testimony on the regulations project.
115

116 Break; off record at 2:17 pm

117 On Record at 2:26 pm
118

119 **Agenda Item - Investigations Unit:**

120 Senior Investigator Amber Whaley provided the probation report. At the time of the report
121 there were 28 licenses holders on probation, 25 of whom were in compliance. Since March
122 2021, 5 license holders were released from probation.
123

124 Investigator Strout provided his investigative report for the time period of March 12, 2021
125 through July 13, 2021. The report reflected 22 open cases and 33 closed cases.
126

127 **In accordance with the provisions of Alaska Statute 44.62.310(c), Martin Boniek moved to go**
128 **into executive session for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the**
129 **reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.**
130 **Board staff to remain for the session. Ely Cyrus seconded the motion. Motion passed via**
131 **unanimous consent.**
132

133 **Off record at 2:46 pm**

134 **Return to record 3:52 pm**
135
136

137 Pursuant to AS 44.62.310(d)(1), Aaron Bloomquist, moved that the Alaska State Big Game
138 Commercial Services Board enter a deliberative session to make a decision in the
139 adjudicatory proceeding captioned OAH Case No. 20-0610-GUI. The Administrative Law
140 Judge and the Board’s Executive Administrator will remain in the deliberative session to
141 assist the Board if needed. Ely Cyrus seconded the motion. Motion passed via unanimous
142 consent.

143
144 Off record: 3:55 pm
145 Return to record: 4:22 pm
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147 Pursuant to AS 44.62.310(d)(1), Aaron Bloomquist, moved that the Alaska State Big Game
148 Commercial Services Board enter a deliberative session to make a decision in the
149 adjudicatory proceeding captioned OAH Case No. 20-0850-GUI. The Administrative Law
150 Judge and the Board’s Executive Administrator will remain in the deliberative session to
151 assist the Board if needed. Martin Boniek seconded the motion. Motion passed via
152 unanimous consent.

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154 Off record: 4:23 pm
155 Return to record: 6:00 pm
156

157 **Agenda Item - Summary/Motions Executive and Deliberative Sessions:**

158
159 On a motion duly made by Pete Buist, seconded by Aaron Bloomquist, via roll call vote, it was
160 RESOLVED to modify the proposed decision as follows:

- 161 • Make the corrections identified in Section I of the Division’s proposal for action.
- 162 • Remove the following portions of the decision:
 - 163 - Numbered paragraph (1) in the introduction
 - 164 - Section (B)(I) of the Discussion section.
 - 165 - In the final paragraph of Section III(c), the words “the state park entry and”.

166 The Board adopted the proposed decision for Office of Administrative Hearings Case Number
167 20-0850-GUI with these modifications. Motion passed;
168

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
Clay Nordlum				X
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

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170 On a motion duly made by Pete Buist, seconded by Aaron Bloomquist, via roll call vote, it was
171 RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for case number 2021-000413; conviction of
172 harvesting antlers before meat. Motion passed;
173

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
Clay Nordlum				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 Voluntary Surrender of license for case number 2020-001114. 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
Clay Nordlum				X
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

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On a motion duly made by Pete Buist, seconded by Ely Cyrus, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to approve the Assistant Guide license for Cullen, Broghan. 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
Clay Nordlum				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 approve the Assistant Guide license for Karasti, Conrad Jr. Motion passed 4 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
Clay Nordlum				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 settlement and consent agreement for Office of Administrative Hearings Case Number 20-0610-GUI. 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
Clay Nordlum				X
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

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In a motion duly made by Pete Buist, seconded by Martin Boniek with unanimous consent, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting.

Off record at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fannie Renee Hoffard

 Renee Hoffard
 Executive Administrator

12/6/2021

 Date

Jason L Bunch

 Jason Bunch
 Board Chair

12/6/21

 Date