

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 November 29 – December 2, 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. 7th Ave, November 29 – December 2, 2021.
11

12 Tuesday, November 29, 2021
13

14 **The Chair brought the meeting to order at 9:28 am – delay was due to technical difficulties.**
15

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

17 Jason Bunch - Licensed Registered Guide-Board Chair
18 Jerry Burnett - Board of Game Representative
19 Pete Buist - Public Member
20 Aaron Bloomquist - Registered Guide Outfitter
21 Mike Flores – Licensed Transporter
22 Ely Cyrus – Private Landowner
23 Clay Nordlum – Private Landowner
24 Martin Boniek – Licensed Transporter (joined at 2:30 pm)
25

26 **Board member(s) absent**

27 Adam Trombley - Public Member; *EXCUSED*
28

29 **Staff Members present:**

30 Renee Hoffard – Executive Administrator
31 Thomas Bay – Licensing Examiner
32 Lee Strout – Investigator
33 Michele Hearn – Investigator, Probation monitor
34 Sharon Walsh – Deputy Director
35

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

37 Mark Richards - Executive Director, Resident Hunters of Alaska
38 Sam Rohrer – President, Alaska Professional Hunters Association
39 Thor Stacey – Alaska Professional Hunters Association
40 Ben Halbrook
41 Dick Rohrer
42 Joe Klutsch
43 George Siavelis
44 Mike Zweng
45 Zach Decker
46 Gary “Butch” King

47 Chris Zwolinski
48 Wayne Kubat
49 Paul Chervenak
50 Dan Montgomery
51 Al Barrette
52 Tony Lee
53 Loren Karro
54 Johnny Richardson
55 Rick Hyce
56 Gust Tunguing Jr.
57 Paul Claus
58 Josh Ellis
59 Todd Boughner
60 Tim Nelson

61

62 **Agenda Item - Review Agenda 11/29/2021:**

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

64

65 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous**
66 **consent, it was resolved to adopt the daily agenda as amended.**

67

- 68 **1. Strike “March 2021” minutes from minute review/approval (approved at July 2021**
69 **meeting)**
- 70 **2. Add “Discussion of transporter issues/complaints” to the agenda in the 9:30 am time**
71 **period; discussion may be continued throughout the day as time permits**
- 72 **3. Strike “Executive session” during the Investigations agenda item as there were no cases**
73 **for the board to review/consider at this meeting.**

74

75 **Agenda Item - Ethics Disclosures:**

76 The board members had no ethics disclosures.

77

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

79 The board reviewed draft meeting minutes for the July 23, 2021 teleconference held by the
80 board.

81

82 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous**
83 **consent, it was resolved to approve the July 23, 2021 meeting minutes as written.**

84

85 **Agenda Item - Discussion of transporter issues/complaints:**

86 The board held a discussion revolving around complaints that had been made to board
87 members during the past season regarding transporters. The complaints were that
88 transporters were appearing to drop clients off in an area where the clients did not have
89 authorization to be hunting resulting in numerous instances of trespassing. Additional
90 complaints were received that it was difficult to determine who were licensed transporters. A
91 variety of solutions were proposed. Mike Flores, licensed transporter member of the board,

92 will be chairing a transporter sub-committee meeting January 10, 2022 via Zoom and will work
93 on proposals for the board to consider at the next scheduled meeting.

94

95 *Break at 9:46 am*

96 *Return at 10:00 am*

97

98 **Agenda Item - Public Comment:**

99 Dick Rohrer, Master Guide GUIM69. Spoke to the program fiscal reports; he asked the board to
100 recommend the division reduce or remove the annual filing fee of \$300 as the program
101 currently has a surplus of \$250,786 before revenue from the current renewals.

102

103 North Slope Bourgh (NSB) Planning Department. Wanted to point out that NSB has recreational
104 permits and does require guides to have a permit before providing services on NSB lands. NSB
105 can, and does, execute inspections at their discretion and will issue notices of violation for
106 those without permits. Chair Bunch asked if they noticed an increase in compliance in the past
107 year or if it continues to be an issue. NSB stated they have more people coming into
108 compliance, they tend to say they didn't know they needed a permit from NSB. NSB will
109 provided a more detailed review of their permit process on 12/2/2021 during the agency
110 update agenda item.

111

112 Wayne Kubat, Master Guide GUIM147. Provided comments on the regulations proposals he
113 submitted to the board for consideration, the proposals on the agenda 12/1/21 for
114 consideration. The proposals are for supervision and practical experience.

115

116 Chair Bunch closed public comment.

117

118 *Break at 10:36 am*

119 *Return at 10:59 am*

120

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

122 Deputy Director Sharon Walsh joined the board to provide the division update. She reviewed
123 the end of year fiscal report for FY2021 and the 1st quarter report for FY2022. The board is
124 currently in renewals and has a cumulative surplus of \$250,786. The board discussed options
125 for the process of moving forward to make Renee's position a full-time position dedicated to
126 the BGCSB. The opinion of the board is that someone else may not be successful in the position
127 splitting their time between to boards and that Renee's efficiency plays a large part in her
128 success. The board also asked for an update from the division regarding a system change
129 request submitted in 2020 to make the hunt record/transporter activity reports system more
130 efficient to reduce staff's time spent on processing the records. Due to the amount of time that
131 has passed with no movement on the request the board asked if there was an option for
132 outsourcing the project. Ms. Walsh stated she would investigate the options for the board.

133

134 The board discussed the current fees and requests from the public that some fees be reduced
135 or waived due to the current surplus the program has. The discussion reinforced the need to
136 reduce revenue but not drastically to ensure the program has funds for any legal and/or
137 investigative costs that arise unexpectedly. The board was very clear that they are actively

138 engaged in monitoring the fiscal standing of the program going into legislative audit before the
139 2024 sunset hearings; the program pulled itself out of a deficit of more than \$500,000 in
140 FY2017. The board also stated that they anticipate formally requesting a fee analysis to be
141 prepared by the division and reviewed at the next scheduled meeting. Renee will contact
142 division administrative staff to arrange for the fee analysis.

143

144 Ms. Walsh also reviewed new requirements for military licensing. The requirements for
145 temporary licensing for active-duty military members or their spouses is a substantially
146 equivalent, unencumbered license in another jurisdiction. Due Alaska specific statutory
147 requirements for licensure there are no known substantially equivalent licenses in other
148 jurisdictions.

149

150 ***Break for lunch at 12:00 pm; return to record at 1:15 pm***

151

152 **Agenda Item - Public Comment:**

153 Mark Richards, Executive Director - Resident Hunters of Alaska. Spoke in regard to an opinion
154 of him that was published in the Fairbanks News Miner, a board member posted on that
155 opinion in disagreement with Mr. Richards. He reminded board members that they are held to
156 a higher standard than the general public. He stated he looks forward to the transporter
157 subcommittee meeting.

158

159 Michelle Heun submitted a written comment that Chair Bunch read for those in attendance.
160 She supports the proposed amendments the board will be considering at this meeting and
161 spoke to an issue with an infestation of caterpillars that severely impacted vegetation.

162

163 Dick Rohrer, Master Guide GUIM69. Spoke in regard to statutory requirements for the division
164 to annually review each licensing program to determine if the regulatory costs of each
165 occupation is approximately equal to revenue. He also requested an update on steps the board
166 has taken to ensure compliance with the UVC. EA Hoffard outlined new procedures that were
167 implemented in 2020, the new procedures appear to be working but she will have more
168 information at the March 2022 meeting following her audit of draws for the new year.

169

170 George Siavelis, Master Guide GUIM150. Commented on the annual filing fee and agrees with
171 Mr. Rohrer that the fee should be reduced or eliminated as the program is no longer operating
172 in a deficit.

173

174 Gary "Butch" King, Master Guide GUIM97. Reiterated the comments of Mr. Rohrer and Mr.
175 Siavelis regarding the annual filing fee. He also asked the board to consider the dwindling
176 resource of the assistant guides. He has noticed it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit
177 and retain assistant guides.

178

179 Dan Montgomery, Master Guide GUIM173. Agrees that the annual filing fee should be reduced
180 or eliminated. Asked for clarification on the unique verification code discussion.

181

182 Steve Perrins II, Registered Guide GUIR1295. Wanted to commend Renee Hoffard for the job
183 she has done with communicating with the licensees. He appreciates the increased

184 communication from the board and the ease of working with Renee; it has made a large
185 difference from his side of things. He agrees the annual filing fee should be eliminated and
186 would support a reduction in the license fee for assistant guides, even at the cost of an increase
187 to his Registered Guide license fee.

188

189 Chair Bunch closed public comment.

190

191 **Agenda Item - Investigations Unit:**

192 Investigator Strout provided his investigative report for the time period of July 13, 2021 through
193 November 19, 2021. The report reflected 41 open cases and 16 closed cases. Investigator
194 Strout had no actions for the board to review or consider for this board meeting.

195

196 Probation Monitor Michele Hearn provided the probation report. At the time of the report
197 there were 26 licenses holders on probation, 24 of whom were in compliance. Since July 2021,
198 5 license holders were released from probation. Ms. Hearn explained the steps the division has
199 taken in attempts to bring the 2 non-compliant probationers into compliance. Ms. Hearn also
200 stated that at this time the division would certainly be interested in pursuing any viable method
201 of establishing contact.

202

203 Chair Bunch called recess until 9:00 am December 1.

204

205 Off record at 3:43 pm.

206

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

207

208 The Chair brought the meeting to order at 9:01 am

209

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

211 Jason Bunch - Licensed Registered Guide-Board Chair

212 Jerry Burnett - Board of Game Representative

213 Martin Boniek - Licensed Transporter

214 Pete Buist - Public Member

215 Aaron Bloomquist - Registered Guide Outfitter

216 Mike Flores – Licensed Transporter

217 Ely Cyrus – Private Landowner

218 Clay Nordlum – Private Landowner

219 **Board Members Absent:**

220 Adam Trombley – Public Member; *EXCUSED*

221

222 **Staff Members present:**

223 Renee Hoffard – Executive Administrator

224 Thomas Bay – Licensing Examiner

225 Lee Strout – Investigator

226

227 **Agenda Item – Agenda 12/1/2021:**

228 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Clay Nordlum with unanimous**
229 **consent, it was resolved to amend the draft agenda for December 1, 2021 as follows:**

- 230 **1. Strike 9:10 am Summary/Motions executive session 11/30/21**
231 **2. Add “Supervision” and “Partnership” to the 10:30 sub-committee’s agenda item**

232

233 **Agenda Item - Public Comment:**

234 Dick Rohrer, Master Guide GUIM69. Had considered several options for reducing various fees
235 across the program such as the assistant guide license fee and the annual filing fee. The board
236 discussed the options and felt that it was appropriate to request a new fee analysis from the
237 division.

238

239 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Pete Buist with unanimous**
240 **consent, it was resolved to request the division provide a fee analysis in advance of the**
241 **March 2022 meeting.**

242

243 Steve Perrins II, Registered Guide GUIR1295. Asked if the issue of the guide license numbers is
244 still be considered, does not want it to fall off of anyone’s radar. Feels guides are over-
245 regulated but transporters are under-regulated. Would like the board to add use area
246 registrations for transporters and noted issues of transporters trespassing over the past
247 seasons.

248

249 Mark Richards, Executive Director - Resident Hunters of Alaska. Had previously requested
250 transporters to be removed from the requirements of the proposed professional development
251 requirement and was not happy the transporter subcommittee did not meet over the summer
252 to provide comment.

253

254 Zach Decker, Registered Guide GUIR1263. Spoke to transporter issue of trespassing, it is easy
255 to make new regulations but hard to fix the older ones. Would like to see growth in the
256 transporter regulations. Has noted that nonresident/nonguided numbers are starting to creep
257 back up, would like the board to resume issuing methods of identifying licensed transporters
258 such as stickers for vessels/planes. Spoke to the master guide requirements.

259

260 Chair Bunch closed public comment.

261

262 *Break at 10:00 am*

263 *Return at 10:30 am*

264

265

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

267 **A. Exams:** *DNR has been working on updating the maps for the GMU’s; the project is expected*
268 *to be complete by the end of year. The committee is also working on some ideas to change*
269 *the oral portion of the practical exam to add some more professionalism to the exam and*
270 *anticipates having more information for the board at the March 2022 meeting.*

271 **B. Transporters:** *the transporter committee will hold a teleconference 1/10/2022. They have*
272 *noticed an uptake of conflicts in the field and other issues that will be discussed more in-*
273 *depth at the teleconference. Some of the topics to be discussed are compliance issues*
274 *regarding permanent quarters as defined in statute and federal requirements for marine*
275 *transporters to have 2 captains on board for overnight trips.*

276 C. Partnerships/LLC: A new sub-committee that Aaron Bloomquist will be chairing. The
277 committee will hold its first meeting via teleconference 12/21/2021 with the intention of
278 submitting regulations proposal(s) for the March 2022 meeting.

279 D. Supervision: the committee submitted a proposal of draft language for board consideration.
280 At this time there are no further meetings of this committee are scheduled.

281 The board reviewed and discussed the proposal submitted by the supervision subcommittee at
282 length. Aaron Bloomquist went over each proposed amendment and discussion had on each
283 point. Further discussion to take place at the 2:00 pm agenda item for regulations proposals.

284

285 **Break for lunch at 12:00 om; return to record at 1:18 pm**

286

287 **Agenda Item - Public Comment:**

288 Mark Richards, Executive Director - Resident Hunters of Alaska. Spoke to the proposed Board
289 of Game agenda change request for 19c. It is a request to limit nonresident sheep hunters by
290 instituting a draw to limit nonresident hunters to 30 permits; residents will remain unlimited.

291

292 Chair Bunch closed public comment.

293

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

295 The board discussed each of the proposals before them and considered the comments
296 submitted by the public so far throughout the meeting.

297 1. Supervision and alternate supervision proposals submitted by Wayne Kubat were
298 withdrawn; Mr. Kubat supported the board consideration of the Supervision sub-
299 committees’ proposal.

300 2. Practical experience amendment proposed by Wayne Kubat.

301 **12 AAC 75.920(f) amended to read** “(f) For the purposes of the requirements in AS
302 08.54.610(d)(1), a person who is licensed as a registered guide-outfitter may be
303 employed by another registered guide-outfitter to provide the services of a class-a
304 assistant guide, statewide”

305 Mr. Kubat stated his reasoning for the proposed amendment -

306 *A registered guide is our highest class of license, and should be allowed to do everything on*
307 *a statewide basis, that a Class A can in the GMU’s that the Class A is certified in. Whether or*
308 *not the non-contracting registered guide has experience or not in the GMU, he is still being*
309 *supervised by the contracting guide who does.*

310

311 3. Supervision proposal submitted by the Supervision sub-committee –

312 **12 AAC 75.240 amended to read:**

313 (c) To comply with (b) of this section, the contracting registered guide-outfitter shall
314 communicate, by telephone, electronically, or radio, or in person, with the client and
315 the assistant guide, class-A assistant guide, or registered guide- outfitter involved in the
316 hunt, separately or together, at least once within 10 days after the conclusion of the
317 hunt. The contracting registered guide-outfitter shall obtain the necessary information
318 to evaluate the performance of the assistant guide, the class-A assistant guide, or
319 registered guide-outfitter and determine whether the big game hunting services were
320 provided safely, in accordance with state and federal law, and to the satisfaction of the
321 client.

322 (d) The contracting registered guide-outfitter shall make a good faith effort to
323 communicate with the client to obtain the necessary information to evaluate the
324 performance of the assistant guide, class-A assistant guide, or registered guide-outfitter.
325 If the attempt to communicate with the client is unsuccessful, the contracting registered
326 guide-outfitter shall write to the client and request the necessary information to
327 evaluate the performance of the assistant guide, the class-A assistant guide, or
328 registered guide-outfitter. The contracting registered guide- outfitter shall write to the
329 client within 60 days after the conclusion of the hunt.

330 (e) A registered guide-outfitter shall document on the hunt record the date the
331 registered guide-outfitter complied with the client communication requirements in (c)
332 and (d) of this section.

333 (f) For the purposes of the requirement in AS 08.54.630(b) (3), a noncontracting
334 registered guide-outfitter or class-A assistant guide supervising an assistant guide shall
335 be available in the field to direct and monitor the big game hunting services provided to
336 the client, except during times when

337 (1) an emergency situation exists that requires the guide's assistance; or
338 (2) the noncontracting registered guide-outfitter or class-A assistant guide supervising
339 the hunt is

340 A) in transit with, or while processing meat or trophies from current season of
341 contracted hunters
342 (B) in transit with or while acquiring food, supplies, or clients directly associated current
343 season of contracted hunters
344 (C) conducting duties that are associated with the safe and satisfactory completion of
345 current season of contracted hunts
346 (D) Conducting maintenance to equipment necessary to complete current season of
347 contracted hunts
348 (E) Conducting a hunt that primarily takes place in a location defined as outside of the
349 "field" as defined in 08.54.790(7)
350 (F) conducting a hunt in which clients are primarily housed outside of the "field" as
351 defined in 08.54.790(7)

352 (g) Repealed 7/30/2006.

353 (h) In this section, "emergency situation" means a situation in which a person is in a
354 remote area and

355 (1) is involuntarily experiencing an absence of food, water, shelter, or medical care
356 required to sustain life or health;
357 (2) is lost;
358 (3) is unable to perform the functions necessary for survival, leading to a high risk of
359 death or serious and permanent health problems without the assistance of the guide; or
360 (4) the guide's presence is necessary for a family medical condition.

361 (i) For purposes of the requirement in AS 08.54.610(e) "primarily in the field" means:
362 (1) The contracting registered guide outfitters is in the field as defined in AS
363 08.54.790(a)(7); or
364 (2) The contracting registered guide-outfitter is present in a location where they can
365 respond to the communications and needs of clients and employees participating in
366 currently contracted hunts. This location must be within the State of Alaska and within
367 a proximity to ongoing hunts that provides for responsive logistics and client care.; or

368 (3) The contracting registered guide-outfitter is
369 (A) in transit with, or while processing meat or trophies from current season of
370 contracted hunts
371 (B) in transit with or while acquiring food, supplies, or clients directly associated current
372 season of contracted hunts
373 (C) conducting duties that are associated with the safe and satisfactory completion of
374 current season of contracted hunts
375 (D) Conducting maintenance to equipment necessary to complete current season of
376 contracted hunts
377 (E) Conducting a hunt that primarily takes place in a location defined as outside of the
378 "field" as defined in 08.54.790(7)
379 (F) conducting a hunt in which clients are primarily housed outside of the "field" as
380 defined in 08.54.790(7); or
381 (G) Out of the field due to an Emergency as defined in (h) of this section
382 (j) As per language in 08.54.610 (e), 08.54.620 (b) (3), and 08.54.630 (b) (3), A class-A
383 guide or a non-contracting registered guide-outfitter may take charge of a camp and
384 provide guide services from the camp without the contracting registered guide-outfitter
385 being in the field and participating in the contracted hunt if the contracting registered
386 guide-outfitter is supervising the guiding activities.

387

388 **12 AAC 75.250 amended to read:**

389 (b) A registered guide-outfitter who contracts to guide a hunt and who is participating in
390 a hunt as required in AS 08.54.630 (b)(3) shall be in communication, either personally or
391 through an agent, with the assistant guide, who is in the field with the client, regularly
392 days.

393 (c) In this section, "communication" includes in person contact, radio contact, telephone
394 contact, text messaging, email, and signaling.

395 (d) A registered guide-outfitter who contracts to outfit a hunt shall

396 (1) before leaving a client in the field, advise the client of the date, time, and location at
397 which the registered guide-outfitter will pick up the client and the course of action the
398 client should follow if the registered guide-outfitter is unable to pick up the client as
399 planned,

400 (2) either personally or through a class-A assistant guide, an assistant guide, air taxi, or a
401 licensed transporter, transport the client into and out of the field at the planned date,
402 time, and location, unless prevented by weather, mechanical problems, or other safety
403 concerns; and

404 (3) check on or communicate with a client in the field as agreed to before transporting
405 that client.

406

407 **12 AAC 75.340(g) amended to read:**

408 75.340(g) a contracting guide-outfitter shall make a good faith effort to provide for
409 means of communication for each client with the contracting guide while in the field
410 and applicable instructions for use of that means of communication

411

412

413 *Break at 2:38 pm*

414 Return at 2:48 pm

415

416 In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Pete Buist with unanimous
417 consent, it was resolved to start a new regulations project to amend

418 12 AAC 75.240 (c) – (j)

419 12 AAC 75.250 (b) – (d)

420 12 AAC 75.340 (g)

421 12 AAC 75.290(f)

422 as discussed at this meeting. The board requests these proposed amendments be sent out
423 for public comment. The board will hear public testimony on these proposed amendments at
424 the February 4, 2022 teleconference.

425

426

427 **Agenda Item – Education Session:**

428 Chair Bunch presented an education session regarding guide business administration. The
429 session covered a variety of topics that are supported by statutes and regulations. They
430 reviewed a checklist of items to be checked yearly for business preparation and a list of
431 licensing program specific items that guides should routinely check the status of to ensure
432 compliance. They reviewed definitions in statute that guides need to know before providing
433 services and spoke to various things that should be noted in contracts. A sample hunt record
434 was reviewed and sections that are frequently left incomplete were pointed out. The UVC
435 process was explained as well. A list of public meetings that may affect guide business was
436 provided as well as a list of helpful tips. All information was provided on a power-point
437 presentation which will be posted to the program website.

438

439 Chair Bunch called recess until 10:00 am December 2.

440

441 Off record at 4:12 pm

442

443 **Thursday, December 2, 2021**

444

445 The Chair brought the meeting to order at 10:00 am

446

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

448 Jason Bunch - Licensed Registered Guide-Board Chair

449 Jerry Burnett - Board of Game Representative

450 Martin Boniek - Licensed Transporter

451 Pete Buist - Public Member

452 Aaron Bloomquist - Registered Guide Outfitter

453 Mike Flores – Licensed Transporter

454 Ely Cyrus – Private Landowner

455

456 **Board Members Absent:**

457 Adam Trombley – Public Member; *EXCUSED*

458

459 **Staff Members present:**

460 Renee Hoffard – Executive Administrator

461 Thomas Bay – Licensing Examiner

462 Lee Strout – Investigator

463

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

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

466 Ryan Scott, Department of Fish and Game

467 Pete Mueller, Department of Natural Resources

468 Nikki Potter, Department of Natural Resources

469 John Forbes, Department of Natural Resources

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

471 Dave Griffin, Trust Land Office

472 Zach Million, Bureau of Land Management

473 Lt. Shayne Calt, Alaska Wildlife Troopers

474 North Slope Borough

475

476 **Agenda Item – Agenda 12/2/2021:**

477 The board reviewed the agenda for 12/2/2021.

478

479 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Clay Nordlum with unanimous**
480 **consent, it was resolved to adopt the daily agenda as amended.**

481

482 1. Add under “New Business”

483 a. Board of Game letter regarding harvest tickets and locking tags.

484 b. Designate board representative to explore limited guide use area registrations

485 c. Dates for the next meeting(s)

486 d. Position statement/letters for transporters

487 e. Exceptions to the 3-year minimum guide use area registration for predator control

488 only.

489

490 **Agenda Item - Public Comment:**

491 Mark Richards, Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska. Brought a transporter issue
492 regarding air taxis. The board declined to comment as the issue is an ongoing investigation.

493

494 Zach Decker, Registered Guide GUIR1263. Discussed a letter that their business received from
495 the National Park Service regarding the Federal mandate that employees be vaccinated. He
496 also asked the board to consider pursuing a guide concession program in an effort to reduce
497 conflicts in the field.

498

499 Thor Stacey, Registered Guide GUIR1194; Director of Government Affairs, Alaska Professional
500 Hunters Association (APHA). Thanked the board for their efforts during last legislative session
501 to get the bill passed affecting Master Guides, the bill passed with a retroactive effective date.
502 He briefly touched on some conservation concerns that APHA is tracking as well as the business
503 climate for the guide industry. APHA has noted that conflicts in the field appear to be on the
504 rise and they will continue to track that as well.

505

506 Chair Bunch closed public comment.

507

508

509 **Agenda Item - State and Federal Agency Updates**

510 Alaska Department of Fish & Game (F&G): , Director of Wildlife Conservation Eddie Grasser, and
511 Assistant Director Ryan Scott a provided an update from F&G. The department is evaluating
512 their budget and working to spend the Pittman-Robertson funds received as those funds can
513 only be used for certain expenditures. F&G has been working on projects to increase revenue
514 over the past year due to COVID-19 and feels they are on the right track. Several key members
515 of the staff will be retiring over the next year. F&G has developed a mobile app for the
516 department that will be released to the public in the near future that will enable the public to
517 access services remotely and receive electronic copies of licenses/permits.

518

519 Dept. Of Natural Resources (DNR) – Pete Mueller provided a brief overview of DNR services; the
520 various permits and fees associated with DNR services. DNR has 3 regional offices: Anchorage
521 for South-Central, Fairbanks for the Northern region and Juneau for Southeast. He provided a
522 review of the permitting processes as well.

523

524 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Zach Million provided an update from BLM. He reviewed
525 the 3 districts of the BLM and the recreation programs it provides. He briefly discussed the
526 varied permits for commercial activity on BLM land. BLM has created a new online system for
527 recreation permitting that is used for tracking and online reporting. The system has been in a
528 pilot phase in Oregon, Colorado, and Nevada. The Fairbanks office of BLM will be added to the
529 pilot phase. The system is used to expedite the permitting process and timelines for
530 notification of decisions. He spoke of fee adjustments; there will not be any new fee
531 adjustments until fall of 2023. There has been staff turnover at BLM, new staff will be coming
532 on board. He answered questions from the board.

533

534 Mental Health Trust – Chandler Long provided a short recap of the Mental Health Land Trust.
535 She spoke in regard to the new guide use area permit program that was implemented in April
536 2020, right at the onset of COVID. Several of the parcels are open for bidding for permits and
537 the trust is looking at options for short-term permits opposed to the current 5-year terms of
538 the permits. The trust continues to fine tune and evaluate the permitting process. She went
539 over several tracts of land that applications for permits are currently being accepted. The trust
540 statutorily must maximize revenue generation from trust land, which in turn funds beneficiary
541 programs across the state of Alaska. The trust provides funding for programs like criminal
542 justice reentry access, local treatment centers, and social services.

543

544 Alaska Wildlife Troopers – Lt. Shayne Calt joined the meeting to provide a brief update from the
545 troopers. There are currently 88 troopers in the field with 6 vacancies. 4 of that vacancies are
546 in urban areas. AWT's are assisting Alaska State Troopers as AST has approximately 60
547 vacancies. AWT's has a good budget and the support of both the legislature and the
548 Governor's office. The main issues continue to be recruitment and retention. There is
549 currently a \$20,000 hiring bonus and excellent benefits. AWT has started training pilots where
550 that was not the case in the past. They are projecting 25-30 hires for the next academy and if
551 they continue that trajectory for a few years will be in a good spot to eliminate vacancies. AWT

552 will continue updating the fleet of equipment statewide. The board brought up complaints that
553 were received from guides this past season regarding troopers landing helicopters on spotting
554 ops to check hunters in the field. Trooper Calt stated he would bring the topic up at the
555 upcoming statewide meeting for all trooper pilots.

556
557 US Forest Service – Spoke briefly about temporary permits in Southeast Alaska. The Forest
558 service is working with tourism in efforts to minimize conflict. There will be a stakeholder call
559 before the end of the year to discuss wrap-up for 2021; the information will be provided to
560 staff for those who wish to be on the call.

561
562 ***Break for lunch at 12:24 pm; return to record at 1:15 pm***

563
564 North Slope Borough (NSB) - Representatives from the borough planning office went over the
565 NSB permitting processes, fees, and applications.

566
567 Board of Game – Jerry Burnett provided an update from the Board of Game (BOG). BOG will
568 return to public meetings starting in January 2022. A 9-day meeting is scheduled for Central
569 and Southwest Alaska, there are 229 proposals for BOG to consider at that meeting and all
570 proposals are on the BOG website. The statewide meeting is scheduled for March in Fairbanks
571 and the board will be considering over 250 proposals at that meeting. Many Department of
572 Fish and Game employees will be attending the meetings telephonically so guides should not
573 plan to meet with them at the meetings; they should make plans to meet with them at their
574 respective offices. Individuals interested in providing public testimony will be able to sign up for
575 specific time slots. Record copies will be accepted electronically. He encouraged everyone to
576 review the proposals and submit written comments by the deadlines posted on the BOG
577 website.

578
579 **Agenda Item – Staff update:**

580 Renee Hoffard, Executive Administrator for the program provided an update from staff.
581 Reminders will be sent to guides with guide use area registrations; new copies of annual
582 commercial recreation permits need to be submitted for multi-year registrations. She asked
583 guides to encourage their prospective assistant guides to request their criminal history reports
584 before submitting their application. It has been noted that most of the applications referred to
585 investigations for failure to disclose are based on information listed in the criminal history
586 reports. Any applicant having problems requesting the criminal history should reach out to
587 staff as they have been informed that a number of local police departments are no longer
588 providing that service. She reminded those in attendance that anyone wishing to request a
589 unique verification code for the upcoming draw needed to check their guide use area
590 registration and ensure they are valid for 2022. If the registration expires 12/31/2021, the
591 guide is not eligible for a verification code for the draw. She reviewed the renewal statistics for
592 the current renewal cycle. The board recommended updating the assistant guide application to
593 suggest applicants review their criminal history before submitting their applications.

594
595 **Agenda Item – Review of written comments – Regulations Project:**

596 The board discussed the written comments received for the current regulations project to
597 amend 12 AAC 75.105, 12 AAC 75.150, 12 AAC 75.260, 12 AAC 75.450 and 12 AAC 75.460. It

598 was noted that in a written comment submitted by Al Barrette that there appeared to be a
 599 typo. He did not believe the board intended to remove the word "equipment" from 12 AAC
 600 75.450 as transporters should not provide hunting equipment.

601
 602 **On a motion duly made by made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores, via roll call**
 603 **vote, it was RESOLVED to adopt the proposed amendment to 12 AAC 75.105(a)(3) as written.**
 604 **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
Clay Nordlum	X			
Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

606 **On a motion duly made by made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores, via roll call**
 607 **vote, it was RESOLVED to adopt the proposed amendment to 12 AAC 75, adding a new**
 608 **section for profession development, as written. Motion passed.**

609

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

610
 611 **On a motion duly made by made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores, via roll call**
 612 **vote, it was RESOLVED to adopt the proposed amendment to 12 AAC 75.260(d) as written.**
 613 **Motion passed.**

614

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Aaron Bloomquist	X			
Jerry Burnett	X			
Martin Boniek	X			
Peter Buist	X			
Ely Cyrus				X
Adam Trombley				X
Clay Nordlum	X			

Mike Flores	X			
Jason Bunch, Chair	X			

615
616 On a motion duly made by made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores, via roll call
617 vote, it was RESOLVED to adopt the proposed amendment to 12 AAC 75.450(b)(13) as
618 amended in this meeting. Motion passed.

619
620 12 AAC 75.450(b)(13) is amended to read:
621 (13) include the following statement: "A licensed transporter may not provide vehicles, fuel,
622 camping, hunting equipment, or any hunting services such as skinning, caping, or cleaning of
623 game, glassing, and packing in the field, including from a permanent structure or on a boat on
624 salt water."
625

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

626
627 On a motion duly made by made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores, via roll call
628 vote, it was RESOLVED to adopt the proposed amendment to 12 AAC 75.460 (a) as written.
629 Motion passed.

630

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

631
632
633 **Agenda Item – New Business:**

634
635 In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous
636 consent, it was resolved to designate Aaron Bloomquist to draft a letter to the Board of Game
637 regarding ongoing issues with harvest tickets and locking tags.

638 The letter will be reviewed and voted on electronically by the board.

639

640 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous**
641 **consent, it was resolved to provide a compliance letter to all licensed transporters. The**
642 **transporter subcommittee will work on the letter at the scheduled 1/10/2022 meeting and**
643 **staff will mail the letter once it is provided.**

644

645 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous**
646 **consent, it was resolved to designate Jason Bunch to discuss options the board has for**
647 **limiting guide use areas with the Department of Law. Board members Aaron Bloomquist and**
648 **Mike Flores may join the discussion(s) as needed.**

649

650 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous**
651 **consent, it was resolved that the board should draft a proposal for exceptions to the**
652 **minimum 3-year guide use area registration only as it applies to applications for a 4th area for**
653 **predator control.**

654 Fish and Game notifies division staff on a yearly basis which areas they are allowing predator
655 control in for the upcoming year and which specific animals are to be hunted as predators. Any
656 proposals will address those specific exceptions only.

657

658 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous**
659 **consent, it was resolved to request staff explore alternative meeting sites for the March 2022**
660 **meeting to accommodate larger numbers and not be located in downtown Anchorage.**

661

662 **In a motion duly made by Aaron Bloomquist, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous**
663 **consent, it was resolved to request staff explore options for working with the IT**
664 **staff/departments of Fish and Game or Dept. of Natural Resources in efforts to increase**
665 **efficiency.**

666 During the agency updates it was noted that both of the state agencies mentioned new mobile
667 apps and accessibility that will be a great benefit to the guide industry. The Board hopes to see
668 the availability of an option for guides and transporters to do their own data entry for hunt
669 records and transporter activity reports; that option would support future requests to eliminate
670 the annual filing fee for processing the records.

671

672 The board set the meeting dates for meetings for 2022:

673 February 4, 2022 – teleconference for adjudicatory matters

674 March 29-31 with practical exams April 1

675 December 5-7 with practical exams December 8.

676 Partnership sub-committee – December 21 teleconference

677 Transporter sub-committee – January 10, 2022 teleconference

678

679 Renee Hoffard asked that the board consider setting parameters for staff to issue licenses to
680 applicants with “Yes” answers on professional fitness questions. This was an issue during the
681 past summer as it was difficult to establish a quorum vote on applications with 4 board
682 members in the field and unavailable for voting. Staff will create a draft of the parameters for
683 the board to consider at the March meeting.

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Agenda Item - Administrative Business:

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

February 4, 2022 teleconference to review proposed disciplinary actions to be held via Zoom.

March 29 – 31, 2022 with practical exams to be held April 1, 2022. The meeting will be scheduled for Anchorage; board requested staff investigate alternative meeting site in Mid-town Anchorage.

December 5 - 7, 2022 with practical exams December 8; 2022 The meeting will be scheduled for Anchorage.

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

Off record at 3:00 pm.

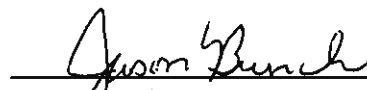
Respectfully Submitted,



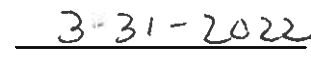
Renee Hoffard
Executive Administrator



Date



Jason Bunch
Board Chair



Date