

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

# **BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD**

## **CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MARCH 31, 2025**

**By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provision of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting (teleconference) of the Big Game Commercial Services Board was held on March 31, 2025, at 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Juneau, AK.**

<b>Date:</b>	March 31, 2025
<b>Time:</b>	9:00 a.m. (9:15 a.m.)
<b>Location:</b>	Online teleconference ran from 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9th Floor, Juneau, AK
<b>Board Members Present:</b>	Aaron Bloomquist, Keegan McCarthy, Martin Boniek, Clay Nordlum, Dave Lorrington, Mike Flores
<b>Board Members Absent:</b>	Larry Kunder (present at 9:30 a.m.)
<b>Division/SOA Staff Present:</b>	Thomas Bay (Executive Administrator), Janet Brown (Occupational Licensing Examiner), Lee Strout (Investigator)
<b>Present from the Public:</b>	None

<b>1. Review Agenda</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Lee Strout, the board’s investigator, informed the board that he had another signed consent agreement for their review. The board amended the agenda to include Case No. 2024-001222 under Investigative Matters for Review in executive session.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to accept the agenda as amended (First: Lorrington; Second: McCarthy).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Absent
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
<b>2. Ethics Review</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	There were no ethical disclosures by any board members or staff.	
<b>3. Review of Written Comment for GUA Boundary Changes Regulations Project</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board reviewed public comment received for their regulations project regarding proposed boundary changes and amending <b>12 AAC 75.235 Guide-outfitter use area maps</b> . The board received one piece of public comment, which came from the Alaska Department	

	<p>of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC). The public comments included a statement that the proposed changes to GUA 19-09 appeared to move away from existing drainage based on boundary in favor of a straight line based on land ownership, which would be a deviation from the previous boundaries which follow drainages. It also stated that GMUs and most hunt areas are comprised of uniform coding units that follow drainages, however DWC recognized that straight lines may be easier for hunter and guides to follow. Another DWC concern was that GUA 19-09 is located within GMU 19C, which had been proposed by the Board of Game as the pilot program for the State's Guide Concession Program (GCP). The board discussed both concerns. Chairman Bloomquist said that the straight-line change to GUA 19-09 is accurate because it would not have an effect on other registered guide-outfitters because the land is only provided to one concessionaire. Mr. Lorrington, the Board of Game representative on the board, stated that the GUA boundary change would not affect the GCP because the boundary change affects private land only and is exempt from being included in the GCP. The board unanimously approved the regulations be sent to the Lt. Governor's office for signing and to become permanent.</p>	
<b>Motion:</b>	<p>After considering whether the Department of Fish and Game objects to the proposed GUA boundaries and considering the amendment of existing guide use area boundaries is necessary in order to respond to items listed in 12 AAC 75.265(d)(2), I, Martin Boniek, to adopt the proposed regulations for file number 202400464 as proposed and publicly noticed (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).</p>	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Absent
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
<b>4. Investigative Matters for Review: Executive Session</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b> <b>Off Record: 9:35 a.m.</b>	<p>The board moved into executive session for discussion of investigative matters.</p>	
<b>Motion:</b>	<p>I, Mike Flores, move that the Alaska State Big Game Commercial Services Board enter into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion; and matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential. Board staff Thomas Bay and Lee Strout to remain during the session (First: Flores; Second: Boniek).</p>	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	

<b>Brief Discussion:</b> <b>On Record: 10:18 a.m.</b>	No action was taken during executive session.	
<b>5. Summary/Motions from Executive Session</b>		
<b>Case No. 2023-001193</b>		
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to accept consent agreement for Case No. 2023-001193 (First: Flores; Second: Kunder).	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2023-001193: A transporter was convicted of multiple violations in federal court. The federal court's conviction and fine triggers AS 08.54.605(a)(1)(A)(iv) and AS 08.54.710(a)(1). The RBM recommended a five-year license prohibition consistent with the federal conviction and effective March 10, 2025. There was no discussion.	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
<b>Case No. 2024-001133</b>		
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to accept consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001133 (First: Flores; Second: Kunder).	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001133: An assistant guide directed the harvest of a moose. The moose moved into the bushes. After finding the moose, it was harvested. Upon arriving at the moose, the assistant guide discovered that they had inadvertently harvested two different moose, putting them over the legal limit for moose. The RBM recommended a \$300 fine and a board reprimand. There was no discussion.	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
<b>Case No. 2025-000040</b>		
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to accept the consent agreement for Case No. 2025-000040 (First: Flores; Second: Kunder).	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2025-000040: An RGO directed his client to harvest a moose, which was later determined to be sublegal. The RBM recommended a fine of \$600 (\$300 suspended), probation for one year, and a board reprimand. There was no discussion.	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes

	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
<b>Case No. 2025-000132</b>		
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to accept consent agreement for Case No. 2025-000132 (First: Flores; Second: Kunder).	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board considered the consent agreement for Case No. 2025-000132, which would result in licensure of a transporter, if approved: The board had previously voted 4-2 to issue a probationary license contingent upon the applicant accepting a consent agreement that would immediately put his license on probation for five years. The applicant accepted the consent agreement. Chairman Bloomquist said that the reason for the probationary license is that it allows the board to take the license away should the licensee breaks any laws.	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
<b>Case No. 2024-001222</b>		
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to accept consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001022 (First: Flores; Second: Kunder).	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001022: An RGO guided 19 clients within expired guide use areas. The RBM recommended a fine of \$5,000 (\$2,500 suspended), a two-year probation, and a board reprimand. The licensee wrote a letter to the board asking for leniency. Chairman Bloomquist said that the recommended fine and probationary period was already lenient compared to the board's disciplinary matrix.	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
<b>Case No. 2025-000145</b>		
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to accept the voluntary surrender of license regarding Case No. 2025-000145 (First: Flores; Second: Kunder).	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board considered the voluntary surrender of license regarding Case No. 2025-000145: The licensee, an RGO, conducted 19 hunts within guide use areas that he was not registered. The licensee requested a voluntary surrender of his license to resolve the issue. There was no discussion.	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes

	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Having finished investigative matters, and before reviewing the updated GMU exams, the board moved ahead on the agenda to briefly discuss the division's fee analysis.	
<b>6. Division Update: Fee Analysis</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Mr. Bay informed the board that the division did a fee analysis of the program, resulting in no reduction of fees needed for the program. The division said that the board's surplus, which remained high (\$948,682), had a negative projected net, meaning that it would be reduced annually.	
<b>7. Review of Updated GMU exams</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Chairman Bloomquist informed the board that he and the previous chair, Jason Bunch, who were in a workgroup together, remade all of the GMU exams, with each exam having the same exact questions. He said that, while they have the same questions, they are not all simple questions but are relevant to what an RGO should know.	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b> <b>Off Record: 10:56 a.m.</b>	The board moved into executive session to discuss specifics about the updated GMU exams, which are confidential.	
<b>Motion:</b>	I, Mike Flores, move that the Alaska State Big Game Commercial Services Board enter into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential. Board staff Thomas Bay and Lee Strout to remain during the session (First: Flores; Second: Kunder).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b> <b>On Record: 11:28 a.m.</b>	No action was taken during executive session. The board approved the GMU exams.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to approve the updated GMU exams as written (First: Kunder; Second: Lorrington).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Having finished with all agenda items, the board scheduled their next meeting, a teleconference, for July 18, 2025. With nothing left to discuss, Chairman Bloomquist adjourned the meeting.	

<b>Adjourn:</b>	11:54 a.m.
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Date Final Minutes Approved by the Board: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> OnBoard	October 1, 2025
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