

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 FEBRUARY 19, 2025

**These draft minutes were prepared by staff of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing. They have not been reviewed or approved by the Board.**

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 February 19, 2025, at 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Juneau, AK.

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| <b>Date:</b>                       | February 19, 2025  |
| <b>Time:</b>                       | 9:00 a.m. (9:17 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, Pete Buist, Clay Nordlum, Dave Lorrington                    |
| <b>Board Members Absent:</b>       | Mike Flores, Larry Kunder  |
| <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   |

| 1. Review Agenda         |   |                 |
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| <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. 2024-001025 under Investigative Matters for Review in executive session. |                 |
| <b>Motion:</b>           | Move to accept the agenda as amended (First: Buist; Second: McCarthy).  |                 |
| <b>Recorded Votes:</b>   | Bloomquist - Yes  | McCarthy - Yes  |
|                          | Boniek - Yes  | Nordlum - Yes   |
|                          | Buist - Yes   | Flores - Absent |
|                          | Lorrington - Yes  | Kunder - Absent |
| 2. Ethics Review         |   |                 |

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| <b>Brief Discussion:</b>                                      | Chairman Bloomquist said that he had a conflict of interest and would be recusing himself from the discussion regarding Case No. 2024-001140 because the licensee worked for him. There were no other ethical disclosures by any board members or staff.  |                   |
| <b>3. Investigative Matters for Review: Executive Session</b> |   |                   |
| <b>Brief Discussion:</b><br><b>Off Record: 9:22 a.m.</b>      | The board moved into executive session for discussion of investigative matters.   |                   |
| <b>Motion:</b>  | I, Pete Buist, 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, Janet Brown, and Lee Strout to remain during the session (First: Buist; Second: Boniek). |                   |
| <b>Recorded Votes:</b>  | Bloomquist - Yes  | McCarthy - Yes    |
|   | Boniek - Yes  | Nordlum - Yes     |
|   | Buist - Yes   | Flores - Absent   |
|   | Lorring - Yes   | Kunder - Absent   |
| <b>Brief Discussion:</b><br><b>On Record: 11:08 a.m.</b>      | No action was taken during executive session. Keegan McCarthy disconnected from the meeting. Chairman Bloomquist said that the board would be going back into executive session to discuss Case No. 2024-001140, the case that he had a conflict-of-interest in. The board voted to recuse him and have Dave Lorring act as acting chair during executive session.  |                   |
| <b>Motion:</b>  | Move to recuse Aaron Bloomquist from executive session while discussing Case No. 2024-001140 and have Dave Lorring as acting chair in his absence (First: Boniek; Second: Lorring).   |                   |
| <b>Recorded Votes:</b>  | Bloomquist - Abstain  | McCarthy - Absent |
|   | Boniek - Yes  | Nordlum - Yes     |
|   | Buist - Yes   | Flores - Absent   |
|   | Lorring - Yes   | Kunder - Absent   |
| <b>Brief Discussion:</b>                                      | After discussion, it was found that Chairman Bloomquist would not be participating in the vote for the consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001140, leaving the board without a quorum vote. The consent agreement was tabled until the board could establish a quorum. Mr. Lorring relinquished his status as acting chair. The board began their motions regarding cases discussed in executive session.   |                   |
| <b>5. Summary/Motions from Executive Session</b>              |   |                   |
| <b>Case No. 2023-001103</b>                                   |   |                   |
| <b>Motion:</b>  | Move to accept consent agreement for Case No. 2023-001103 (First: Buist; Second: Boniek).   |                   |

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| <b>Brief Discussion:</b>                     | The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2023-001103: An assistant guide failed to disclose, on his renewal application, that he had multiple non-wildlife related pending criminal cases. The reviewing board member (RBM) recommended a fine of \$500 (\$250 suspended), one year probation, and a board reprimand. There was no discussion.  |                   |
| <b>Recorded Votes:</b>                       | Bloomquist - Yes  | McCarthy - Absent |
|  | Boniek - Yes  | Nordlum - Yes     |
|  | Buist - Yes   | Flores - Absent   |
|  | Lorring - Yes   | Kunder - Absent   |
| <b>Case Nos. 2024-000900 and 2024-000901</b> |   |                   |
| <b>Motion:</b>                               | Move to accept consent agreement for Case Nos. 2024-000900 and 2024-000901 (First: Buist; Second: Boniek).  |                   |
| <b>Brief Discussion:</b>                     | The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case Nos. 2024-000900 and 2024-000901: An RGO was asked by the board's investigator to provide three specific hunt contracts. The RGO could not furnish two of the three requested contracts, both of which were required to be retained at the time. The RBM recommended a \$2,000 fine (\$1,500 suspended), one year probation, and a board reprimand. There was no discussion. |                   |
| <b>Recorded Votes:</b>                       | Bloomquist - Yes  | McCarthy - Absent |
|  | Boniek - Yes  | Nordlum - Yes     |
|  | Buist - Yes   | Flores - Absent   |
|  | Lorring - Yes   | Kunder - Absent   |
| <b>Case No. 2024-000917</b>                  |   |                   |
| <b>Motion:</b>                               | Move to accept the consent agreement for Case No. 2024-000917 (First: Buist; Second: Boniek).   |                   |
| <b>Brief Discussion:</b>                     | The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2024-000917: An assistant guide harvested a sublegal moose on a personal hunt. The RBM recommended a fine of \$500 (\$250 suspended), probation for one year, and a board reprimand. There was no discussion.  |                   |
| <b>Recorded Votes:</b>                       | Bloomquist - Yes  | McCarthy - Absent |
|  | Boniek - Yes  | Nordlum - Yes     |
|  | Buist - Yes   | Flores - Absent   |
|  | Lorring - Yes   | Kunder - Absent   |
| <b>Case No. 2024-001025</b>                  |   |                   |
| <b>Motion:</b>                               | Move to accept consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001025 (First: Buist; Second: Boniek).   |                   |
| <b>Brief Discussion:</b>                     | The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001025: An RGO directed a client to harvest a mountain goat after an emergency closure. The RBM   |                   |

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|   | recommended a find of \$2,000 (\$1,500 suspended), probation for one year, and a board reprimand. Chairman Bloomquist noted that the emergency closure was the first closure in the area and likely caught the RGO off guard. There was no other discussion.  |                   |
| <b>Recorded Votes:</b>                          | Bloomquist - Yes  | McCarthy - Absent |
|   | Boniek - Yes  | Nordlum - Yes     |
|   | Buist - Yes   | Flores - Absent   |
|   | Lorring - Yes   | Kunder - Absent   |
| <b>Case No. 2024-001044</b>                     |   |                   |
| <b>Motion:</b>                                  | Move to accept consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001044 (First: Buist; Second: Boniek).   |                   |
| <b>Brief Discussion:</b>                        | The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001044: An assistant guide inadvertently harvested two cow elk. After losing track of the first elk after he shot it, he thought he missed and shot a different elk. The RBM recommended a fine of \$600 (\$0 suspended in lieu of probation) and a board reprimand. There was no discussion.   |                   |
| <b>Recorded Votes:</b>                          | Bloomquist - Yes  | McCarthy - Absent |
|   | Boniek - Yes  | Nordlum - Yes     |
|   | Buist - Yes   | Flores - Absent   |
|   | Lorring - Yes   | Kunder - Absent   |
| <b>Case No. 2024-001083</b>                     |   |                   |
| <b>Motion:</b>                                  | Move to accept consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001083 (First: Buist; Second: Boniek).   |                   |
| <b>Brief Discussion:</b>                        | The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001083: An assistant guide directed a client to harvest a brown bear that was later determined to be a one-year-old cub. The RBM recommended a \$1,000 fine (\$500 suspended), probation for one year, and a board reprimand. There was no discussion.  |                   |
| <b>Recorded Votes:</b>                          | Bloomquist - Yes  | McCarthy - Absent |
|   | Boniek - Yes  | Nordlum - Yes     |
|   | Buist - Yes   | Flores - Absent   |
|   | Lorring - Yes   | Kunder - Absent   |
| <b>Tabled Application: Case No. 2024-001192</b> |   |                   |
| <b>Motion:</b>                                  | Move to approve the application, resulting in licensure, regarding Case No. 2024-001192 (First: Buist; Second: Boniek).   |                   |
| <b>Brief Discussion:</b>                        | The board considered the application and licensure regarding Case No. 2024-001192: An applicant for a transporter license disclosed many criminal convictions from his past, including alcohol and drug related offenses, as well as fish and wildlife violations. Chairman Bloomquist said that the board deliberated in great length in executive session on the application. After a brief discussion, Mr. Lorring motioned to amend the previous motion |                   |

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|                           | to include a 5-year probationary period in which the licensee cannot violate any hunting, guiding, or transporting federal or state statutes or regulations, beginning after licensure.  |                   |
| <b>Subsidiary Motion:</b> | Move to amend the previous motion to include a 5-year probationary period in which the licensee cannot violate any hunting, guiding, or transporting federal or state statutes or regulations, beginning after licensure. (First: Lorrington; Second: Buist).  |                   |
| <b>Recorded Votes:</b>    | Bloomquist - Yes   | McCarthy - Absent |
|                           | Boniek - Yes   | Nordlum - Yes     |
|                           | Buist - Yes  | Flores - Absent   |
|                           | Lorrington - Yes   | Kunder - Absent   |
| <b>Brief Discussion:</b>  | <p>The board continued discussion on issuing the license. Mr. McCarthy reconnected to the meeting and was in attendance for the discussion on this application during executive session. Mr. Boniek said that the applicant has a long past of noncompliance with rules, regulations, and laws, which taints the board's willingness to issue the license. However, he said that he does not think that the board has the legal grounds to deny the license under what is allowed and required for a transporter license. He said that if the license was issued with a 5-year probationary period, he would be in favor of it. Mr. Lorrington said that he would be voting no because of a lack of poor judgment, including recent convictions, and cited <b>12 AAC 75.440(a)(1) PROFESSIONAL ETHICS STANDARDS FOR PROVIDERS OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES: Unethical Activities</b> for his reason for voting no. Mr. Buist also said he would be voting no and cited the same regulation. Mr. Boniek argued that the regulation is a stretch because it points to disciplinary sanctions under <b>AS 08.54.710</b> and only refers to hunting, guiding, and transporting activities. With nothing left to discuss, the board voted on the application.</p> |                   |
| <b>Recorded Votes:</b>    | Bloomquist - Yes   | McCarthy - Yes    |
|                           | Boniek - Yes   | Nordlum - Yes     |
|                           | Buist - No   | Flores - Absent   |
|                           | Lorrington - No  | Kunder - Absent   |
| <b>Brief Discussion:</b>  | <p>With Mr. McCarthy reconnected to the meeting, the board decided to go into executive session to discuss Case No. 2024-001140, the case that was tabled earlier in the meeting because a quorum was not established. Before entering into executive session, the board decided to schedule their next meeting, which would be their meeting to review written public comment regarding proposed GUA boundary changes. The board decided to have the meeting on March 31, 2025. Chairman Bloomquist said that their regularly scheduled meeting in Fairbanks was cancelled because their big regulations project was not going to be ready to review at the meeting, and that they were not going to have an attorney present during the meeting. He informed the board that he intended to have a Zoom meeting every time any of their regulations projects were ready to be reviewed by the board, so they can expedite the process as quickly as possible. The board continued discussion regarding Case No. 2024-001140. The board voted Dave Lorrington as acting chair and Chairman Bloomquist recused himself from executive session.</p>  |                   |

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| Motion:                                     | Move to have Dave Lorrington as acting chair in Chairman Bloomquist’s absence (First: Boniek; Second: Bloomquist).  |                   |
| Recorded Votes:                             | Bloomquist - Yes  | McCarthy - Absent |
|   | Boniek - Yes  | Nordlum - Yes     |
|   | Buist - Yes   | Flores - Absent   |
|   | Lorrington - Yes  | Kunder - Absent   |
| Brief Discussion:<br>Off Record: 12:04 p.m. | Chairman Bloomquist left the meeting and waited in the waiting room. The board moved into executive session for discussion of investigative matters.  |                   |
| Motion:                                     | I, Pete Buist, 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, Janet Brown, and Lee Strout to remain during the session (First: Buist; Second: Boniek). |                   |
| Recorded Votes:                             | Bloomquist - Absent   | McCarthy - Yes    |
|   | Boniek - Yes  | Nordlum - Yes     |
|   | Buist - Yes   | Flores - Absent   |
|   | Lorrington - Yes  | Kunder - Absent   |
| Brief Discussion:<br>On Record: 12:13 p.m.  | No action was taken during executive session.   |                   |
| Case No. 2024-001140                        |   |                   |
| Motion:                                     | Move to accept consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001140 (First: Buist; Second: Boniek).   |                   |
| Brief Discussion:                           | The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001140: An RGO guided clients within a GUA that he was not registered in. This was a second offense. The RBM recommended a \$2,500 fine (\$1,250 suspended), probation for one year, and a board reprimand. Mr. Boniek said that the reason the fine was so large was because it was the licensee’s second offense. There was no other discussion.  |                   |
| Recorded Votes:                             | Bloomquist - Recused  | McCarthy - Yes    |
|   | Boniek - Yes  | Nordlum - Yes     |
|   | Buist - Yes   | Flores - Absent   |
|   | Lorrington - Yes  | Kunder - Absent   |
| Brief Discussion:                           | Acting Chairman Dave Lorrington relinquished his status as acting chair. With nothing left to discuss, Chairman Bloomquist adjourned the meeting.   |                   |
| Adjourn:                                    | 12:17 p.m.  |                   |

Date Final Minutes Approved by the Board:

☐ Meeting

☐ OnBoard

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