

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 JULY 18, 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 July 18, 2025, at 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9th Floor, Juneau, AK.

Date:	July 18, 2025
Time:	9:00 a.m. (9:29 a.m.)
Location:	Online teleconference ran from 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9th Floor, Juneau, AK
Board Members Present:	Aaron Bloomquist, Keegan McCarthy, Martin Boniek, Dave Lorrington, Mike Flores
Board Members Absent:	Larry Kunder, Clay Nordlum
Division/SOA Staff Present:	Thomas Bay (Executive Administrator), Janet Brown (Occupational Licensing Examiner), Jenni Summers (Senior Investigator), Lee Strout (Investigator), Dannie Kerfeld (Investigator)
Present from the Public:	None

1. Review Agenda		
Brief Discussion:	Mr. Bay informed the board that he had received the board's probationary report. The board amended the agenda to add the probationary report to the agenda.	
Motion:	Move to amend the agenda by adding the board's probationary report to the agenda (First: Boniek; Second: Lorrington).	
Recorded Votes:	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Absent
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
Brief Discussion:	Chairman Bloomquist informed the board that he wanted to have a discussion at the end of the meeting to address the board's exams.	
Motion:	Move to amend the agenda by adding a discussion regarding the board's exams to the agenda (First: McCarthy; Second: Boniek).	

Recorded Votes:	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Absent
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
2. Ethics Review		
Brief Discussion:	There were no ethical disclosures by any board members or staff.	
3. Probation Report		
Brief Discussion:	Senior Investigator Jenni Summers introduced Dannie Kerfeld, a new investigator with the division. Dannie provided the probation report to the board. She informed the board that there were 24 licensees on probation, three of which were out of compliance, and two of which were suspended. Five licensees were released since their last report. Before moving into executive session, the board reviewed their investigative report.	
4. Investigative Report		
Brief Discussion:	The board’s investigator, Lee Strout, provided the board with their investigative report, which was for the period of December 5, 2024, through July 7, 2024. He informed the board that there were 59 open cases and that 41 were closed since their last report. With nothing to discuss further and before entering into executive session to discuss investigative matters, Dave Lorrington provided the board with a quick update regarding the Board of Game (BOG). He said that the BOG had a special meeting to address court action against ADF&G regarding the intensive management (IM) program for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. He reminded the board that the caribou population was way down, resulting in a closed season. He said that the original IM plan was to just have predator control for wolves, but that it later turned to bears. He said there was a lawsuit against ADF&G because the addition of bears was not publicly noticed, resulting in it being out of compliance with the constitution, and that a judge overturned bears being a part of the IM. After a few emergency meetings, he said that the BOG was able to cover all of the problems with the original IM and that bears were again included in the program. He finished by saying that he expected more lawsuits against the board. With nothing left to discuss, the board decided to go into executive session to discuss investigative matters.	
5. Investigative Matters for Review: Executive Session		
Brief Discussion:	The board moved into executive session for discussion of investigative matters.	
Motion: Off Record: 10:01 a.m.	I, Martin Boniek, 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, Jenni Summers, Lee Strout, and Dannie Kerfeld to remain during the session (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	

Recorded Votes:	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Absent
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
Brief Discussion: On Record: 12:29 p.m. Off Record: 12: 30 p.m.	No action was taken during executive session. Aaron Bloomquist informed the audience that the board was provided a presentation resulting from their IT project regarding hunt records and transporter activity reports, and that the board would have a live presentation of it during their December meeting. The board took a break.	
5. Summary/Motions from Executive Session		
Brief Discussion: On Record: 12:45 p.m.	Back from break, the board provided summaries and motions regarding investigative matters discussed in executive session.	
Case No. 2022-000222		
Motion:	Move to accept consent agreement for Case No. 2022-000222 (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	
Brief Discussion:	The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2022-000222: A registered guide-outfitter, through a Rule 11 plea agreement, was convicted of aiding in commission of a violation and unlawful taking of big game with bait. The RBM concluded that the licensee’s conviction violated AS 08.54.710(a) and recommended a one-year license suspension consistent with the criminal conviction, a fine of \$10,000 (\$0 suspended), five years of probation upon reinstatement, and a board reprimand. Chairman Bloomquist said that the board was restricted on what they could do because of the criminal conviction. There was no other discussion.	
Recorded Votes:	Boniek – Yes	Kunder - Absent
	Bloomquist – Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	McCarthy – Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores – Yes	
Case No. 2025-000126		
Motion:	Move to accept consent agreement for Case No. 2025-000126 (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	
Brief Discussion:	The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2025-000126: A registered guide-outfitter directed the harvest of a brown bear cub. The RBM recommended a \$1,500 fine (\$500 suspended), probation for two years, and a board reprimand. There was no discussion.	
Recorded Votes:	Boniek – Yes	Kunder - Absent
	Bloomquist – Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	McCarthy – Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores – Yes	

Case No. 2025-000255		
Motion:	Move to accept the consent agreement for Case No. 2025-000255 (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	
Brief Discussion:	The board considered the proposed consent agreement for Case No. 2025-000255: An RGO submitted very late hunt records. Chairman Bloomquist said that the board would normally send a letter of advisement warning, however the hunt records were submitted very late and there were a lot of them. The RBM recommended a fine of \$1,000 (\$500 suspended), probation for one year, and a board reprimand.	
Recorded Votes:	Boniek – Yes	Kunder - Absent
	Bloomquist – Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	McCarthy – Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
Case No. 2025-000311		
Motion:	Move to accept consent agreement for Case No. 2025-000311 (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	
Brief Discussion:	The board considered the consent agreement for Case No. 2025-000311: A transporter submitted very late transporter activity reports (TARs). Chairman Bloomquist said that this case is similar to the previous one, with the only difference being that the transporter sent his TARs in much later and had more late forms than the RGO. The RBM recommended a fine of \$1,000 (\$500 suspended), probation for two years and a board reprimand.	
Recorded Votes:	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Absent
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
Case No. 2025-000470		
Motion:	In the case of Case No. 2025-000470, move to accept the voluntary surrender of license #GUIR952 (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	
Brief Discussion:	In the case of Case No. 2025-000470, the board considered the voluntary surrender of license #GUIR952: An RGO did not have proper land use authorization for the area guided, failed to complete hunt contracts, and failed to submit hunt records in a timely manner. The licensee decided to surrender his license.	
Recorded Votes:	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Absent
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	

Case No. 2025-000108		
Motion:	Move to approve the application for Case No. 2025-000108, subject to 3-years of probation, during which the board may suspend the license subject to the violation of any law (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	
Brief Discussion:	The board considered the application and licensure regarding Case No. 2025-000108: An applicant for an assistant guide license disclosed a large number of criminal convictions from his past. Chairman Bloomquist said that his criminal convictions, although serious in nature, were very old and that he did not think the board could deny his license. He said that a 3-year probationary period should go a long way to prove that the applicant is on the straight and narrow. There was no other discussion.	
Recorded Votes:	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Absent
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	
Case No. 2025-000244		
Motion:	Move to approve the application for Case No. 2025-000244 (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	
Brief Discussion:	The board considered the application and licensure regarding Case No. 2025-000244: An applicant for an assistant guide license disclosed a large number of criminal convictions from his past, spreading across a lengthy period of time and as recent as 2020. Chairman Bloomquist said that the applicant's guilty convictions for assaults, domestic charges, thefts, etc., including many misdemeanors, and multiple felonies, do not support the professionalism, use of judgement, and ethics required of license holders of the industry. Mr. Lorrington said the board discussed the matter in depth during executive session and that denying licensure at this time was the correct route to take. He said that a denial right now would not prevent the applicant from applying in the future, given more time to show his ability to stay on the straight and narrow. Mr. Lorrington cited 12 AAC 75.340(b)(1) as the regulation used for denying the application. There was no other discussion.	
Recorded Votes:	Boniek - No	Kunder - Absent
	Bloomquist - No	Nordlum - Absent
	McCarthy - No	Lorrington - No
	Flores - No	
6. Annual Report		
Brief Discussion:	Mr. Bay informed the board that he had placed a drafted version of their annual report in the board packet last second, after it was approved by Chairman Bloomquist. After review, the board approved the annual report.	
Motion:	Move to approve the board's annual report for FY 2025 (First: Flores; Second: McCarthy).	
Recorded Votes:	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Absent

	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	McCarthy - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	

7. Exams

Brief Discussion:

Chairman Bloomquist reminded the board that they had updated the Game Management Unit (GMU) exams in the spring. He informed them that the first go around did not go very well and that a lot of candidates failed their exams. He said that the intent was not to make the exams more difficult, but to make them more uniform and easier, testing on information an RGO should know. He said that the exams needed a little fine-tuning for the next go around, including adding another question to make the exams 16 questions in length, and that he would have something for the board to review at their next meeting, which would be held before their December meeting. He asked Mr. Bay if they had a vendor lined up for possibly administering the exams online, to which Mr. Bay said that they needed to decide how the exam would work and what it would look like at a high level before discussions with vendors could begin. Chairman Bloomquist asked Mr. Bay to see if they could get a vendor ready for the GMU exams in advance of the December exams. As for the RGO exams, he reminded the board that he was working on updating the RGO written and practical exams to be held online as well, but that it would not be ready by December, especially because portions of the changes he would like to add are in their current regulations project, which is with LAW but on pause because of the Governor's Administrative Order.

8. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

Brief Discussion:

Having finished all previous agenda items, the board scheduled their next meetings. After discussion, they decided to schedule a teleconference for October 1, 2025, and their regularly scheduled winter meeting (also teleconference) for December 10, 2025. With nothing left to discuss, Chairman Bloomquist adjourned the meeting.

Adjourn:

1:46 p.m.

Date Final Minutes Approved by the Board:

☐ Meeting ☐ OnBoard