

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 30 – December 2, 2020
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 30 – December 2, 2020; this meeting was held via
11 Zoom.

12
13 **Monday, November 30, 2020**
14

15 **The Chair brought the meeting to order at 9:04 am**
16

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

18 Henry Tiffany - Licenses Registered Guide-Board Chair
19 Larry Van Daele - Board of Game Representative
20 Michelle Heun - Licensed Transporter
21 Pete Buist - Public Member
22 Jason Bunch - Registered Guide Outfitter
23 Adam Trombley – Public Member
24 Mike Flores – Licensed Transporter
25

26 **Board Members Absent:**

27 Nicholas Jackson- Private Land Owner ***UNEXCUSED***
28

29 **Staff Members present:**

30 Renee Hoffard – Executive Administrator
31 Lee Strout – Investigator
32 Ryan Gill – Probation monitor
33 Thomas Bay – Licensing Examiner
34 Sara Chambers – Division Director
35

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

37 Mark Richards-Resident Hunters of Alaska
38 Sam Rohr – President, Alaska Professional Hunters Association
39 Thor Stacey – Alaska Professional Hunters Association
40 Dick Rohr
41 Joe Klutsch
42 Kurt Whitehead
43 George Siavelis
44 Mike Zweng
45 Steve Perrins Sr.

46 Alisha Decker
47 Zach Decker
48 Steve Perrins II
49 Frank Danford
50 Cabot Pitts
51 Sam Fejes
52 Gary “Butch” King
53 Mark Rownhorst
54 Tim Booch
55 Aaron Bloomquist
56 Chris Zwolinski

57

58 **Agenda Item: Review Agenda**

59 The board reviewed the agenda that was approved by Board Chair Henry Tiffany.

60

61 **In a motion duly made by Michelle Heun, seconded by Adam Trombley with unanimous
62 consent, it was resolved to adopt the daily agenda as written.**

63

64 **Agenda Item: Ethics Disclosures**

65 The board members had no ethics disclosures.

66

67 **Agenda Item: Officer Elections**

68 This meeting will be Chair Henry Tiffany’s last meeting as his term on the board expires March
69 1, 2021. Election of a new chair at this meeting will allow for overlap while Mr. Tiffany is still an
70 active board member.

71

72 **In a motion duly made by Henry Tiffany, seconded by Pete Buist with unanimous consent, it
73 was resolved to elect Jason Bunch as board chair effective immediately.**

74

75 **In a motion duly made by Henry Tiffany, seconded by Jason Bunch with unanimous consent, it
76 was resolved to re-elect Adam Trombley as vice chair.**

77

78 Newly elected Chair Jason Bunch took over running the meeting and thanked Mr. Tiffany for his
79 years of service and leadership.

80

81 **Agenda Item: Review Meeting Minutes**

82 The board reviewed draft meeting minutes for March 17-19, March 30, July 22 and October 2,
83 2020 meetings held by the board. All meetings, with the exception of the March 17-19
84 meeting, were held via Zoom in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

85

86 **In a motion duly made by Adam Trombley, seconded by Henry Tiffany with unanimous
87 consent, it was resolved to approve the March 17-19, March 30, July 22 and October 2, 2020
88 meeting minutes as written.**

89

90 **Agenda Item: Regulations Proposal(s) – New Proposals**

91 12 AAC 75.260(d) UVC's (J. Bunch) – proposed amendments to potentially provide clearer
92 guidance for enforcement. **12 AAC 75.260. REGISTERED GUIDE-OUTFITTER CONTRACT**
93 **REQUIREMENTS.** d) A contracting registered or master guide who is signing the hunt contract,
94 and who intends to apply a client for a drawing hunt permit for a hunt conducted under
95 regulations required under AS 16.05, shall obtain a unique verification code (UVC) **for each**
96 **guide use area in which a UVC is required** from the department before entering an application
97 for the client. UVC's will only be issued to registered or master guides who are registered in a
98 guide use area located in the hunt area the year the application is made and the years the
99 permit is valid. **UVC's will be current until the associated GUA registration expires or is**
100 **withdrawn or amended. UVC's can only be utilized by the contracting registered or master**
101 **guide who is applying clients for a drawing hunt permit.**

102
103 **In a motion duly made by Adam Trombley, seconded by Henry Tiffany with unanimous**
104 **consent, it was resolved to move the draft proposal forward to regulations for public**
105 **comment.**

106
107
108 B. Booking agents – discussion tabled to Tuesday, December 1 at 2:30 pm.

109
110 *Break at 9:45 am*

111 *Return at 10:00 am*

112
113 **Agenda Item: Public Comment –**

114 Steve Perrins II, Registered Guide GUIR1295. Stated that he feels the board has taken a
115 position of micromanaging guides in the past few years. Wants the Master guide statute
116 language corrected to match the intent as quickly as possible. Would like the board/division to
117 reconsider the numbering convention used currently for license numbering.

118
119 Kurt Whitehead, Master Guide GUIM211. Choose to hold his comments until 12/1/20 as they
120 are directly associated with draft regulation.

121
122 Dick Rohr, Master Guide GUIM69. Spoke to program finances. Per his calculations the program
123 should have a healthy surplus going into FY 2022 and he recommends the \$300 annual filing fee
124 for hunt records be considered for reduction at that time. The current fee is the same for all
125 contracting guides and transporters, he would like consideration to be given to those who
126 contract fewer hunts over the course of the year. Feels the board is moving in the right
127 direction with the proposal for the UVC's regulations.

128
129 Sam Rohr, Master Guide GUIM204. President, Alaska Professional Hunters Association.
130 Thanked the board for ongoing support and thanked H. Tiffany for his years of service.

131
132 Joe Klutsch, Master Guide GUIM91. Thanked H. Tiffany for his service and dedication to the
133 board. Feels guides are over-regulated in some aspects of their businesses and would like the

134 board to consider making some changes to lessen the burden on guides. Will provide
135 additional comments 12/1/20.

136

137 Chair Bunch closed public comment.

138

139 *Break at 10:25 am*

140 *Return at 10:30 am*

141

142 **Agenda Item: Division Update/Fiscal Report:**

143 Division Director Sara Chambers joined the meeting to provide the division update. Director
144 Chambers reviewed the Fiscal Year 2021 1st quarter fiscal report; the program ended the
145 quarter with a surplus of \$396, 157. Fiscal year 2021 is a non-renewal year and the surplus will
146 be used to cover the expenditures of the program through the renewals in Fiscal year 2022.
147 Investigations expenditures for this quarter were \$28, 527 and non-investigative expenditures
148 were \$20,407. A fee analysis will be conducted prior to the next board meeting for the board
149 to review in spring 2021.

150

151 Director Chambers also reviewed the Fiscal year 2020 end of year report covering indirect
152 allocations and more technical aspects of the program finances.

153

154 EA R. Hoffard provided a staff update. Staff has started issuing UVC codes for the upcoming
155 draw; one of the changes made was to issue a code per GUA that a guide has eligible for the
156 code. The hope is to decrease misuse of the codes. At the time of the meeting all hunt records
157 and transporter activity reports submitted have been processed. This allowed staff to identify
158 areas of the internal system that need to be adjusted for efficiently and clarity. A system
159 change request was submitted to the department IT section for review of requested changes.
160 Ms. Hoffard stated she agrees with D. Rohr regarding the annual filing fee; \$300 is excessive for
161 a guide that submits 10 or fewer records per year. There was one instance over the previous
162 season when a licensee submitted a total of 128 records in one batch for processing.
163 Regulations the board adopted in October 2020 became effective November 28; a new
164 regulations packet is available on the website reflecting those changes. The applications and
165 forms will be updated in the coming weeks.

166

167 ***Break for lunch at 11:38 am; return to record at 1:30 pm***

168

169 **Agenda Item: Public Comment:**

170 Thor Stacey, Registered Guide GUIR1194, Alaska Professional Hunters Association. Thanked H.
171 Tiffany for his service to the industry. Spoke to work done with the Board of Game to ensure
172 continued hunting opportunities denied hunters in 2020 and this board. APHA is working to
173 update the economic impact study, expected results by end of December 2020; this is a
174 comprehensive report that gives insight into how the industry is doing. APHA is also watching
175 ongoing litigation - Dr. Robert Cassell versus the State of Alaska, specifically the Board of Game.
176 The lawsuit involves a complaint against the way that brown bear hunts are managed and
177 allocated on Kodiak Island.

178

179 Sam Rohr, Master Guide GUIM204. President, Alaska Professional Hunters Association. Asked
180 the board to work on provisions for emergency transfer of guide contracts; this has been a
181 topic under consideration for some time and needs to be adequately addressed in procedures
182 or a policy statement by the board.

183
184 Mark Richards, Executive Director - Resident Hunters of Alaska. Wanted to make a brief
185 comment in regard to the Cassell case mentioned by APHA. The case is in Superior Court and is
186 expected to be there until spring or early summer 2021.

187
188 Frank Danford, Registered Guide GUIR959. Spoke about buffer areas and booking agents.
189 Would like the board to address the buffer areas as he sees it as a safety issue.

190
191 Chair Bunch stated for the record that the board has conferred with the Department of Law
192 (DOL) on the topic of buffer areas several times and has been told, in no uncertain terms, that
193 they cannot enact regulations that DOL sees as unlawful under the statutory authority of this
194 board. Previous proposals submitted speak to property laws and the board does not have the
195 authority to regulate property law. Attendees were encouraged to seek solutions that would
196 be acceptable to DOL.

197
198 **Agenda Item: Investigations Unit:**
199 Probation Monitor Ryan Gill provided the probation report. At the time of the report there
200 were 22 license holders on probation, 20 of which were in compliance. Since the March 2020
201 meeting, 4 license holders were released from probation.
202 Investigator Strout provided his investigative report for the time period of July 15, 2020 through
203 November 24, 2020. During this time period Investigator Strout opened 40 cases and closed
204 49. The closed cases were largely compromised of application issues.

205
206 Chair Bunch announced that the board will be entering executive session to discuss
207 investigative issues and the board will not return to the record for board business for the
208 remainder of the day. The meeting will call to order again at 9:00 am, December 1, 2020.

209
210 **In accordance with the provisions of Alaska Statute 44.62.310(c), I, Michelle Heun move to go**
211 **into executive session for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the**
212 **reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.**
213 **Board staff to remain for the session. Adam Trombley seconded the motion. Motion passed**
214 **via unanimous consent.**

215
216 **Off record at 2:38 pm**
217 **Return to record 4:01 pm**

218
219 Chair Bunch called recess until 9:00 am December 1.

220
221 Off record at 4:02 pm.

222

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

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The Chair brought the meeting to order at 9:03 am

Board Members Present Constituting a Quorum:

- Jason Bunch - Registered Guide Outfitter, Chair
- Henry Tiffany - Licenses Registered Guide-Board
- Larry Van Daele - Board of Game Representative
- Michelle Heun - Licensed Transporter
- Pete Buist - Public Member
- Adam Trombley – Public Member
- Mike Flores – Licensed Transporter

Board Members Absent:

- Nicholas Jackson- Private Land Owner **UNEXCUSED**

Staff Members present:

- Renee Hoffard – Executive Administrator
- Lee Strout – Investigator
- Thomas Bay – Licensing Examiner

Agenda Item: Review agenda:

In a motion duly made by Henry Tiffany, seconded by Larry Van Daele with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve the daily agenda as written.

Agenda Item: Summary/Motions 11/30/20 Executive Session:

On a motion duly made by Adam Trombley, seconded by Michelle Heun, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to approve the Registered Guide license pending qualifying exams for Tyler Kuhn. Motion passed;

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Henry Tiffany	X		
Jason Bunch	X		
Larry Van Daele	X		
Peter Buist	X		
Michelle Heun	X		
Adam Trombley	X		
Mike Flores	X		

On a motion duly made by Adam Trombley, seconded by Michelle Heun, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to approve the consent agreement as written for case # 2020-000643, Tyler Kuhn – harvest of over-limit brown bear, Unit 13. Motion passed;

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Henry Tiffany	X		
Jason Bunch	X		
Larry Van Daele	X		
Peter Buist	X		
Michelle Heun	X		
Adam Trombley	X		
Mike Flores	X		

260

261

On a motion duly made by Adam Trombley, seconded by Michelle Heun, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement as amended to allow 365 days for payment of fine(s) for case # 2020-000564, Joshua Chadd – conviction, unlawful methods of take.

262

263

264

Motion passed;

265

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Henry Tiffany	X		
Jason Bunch	X		
Larry Van Daele	X		
Peter Buist	X		
Michelle Heun	X		
Adam Trombley	X		
Mike Flores	X		

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On a motion duly made by Adam Trombley, seconded by Michelle Heun, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to approve the consent agreement as written for case # 2020-000562. Bryan Griffin – conviction unlawful take and failure to disclose prior history on application. Motion passed;

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Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Henry Tiffany	X		
Jason Bunch	X		
Larry Van Daele	X		
Peter Buist	X		
Michelle Heun	X		
Adam Trombley	X		
Mike Flores	X		
Adam Trombley	X		

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On a motion duly made by Adam Trombley, seconded by Michelle Heun, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement as written for case # 2020-000271 Thomas Hedlund – failure to document communication requirement on hunt record(s). Motion passed;

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Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Henry Tiffany	X		
Jason Bunch	X		
Larry Van Daele	X		

Peter Buist	X		
Michelle Heun	X		
Adam Trombley	X		
Mike Flores	X		

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On a motion duly made by Adam Trombley, seconded by Michelle Heun, via roll call vote, it was RESOLVED to approve the consent agreement as written for case # 2020-000976 Jerry Hedrich – harvest sublegal Dall Sheep Ram. Motion passed;

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Henry Tiffany	X		
Jason Bunch	X		
Larry Van Daele	X		
Peter Buist	X		
Michelle Heun	X		
Adam Trombley	X		
Mike Flores	X		

282

Agenda Item: Public Comment – 12 AAC 75.150 Professional Development Proposed Regulations:

283

Regulations:

284

Mark Richards, Executive Director - Resident Hunters of Alaska. Strongly opposes inclusion of transporters in proposed regulations. Proposed standards are onerous and unnecessary.

287

Alisha Decker, Master Guide GUIM208. Feels current proposal is a good idea but not drafted appropriately. Recommends board table this proposed amendment.

290

Zach Decker, Registered Guide GUIR1263. Opinion mirrors A. Decker. Amendment should be tabled for revisions that best meet the needs of the industry.

293

Steve Perrins II, Registered Guide GUIR1295. Served on sub-committee that initially drafted language but that language is not reflected in the current proposal. Feels the proposed amendment should be voted down all together. The industry has so many other topics that should take priority right now.

298

Sam Rohr, Master Guide GUIM204, President Alaska Professional Hunters Association. Supports concept of the proposed amendments but feels it should be tabled for revision. A realistic concept would be to have an open-book, online “test” covering program statutes and regulations as well as ethics.

303

Joe Klutsch, Master Guide GUIM91. The proposal should be tabled and revised.

305

Dick Rohr, Master Guide GUIM69. Suggests the board table this proposed amendment and send it back to a sub-committee for additional work. His review of written comments suggests that all were opposed to the amendment based on how it is currently written.

309

310 George Siavelis, Master Guide GUIM150. Very much in favor of continuing education and
311 professional development.

312
313 Kurt Whitehead, Master Guide GUIM211. Feels guides should be proud to serve the industry
314 and grateful for ability to provide for themselves and families by benefitting from a public
315 resource. Encouraged participation and being part of the solution(s) for issues facing the
316 industry.

317
318 Mike Zweng, Registered Guide GUIR 1290. Agrees that participation is a key factor in continued
319 success of the board/program but that the participation should be voluntary. Also submitted
320 written comments.

321
322 *Break - off record at 10:14 am*

323 *Return to record at 10:30 am*

324
325 **Agenda Item: Sub-committee meetings**

326 The board worked through the subcommittees as a group with input from the callers on the
327 line. There was a good discussion for the transporters regarding FAQ's and the jurisprudence
328 exam. The board formed a new sub-committee for survivorship, Henry Tiffany will chair the
329 sub-committee and anticipates having information for the board at the March 2021 meeting.

330
331 ***Break for lunch at 12:17 pm; return to record at 1:32 pm***

332
333 **Agenda Item: Public Comment – 12 AAC 75.150 Professional Development Proposed**
334 **Regulations:**

335 Thor Stacey, Registered Guide GUIR1194, Alaska Professional Hunters Association. The
336 association received a variety of input from members expressing concern for the proposed
337 amendment. APHA feels board should table this amendment and revise it through a sub-
338 committee.

339
340 Kurt Whitehead, Master Guide GUIM211. Feels strongly that all the guides need to step up and
341 be involved however it shakes out; it's all the same thing, continuing education.

342
343 Steve Perrins I, Master Guide GUIM123. Recommends board table proposed amendment and
344 have sub-committee revise. Volunteered to serve on sub-committee.

345
346 Cabot Pitts, Registered Guide GUIR1299. Professional development side of things is needed;
347 thinks there still needs to be a little bit of work on things and is encouraged by the participation
348 at this meeting. Volunteered to serve on sub-committee.

349
350 Sam Fejes, Master Guide GUIM73. In support of the continuing education professional
351 development; other professions have similar requirements and the guides are professionals as
352 well.

353

354 Gary “Butch” King, Master Guide GUIM97. Opposed to the proposal as written, it should be
355 tabled and sent back to a sub-committee for revision.

356

357 Mark Rowenhorst, Registered Guide 136630. Declined to comment

358

359 Tim Booch, Master Guide GUIM176. Thinks that this is ill advised as it's being proposed right
360 now. Appreciates everybody's involvement in you know these boards and the process.

361 Concerns about the costs associated with required attendance at meetings for individuals in
362 outlying communities.

363

364 Aaron Bloomquist, Registered Guide GUIR1259. Feels changes could be made to the proposal
365 and it would work. Volunteered to serve on the sub-committee.

366

367 George Siavelis, Master Guide GUIM150. Still supports but after hearing other comments
368 agrees it should be revised so the responsibility sits fully with the guides. It shouldn't fall on
369 Fish and Game biologists or Alaska Wildlife Troopers.

370

371 Ronald Phillips, Registered Guide GUIR1342. As a non-resident license holder has concerns
372 about time and expenses that he will incur if the proposal is passed as written.

373

374 Mark Rowenhorst, Registered Guide 136630. Wanted to respectfully disagree with Mr. Phillips.
375 Feels it would be able to meet the requirements as currently written by attending meetings via
376 telephone or video as they are currently attending this meeting. The current pandemic has
377 demonstrated groups can “meet” without have the costs of travel.

378

379 Chair Bunch closed public comment as this was not a forum for debating this issue.

380

381 *Break - off record at 2:14 pm*

382 *Return to record at 2:30 pm*

383

384 **Agenda Item: New Business:**

385 A. Board discussion – 3-year guide use area registration. The board briefly discussed the new
386 regulation that became effective 11/28/2020. The guide use area registration application
387 has been revised to reflect the change in regulation; it also includes the addition of the
388 special registration for Spring 2021 bear hunts in Unit 9.

389 B. Board discussion – Conflicts in the field. This topic has been brought up more and more
390 frequently. The board discussed some of the issues regarding this. The opinion of the
391 board is that conflicts in the field are a direct violation of the regulations regarding ethics of
392 guides. The board discussed various solution and recommendations that included listing
393 the ethical violation on future consent agreements as applicable and drafting a position
394 statement. The position statement would be paired with the program disciplinary matrix
395 and complaints would be addressed as they come to the board.

396 C. Board discussion – Disciplinary Matrix. Discussion was tabled until March meeting.

397 D. Tabled regulations proposal – Booking agents. Mr. Coons proposal was not drafted as a
398 regulations proposal, it was comments regarding his concerns with booking agents. Based

399 on current statutes and regulations, use of booking agents is not unlawful. The underlying
 400 issue is that people may not be doing things correctly and simply have not been caught.
 401 Until complaints are filed and investigations are conducted, nothing can be done
 402 unfortunately for those situations.

403

404 **Agenda Item: Old Business**

- 405 A. 12 AAC 75.150 Professional Development regulation amendment. Chair Bunch asked
 406 the board members to state their position on the proposed amendment.
- 407 1. Adam Trombley – not comfortable with proposal as written after hearing comments.
 408 Recommends it be tabled for sub-committee for revision.
 - 409 2. Michelle Heun – after hearing comments will not support proposed amendment as
 410 written. Intent is good and is in support of sending the project to a sub-committee.
 - 411 3. Pete Buist – Agrees the concept is good and is needed by the industry, supports
 412 sending it to a sub-committee. Not persuaded by the comments that the proposal is
 413 a heavy burden. Does not have much sympathy for non-residents; they choose to
 414 make their living in this state.
 - 415 4. Mike Flores – declined to comment
 - 416 5. Larry Van Daele – written and oral comments were interesting, more efficient
 417 communication with other agencies is needed before anything similar moves
 418 forward. In favor of tabling this proposal.
 - 419 6. Henry Tiffany – in favor of a sub-committee revising the proposed amendment.

420

421 **On a motion duly made by Henry Tiffany, seconded by Adam Trombley, via roll call vote, it**
 422 **was RESOLVED to table the proposed amendments to 12 AAC 75.150. The proposed**
 423 **amendment will be reviewed and revised. Motion passed;**

424

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Henry Tiffany	X		
Jason Bunch	X		
Larry Van Daele	X		
Peter Buist	X		
Michelle Heun	X		
Adam Trombley	X		
Mike Flores	X		

425

426 **On a motion duly made by Henry Tiffany, seconded by Adam Trombley, via roll call vote, it**
 427 **was RESOLVED to form a sub-committee to review and draft new language to amend 12 AAC**
 428 **75.150, professional development. Motion passed;**

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435

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse
Henry Tiffany	X		
Jason Bunch	X		
Larry Van Daele	X		
Peter Buist	X		
Michelle Heun	X		
Adam Trombley	X		
Mike Flores	X		

436

437

- B. Jurisprudence questionnaires for Assistant Guides, Class-A Assistant Guides and Transporters. The board reviewed the draft jurisprudence questionnaires as provided for content and applicability. The questionnaires will be posted on the program website as stand-alone documents but are required for new applications for licensure. New applicants must receive at least a 70% on the open-book questionnaire in order to be granted a license.

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443

444 Recess – off record at 3:38 pm

445

446

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

447

448 The Chair brought the meeting to order at 10:03 am

449

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

451 Jason Bunch - Registered Guide Outfitter, Chair

452 Henry Tiffany - Licenses Registered Guide-Board

453 Larry Van Daele - Board of Game Representative

454 Michelle Heun - Licensed Transporter

455 Pete Buist - Public Member

456 Adam Trombley – Public Member

457 Mike Flores – Licensed Transporter

458

459 **Board Members Absent:**

460 Nicholas Jackson- Private Land Owner ***UNEXCUSED***

461

462 **Staff Members present:**

463 Renee Hoffard – Executive Administrator

464 Lee Strout – Investigator

465 Thomas Bay – Licensing Examiner

466

467 **Agenda Item: Review agenda:**

468

469 **In a motion duly made by Pete Buist, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous consent, it**

470 **was resolved to approve the daily agenda as written.**

471

472 **Agenda Item: Public Comment:**

473 Chris Zwolinski, Master Guide GUIM145. Spoke to conflicts in the field and self-management of
474 public resources. Guides should be held accountable to being good stewards of the land and he
475 feels inaction is not an option anymore.

476
477 Mark Richards, Executive Director-Resident Hunters of Alaska. Would like to see the
478 transporter sub-committee take up the issue of professional development for transporters
479 separately from the sub-committee created 12/1/20. Resident hunters are happy that the
480 board adopted the regulation requiring a 3-year commitment to guide use areas. They feel the
481 board should start limiting the numbers of hunters so that residents don't have to pay for the
482 excessiveness of the guide industry. Thanked Henry for his time on the board and the rest of
483 the board for their service; may not always agree with them but appreciates what the board
484 does and respects all of the board members.

485
486 **Agenda Item: State and Federal Agency Updates**

487 Alaska Department of Fish & Game (F&G): Director of Wildlife Conservation Eddie Grasser,
488 Assistant Director Tony Kavalok and Assistant Director Ryan Scott provided an update from
489 F&G. 81% of spring bear hunters from 2020 contacted the department to request transferring
490 their permits to 2021 and it has gone fairly well. The department did issue a significant amount
491 of refunds for hunters that were not able to reschedule hunts. The department made a
492 conscious effort to reduce their budget as they realized that impact COVID would have on
493 license purchases, particularly with non-resident hunters. They are optimistic that they may be
494 able to return to their previous budget in FY2022 but they are being careful and monitoring the
495 situation closely.

496
497 Dept. Of Natural Resources (DNR) – Nikki Potter provided a brief overview of DNR services; the
498 various permits and fees associated with DNR services. She reviewed DNR procedures for
499 conducting services remotely due to office closures during the current pandemic and
500 encouraged the callers to contact them via email for inquiries. DNR has been able to work with
501 BGCSB staff and provide permits and LAS's via email to expedite processing times. She
502 reminded the board and public in attendance that despite common opinion, DNR does not
503 manage the guides, they only manage the land. Calls/complaints about guides or transporters
504 should be directed to BGSCB staff via their email or website for timely responses. She also
505 reminded everyone that DNR does routinely conduct field inspections on permits to ensure
506 compliance.

507
508 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Zach Million provided an update from BLM. He reviewed
509 the 3 districts of the BLM and the recreation programs it provides. He briefly discussed the
510 varied permits for commercial activity on BLM land. He answered questions from the board.

511
512 Mental Health Trust – Chandler Long spoke in regard to the new guide use area permit program
513 that was implemented in April, right at the onset of COVID. The trust statutorily must maximize
514 revenue generation from our land, which in turn funds beneficiary programs across the state of
515 Alaska. The trust provides funding for programs like criminal justice reentry access, local

516 treatment centers, and social services. There were reported successful hunts on those trust
517 lands in fall 2020.

518
519 US Forest Service – Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor for the Tongass National Forest provided a
520 short update from the forest service. He offered a couple of updates from the congress
521 perspective, was very open and clear that he was not reporting out on the Chugach section of
522 the Forest Service only the Tongass that he actually had direct engagement in that discussion of
523 conflict management that we've heard several of the organizations talk about continues to be
524 an ongoing challenge. He offered sincere appreciation to state, federal colleagues, along with
525 all the members that helped over the last couple of years come to a better answer and a better
526 term of trying to remedy or resolve or work through conflict management. This is principally
527 that work between small boat operators that are out for wildlife viewing and those operators
528 that are specific typically associated with the cruise line industry and those operators that are
529 outfitter/guides for hunting and harvesting. He also mentioned that the Forest Service is also
530 trying to transition over to a special use permitting and recording system. The intention of the
531 system is to make it easier on those outfitter guides to be able to report. The forest service
532 thinks that reporting can be done more productively through an electronic database and data
533 entry which gives more flexibility.

534
535 Board of Game – Larry Van Daele provided an update from the Board of Game (BOG). Larry has
536 been appointed acting Vice Chair for the BOG, elections for officers will be held in January
537 2021. BOG has 2 new members. BOG will be making some changes to their meeting schedule
538 in light of COVID, the January 21 work session will be held via Zoom. That work session is just
539 to have elections and to hear from the various agencies and maybe address a couple special
540 topics but there will be no regulatory activity during that work session. The next scheduled
541 meeting is for the central southwest part of the state was scheduled for the 22nd through the
542 29th of January; there are approximately 100 proposals for that meeting which has been
543 postponed for now. BOG is considering options for holding meetings and conducting business
544 in a manner that best meets the needs of the board and the public given current travel
545 restrictions and public safety.

546
547 Alaska Wildlife Troopers – Captain Aaron Frenzel joined the meeting to provide a brief update
548 from the troopers. The troopers have 89 funded positions statewide and 7 of those are
549 currently vacant. 8 recruits recently came out of the academy and will spend a portion of
550 their first year out in Fairbanks and Palmer. There are 4 troopers that will be retiring this spring
551 which will increase the vacancies but there will be a spring academy to try and fill those spots.
552 Enforcement – they have noticed guides are not reviewing paperwork, they are failing to look
553 at the proper drawing permits for clients and it may be because that information is optional on
554 hunt records where it was required in the past. Licensees should be diligent in checking the
555 permits, harvest tickets and locking tags to make sure clients have the correct documents; if
556 clients are found with animals wrongly harvested the trooper's hands are tied at that point.

557
558 ***Break for lunch at 12:04 pm; return to record at 1:30 pm***

559
560

561 **Agenda Item: Public Comment**

562 Steve Perrins I, Master Guide GUIM123. He would like the board to consider timing of
563 meetings; many times, license holders just return home from the field and may not be up-to-
564 date on topics. The statues for the master guide language needs to be addressed and he feels a
565 sub-committee should be formed to work on this. He asked the board to provide a paper
566 mailing of updates, he feels more license holders will notice postal mail opposed to emails.

567
568 Zach Decker, Registered Guide GUIR1263. Cautions the board to consider impacts to other
569 areas of the state; fixing a problem in the north may have detrimental impacts in the south. He
570 would be happy to serve on a sub-committee to work on the issues.

571
572 Steve Perrins II, Registered Guide GUIR1295. He would like the guide license number issue
573 worked on, he had spoken with Director Chambers who led him to believe there may be a quick
574 fix to the issue. He would appreciate the boards support on this topic. He also has concerns
575 that the program is paying for investigative costs that they should not be paying.
576 Chair Bunch asked EA Renee Hoffard if she could address Mr. Perrins concerns. Renee stated
577 she would follow up with Director Chambers regarding the license numbers; previous
578 discussions on the topic became low priority for the division when the COVID pandemic hit and
579 more resources were needed for the medical professional licensing teams. As for the
580 investigative costs; licensing programs are statutorily mandated to pay for staff and
581 investigations. The only funds from investigations that are paid into the state general fund are
582 fines levied as part of a disciplinary action; that is done to keep board from setting fines in an
583 attempt to cover the costs of an investigation. Fines should be issued in direct correlation with
584 the severity of the violation, not the cost of the investigation. All programs, board supported or
585 not, must cover the costs of their own investigations.

586
587 **Agenda Item: Executive Session**

588
589 **In accordance with the provisions of Alaska Statute 44.62.310(c), I, Michelle Heun move to go**
590 **into executive session for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the**
591 **reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.**
592 **Board staff to remain for the session. Henry Tiffany seconded the motion. Motion passed via**
593 **unanimous consent.**

594
595 **Off record at 2:06 pm**

596 **Return to record 3:02 pm**

597
598 **Agenda Item: Administrative Business:**

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

601
602 March 23-25, 2021 with exams March 25-26; will be held via Zoom with exam in Anchorage
603 given the current travel restrictions due to COVID-19.

604
605

606 **In a motion duly made by Henry Tiffany, seconded by Mike Flores with unanimous consent, it**
607 **was resolved that staff would mail out a paper notice monthly until the March board**
608 **meeting. The mailers will provide updates, information about regulations changes and**
609 **encourage license holders sign up for electronic notifications.**

610
611 EA Renee Hoffard was asked to check on availability of social media option for the board.
612

613 The board will consider scheduling town hall meetings in the future, part of the consideration
614 will be finding a balance of time for public comments and allowing time for board responses to
615 those comments.

616

617 **Agenda Item: Task list:**

618 A. Sub-committees:

- 619 1. Survivor-ship; chaired by Henry Tiffany
- 620 2. Professional Development; chaired by Jason Bunch
- 621 3. Transporters; Michelle Heun and Mike Flores
- 622 4. Conflicts in the field; Adam Trombley and Larry Van Daele

623

624 EA R. Hoffard asked sub-committee chairs notify her of the date(s) for the first meetings of the
625 committees by the last week of Decembers so she can ensure appropriate public noticing of the
626 meetings.

627

628 Having completed all business on the agenda, Chair Bunch adjourned the meeting.

629

630 Off record at 3:46 pm.

631

632 Respectfully Submitted,

633

634 *Renee Hoffard*

635 _____
Renee Hoffard

636 Executive Administrator

637

638

639 *Jason L Bunch*

640 _____
Jason Bunch

641 Board Chair

3/30/2021

Date

3/27/2021

Date