

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 DECEMBER 10-11, 2024**

**By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provision of AS 44.62,  
Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Big Game Commercial Services Board was held December 10-11,  
2024, at 550 W. 7th Ave, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Anchorage, AK.**

<b>Dates:</b>	December 10-11, 2024
<b>Time:</b>	December 10: 9:00 a.m. (9:22 a.m.); December 11: 9:00 a.m. (9:05 a.m.)
<b>Location:</b>	Robert Atwood Building: 550 W. 7th Ave, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Anchorage, AK
<b>Board Members Present:</b>	Aaron Bloomquist, Martin Boniek, Mike Flores, Pete Buist, Clay Nordlum (absent until 2:30pm on first day), Larry Kunder, Dave Lorrington
<b>Board Members Absent:</b>	None
<b>Division/SOA Staff Present:</b>	Thomas Bay (Executive Administrator), Janet Brown (Occupational Licensing Examiner), Lee Strout (Investigator), Alison Osborne (Regulation Specialist), Sylvan Robb (Division Director)
<b>Present from the Public (includes all three days):</b>	Dianna Leinberger (DNR), Major Aaron Frenzel (AWT), Lt. Robert Welch (AWT), Col. Bryan Barlow (AWT), Mark Richards, Laura Boniek, Rebecca Boniek, Michelle Heun, Spencer Pape, Jerry Hedrich, Jason Bunch, Lyle Becker, Frank Danford, Dan Montgomery, Henry Tiffany, Dick Rohrer, Derrick Campbell, Matt Snyder, Steve Perrins II, Jason Johnston

Day One		
1. Review Agenda		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	After discussion, the board decided to amend the agenda by adding a discussion on illegal transporting during their transporter workgroup discussion on day two.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to accept the agenda as amended (First: Boniek; Second: Lorrington).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	Lorrington - Yes	
2. Ethics Review		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	There were no ethical disclosures by any board members or staff.	

3. Review/Approve Meeting Minutes:		
Brief Discussion: -March 26-28	The board reviewed their March 26-28, 2024, meeting minutes, which they approved without any changes.	
Motion:	Move to accept the March 26-28, 2024, meeting minutes as written (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	
Recorded Votes:	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	Lorring - Yes	
4. Moment of Silence		
Brief Discussion:	In remembrance of Cary Foster, a former board member that passed away in Fall 2024, the board had a moment of silence.	
5. Initial Application - Registered Guide-Outfitter		
Brief Discussion:	The board decided to go into executive session to discuss a registered guide-outfitter (RGO) application for the purpose of voting on the applicant to sit for the December 2024 RGO exams.	
Motion:	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. The applicant, Jason Johnston, to also remain during executive session (First: Flores; Second: Boniek).	
Off Record: 9:31 a.m.		
Recorded Votes:	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	Lorring - Yes	
Brief Discussion: On Record: 9:37 a.m.	No action was taken during executive session. Chairman Bloomquist informed the audience that the applicant had an incomplete application to sit for the RGO exams due to both of his employing RGOs having passed away in the last year and not being able to fill out his assistant guide evaluation form. He also informed the audience that another RGO who worked with the applicant filled out an assistant guide evaluation form for him. The board decided to approve the applicant to sit for the December 2024 RGO exams.	
Motion:	Move to accept Jason Johnston’s application in view of his extenuating circumstances and allow him to sit for the December 2024 RGO exams (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	
Recorded Votes:	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes

	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	Lorrington - Yes	
Brief Discussion:	Chairman Bloomquist informed the audience that the applicant had a complete application	
6. State & Federal Agency Updates		
-Department of Natural Resources -Division of Mining, Land and Water	Dianna Leinberger, a natural resource land manager, in the Northern region, from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW), was in attendance to provide an update for the board. She informed the board that DMLW deputy director Rachel Longacre and Southcentral permitting manager Candy Snow were in-person at the meeting for any follow up questions after her update. She provided an update on the Guide Concession Program (GCP). She reminded the board that SB 189 passed in the previous legislative session, creating a guide concession area permit program, however, no funding was appropriated to pay for positions to implement the program. She said that they were not yet aware of any potential funding in the coming legislative session, but that they were watching it closely. She also said that the SB 189 is being challenged in court, with the assertion is that SB 189 does not adhere to a provision of the Alaska constitution, and that DNR would be working with the Department of Law to respond to the legal finding. She said that she was informed that Director Christy Colles was approached at an APHA meeting regarding opportunities to get started on the GCP, and that they would be giving it some thought moving forward. She informed the board that HB 125, regarding trapping cabin permits, was signed by Governor Dunleavy, and that it is important because it allows DMLW to issue trapping cabin permits for existing cabins to new people. She informed the board that DMLW came up with an approach for bear baiting that will work for commercial guides. A hard copy fact sheet for bear baiting was provided to the board. She said that the fact sheet addresses personal use and commercial use for bear baiting. She said that personal use is considered generally allowed use and that they are not requiring additional permits for bear baiting stations that are out longer than 14 days. For commercial operations that use bear baiting stations, if a guide has a land use permit for a guide camp, they can include the bear baiting stations as a part of that permit with no additional permitting or fees. For guides who do not have a land use permit on state land, they will be required to do commercial day use registration. With nothing left to discuss, the board thanked Ms. Leinberger for her time.	
-U.S. Forest Service	Mr. Bay informed the board that Jason Anderson, a recreation supervisor for the United States Forest Service (USFS), would not be in attendance to provide an update, but that he did email the board with a quick update. Mr. Bay informed the board that his email said that the USFS was moving forward with advertising a big game hunting prospectus, for a limited number of hunts on the Ketchikan, Sitka, and Juneau Ranger Districts, and that they would likely be advertising in January/February 2025.	
-Alaska Wildlife Troopers	Major Aaron Frenzel, from the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT), introduced himself. He also informed the board that Lt. Robert Welch and Col. Bryan Barlow were also in attendance. He informed the board that they were still budgeted for 90 positions statewide, with 31 different posts. He said that, while they are adding new positions, they still have less than	

	<p>they have had in the past, all while having the population rise. He said that they have newer recruits that are in training, and that it will be beneficial when they are able to complete the program. He said that they have seven vacancies across the state, and that they are hopeful that they will get them filled, however, with retirements likely coming, it will be difficult to stay get to 100% filled. As for problems around the state, during the 2024 season, he said that there were not many drastic spikes of any sort. He said that they continue to see a high number of complaints about the growing number of transporters across the state, and that it was mostly marine transporters. Dave Lorrington said that he attended an AC meeting in Fairbanks and that a wildlife trooper said that a case was being made against a person for spotting sheep with an aircraft and asked if he could provide an update. Major Frenzel said that they were not really supportive of the case at first because it is difficult to prove that a person is spotting sheep from an aircraft. He said that they were working with some people who were sheep hunting and saw the aircraft spotting sheep, but that he could not go into detail about it because it was an open case. He said that a press release would follow after the case is finished. Chairman Bloomquist said that there had been some confusion on where to tag an animal and that it was discussed at the last APHA meeting. He said that the law states that a person is required to tag the animal on something that is required to be salvaged. On Kodiak, he said that only includes tagging the meat on deer or goats. He asked if AWT was willing to work with the board to find a solution to the issue. Major Frenzel said that he did not think any tickets had been issued and that they would look into it moving forward. Martin Boniek asked if there were plans to increase the number of aircraft they have, to which he said yes. He said that they would likely increase the number of helicopters because they are able to get to areas that a fixed-wing aircraft cannot. With nothing left to discuss, the board thanked Major Frenzel for his time.</p>
<p><b>-US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</b></p>	<p>The US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service's (USFWS's) Regional Permits Coordinator Kathey Virgin provided an update for the board. She informed the board that Senior Federal Wildlife Officer Cody Smith was also on the line. She said that the USFWS was implementing a new online guide service evaluation survey form, and that a notice with a link to the form would be provided to guides directly working on USFWS land. She said that the expectation is that guides will provide the link to the new form to their clients so that they have an opportunity to provide feedback after their hunts and that refuges will have more frequent results. She informed the board that they released prospectuses in seven refuges for applications for guiding permits. Chairman Bloomquist asked if the new evaluation form was available yet. She said that it was in beta testing and that she anticipated them going out to guides in late February/early March. Officer Cody Smith informed the board that they were shuffling staff around the state because of a last second vacancy, but that they had some new hires and a new transfer from another state as well, but that they were in training. He updated the board regarding 50 CFR, for abandoned property and fuel storage, which was still under review but was going to Washington DC for review the next day. He said that there were quite a few large pending violation cases. He also said that there was an odd uptick of failure to retain evidence of sex, but that none of them were from guides or transporters. Chairman Bloomquist asked if the evidence of sex issue was related to any specific species, to which he said caribou. Chairman Bloomquist informed the audience that he was working with the USFWS in regard to the fine amounts being handed out in the field. He said that there have been fine amounts that have triggered <b>AS 08.54.605</b></p>

	<p><b>ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSES</b>, and that it has resulted in licensees having their licenses suspended. Officer Smith said that the fine amounts cannot be reduced in the field, and that they are trying to work on the problem. Chairman Bloomquist said that it might be easier for the board to change their fine amounts in statute, that trigger suspensions, than it would be for the USFWS to get their fine amounts changed. Officer Smith said that there may be ways around certain fines and that they would work with the board to do their best not to get licensees suspended for simple violations that come with a large fee. With nothing left to discuss, the board thanked Kathey Virgin and Cody Smith for their time.</p>
<p><b>-Board of Game</b></p> <p><b>Off Record: 10:33 a.m.</b></p>	<p>Board member Dave Lorrington, the Board of Game representative on the BGCSB, provided an update for the board. He said that the governor did not reappoint the former chairman, so they are working under an acting chairman until a new one is voted in. He said that one of their members had a medical emergency but is on the mend, and that she will likely not be available for their next meeting, which would result in having six members at the meeting, an even number of members that might result in voting issues. He said that their next two meetings will be held in January, in Wasilla, and March, in Anchorage. He said that they were waiting to schedule any kind of GCP business until after the funding issue is resolved. He said that they just had an AC meeting and had some proposals that qualified for BOG review, which included bison and sheep proposals. He said that they were working on getting a process together for those who had permits to hunt bison in the Delta area but could not use them because of the big die off of bison where a large number of bison fell through the ice and died. The permits that were issued for the area had to be reduced, so the BOG was looking for ways to get those permit holders who could not hunt future hunts. Chairman Bloomquist said that there was an interpretation in Kodiak that all bear skulls found from a dead bear have to be sealed, something that is contrary to the rest of the state. He asked Mr. Lorrington if he could bring it to the BOG for review, to which he said he would. The board took a break.</p>
<p><b>7. GUA Boundary Changes</b></p>	
<p><b>Brief Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>On Record: 11:03 a.m.</b></p>	<p>Mr. Bay informed the board that their GUA boundary changes regulations project should be back from the Department of Law very soon and that if no substantial changes were made by their office, that it should be going out to public notice soon. Chairman Bloomquist said that if there were substantial changes, the board would need to meet to review the changes before the public comment period.</p>
<p><b>8. Division Update: Current Fiscal Report – FY24 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Quarters</b></p>	
<p><b>Brief Discussion:</b></p>	<p>The board welcomed the division Director Sylvan Robb to the meeting. Director Robb provided the board with their FY24 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> quarter fiscal reports, which ultimately came to a large surplus, something she said would continue to be reduced over time because of their fee changes a few years back. Chairman Bloomquist asked if the division was expecting anymore fee changes to help adjust their overhead, to which she said the division did not know yet, but that they would know when they do a fee analysis in Spring 2025. Mr. Kunder said that because of their overhead, they should be able to have board meetings in places of need, such as Kodiak. Director Robb said that the division has a certain amount of travel authority, from the legislature, split between the entire division, including board members from all boards and all staff, and that it is a balancing act. She said that the division can look into it for the next fiscal year when they do their Travel</p>

	<p>Authority spreadsheet. Mr. Flores asked if their IT project was coming out of their budget, to which she said yes. Chairman Bloomquist informed the board that Director Robb had spoken with him on the phone for an hour and forty-five minutes a few days before their meeting and thanked her for giving him so much of her time. Lastly, he asked her what the board needed to do to be able to do online testing. She said that the board would need to make a motion on the record to move to online testing. She said that the division has a number of vendors they use, each with their own expertise, and that they could look into them to see which ones would make sense for their board or look into finding one that does. With nothing left to discuss, the board thanked Director Robb for her time.</p>
<b>9. Discussions for Board Meetings/Exams/Terms</b>	
<p><b>Brief Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>Off Record: 12:06 p.m.</b></p>	<p>Chairman Bloomquist said that the board is looking for people to fill vacant board positions, as well as upcoming vacant board positions. He asked the audience to think about people that may be able to fill their vacant private land holder and RGO seats, as well as their upcoming public member seat, currently held by Pete Buist, who would be terming out March 2025. He said that an RGO from Southeast Alaska would be very helpful because there are a lot of issues there.</p> <p>Chairman Bloomquist said that one reason they could not have a meeting in Kodiak is because of the RGO exams and the growing number of candidates. He said that the exams require a practical exam, that they normally get most of their proctors the week of the exams, and that holding a meeting and the exams in Kodiak would be very difficult. For brainstorming purposes, he suggested a change to their practical exams by moving the aging/sexing and trophy judging questions to their RGO written exam and replace the scoring portion with requiring every applicant becoming an official measurer through Pope and Young, Boone and Crocket, or Safari Club International (SCI), as a prerequisite to sitting for their exams, and retain the caping video requirement. He also said that they could add a Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification as a prerequisite to test. He said that the changes would allow for online proctoring from a vendor, which could allow the board to hold meetings in problem areas such as Kodiak. Mr. Bay informed the board that they would need to do a regulations project to amend <b>12 AAC 75.110(a)(1)(A)</b> because the regulation requires the practical exam to cover “trophy judging of <u>actual</u> antlers and horns.” After discussion, the board decided to take up discussion on the topic later in the meeting. The board went to lunch.</p>
<b>10. Lunch</b>	
<b>11. APHA Update</b>	
<p><b>Brief Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>On Record: 1:33 p.m.</b></p>	<p>Back from lunch, the board welcomed Thor Stacey, who was in attendance to provide the Alaska Professional Hunters’ Association’s (APHA’s) update, to the meeting. Mr. Stacey informed the board that he was dealing with an urgent matter. Chairman Bloomquist asked if he could come back the next day to provide an update, to which he said yes. With nothing left to discuss, the board moved to their next agenda item.</p>

## 12. New Regulations Project to Repeal Unneeded Regulations

### Brief Discussion:

Chairman Bloomquist informed the board that he went through the board's regulations in an attempt to find unneeded regulations that might need repealed. Again, he said this agenda item was just for brainstorming purposes, with no intention of creating a regulations project at the meeting. He just wanted the board's opinion on what he found. He said that he found caribou listed in **12 AAC 75.100(a)(1)(D)(iii)** and **12 AAC 75.115(a)(1)(D)(iii)**, both of which should have been removed years earlier when they removed caribou as a species-specific animal for RGO licensing. He suggested removing **12 AAC 75.112(a)(2)(D) & (E)**, which allows camping and surveying of game as experience to sit for a GMU exam. Mr. Boniek asked what the original intent of the regulation was, to which Chairman Bloomquist replied that it was to make it easier to get the experience required (60 days) within a GMU for certification examinations. He suggested that camping and surveying game is not guide-related enough. Chairman Bloomquist said that removing 'terrain, transportation, and logistics' from **12 AAC 75.112(c)(2)**, which would remove a requirement to have a GMU certification examination applicant tested on their knowledge of the topics within the GMU they are testing for, might be nice because it would keep the board from having to update their GMU exams so often. He said that the topics have not had an impact on candidates passing their exams and have become more of a formality. He suggested removing **12 AAC 75.117(e)**, which states that an RGO exam score is valid for no more than two years, and if, within two years after the date of an examination, the applicant has not been issued a license, they must again apply for initial licensure. He said that he does not understand why an RGO applicant should have to reapply for initial licensure if they are going through the process of becoming an RGO. He said that he did not know the intent behind the creation of the regulation but that it was unnecessary to have an applicant reapply for the exams, especially if the supporting documentation is the same, making it a redundant process and a waste of time. He suggested removing **12 AAC 75.145(a)(4)**, which requires a transporter applicant to provide copies of the FAA and USCG licenses applicable to the applicant's operations before they are licensed. He asked if the board should collect the licenses and suggested that the FAA and USCG deal with unlicensed practice, which the board would review if a transporter were convicted of such a violation. After discussion, the board agreed that the requirement should not be repealed. Chairman Bloomquist suggested removing **12 AAC 75.145(b)**, in an attempt to get ahead of what the board has talked about, which is removing a business or entity as an option to hold a transporter license. He said that he thought repealing the regulation might get around having to do a statute change. After a thorough discussion, the board was not sure if repealing the regulation would have the effect that Chairman Bloomquist was looking for and was not sure if they wanted to move in that direction. Chairman Bloomquist suggested the board get an attorney's opinion on the matter, to which the board agreed. He suggested removing "furnish one copy of the completed hunt record to the client and" from **12 AAC 75.210(e)** because providing a copy of the completed hunt record to a client is redundant when they have so many copies available when needed. The board did not see a reason to remove the language. He suggested removing "a single calendar year or" from **12 AAC 75.230(a)(6)** and the first sentence from **12 AAC 75.230(b)**, both of which would be cleanup because they should have already been removed when they did their regulations project, which now requires multiple year registrations. He

	<p>suggested repealing the sworn statements required in <b>12 AAC 75.230(a)(4)</b> and <b>(5)</b>, and the registration requirement in <b>12 AAC 75.230(f)</b> because a problem has been created due to landowners/land managers not providing land use authorization in a timely manner. He also suggested repealing <b>12 AAC 75.230(g)</b>, which is just cleanup because it pertained to being able to register for brown bear hunts in 2021. He suggested repealing “as recorded on the hunt record” in <b>12 AAC 75.260(e)</b> because there is nothing filled out on the hunt record until after the hunt is over other than the client’s information, the RGO’s license number, and both of their signatures. Removing the language would make it clear that a contract may be amended at any time before the conclusion of a hunt. He suggested repealing all of <b>12 AAC 75.265 GUIDE USE AREA BOUNDARY CHANGES</b>, which details the process of the board amending GUA boundaries, including who to mail notices to and considering certain public comment from different organizations. He suggested repealing <b>12 AAC 75.340(c)(6)</b>, which is to advise a client before a hunt of the game population in the hunting area. He said that a guide can take their best guess at a game population of an area, but that the practicality of it may be impossible. He suggested removing <b>12 AAC 75.450(b)(3)</b>, which is a requirement for a transporter to list each big game animal to be hunted by their clients on their written contracts. He said that transporters do not have any authority to tell a client, once they are in the field, what they can or cannot hunt, so the requirement is likely outside of their scope of practice. Mr. Boniek agreed with him and Mr. Flores said he was neutral on the topic. Chairman Bloomquist suggested removing <b>12 AAC 75.900(e)(6) and (7)</b>, both of which are identical for the reasons of repealing <b>12 AAC 75.145(a)(4)</b> and <b>12 AAC 75.145(b)</b>. The only difference is that these relate to required documentation at time of renewal of a transporter license. Lastly, Chairman Bloomquist suggested removing <b>12 AAC 75.900(f)(3)</b>, which is a requirement for an assistant/class-A assistant guide to submit the names of the guide-outfitters that employed the applicant during the concluding licensing period on their renewal application. He did not see a reason for the requirement. Chairman Bloomquist reiterated that this discussion was for brainstorming purposes only. With nothing left to discuss, the board moved to their next agenda item.</p>
<b>13. Investigations Unit</b>	
<b>Probation Monitor Report</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	<p>The board’s new probation monitor, Jacob Davis court, introduced himself to the board and was in attendance to provide their probation report. Mr. Davis court informed the board that there were currently 22 licensees on probation, as of the date of the report, and that two licensees were released from probation since the last report. Three licensees were also out of compliance. With nothing left to discuss, the board moved onto their investigative report.</p>
<b>Investigative Report</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	<p>The board’s investigator, Lee Strout, provided the board with their investigative report, which was for the period of March 21, 2024, thru December 4, 2024. He informed the board that there were 64 open cases and that 57 were closed since their last report. Mr. Boniek asked if he was seeing any trends, to which he replied that he was seeing more GUA registration violations than normal and that it was because guides were forgetting to renew their registrations. Other than that, the caseload was about the same as usual. With</p>



Off Record: 2:58 p.m.	nothing left to discuss, the board took a break before going into executive session to discuss investigative matters.	
Executive Session		
Brief Discussion: On Record: 3:14 p.m.	Returning from break, the board decided to go into executive session to review confidential investigative matters.	
Motion:  Off Record: 3:16 p.m.	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, Janet Brown, and Lee Strout to remain during the session (First: Flores; Second: Boniek).	
Recorded Votes:	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorring - Yes	
Brief Discussion: On Record: 3:55 p.m. Off Record: 3:55 p.m.	No action was taken during executive session. With nothing left to discuss for the day, the board recessed until the next morning.	
Day Two		
1. Review Agenda		
Brief Discussion:	Chairman Bloomquist added a ‘Repeals Package’ discussion as a new subsection under agenda item Subcommittee/Workgroup Updates/Formation of New Committees.	
Motion:	Move to accept the agenda as amended (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	
Recorded Votes:	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorring - Yes	
2. Summary/Motions from Executive Session		
Brief Discussion:	Chairman Bloomquist informed the audience that the board would be voting on investigative matters that were discussed in executive session at the end of day one.	
Case No. 2024-000067		
Brief Discussion:	The board considered the consent agreement for Case No. 2024-000067. An RGO allowed unlicensed camp personnel to provide transportations services without a proper license. He also contracted with four clients for guided brown bear hunts but only provided a guide for two of them and only provided a guide on a partial number of days of their hunt. The money paid for the hunts was refunded after the fact. The consent agreement was in	

	accordance with a plea agreement. The reviewing board member found that the licensee's unsuspended criminal fine triggered <b>AS 08.54.605(a)(1)(A)(ii)</b> , which prohibits the licensee from receiving, holding or renewing his guide license for 12 months from the date of conviction. The reviewing board member also recommended a \$6,000 fine with \$6,000 suspended, probation for three years, and a board reprimand.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to accept the consent agreement for Case No. 2024-000067 (First: Flores; Second: Boniek).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorring - Yes	
<b>Case No. 2024-000068</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board considered the consent agreement for Case No. 2024-000068. The assistant guide in this case is a business partner of the RGO previously discussed in Case No. 2024-000067 and had similar violations. He allowed unlicensed camp personnel to provide transportations services without a proper license. He also shot and killed several beavers during closed seasons, failed to salvage the hide on some or all the beavers, and used them for bear bait. The consent agreement was in accordance with a plea agreement. The reviewing board member found that the licensee's unsuspended criminal fine triggered <b>AS 08.54.605(a)(1)(A)(ii)</b> , which prohibits the licensee from receiving, holding or renewing his guide license for 12 months from the date of conviction. The reviewing board member also recommended a \$6,000 fine with \$6,000 suspended, probation for three years, and a board reprimand.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to approve the consent agreement for Case No. 2024-000068 (First: Flores; Second: Lorring).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorring - Yes	
<b>Case No. 2024-000359</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board considered the consent agreement for Case No. 2024-000359. An initial applicant for an assistant guide license had three previous wildlife violations at time of application. The reviewing board member recommended that the applicant be issued an assistant guide license contingent upon the applicant accepting and signing a consent agreement, which immediately puts the license on probation for two years.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to approve the consent agreement for Case No. 2024-000359 (First: Buist; Second: Bloomquist).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes

	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorring - Yes	
<b>Case No. 2024-000934</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board considered the consent agreement for Case No. 2024-000934. An RGO harvested a sublegal moose. The reviewing board member recommended a \$1,000 fine, probation for one year, a board reprimand, and that the licensee be restricted from solo guiding moose until he shows evidence of guiding on successful moose hunt with another guide present. Mr. Lorring said that he was in favor of the hunting restriction for moose because it is another avenue for a licensee to learn from his mistakes.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to approve the consent agreement for Case No. 2024-000934 (First: Flores; Second: Lorring).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorring - Yes	
<b>Case No. 2024-001102</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board considered the consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001102. An RGO forgot to renew his GUA registrations and guided in a non-registered area. The reviewing board member recommended a \$1,000 fine with \$1,000 suspended, probation for one year, and a board reprimand. Mr. Lorring said that people make mistakes, especially with renewing multi-year registrations, and that the violation did not seem to be of ill intent, so he would be voting in favor of the consent agreement.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to approve the consent agreement for Case No. 2024-001102 (First: Flores; Second: Lorring).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorring - Yes	
<b>3. UVC Sharing</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Chairman Bloomquist said that there was some confusion on whether or not an agent of an RGO could put the clients of that RGO into the annual hunting permit drawing, thru ADF&G, using their Unique Verification Code (UVC). He said that there were some different interpretations of it over the years and that the division needed some clarification. Technically, he said, that UVC codes belong to the RGO and should not be shared with clients. He said that there had been cases in the past where a client would use an RGOs UVC code on an application for an agreed upon area, but that the client would also use the	

	code for other areas and then shop a winning draw permit to guides in those areas. Mr. Boniek asked what the original intent of the UVC was. Chairman Bloomquist said that it was to not have a client applying in an area outside of an agreed area that they had with an RGO. He said that the regulation states, "Unique verification codes can only be utilized by the contracting registered or master guide who is applying clients for a drawing hunt permit." He suggested going to public comment to get opinions on the topic.
<b>4. Public Comment</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Mr. Bay created a list of attendees that wanted to provide public comment. The board began public comment.
<b>Mark Richards</b>	<p>Mark Richards, Executive Director of the Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK), began discussion on the Guide Concession Program. He said that RHAK did not support the original bill as written because of the transferability clause in the bill and that it was not a statewide program. He said that the bill got passed during the previous legislative session by being inserted into another bill and that it was clearly against the single-subject rule. He said that RHAK can get behind the GCP getting passed but that it will have to be through an entirely new bill because the previous bill is being challenged in court.</p> <p>Mr. Richards said he did not want to bring it up but felt that he had to. He said that there was a case before the board involving two transporters, Tok Air Service and 40-Mile Air, who had a disagreement over airstrips. He said that Tok Air Service went to land a client on an airstrip and that it had been blocked off, so they landed on an airstrip that 40-Mile Air just used to drop clients off, and an argument ensued between the two pilots. During that time, another 40-Mile Air airplane could not land and contacted AWT, who cited Tok Air Service for interference in a hunt. He said that, during the trial, the owner of 40-Mile Air admitted on the record he had cut trees and dug holes on the strip to keep the other pilot from landing. He said that it is the most egregious thing a pilot can do because of how dangerous it can be to pilots that need to land in dangerous weather conditions. He said that he had been asking the board's investigator for several years why the board has not done anything about it, to which Mr. Strout informed him it was with a board member for review. Mr. Strout informed Mr. Richards that the review had been finished the night before this meeting and that it was moving forward. With nothing left to discuss the board thanked Mr. Richards for his testimony.</p>
<b>Jason Bunch</b>	Jason Bunch, an RGO, began his testimony on the UVC code issue. He said that the original intent of the UVC code was to ensure an RGO was the person using the code and entering their clients in the drawing. That ensured that an RGO would have a contract with a client and that the RGO knew the people he was putting into the draw were the people he was communicating with. At that time, he said there were a lot of communication issues regarding booking agents applying clients into a draw on behalf of an RGO, but that the RGO had never actually talked to the client, so there were a lot of breach of contract type scenarios where the guide promised things that he did not actually promise. It was the booking agent who had promised them. He said that a long time ago, before the UVC code, nonhunters applied people in the draw in hopes of saving an animal because they never planned on sending hunters into the field. He said that the UVC code was created to show that there is an agreement between an RGO and a client, including a written contract between each of them, so that the permits go to the correct people who draw them. He

	<p>said that the UVC code was also created as an easy way to audit the drawing, to ensure that all nonresidents applied in the drawing have a guide-client agreement in place and not throwing a wrench in the system. He said that, while he does not think the board has a leg to stand on regarding an agent acting on an RGO's behalf and using a UVC code to submit an application in the drawing, it was not the intent for it to happen. With nothing left, the board thanked Mr. Bunch for his testimony.</p>
<b>Jerry Hedrich</b>	<p>Jerry Hedrich, an RGO, said that there should be more mechanisms in place to contact RGOs in areas that are closed, such as emails, text messages, and phone calls. He said that he had an issue with a hunt earlier in the year because of an emergency closure, that he had no idea about the closure, and that he had only heard about it from a friend. He said that there should be some kind of allocation for outfitters operating in those areas that take in account for the quota for it to be closed for whatever that animal is. Chairman Bloomquist agreed with him but said that it was a BOG issue. He suggested writing a proposal to the BOG. Mr. Lorrington said there is an email list that anyone can register for on the BOG's website to receive notices for meetings, regulation changes, proposals, and other information from the BOG. With nothing left to discuss, the board thanked Mr. Hedrich for his testimony.</p>
<b>Dan Montgomery</b>	<p>Dan Montgomery, an MGO, said that he had a client who applied himself in the drawing and then sent him a guide-client contract. He said that the client put his guide license number as the UVC code, and it accepted the application. His understanding was that the draw permit, if pulled, would be thrown out. He said that the board has issued permits for the last five years to people who were not signed up for the area for the hunt year. He said that the board should not be telling people that they can use the same UVC code if they are not signed up for the following year. He said that the board also let people sign up for areas after they had drawn permits. He said that it should not be allowed and that everybody should have to follow the same rules. Chairman Bloomquist said that his interpretation of the regulation was that people could not receive or use a UVC code unless they were who are "registered in a guide use area located in the hunt area the year the application is made and the years the permit is valid," per <b>12 AAC 75.260(d)</b>. Mr. Bay said that the regulation is going to have to be amended because it also says that UVC codes are good until they expire, are withdrawn or amended, which is why he had been telling RGOs that they can use their previous codes as long as their registration had not expired. Chairman Bloomquist asked Mr. Bunch, the previous chairman of the board, if he had any information on the topic. Mr. Bunch said that the regulation needs amended. He said that another portion of the regulation reads as, "Unique verification codes will be current until the associated guide use area registration expires or is withdrawn or amended," which means that someone on the backend of a registration could technically still use their UVC codes from the previous year because their registration had not yet expired. He said that it is a loophole until the regulation is amended. The board understood his explanation. Chairman Bloomquist said that he already has a way to amend the regulation and that they would address it at a later time. With nothing left to discuss, the board thanked Mr. Hedrich for his testimony.</p>
<b>Henry Tiffany</b>	<p>Henry Tiffany, an MGO, began his testimony speaking on behalf of the board's regulation project to change GUA boundaries, specifically GUA 25-03. He said that there are some inaccuracies with discussions on the GUA. He said that the unit was one area until about</p>

	<p>2010 and switched to 25-03A and 25-03B. He said that nobody being registered in one of those areas, instead of just 25-03, was false because he was registered specifically in 25-03B multiple times since 2010, with the registration being changed back and forth between 25-03 and 25. He said that you can look at the maps on the BGCSB website and it clearly states that the unit is divided into two. He said that there was obviously an administrative clerical error with GUA registrations being issued due to turnover likely being the reason. With nothing left to discuss, the board thanked Mr. Tiffany for his testimony.</p>
<b>Dick Rohrer</b>	<p>Dick Rohrer, an MGO, began testimony on the UVC code issue. He said that it originally came out of Kodiak, and was originally called a guide-client agreement, which the staff in Kodiak checked to make sure any nonresident applications for brown bear permits included proper registration. He cautioned any guides from giving out their UVC codes. With nothing left to discuss, the board thanked Mr. Rohrer for his testimony.</p>
<b>Derrick Campbell</b>	<p>Derrick Campbell, an RGO, said that one of the hot topics in all the meetings lately has been state land guide concessions. He said that something that is helpful and often overlooked for guides and clients is keeping the process for becoming a registered guide-outfitter as rigorous as possible. He said that there have been record numbers of RGO applicants recently and that while it is good for the board's budget it is not good for the industry. He believes that the board's budget would still be in a good position with a high number of assistant guides. He said that he felt a great accomplishment when he received his RGO license and that the board should hold that type of license on a high pedestal. He suggested the board move back to requiring five successful species-specific guided hunts of an animal in order to guide for them and that he's against oral boards, especially if applicants do not have to travel to Alaska. He suggested taking away the open-book material of the RGO written exam, bringing back the 125 days in the field experience requirement, and requiring an assistant guide to have three years of experience. He said that the amount of client recommendations required for getting an RGO license should also be raised. Chairman Bloomquist clarified that the board still requires 125 days in the field experience and for an assistant guide having three years of experience.</p> <p>On the UVC code issue, he said that the board's website says, "UVC's are confidential and guides are encouraged to register their hunters in the drawings to protect themselves from violating AS 08.54.720 Unlawful Acts." He said that he has never shared his UVC codes but would like to have some assurance that he will not get in any trouble for doing so. With nothing left to discuss, the board thanked Mr. Campbell for his testimony.</p>
<b>Steve Perrins II</b>	<p>Steve Perrins II, an RGO, said that he was available and wanted to be on the GCP workgroup if it was an option. Chairman Bloomquist said that he was already on the workgroup and that the discussion was going to be informational only. With nothing left to discuss, the board thanked Mr. Perrins II for his time.</p>
<b>Matt Snyder</b>	<p>Matt Snyder, an MGO, began testimony on the UVC code issue. He said that he thinks nonresidents should be able to apply themselves into the drawing because it takes a lot of time to apply clients, especially when you have a large number of them. Chairman Bloomquist said that unfortunately Mr. Snyder was in an area where it pays to have more clients in the drawing, which requires a lot of foot work. With nothing left to discuss, the board thanked Mr. Snyder for his time. The board took a break.</p>
<b>Off Record: 10:40 a.m.</b>	

## 5. Subcommittee/Workgroup Updates/Formation of New Committees

<b>Brief Discussion:</b> <b>On Record: 10:54 p.m.</b>	Back from break, the board began discussion on current workgroups and the formation of new committees/workgroups. Mr. Bloomquist said that he would like to add a workgroup for the repeals package.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to create a workgroup to include Martin Boniek and Aaron Bloomquist for the board's repeals package regarding the removal of unneeded regulation from the board's regulations (First: Lorrington; Second: Boniek).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorrington - Yes	

## Exams

<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Chairman Bloomquist asked Mr. Bunch to provide an update for the board regarding updating the board's exams. He said that he is about 90% complete updating the RGO written exam and would have a proposal to them possibly at their next meeting. He said that the GMU exams were taking a lot longer to update than he had originally thought they would, and that he wanted to go in a different direction. He said that he wanted to make the workgroup larger to include one already certified guide from each GMU to help rewrite the exams. The board agreed that it would be a good idea to have subject matter experts (motion below). Mr. Bunch said that the board would need to discuss streamlining the practical exam, possibly to include eliminating the in-person portion of it. He said that, while he likes the in-person practical exam, it is probably not viable in the near future. Chairman Bloomquist said there are a lot of solutions to the issue, including having incoming applicants get additional prerequisites, at time of application, that could take place of the in-person practical exam, such as getting officially certified in trophy judging/scoring and moving the questions to the RGO written exam.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to have Jason Bunch recruit one person from each GMU to sit on the working group (First: Boniek; Second: Lorrington).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorrington - Yes	

## Guide Concession Program

<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Mr. Bunch informed the board that Senator Eastman's lawsuit is not because of the GCP, but instead that it was because of the child tax bill and the single-subject rule. He said that nobody has a problem with the GCP. Chairman Bloomquist clarified that both the GCP and the board's sunset is in the bill being challenged in court and that he believed a few simple new bills would be introduced to correct the issue. In the interim, Mr. Bunch said that DNR promised to support a program that the board would want, that DNR does not know a lot
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	about concessions, and that they would need help building the program, using the legislation that was already/will be approved. He said that he would like to continue with their open transparent public process, including weekly or biweekly meetings to get to what the GCP is actually going to look like. He said that he was currently drafting something so they can begin the process. Mr. Bay reminded the board that the GCP will be under DNR and that they are there to coordinate and consult only. He said that it would be like someone from DNR coming onto the BGCSB and taking control of something they have no statutory authority over. Chairman Bloomquist said they are only doing what DNR has already asked them to do. He asked if the workgroup needed to be larger, to which Mr. Bunch said yes, and that he would put a list together for the board. The board thanked Mr. Bunch for his time.	
Transporters		
Brief Discussion:	Mr. Flores said that he met with senators and representatives in Juneau about having a moratorium for transporters, but that they were a long way away from doing that. He said that there is still a transporter problem in Kodiak and that it feels like they have more transporters than actual animals. He said that he has not hear much from Southeast Alaska and that everything still revolved around Kodiak. Chairman Bloomquist said that they have issued a few licenses to people/entities that were convicted of transporting without a license or advertising without a license. He asked their investigator to keep an eye out for such violations with AWT because those people/entities probably should not be allowed to hold a license. With nothing left to discuss, the board moved onto their next agenda item.	
6. Ongoing Task List Review		
Change Application Wording/Breaking out PFQs in Applications		
Brief Discussion:	Chairman Bunch said that the board just discussed some application wording and that they could work on them behind the scenes at the division level. Mr. Bay said that upper management wanted an example of both the change in application wording and how they wanted to break out their PFQs, something that was discussed at their last meeting.	
Annual Report		
Brief Discussion:	The board reviewed their FY 2024 Annual Report that Chairman Bloomquist wrote. He informed the board that he added funding for board member travel to Board of Game meetings and that he would be okay with representing the board at their next two meetings, if the board was okay with it. After discussion, the board approved him to represent the Big Game Commercial Services Board at the Board of Game meetings in January 2025 and March 2025.	
Motion:	Move to have the board pay for travel arrangements for Aaron Bloomquist, and to have him represent the board at the Board of Game meetings in January 2025 and March 2025 (First: Boniek; Second: Lorrington).	
Recorded Votes:	Buist - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Kunder - Yes
		Nordlum - Yes



<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	The board continued discussion on the annual report. Chairman Bloomquist said that he had put questions in the annual report, for the board to discuss, regarding topics discussed at earlier meetings, such as having board meetings in hot topic areas, funding to pay for 3 <sup>rd</sup> party proctors to proctor exams, and lowering license fees. After discussion, the board decided to include board member travel to represent the board at Board of Game meetings, funding to have 3 <sup>rd</sup> party proctors proctor the practical exams, funding for their in-process IT project, and funding to have board meetings in hot topic areas.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move approve the FY 2024 annual report as amended (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Kunder - Yes
		Nordlum - Yes
<b>Letter from Board in Support of GCP and SB 225/HB 314 (already finished/no discussion)</b>		
<b>Review Panel for INV Board Reviews</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Chairman Bloomquist reminded the board that they talked about this topic and that it might be a stretch to appoint a panel for board reviews. He said that they would likely need to go to the legislature and get more board members for board reviews.	
<b>Position Statement for Days in Field (already finished /no discussion)</b>		
<b>Begin the Process for Survivorship</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Chairman Bloomquist said they would be talking about this topic later in the meeting during Legislative Priorities.	
<b>Coordinating a Response with the FAA and Update Website</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Mr. Boniek said that it was a task to deal with distinctions between air taxis and guides in relation to what counts as incidental to your business type wording. He said that he reached out to a few FAA inspectors that they were hesitant to make position statements or legal interpretations at their level. He said that the question needs to be raised at the FAA general counsel to get a legal interpretation. He suggested the board put up their best understanding of what FAQs are on the board’s website. He said that the questions that Mr. Bay keeps referring to him are all along the same lines and that a quick FAQ worksheet on the website would be helpful.	
<b>Meeting Minutes (already discussed/no discussion)</b>		
<b>Bear Baiting Discussions with DNR</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Chairman Bloomquist said that he was pleased with DNR providing them with an FAQ sheet on bear baiting that hits all of the questions that were being raised over the years	
<b>INV Matters (already finished /no discussion)</b>		
<b>Matrix Review</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Chairman Bloomquist said that the board still needed to add the species-specific solo guiding prohibition and reeducation component to the board’s disciplinary matrix. He was	

	in favor of it because it was a learning tool that the public was also in favor of. The board’s investigator, Mr. Strout, said that he has not received any negative feedback, and that he liked it. The board agreed and added it to their disciplinary matrix.	
Motion:	Move to add the species-specific solo guiding prohibition and reeducation component to the board’s disciplinary matrix (First: Boniek; Second: Lorrington).	
Recorded Votes:	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorrington - Yes	
Regulation/FAQ Sheets		
Brief Discussion:	Chairman Bloomquist said that he had finished his FAQ sheets for their big regulations project. Mr. Flores said that he had just finished his as well for the transporter regulations portion of the big regulations project. Mr. Bay said that he just needed to write up a few in relation to the ones that Mr. Flores sent him the night before. He also reminded the board that they were having a discussion with their regulations specialist after lunch and that there were a few things that needed approved on the record before moving forward with the regulations project.	
GUA Boundary Changes Meeting on 07/18/2024 (already finished /no discussion)		
Exam Workgroup (already discussed /no discussion)		
Education Letter for Hunt Planners and Booking Agents		
Brief Discussion:	Chairman Bloomquist said that he wrote an email to Mr. Bay so he could forward it to LAW to find out what they can or cannot do regarding hunt planners and booking agents. Mr. Bay informed the board that all LAW requests go through upper management, and that he forwarded it up the chain.	
Renew Deadhorse Outfitters, LLC (already finished/no discussion)		
Scheduled December Meeting in Kodiak 12/10-12/2024		
Brief Discussion:	Chairman Bloomquist said that the division denied their request to hold a meeting in Kodiak but that they would not stop attempting to get one of their scheduled meetings there.	
Off Record: 12:02 p.m.		
7. Lunch		
8. Regulation Projects		
Brief Discussion:	The board welcomed Alison Osborne, one of the division’s regulations specialists, to the meeting.  The board began discussion on <b>12 AAC 75.240. Supervision</b> and <b>12 AAC 75.405. Marking of Aircraft and Vessels Used by Guides and Transporters</b> , both of which were amended at their last meeting, were redrafted by the regulations specialist, and required board approval to move forward in the regulations process. The board reviewed <b>12 AAC 75.240</b> first.	

	<p>Chairman Bloomquist said that the language in <b>12 AAC 75.240(a)</b> was, to his knowledge, incorrect. He said that the intent of the regulation is to have a contracting registered guide-outfitter in a location in proximity to ongoing hunts that provides for responsive logistics and client care. The board agreed and decided they would amend the wording of the regulation by adding a third sentence to read as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>This location must be within a proximity to the ongoing hunt that provides for responsive logistics and client care.</b></li> </ul> <p>Chairman Bloomquist said there might have been some confusion with a portion of <b>12 AAC 75.240(c)</b>, specifically the need to write to a client after the conclusion of a hunt. He said that the purpose of the regulation was not to have to write to a client but instead contact a client, which would also allow for correspondence by phone or in-person. The board agreed with Mr. Bloomquist and decided they would amend the drafted language in <b>12 AAC 75.240(c)</b> by changing the word “write” to “contact.”</p> <p>The board reviewed <b>12 AAC 75.405</b>. After review, the board decided to approve the drafted language and asked Ms. Osborne if they had to provide approved stickers to her before the regulation could go out for public comment. She said that they would need to either provide approved stickers or drafts of their stickers that would follow the board’s intent of the regulation. Mr. Flores said that he would get stickers drawn up. Mr. Bay reminded the board that although they were getting their drafted stickers drawn up by a company free of charge, when the time came, they would have to go through the procurement process.</p> <p>After reviewing their regulations project, Chairman Bloomquist suggested the board change their previous motion, during their last meeting, to receive oral comment for their regulations project, instead only receiving written comment during the public comment period. After discussion, the board agreed to remove oral comment as an option during the public comment period.</p> <p>Before voting, Mr. Boniek said that the changes made sense, however, he still did not like the board requiring 12-inch numbers on airplanes.</p>	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to amend the drafted language in <b>12 AAC 75.240(a)</b> and <b>12 AAC 75.240(c)</b> , as discussed, approve the drafted language in <b>12 AAC 75.405</b> , as written, and remove the requirement to receive oral public comment for the regulations project (First: Boniek; Second: Flores).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorring - Absent	

## 9. Legislative Priorities (all motions under this section will be addressed at the end)

### EA Position

#### Brief Discussion:

Chairman Bloomquist said although Mr. Bay was currently working as the board's executive administrator, it was a year-to-year position that had to be approved annually, and that the board needed to get the position approved in the legislature, so it could be a full-time position in statute. The board agreed to pursue legislation in their effort of attaining an executive administrator solely for the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

### Provide for Emergency Situations/Survivorship/Provide Commissioner Emergency Authority to Deal with Unforeseen Situations (Covid, licensee illness, deaths, etc.)

#### Brief Discussion:

Chairman Bloomquist said that these topics come up a few times a year and that the reality is that the board does not have the authority to tell someone who has an emergency that the board can ignore parts of their statutes/regulations. He said that this is probably priority #1 for licensees as far as legislative priorities go, other than the GCP. He said that it will probably take a while to accomplish and that he has a few legislators that are likely willing to introduce stuff for the board, but that they need to make sure that the GCP is passed without any changes first. He said that he would like to see a bill introduced before the end of the first legislative session. He said that their survivorship workgroup needs to start drafting language so they can get the ball rolling. The board agreed to pursue legislation on all three topics.

### Removing Former Regulations from Statute and Making them Current Regulations

#### Brief Discussion:

Chairman Bloomquist reminded the board that they still need to remove former regulations from statute that were put in there by the legislature after the board came back from sunset. He talked about different ways that could be accomplished. Mr. Bay said it was likely an issue one of his legislators could easily answer and that it was likely going to be a bill introduced in the legislature. Chairman Bloomquist said that it might be a question for leg legal. The board agreed to pursue legislation on this topic.

### Authority to License and Oversee Hunt Planners/Booking Agents

#### Brief Discussion:

Chairman Bloomquist said that he had gone back and forth on the topic and was not sure if he really wanted more regulation for more industries, but that hunt planners/booking agents were causing problems, so something needed to be done. He said that they might be able to fix it through the findings that come from the LAW review he recently sent to the division, and that maybe some advice from the board to hunt planners/booking agents might help the situation. The board agreed to pursue legislation on this topic.

### Changing Board Composition

#### Brief Discussion:

Chairman Bloomquist began discussion on changing board composition, which the board has talked about numerous times. Mr. Buist said that it has been hard to find a second private landowner and that he would be okay with adding two guides or another guide in lieu of the vacant private landowner seat. He said that guides and transporters on the board have a lot more work to do than other spots on the board, so adding a guide or two would make sense. Mr. Kunder said that he agreed with Mr. Buist, stating that it would be beneficial to add a guide, however, he said that he would not be in favor of taking away one of the private landowner seats. The board agreed to pursue legislation on this topic.

<b>Authorize the Board to Implement CE for Licensees</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Chairman Bloomquist reminded the board that they were told that they do not have statutory authority to provide for continuing education (CE). He said that he thought it would be popular in the legislature, as part of a bigger package. Mr. Boniek said that he did not think that transporters need CE, but instead need information on the front end of getting licensed, such as the FAQ sheet discussed earlier. The rest of the board was okay with possibly adding statutory authority to provide for CE. The board agreed to pursue legislation on this topic.
<b>Streamline the Regulation Process for all Boards in the Licensing Division (similar to ADF&amp;G's process)</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Chairman Bloomquist said that he was working on the idea of streamlining the regulation process for all boards in the licensing division. He said that there might be something they can do administratively, and that this topic likely will not be in the form of a bill. He said that he is going to try and work from the top down, possibly speaking with the governor's office or the commissioner's office to make things more streamlined. With no objections from the board, Chairman Bloomquist said he would continue to work on it.
<b>Authorize all DCCED Boards to Prioritize Spending of Licensing Funds as Trustees of the Funds</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Chairman Bloomquist said that he was still frustrated that the board cannot use their funds the way that their licensees want them to. He said that they could have the legislature tell the department that boards can be the trustees of their own funds instead of the department. He said that it would be a rather large topic that would include a standalone bill, that the timing would have to be just right, and that it is probably at the bottom of their priority list.
<b>Fine Amount to Trigger License Suspensions</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Chairman Bloomquist said that amending the fine amounts that trigger license suspensions is pretty high up on their list and that it should be addressed sooner than later. He reminded the board that a few of their licensees have lost their licenses for at least a year because of federal fines handed out that were egregious. The board agreed that it needs to be addressed. The board agreed to pursue legislation on this topic.
<b>Make it so Transporter Licenses can only be issued to a Natural Person</b>	
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Chairman Bloomquist said that there has been a lot of conversation and disagreement from the board on whether or not they should limit transporter licenses to a natural person, which stems from the issue that transporters that get their license suspended are able to have someone get a new transporter license and continue to work under them. Mr. Boniek said there may be a way around the problem by dealing with applications or regulation. Mr. Strout said that he was currently working with an attorney on a case who had concerns about the division issuing licenses to an entity, and that it should be to a person. Chairman Bloomquist asked both transporters on the board, Mr. Boniek and Mr. Flores, if they could tackle this issue and come back to the board with some suggestions, to which they agreed.
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	Having finished with their legislative priorities, the board began motions to pursue legislation.
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to pursue legislation to create a range 23 executive administrator position for the Big Game Commercial Services Board and move forward with the division's suggested

	statutory language. Aaron Bloomquist and Mike Flores will be the board's liaisons and spokespersons. (First: Boniek; Second: Nordlum).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorring - Absent	
<b>Motion:</b>	<p>Move to pursue legislation for the following board priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create an EA position</li> <li>2. Provide for emergency situations</li> <li>3. Survivorship</li> <li>4. Provide commissioner emergency authority to deal with unforeseen situations (Covid, licensee illness, deaths, etc.)</li> <li>5. Remove former regulations from statute and make them current regulations</li> <li>6. Authority to license and oversee hunt planners/booking agents</li> <li>7. Change board composition</li> <li>8. Authorize the board to implement continuing education for licensees</li> <li>9. Change the fine amount that triggers license suspensions</li> </ol> <p>Aaron Bloomquist will be the board's liaison and spokesperson (First: Boniek; Second: Nordlum).</p>	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorring - Absent	
<b>10. Business as Needed</b>		
<b>New Regulation Project: 12 AAC 75.260(d)</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	<p>Chairman Bloomquist said that they needed to amend <b>12 AAC 75.260(d)</b> because of the UVC code issue they discussed earlier. He suggested amending the second to last sentence in the regulation to read as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique verification codes will be current until the day before the first day of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game drawing application period in the year the associated guide use area registration expires or is withdrawn or amended.</li> </ul> <p>This would fix the UVC code issue they currently have with RGOs being able use a UVC code in their final year of registration without actually being registered in the unit the following year. The board agreed with the change.</p>	

<b>Motion:</b>	<p>Move to initiate a regulations project regarding an amendment to <b>12 AAC 75.260(d)</b> by approving the following language for public comment, unless substantive changes are made by the regulations specialist or Department of Law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A contracting registered or master guide who is signing the hunt contract, and who intends to apply a client for a drawing hunt permit for a hunt conducted under regulations required under AS 16.05, shall obtain a unique verification code for each guide use area in which a unique verification code is required from the department before entering an application for the client. Unique verification codes will only be issued to registered or master guides who are registered in a guide use area located in the hunt area the year the application is made and the years the permit is valid; except a contracting guide may receive a code and apply a client in a new concession area in which the permit for the concession is authorized but not valid until the year of the hunt as long as the concessionaire registers for the guide use area before providing services. Unique verification codes will be current until the <u><b>day before the first day of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game drawing application period in the year the</b></u> associated guide use area registration expires or is withdrawn or amended. Unique verification codes can only be utilized by the contracting registered or master guide who is applying clients for a drawing hunt permit.</li> </ul> <p>(First: Boniek; Second: Nordlum).</p>	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorrington - Absent	
<b>New Regulation Project: Repeal 12 AAC 75.110(a)(1)(A)/Amend 12 AAC 75.100(a)(1)</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	<p>Chairman Bloomquist said that there might be a way around requiring the board to do in-person practical exams by changing the exam requirements written in regulation. He said that nothing in the board's statutes or regulations states that the practical exam has to be in-person and that it can be a written exam. He asked Mr. Bunch, who was running the exams workgroup, if he had any ideas on the topic. Mr. Bunch said that the board has to first look at the board's statutes, which requires the board to prepare and grade an exam and provide for administration of an examination but does not establish the board's authority for prerequisites of an examination, which can be written in regulation. He said that the regulation covering what an RGO examination applicant must pass, <b>12 AAC 75.110(a)(1)</b>, requires passage of a qualification examination, which includes a practical examination, which must cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Trophy judging of actual antlers and horns</li> <li>B. Aging of animals</li> <li>C. Sexing of mountain goats and bears</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Off Record: 3:36 p.m.</b></p>	<p>D. Caping a big game animal; for this portion of the examination, the applicant must provide a visual recording of the applicant caping a big gam animal.</p> <p>He said that the workgroup's suggestion is to repeal <b>12 AAC 75.110(a)(1)(A)</b>, the trophy judging of actual antlers and horns requirement, and instead replace it with a prerequisite requirement for an applicant to have an official measurer certification from SCI or Boone and Crockett under <b>12 AAC 75.100(a)(1)</b>. The board took a break and would be getting a quick update from the APHA before moving forward with this discussion.</p>
<p><b>APHA Update</b></p>	
<p><b>Brief Discussion:</b> <b>On Record: 3:46 p.m.</b></p>	<p>Sam Rohrer, acting on behalf of the Alaska Professional Hunter's Association (APHA), provided a quick update for the board. Regarding the GCP and the board's sunset bill, he informed the board that they were talking with their attorneys and that they would be supporting both bills, as needed. He also said that they would be supporting the board's EA bill. Regarding the board's composition, he said that APHA generally supports keeping two landholder seats because of the community relations aspect of having two on the board. He said that APHA was working with the National Park Service on reforming their concessions process, and that it was working well. He said that they have similar concerns on the US Fish and Wildlife Service side but that it had been harder to accomplish.</p>
<p><b>New Regulation Project: Repeal 12 AAC 75.110(a)(1)(A)/Amend 12 AAC 75.100(a)(1) - (continued)</b></p>	
<p><b>Brief Discussion:</b></p>	<p>The board continued their regulations project discussion. After discussion, the board agreed to the prerequisite but added Pope and Young or the equivalent as additional options. They also decided to add two other prerequisites, which included adding requirements to pass ADF&amp;G's Hunter Education Course with a 90% or higher and certification as a Wilderness First Responder (WFR) or higher. Chairman Bloomquist said that the Hunter Education Course is a simple and quick online course that covers a lot of simple things guides should know in the field. He said that the WFR course is needed because a lot of guides do not know how to provide adequate first aid in the field.</p>
<p><b>Motion:</b></p>	<p>Move to initiate a regulations project regarding an amendment to <b>12 AAC 75.100(a)(1)</b> and a repeal to <b>12 AAC 75.110(a)(1)(A)</b> by approving the following language for public comment, unless substantive changes are made by the regulations specialist or Department of Law:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>12 AAC 75.100(a)(1)</b></p> <p>(a) An applicant for a registered guide-outfitter license who is applying under AS 08.54.610(a)(3)(A) must submit,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(1) at least 120 days before the date of the next scheduled registered guide-outfitter examination,</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(A) the applicable fees required in 12 AAC 02.230;</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(B) a completed application on a form provided by the department; the applicant must indicate if the applicant will be contracting to provide big game commercial services during the licensing period for which the applicant is applying;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(C) a list of hunters for whom the applicant has provided big game hunting services in compliance with AS 08.54.610(a)(8);</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(D) a written certification by the applicant on a form provided by the department certifying the applicant's</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(i) practical field experience as required in AS 08.54.610(a)(2);</p>



	<p>(ii) capability to perform “essential duties associated with guiding and outfitting” as defined in 12 AAC 75.990; and</p> <p>(iii) successful experience guiding sheep, moose, brown bear, mountain goat, and caribou hunts, if the applicant is seeking licensure for one of these species; the applicant must have been involved in a minimum of three harvests on a guided hunt for each of these listed species in order to be licensed for that species;</p> <p>(E) a signed statement from the applicant certifying that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements in AS 08.54.605;</p> <p>(F) a form completed by the applicant listing the dates that the applicant hunted in the state and certifying that the applicant meets the requirements in AS 08.54.610(a)(5); and</p> <p>(G) the applicant’s license number and dates of licensure as a class-A assistant guide, class-A assistant guide-outfitter, assistant guide, or assistant guide-outfitter in the state;</p> <p>(H) <b><u>a passing score from the Department of Fish and Game’s Hunter Education Course with a 90 percent or higher;</u></b></p> <p>(I) <b><u>a Wilderness First Responder certification or higher;</u></b></p> <p>(J) <b><u>an official measurer certification from Safari Club International, Boone and Crockett, Pope or Young, or the equivalent.</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>12 AAC 75.110(a)(1)(A)</b></p> <p>(a) To be eligible for a registered guide-outfitter license, an applicant must pass the</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(1) qualification examination, which includes a practical examination covering</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(A) [TROPHY JUDGING OF ACTUAL ANTLERS AND HORNS;]</p> <p>(First: Boniek; Second: Lorrington).</p>	
Recorded Votes:	Buist - Yes	Flores - Yes
	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Bloomquist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Lorrington - Yes	
11. Administrative Business/Task List		
Brief Discussion:	Mr. Bay reminded the board that they had their spring meeting scheduled for April 1-3 in Fairbanks. After discussion, the board decided to have their spring investigative meeting on February 19, 2025, their fall meeting in Kodiak on December 9-11, 2025, and their spring 2026 meeting online.	
12. Adjourn		
Brief Discussion:	Having nothing left to discuss, the board adjourned.	
Adjourn:	4:15 p.m.	

Date Final Minutes Approved by the Board:	March 6, 2025
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OnBoard	