

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 NOVEMBER 14, 2023

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provision of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting (teleconference) of the Big Game Commercial Services Board was held on November 14, 2023, at 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Juneau, AK.

<b>Date:</b>	November 14, 2023
<b>Time:</b>	9:01 a.m.
<b>Location:</b>	Online teleconference ran from 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Juneau, AK
<b>Board Members Present:</b>	Jason Bunch, Mike Flores, Martin Boniek, Larry Kunder, Clay Nordlum, Pete Buist, Dave Lorrington (9:13 a.m.)
<b>Board Members Absent:</b>	Aaron Bloomquist
<b>Division/SOA Staff Present:</b>	Thomas Bay (Executive Administrator), Janet Brown (Occupational Licensing Examiner)
<b>Present from the Public:</b>	None

<b>1. Review Agenda</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	There was no discussion to amend the agenda.	
<b>Motion:</b>	Move to accept the agenda as written (First: Flores; Second: Nordlum).	
<b>Recorded Votes:</b>	Boniek - Yes	Kunder - Yes
	Buist - Yes	Nordlum - Yes
	Bunch - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	Bloomquist - Absent
<b>2. Ethics Review</b>		
<b>Brief Discussion:</b>	There were no ethical disclosures by any board members or staff.	
<b>3. Emergency Regulations</b>		
<b>GUA Registrations (12 AAC 75.230) &amp; RGO Contract Requirements (12 AAC 75.260)</b>		

<p><b>Brief Discussion:</b></p>	<p>Chairman Jason Bunch informed the board that they were meeting to discuss having the division pursue emergency regulations to amend GUA Registrations (12 AAC 75.203) and RGO Contract Requirements (12 AAC 75.260) because they are affecting registered guide-outfitters and master guide-outfitters who have been awarded special federal use permits to conduct guided hunting in specific locations in Alaska and are caught in an impossible situation due to inherent conflicts in the timing required by the federal permits and what is required by state regulations. These amendments would allow affected guides to receive a Unique Verification Code (UVC) from the division and put their clients in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game state drawing hunt, a state lottery that awards hunting permits. He said that the emergency regulations, which are only effective for 120 days and then expire, were only being discussed because the same amendments are a part of their current regulations project, which will not be effective by the draw deadline. He reminded the board that the original intent of the UVC code was for state land users, not federal land users, but that federal land users, thru public comment, did not want to be excluded because they did not want the regulation to be divisive and split up state land users versus federal land users. He admitted that the exemption should have been finished by now, but reminded the board that with staff turnover and the amount of regulation projects they have in the cue, the process has taken longer than anticipated. Mr. Bay informed the board that the division had written a Finding of Emergency for them to adopt, if they wished to do so, and provided them a copy. The board read the Finding of Emergency, which detailed the discussion above and the significant financial impact on a guide-outfitter's business if they were not able to utilize their newly awarded concession, such as significant potential loss of income, loss of opportunity for non-resident hunters to hunt on federal land, lost income to local businesses, and a disadvantage to the permit holders when they have to reapply for their next prospectus due to the reduced usage of the permit. There would also be a loss of income to the state because of the federal Pittman-Robertson Act, which provides funding to manage wildlife. After reviewing the language drafted by the regulations specialist, Chairman Bunch suggested changing 'hunting' to 'providing services' under 12 AAC 75.206(d), as to stay inline with the board's authority in statute/regulation. Mr. Bay asked the board if they wanted to keep 12 AAC 75.230(g) in the emergency regulations package because they were only for repealing outdated regulations, to which he was told to keep them in because they were a part of the same overall regulation, unless LAW decided to remove them, which they were okay with. Having nothing left to discuss, the board approved the Finding of Emergency and Certification Order.</p>	
<p><b>Motion:</b></p>	<p>I move to adopt the Finding of Emergency and Certification Order regarding amendments to 12 AAC 75.230(a)(6), (b), (c), (g) and 12 AAC 75.260(d), as presented by the division. (First: Buist; Second: Flores).</p>	
<p><b>Recorded Votes:</b></p>	<p>Boniek - Yes</p>	<p>Kunder - Yes</p>
	<p>Buist - Yes</p>	<p>Nordlum - Yes</p>
	<p>Bunch - Yes</p>	<p>Lorryng - Yes</p>
	<p>Flores - Yes</p>	<p>Bloomquist - Absent</p>
<p><b>Brief Discussion:</b></p>	<p>Mr. Bay reminded the board that their winter meeting in Anchorage was less than three weeks away. With nothing left to discuss, the board adjourned.</p>	

<b>Adjourn:</b>	9:32 a.m.
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Date Final Minutes Approved by the Board: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> OnBoard	December 4-6, 2023
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