STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BIG GAME COMMERICAL SERVICES BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING July 1, 2011

By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.86.030 and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62 Article 6, a scheduled teleconference meeting of the Big Game Commercial Services Board was held July 1, 2011.

These minutes were drafted by staff of the Big Game Commercial Services Board and have not been reviewed or approved by the Board.

Friday July 1, 2011

Item 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting of the Big Game Commercial Services Board was called to order by Paul Johnson, Chair at 8:03 a.m. Members present constituting a quorum were:

Kelly Vrem, Master Guide-Outfitter
Karen Polley, Public Member
Ted Spraker, Board of Game
Leif Wilson, Transporter, Vice-Chair
Brenda Rebne, Private Landholder
Paul Johnson, Registered Guide-Outfitter, Chair
Don Quarberg, Public Member

Raymond Stoney and Dirk Nickisch were absent.

Present from the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing were:

Karl Marx, Licensing Examiner Cynthia Spencer, Licensing Examiner Lee Strout, Investigations Quinten Warren, Chief Investigator Peggy Weaver, Investigator

Present from State and Federal Agencies were:

Valerie Baxter, Natural Resource Manager, Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) Lt. Bernard Chastain, Public Safety Rebecca Pauli, Administrative Law Judge Robert Auth, Assistant Attorney General Present from the public were:

Item 2. Review/Amend Agenda

Mr. Johnson added 12 AAC 75.340(d)(8) and 12 AAC 75.415 to Item 4.

Mr. Johnson asked to find some sort of legal counsel from the AG's office for the executive session but Judge Pauli stated that they should not be allowed in the executive session. Judge Rebecca Pauli logged off.

Mr. Johnson asked if there were any objections to what had been added to the agenda.

Mr. Wilson stated that he had not received his Board packet just e-mails.

Mr. Quarberg did not receive the Board packet and has not seen the maps.

Valerie Baxter stated that the maps are exactly the same as March in Fairbanks.

Ms. Polley stated that she had everything. Mr. Vrem stated that he was comfortable proceeding. Ms. Rebne had some procedural questions. Mr. Wilson stated that he was comfortable proceeding with what he had received.

Mr. Johnson asked for unanimous consent to accept the changes to the addenda.

Item 3. Ethics Disclosure

The Board had no ethics violations to report.

Item 4. Regulation Proposal/Review

Mapping Boundary Update (12 AAC 75.235)

On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Polley, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to accept the maps as drawn at the March Board meeting in Fairbanks including changing 25-03A to 25-03 and 25-03B to 25-07,

NAME	YES	NO	
Paul Johnson	X		
Don Quarberg			ABSTAIN
Kelly Vrem	X		
Karen Polley	X		
Ted Spraker	X		

Leif Wilson X Brenda Rebne X

THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

Mr. Spraker asked about the proposed change to GUA 09-04 near Redoubt Bay. Ms. Baxter answered. Ms. Rebne asked about GUA 11-03. Ms. Baxter explained that the big map does reflect all native corporation changes but these are hard to see on the small maps.

Transporter GMU Registration 12 AAC 75.415

Mr. Wilson expressed concerns about this proposed regulation since some guides apparently did not receive the mailed hard copy public notice until after the March Board meeting when public testimony was heard. He did not receive his public notice until after the meeting.

Mr. Johnson asked if anyone objected to putting this regulation off to the December meeting to allow for timely public notice and comments. Hearing none, this will be added to the December agenda.

Aircraft Ethics 12 AAC 75.340(d)(8) Revision

Mr. Johnson asked if anyone had concerns about voting for this regulation. Ms. Rebne asked for clarification.

- 12 AAC 75.340(d)(8) avoid using an aircraft in any manner to spot big game for the purpose of taking a specific animal, unless
 - (A) hunting brown, grizzly, or black bears from January 1 through June 30 in an area with an allowable harvest under 5 AAC 92, of one or more brown or grizzly bears per regulatory year; in this subparagraph, "regulatory year" has the meaning given in 5 AAC 92.990; or
 - (B) specifically authorized under another statute or regulation;

On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Polley, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to adopt 12 AAC 75.340(d)(8) as decided on at the March meeting,

NAME	YES	NO
Brenda Rebne	X	
Paul Johnson	X	
Don Quarberg	X	
Kelly Vrem	X	
Karen Polley	X	

Ted Spraker X Leif Wilson X

THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

Mr. Kelly stated that he planned to support this. Mr. Johnson gave a brief history. Mr. Spraker planned to support this in order to assist in predator management efforts since it is hard to find spring bears in heavily timbered areas.

Item 5. Correspondence

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Marx to brief what correspondence has been received. Mr. Johnson asked to hold the two pieces of correspondence concerning changing multi-year guide use are (GUA) registrations until Board discussion. John Welsh, a transporter, asked to provide guide services for a handicapped hunter. George Fischer asked for exceptions to regulations on his assistant guide license application.

Mr. Johnson asked if any Board member wanted to respond to this correspondence. Mr. Johnson suggested that Mr. Fischer's incomplete application be handled by staff. Ms. Rebne agreed.

Item 6. Board Discussion

Board Travel Budget

Mr. Marx relayed that Sara Chambers wanted the Board to know that the travel allowance for each Board member to attend a Board meeting is \$700.00. Ms. Spencer added that Board member travel to scheduled Board meetings was a priority and could not be denied for at least two meetings per year.

Board Statute Proposals

Mr. Marx stated that a copy of the recent House Bill 229 has been included in the Board packet and that HB 229 has been tabled until the next legislative session. Mr. Johnson suggested that that statute proposals be put on the December 2011 agenda so that other items could be presented to Representative Feige for possible inclusion such as an "old timer's license", and charging a GUA registration fee again. Ms. Spencer reminded the Board that statute proposals must be included in the end of fiscal year 2011 report due August 1, 2011.

Mr. Wilson stated that neither he nor Mr. Quarberg received their Board packets so had not seen HB 229. Mr. Vrem stated that he had not received his Board packet either. Mr. Johnson suggested that some time be spent on these statute proposals in December. Mr. Johnson asked if there were any objections to adding this to the agenda. Seeing none, staff was directed to add this to the agenda for December 2011.

End of Fiscal Year 2011 Report

Ms. Spencer reminded the Board that the end of the fiscal year was yesterday, June 30th, and the annual report is due the morning of August 1st. The Board needs to provide: a narrative statement, budget recommendations, legislative recommendations, sunset audit recommendations, as well as goals and objectives. The staff will do the statistical overview. The Board needs to address the sunset audit recommendations. Mr. Johnson asked if the new audit was out yet. Ms. Spencer stated that Legislative Audit is not done yet but the Board can address the last audit that they have from 2007. Ms. Polley agreed to write the narrative reports. Ms. Spencer stated that we are no longer getting budget reports for the time being. Mr. Johnson asked if anyone objected to Ms. Polley working on the fiscal report. Hearing no objections Mr. Johnson suggested that if Board members had any concerns or input they should call Ms. Polley.

Approve Minutes

Mr. Johnson asked to hear a motion to adopt the January 12, 2011 teleconference minutes as written. Mr. Wilson stated that he would have to abstain since he had not received his Board packet. Ms. Polley stated that she was only a guest at this teleconference and Mr. Quarberg was not a Board member yet either. There was not a quorum present who could vote to adopt the January 12, 2011 minutes.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Polley, seconded by Mr. Spraker, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to approve the March 15-17, 2011 Board meeting minutes,

Roll Call Vote

NAME Paul Johnson	YES	NO	
Leif Wilson			ABSTAIN
Kelly Vrem	X		
Don Quarberg			ABSTAIN
Ted Spraker	X		
Brenda Rebne	X		
Karen Polley	X		

THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

Changing multi-year GUA registrations (75.230(c))

Mr. Marx explained that 12 AAC 75.230(c) does allow for changing multi-year GIUA registrations after the first calendar year but it specifies that these changes do not go into effect until the next January 1st which places a greater restriction on multi-year registrations than single year registrations. There are two licensees, Cavner and Bloomquist, who submitted correspondence requesting to be able to change multi-year GUA registrations.

Someone put their telephone on hold which interrupted the meeting with music.

Mr. Marx went on to explain that allowing guides to change a multi-year registration would still require 30 days notice. This has been interpreted two different ways by staff in the past. Ms. Spencer drafted out some proposed regulation changes. Mr. Johnson explained that the Director asked for a Board position on this issue so asked for input from each member.

Mr. Vrem stated that he registered for multi-year to reduce paperwork and was not aware that it took into January 1st to change. Mr. Marx gave a scenario where if the regulation was interpreted to allow change mid-year a guide with an old multi-year registration could use a GUA for spring hunts then change in time to use a 4th GUA for the fall hunts. Ms. Polley asked for clarification. Mr. Spraker would like to allow changes since the board of game meets in March and could take effect July 1st but the guide could not change GUAs until next January 1st. Mr. Wilson understood that this change could take place at any time in subsequent years. Ms. Polley supported a liberal change policy. Ms. Rebne supported changing the regulation to allow more liberal changes. Mr. Quarberg supported being able to change more liberally. Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Spencer to public notice the proposed changes for the December Board meeting. Ms. Spencer asked if this was just to put it on the agenda for discussion or work with Jun Maiquis to prepare the wording for adoption. Mr. Johnson stated that he would like to see it ready to adopt in December.

Which licensees to mail public notices to

Ms. Spencer asked, beginning with the change to multi-year GUA registrations, would the Board like public noticed to. Mr. Johnson stated he just wanted registered and master guides but wanted to hear what other members wanted. Mr. Marx explained that there is no requirement for the Board to pay to mail public notices to anyone just post them electronically and publish the proposed changes in at least one newspaper. Mr. Vrem would like to see mailing to all registered and master guides. Mr. Johnson reminded the Board that this is a self supporting Board and that mailings take a lot of time and money. Mr. Vrem suggested an e-mail to each guide and make sure that it is on the Board website. Mr. Johnson asked if the staff has a full e-mail list yet. Mr. Marx answered that there is no e-mail list and that the List Server does not seem to be working at this time. Mr. Wilson would like to see an up to date e-mail list used but otherwise people have a right to know about changes so we might have to use a mailing. Mr. Spraker also suggested an e-mail list rather than mailings. Mr. Johnson suggested that until the list server is working public notices should be mailed out. Ms. Polley reminded the Board that all that is legally required is the online notice and newspaper 30 days out. Since staff also publishes them on the BGCSB site and the newspapers post them on their websites this exceeds the minimum. Ms. Rebne was amazed how much time was being spent discussing this and felt that electronic and newspapers should be enough. Mr. Quarberg felt that until the list server is working it would be best to mail notices. Mr. Johnson asked if any Board member would like to make a motion.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Vrem, seconded by Mr. Spraker, and approved majority vote, it was

RESOLVED to accept Ms. Polley's version of public notification which is the website, online, newspapers, and list server, when working,

Roll Call Vote

NAME	YES	NO
Paul Johnson	X	
Leif Wilson		X
Kelly Vrem	X	
Don Quarberg	X	
Ted Spraker	X	
Brenda Rebne	X	
Karen Polley	X	

THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

Item 9. Application Reviews

- 1. Whitney, Steven J.A., Assistant guide applicant
- 2. Shanley, Edward T., Assistant guide applicant with Yes answer
- 3. McKinney, Allen, Assistant guide applicant with Yes answer
- 4. Maser, John Pc, Assistant guide applicant with Yes answer
- 5. Habersetzer, Lon, Assistant guide applicant with Yes answer
- 6. Atkins, Nikkia P., Register guide-outfitter examination applicant with Yes answer
- 7. Alaska Glacier Adventures, Transporter application with Yes answer
- 8. Ferreiri, Christopher S., Assistant guide applicant with Yes answer

Not enough Board members received their packets to have a quorum voting on most applicants so they will be sent out as mail votes. Christopher Ferreiri was returned from investigations the day before so had been scanned and e-mailed.

After reviewing information provided by staff regarding the assistant guide license application of Christopher S. Ferreiri the Board conducted a role call vote.

Mr. Wilson stated that he plans to support this application. Mr. Spraker stated that this applicant is just too colorful for him to support. Investigator Peggy Weaver gave some history. Mr. Johnson stressed consistency in dealing with applicant s who do not disclose all required information.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Polley, and approved by majority vote, it was

RESOLVED to approve the application for assistant guide for Christopher S. Ferreiri,

NAME	YES	NO
Leif Wilson	X	
Brenda Rebne	X	
Paul Johnson	X	
Karen Polley	X	
Kelly Vrem	X	
Don Quarberg		X
Ted Spraker		X

THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

After reviewing information provided by staff regarding Steven J.A. Whitney's application for an assistant guide license and consent agreement the Board conducted a roll call vote.

Ms. Polley made a motion to accept the consent agreement seconded by Mr. Spraker. Ms. Weaver and Mr. Warren from investigations gave a brief history of this application. Mr. Warren apologized for the combined wording of the consent agreement. Ms. Polley moved to amend her motion to only issue the assistant guide license.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Polley, seconded by Mr. Spraker, and approved by a majority vote, it was

RESOLVED to approve the application for assistant guide for Steven J.A. Whitney,

Roll Call Vote

NAME	YES	NO	
Kelly Vrem	X		
Karen Polley	X		
Ted Spraker	X		
Leif Wilson	X		
Brenda Rebne	X		
Paul Johnson		X	
Don Quarberg			ABSTAIN

THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Polley, seconded by Mr. Spraker, and approved by majority vote, it was

RESOLVED to adopt the consent agreement for Steven J.A. Whitney,

Roll Call Vote

NAME YES NO

Leif Wilson	X	
Brenda Rebne	X	
Paul Johnson	X	
Karen Polley	Χ	
Kelly Vrem	X	
Don Quarberg		ABSTAIN
Ted Spraker	Χ	1.20.11.

THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

Item 7. Investigative Report

After reviewing information provided by staff regarding James E. Wehinger's registered guide-outfitter license #1171 surrender the Board conducted a roll call vote.

Mr. Strout gave a brief history of this case. When a consent agreement was offered the licensee offered to surrender his license instead.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Spraker, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to accept the license surrender of James E. Wehinger, Jr.

Roll Call Vote

NAME	YES	NO
Ted Spraker	X	
Leif Wilson	X	
Brenda Rebne	Χ	
Paul Johnson	X	
Kelly Vrem	X	
Karen Polley	X	
Don Quarberg	X	

THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

After reviewing information provided by staff regarding the consent agreement for Alaska Northern Outfitters, LLC holding transporter license #733 the Board conducted a roll call vote.

Mr. Wilson pointed out the conflict between issuing a transporter license to an LLC while requiring the person who provides the transportation to and from the field to sign the transporter activity report. He went on to say that the main problem was that they knew that a client overharvested black bears and did not turn him in. After some discussion Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Strout and Mr. Wilson to draft up a potential statute change to put on the December 2011 agenda.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Spraker, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for Alaska Northern Outfitters,

Roll Call Vote

NAME	YES	NO	
Leif Wilson	X		
Brenda Rebne	X		
Paul Johnson	X		
Karen Polley	X		
Kelly Vrem	X		
Don Quarberg			ABSTAIN
Ted Spraker	X		

THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

After reviewing information provided by staff regarding the consent agreement for Porter Treadway class-A assistant guide license #740 the Board conducted a roll call vote.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Spraker, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement for Porter Treadway,

Roll Call Vote

NAME	YES	NO	
Ted Spraker	X		
Leif Wilson	X		
Brenda Rebne	X		
Paul Johnson	X		
Kelly Vrem	X		
Karen Polley	X		
Don Quarberg			ABSTAIN

THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

Mr. Marx asked Ms. Rebne if she was comfortable voting on the previous application for Christopher Ferrieri since she was cut off line then. She was and voted yes.

Item 8. Executive Session

Mr. Johnson asked to get Judge Rebecca Pauli online for an open discussion before going into executive session.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that the Board does not have Kevin Saxby or any other legal representative here to help the Board out. He did not feel comfortable chairing this since he was involved and asked to turn the chair over to Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Johnson to be involved since he has been involved and feels that he can be objective. Mr. Spraker, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Rebne, and Mr. Quarberg all concurred. Judge Pauli needed to say something for the record; that if the Board Chair adds any more information then they will need to remand the matter for taking more evidence. She stated that since Mr. Warren has already written that the Chair has stated his position on this matter the Board could be leaving grounds for appeal at this point. Mr. Warren stated that the Board has received everything and that the Board Chair has no additional information. Mr. Johnson agrees and does not want to cost the Board money by leaving grounds for appeal so will not comment during executive session. Mr. Johnson turned the Chair over to Mr. Wilson.

Ms. Spencer discussed procedures. Mr. Quarberg stated that he will have to abstain anyway since he does not have the packet. Ms. Spencer listed off all items that each Board member should have received to see who all had everything. Mr. Johnson stated that there was not a quorum of Board members with all of the information.

Judge Pauli stated that there was the *rule of necessity* that when it is necessary, for example when a Board member cannot act due to a conflict then the *rule of necessity* can kick in so that the Board can act without the quorum. She asked the Board to consider this since there was an automatic suspension but it is up to the Board. She thought that the Board should go into executive session so that she can speak. Ms. Spencer stated that if this *rule of necessity* was going to be used that the Board should use it to reconsider all of the earlier applications that have been tabled. Mr. Johnson did not want to go that route on all of the application and he is very uncomfortable without legal assistance. Ms. Spencer stated that the staff had been trying to contact the Department of Law and had not gotten hold of anyone.

On a motion duly made by Leif Wilson, seconded by Ted Spraker, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to adjourn into Executive Session under the authority of AS 44.62.310 to discuss with Judge Rebecca Pauli Case No. 2011-000455 and 2011-000458.

The Board adjourned into executive session at 10:27 a.m., and returned from executive session at 11:04 a.m.

Mr. Wilson requested a roll call attendance be taken to ensure a quorum of the Board was back on-line.

Members present constituting a quorum were:

Paul Johnson, Registered Guide-Outfitter, Chair Leif Wilson, Transporter, Vice-Chair

Kelly Vrem, Master Guide-Outfitter Ted Spraker, Board of Game Karen Polley, Public Member

Present from the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing were:

Cynthia Spencer, Licensing Examiner Karl Marx, Licensing Examiner Quinten Warren, Chief Investigator Lee Strout, Investigator

Present from State and Federal agencies were:

Robert Auth, Attorney, Department of Law Lt. Bernard Chastain, Department of Public Safety

Mr. Wilson asked the Board for a motion.

On a motion duly made by Ted Spraker, seconded by Kelly Vrem, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to accept the Administrative Law Judge's Decision for "proposal for action" by vacating the automatic suspension, of Chad A. Reel Agency File Nos. 2011-000455/0458 AND to schedule a special meeting to deal with alleged violations in the case on or about August 1, 2011.

Roll Call Vote

NAME	YES	NO	
Paul Johnson			ABSTAIN
Kelly Vrem	X		
Karen Polley	X		
Ted Spraker	X		
Leif Wilson	X		

THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY VOTE.

Mr. Spraker asked Judge Pauli if he had included all the pertinent information in the motion and if Judge Pauli had any suggestions for the motion. Judge Pauli stated that the motion should be broken into two (2) parts; one to vacate the suspension and second schedule the meeting to deal with alleged violations in the case on or about August 1, 2011.

Mr. Spraker thanked Judge Pauli and asked the Board of amend his original motion to include all statements made by Judge Pauli. Mr. Vrem Seconded the amendment.

Mr. Wilson asked the Board for discussion.

Mr. Spraker stated he felt more information was needed and that the Board should have time to receive and review said information by August 1, 2011. Mr. Spraker also stated that this issue must be dealt with before hunting season begins as Mr. Reel may have clients he might need to shuffle around or re-schedule.

The Board agreed with Mr. Spraker stating more information was needed on the case and that they would appreciate receiving the information well before the next teleconference so they all had a chance to review it.

Judge Pauli stated she would do her best to get the Board via Staff. Judge Pauli also stated that she expected full cooperation from Attorneys on the case and information should be available by July 28, 2001 and asked Ms. Spencer if that would be enough time to distribute to the Board for an early August 2011 teleconference.

Ms. Spencer responded that the information should be sent to her a minimum of three (3) weeks before the date of the teleconference as it can take one to two weeks for Board members to receive their Board packets and this would allow plenty of elbow room for the mail service, specifically allowing enough time for Raymond Stoney to receive his packet. Mr. Wilson asked if this information could be emailed to Board members instead of mailing. Ms. Spencer stated all Board members but Raymond Stoney had access to email.

Judge Pauli stated that the Hearing for this case had been set but a request to move the date to July 7 had been received, however, she had not had a chance to speak with Attorney Auth about this request. Judge Pauli went on to inform the Board that she should have the written decision on the merits out July 22, 2011 then depending on all the Attorneys and hearings, this information should be available to the Board via Staff by July 26, 2011.

Mr. Spraker stated they may be able move the date of the proposed teleconference up a bit but it would need to happen before August 5 as that is when season begins. Mr. Spraker also stated he was ok with Raymond Stoney not receiving the information in time for the teleconference and that emailing information provided by Judge Pauli to the Board would be acceptable.

Ms. Spencer requested the Board on record state mailing "Board packets" for the teleconference would not be required as all information would be emailed. Mr. Wilson stated he agreed with Mr. Spraker's statements and asked the Board if there were any objections to having the August 2011 teleconference "Board packet" information emailed; hearing no objections Mr. Wilson requested a roll call vote be taken on the motion.

NAME	YES	NO	Abstain
Karen Polley	X		
Ted Spraker	X		
Leif Wilson	Х		

Paul Johnson Kelly Vrem

X

X

The Board asked Judge Pauli that even though there was not a quorum of the Board available and the roll call vote did not reflect a quorum vote, according to the "Rule of Necessity" previously mentioned by Judge Pauli, the motion to accept the Vacating of Suspension was passed. Judge Pauli stated that due to the "Rule of Necessity" the motion passed.

The Board thanked Judge Pauli for her time and assistance.

The Board discussed an exact date and time for the teleconference and decided August 3, 2011 with a start time of 8:00 a.m. would be good as hunting season opens August 4/5 and Board members would be unavailable beginning August 4, 2011.

The Board adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Karl Marx, Licensing Examiner

Call

Paul Johnson, Chairperson

Big Game Commercial Services Board

Date: 8-3 - 11