

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD JULY 26, 2024

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provision of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting (teleconference) of the Big Game Commercial Services Board was held on July 26, 2024, at 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9th Floor, Juneau, AK.

Date:	July 26, 2024
Time:	9:07 a.m.
Location:	Online teleconference ran from 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9 th Floor, Juneau, AK
Board Members Present:	Aaron Bloomquist, Cary Foster, Martin Boniek (9:16 a.m.), Larry Kunder (9:17 a.m.), Pete Buist, Dave Lorrington
Board Members Absent:	Clay Nordlum
Division/SOA Staff Present:	Thomas Bay (Executive Administrator)
Present from the Public:	None

1. Review Agenda		
Brief Discussion:	There was no discussion to amend the agenda.	
Motion:	Move to accept the agenda as written (First: Buist; Second: Boniek).	
Recorded Votes:	Boniek - Absent	Kunder - Absent
	Buist - Yes	Lorrington - Yes
	Flores - Yes	Nordlum - Absent
	Foster - Yes	Bloomquist - Yes
2. Ethics Review		
Brief Discussion:	There were no ethical disclosures by any board members or staff.	
3. GUA Boundary Changes		
Brief Discussion:	Chairman Aaron Bloomquist said that there were three proposals and that all of them made sense. Mr. Bay informed the board that the boundaries of their GUA maps had last been changed in November 2015. He said that, in order to change them again, it would require a regulations project to amend 12 AAC 75.235, adopting it by reference, and	

	<p>putting it out for public comment with the board's suggested map changes. The board reviewed the three proposals.</p>
Brief Discussion:	<p>The first proposal was submitted by registered guide-outfitter Spencer Pape. It proposed a change to GUA 19-09, to move the southern boundary to encompass all of the Cook Inlet Regional Incorporated (CIRI) lands into one GUA, which would allow the concessionaire of the CIRI lands to be able to register for additional GUAs outside of the CIRI lands. The current CIRI lands concession encompasses three GUAs, which uses all of a registered guide-outfitter's allowable GUAs in a calendar year. The proposal would not have an effect on other registered guide-outfitters because the land is only provided to one concessionaire. Pete Buist said that he was a part of the original designation process for establishing GUA boundaries and that the group he was a part of was aware that situations like this would arise because they were not creating a perfect product.</p>
Brief Discussion:	<p>The second proposal was submitted by registered guide-outfitter Jonah Stewart. It was a proposal to combine GUA 25-03A and 25-03B into a single GUA, 25-03. Chairman Bloomquist said that one of their previous boards divided the original GUA into two units because of conflicts in the field at the time. Mr. Stewart's proposal said that dividing the GUA into two units did not make sense because there were no conflicts in the area, and that the division had not been enforcing it. He strongly recommended removing the line dividing 25-03A and 25-03B and keeping it as a single GUA, 25-03. Chairman Bloomquist said that Henry Tiffany, a master guide-outfitter, was registered in the area and operating under the assumption that the area was divided into two units, and that he was okay with combining them into one versus the board changing the boundary lines and affecting his concession areas. Dave Lorrington asked, if the GUAs were combined into one, would they still have the same issues in front of them that caused it to be divided in the first place. Chairman Bloomquist said that he did not think so because one of the guides involved with the original issue had retired, and that the remaining licensees in the area, a total of six, were not in conflict with each other. Larry Kunder said that he would like to see the proposal go to public comment, and that any issues with the guides in the area would come out in the form of written comment, if they had any. Pete Buist said that he was in support of combining the GUAs because it provides more opportunities for guides.</p>
Brief Discussion:	<p>The third proposal was submitted by registered guide-outfitter John Martinez. It proposed a change to GUA 25-06, to move the boundary line to include all of ARC-14 ANWR, a federal concession that only the concessionaire is allowed to guide on. The change would not affect other licensed guides. He said that the maps were redrawn in 2011, showing the boundary change, but that the change could not be found in the meeting minutes or with the division, so he was requesting to make it an official change. Chairman Bloomquist said that the request made a lot of sense and that he would be in support of the change. Mr. Buist said that he would be in support of the change as well and said that his only hesitation was that he did not like how the board was changing a GUA boundary to coincide with what the federal government thinks the boundary should be. With nothing left to discuss, the board decided to approve all three proposals to go out for public comment.</p>
Motion:	<p>Move to initiate a regulations project regarding 12 AAC 75.235 by approving the following language for public comment, unless substantive changes are made by the regulations specialist or Department of Law:</p>

	<p>12 AAC 75.235. GUIDE-OUTFITTER USE AREA MAPS. The set of maps titled <i>Guide-Outfitter Use Area Maps</i>, dated June 22, 1994, as amended December 2009, July 2011, December 2011, [AND] November 2015, and July 2024, is adopted by reference. This set of maps prepared by the Department of Natural Resources depicts the boundaries of the guide use areas established under AS 08.54.750(g).</p> <p>The changes included in the amendment are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GUA 19-09: Expanding the southern boundary to encompass all of the Cook Inlet Regional Incorporated (CIRI) lands. 2. GUAs 25-03A and 25-03B: Combining both GUAs into one singular GUA (25-03). 3. GUA 25-06: Changing the boundary line to include all of federal concession ARC-14 ANWR. <p>(First: Buist; Second: Kunder).</p>	
Recorded Votes:	Boniek - Absent	Kunder - Yes
	Buist - Yes	Lorring - Yes
	Flores - Absent	Nordlum - Absent
	Foster - Yes	Bloomquist - Yes
Brief Discussion:	<p>With nothing left to discuss regarding boundary changes, Chairman Bloomquist informed the board that he had spoken with Director Robb regarding their request for an in-person meeting in Kodiak and having an attorney attend their in-person meetings, moving forward, at least during discussions regarding regulation projects, and that she would have an answer for them after doing some research into both requests. With nothing left to discuss, the board adjourned.</p>	
Adjourn:	9:56 a.m.	

Date Final Minutes Approved by the Board: <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OnBoard	November 29, 2024
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