

U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Domestic Names Committee
Six Hundred Sixty-Third Meeting
Department of the Interior, Room 3004
December 14, 2004 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Eric Berman	Department of Homeland Security (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
Chick Fagan (Chair)	Department of the Interior (National Park Service) – not voting
Lee Fleming	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Mike Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Bonnie Gallahan	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Ronald Grim	Library of Congress
Ed Harne	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress
Betsy Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (Forest Service)
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Barbara Ryan	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Ex Officio

Roger L. Payne	Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
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Staff

Lesley Levi	BGN Administrative Assistant
Lou Yost	
Jennifer Runyon	

Guests

Leo Dillon	Chairman, Foreign Names Committee
Nancy Dukes	BGN Administrative Assistant Emerita
Richard Forstall	BGN Emeritus
Lois Lynch	Geographic Names Office Volunteer
Scott Zillmer	National Geographic Society

1. Opening

The Chairman called the 662nd DNC meeting to order, and then asked the invited guests to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of the 662nd Meeting

The October 20 minutes were approved with some minor editorial changes.

3. Communications and Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman's Report (Loy)

No report.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Payne)

The BGN will meet with the British Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN), March 1-10, 2005, in London. The two naming authorities will meet to discuss matters of mutual interest, with the presentation of information papers and the examination of policies and procedures.

Payne reported that he attended this year's meeting of the Directing Council of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), which took place in San Jose, Costa Rica, November 14-20, 2004. Payne now serves as Vice-President of the U.S. National Section. The meeting's purpose is to evaluate and analyze proposals before the Institute, and to make recommendations regarding acceptance.

The meeting of the Full Board that is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, January 18 will need to be rescheduled, and will likely be on Tuesday, January 25. An e-mail will be sent to BGN members informing them of the new date as soon as established.

Payne noted that Jim Anderson did an outstanding job hosting the Annual Conference of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) that took place October 19-23, 2004, in Jacksonville, Florida. A letter was sent to Jim Anderson's superior praising Mr. Anderson and his assistants at Florida State University for an excellent job arranging the meeting.

3.3 Report of the Publicity Committee (Payne for Wood)

There is a controversy in Colorado regarding the naming of a reservoir soon to be constructed in the Ridges Basin area of La Plata County. Although known informally as Ridges Basin Reservoir, Congress has decided to name it officially Lake Nighthorse in honor of Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. Several members of a family that has been ranching in the area for many years have written to the BGN to protest this action, but they have been informed that as the naming was done by Congress, the BGN cannot undo or overrule it.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Payne)

Payne reiterated that Indiana has established a new State Names Authority, which means that there are now authorities in 50 States, plus one commonwealth and one territory.

A proposal to rename a lake on a proponent's property in New York from Loch Lyall to Sunny Acres Lake was submitted to the BGN through Senator Schumer's office. After preliminary investigation, it was determined the proponent's wife is named Sunny, and therefore the proposal has been returned in accordance with the BGN's Commemorative Naming Policy. The BGN staff responded to Senator Schumer's office explaining why the proposal cannot be processed.

It was noted that the 2005 Midyear Conference of the National States Geographic Information Council is scheduled for mid-March in Annapolis. There was some discussion regarding whether the BGN staff and/or interested members should make efforts to attend.

The Executive Secretary and hopefully some members of the BGN staff will be attending and making a presentation at the Annual Bureau of Land Management (BLM) GIS Workshop in Phoenix in mid-April. There will be a GNIS training session where BLM personnel, as well as those from USFS, NPS, and others will receive training for the GNIS Maintenance Program.

3.5 BGN Staff Report (Yost)

The following is a statistical report of the BGN/DNC staff activities since the October 7 meeting:

- 0 cases written
- 143 inquiries received and answered
- 169 letters written (answered and initiated)
- 99 e-mail messages

Runyon noted that she will be attending the American Name Society Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania December 26-28, as a member of the Executive Committee.

Ron Grim provided a brief overview and explanation of the proposal that has been submitted to the BGN to change the name of Saint Regis Pass, on the boundary between Idaho and Montana, to Sohon Pass. He indicated that the proposed name, which commemorates the noted artist and interpreter Gustavus Sohon, appeared on virtually all maps published during the nineteenth century, but in the early twentieth century, the current name began to come into local use. Grim noted that the proposal was submitted to “correct historical mistake.”

A member of the Board provided copies of two newly-published topographic maps of the Pribilof Islands in Alaska. It was noted that the maps show numerous geographic names in English, but followed by local indigenous names in parentheses. The staff indicated it would review these maps, along with the lists of names provided previously by the Alaska State Board and the USGS Mapping Center, and where necessary would add the indigenous names to GNIS as variant names.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost)

Yost attended a meeting with representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who were interested in learning about various USGS digital data holdings, including GNIS.

The Geographic Names Office has received data from the USGS Mapping Partnership Office (MPO) in the State of Louisiana for processing. The Louisiana MPO is coordinating a Statewide group of volunteers who are using GPS to collect and update geographic coordinates for hospitals, schools, and other cultural features as part of *The National Map* effort.

Members of the USGS Eastern Region Geography Catalog Team met with District of Columbia representatives who are interested in harmonizing geographic names data as part of *The National Map* effort.

4. Docket Review List

Please refer to the attached Docket Review List for a description of each proposal.

I. **Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties**

Change **Squaw Cap** to **The Crows Nest**, Maine (Docket 387)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. **Disagreement on Docketed Names**

Mount Jimmy Doolittle, Alaska (Chugach National Forest) (Docket 385)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 10 in favor
2 against
0 abstentions

The two dissenting votes were cast in recognition of the lack of support for the name by some local native villages.

Wardies Peak, Alaska (Docket 382)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 10 in favor
1 against
1 abstention

The dissenting vote was cast in support of the Alaska State Board's decision not to approve the name because the Alaska Board did not believe the feature association factor was met.

Dick Beecham Creek, California (Docket 383)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name, citing the disapproval of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names because of the credibility of the evidence presented.

Vote: 7 in favor
5 against
0 abstentions

The five dissenting votes were cast in the belief that the name warranted approval.

J H Creek, California (Docket 383)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name, citing the claims by the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names that despite the proponent's claims, the name has not been found to be in local use.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Jupiter Peak, Colorado (Docket 383)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name.

Vote: 11 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The name was not approved citing lack of support from the county and the State.

The negative vote was cast in the belief that the name was warranted.

Mayhem Spike, Colorado (San Juan National Forest) (Docket 384)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name, citing the lack of local and State support, as well as the fact that the name could be construed to be commemorative.

Vote: 10 in favor
2 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in support of the findings of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and in the belief that the name is not commemorative.

Change Poison Creek to Poisson Creek, and change Poison Lake to Poisson Lake, Idaho (Boise National Forest) (Docket 386)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the changes citing the lack of County, State and Forest Service support, all of which found no evidence that the proposed names were historically accurate, and in the belief that there were commercial overtones to the proposal.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Musselshell Creek, Minnesota (Docket 385)

A motion was made and seconded to defer voting on the name at the request of the member from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS).

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

III. New Commemorative Names

Moore Quarter Spring, Alabama (Docket 386)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 10 in favor
2 against
0 abstentions

The dissenting votes were cast in the belief that the term “quarters” referred historically to slave dwellings, and therefore the name was inappropriate. Those approving the proposal indicated that the reference was more likely to be either to an antiquated term for an administrative area, or to the system of land division established by the U.S. Public Land Survey System (PLSS).

Cummings Run, Pennsylvania (Docket 386)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Gallagher Run, Pennsylvania (Docket 386)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Kepner Creek, Pennsylvania (Docket 387)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Byers Creek, South Carolina (Docket 386)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Reeds Run, South Carolina (Docket 386)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Floyd Iverson Ridge, Utah (Wasatch-Cache National Forest) (Docket 387)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

IV. **Revised Decisions**

Change Lemhi Pass (BGN 1968) to Disappointment Pass, Idaho and Montana (Salmon National Forest and Beaverhead National Forest) (Docket 385)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the change, citing a lack of local, State, or Federal support for changing a long-standing name in widespread published usage.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Bowman Lake (BGN 1948) to Baumann Lake, Michigan (Manistee National Forest) (Docket 385)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 7 in favor
5 against
0 abstentions

The dissenting votes were cast in support of the county, State, and Federal recommendations, and in the belief that the long-standing and widely published spelling of "Bowman" should not be changed.

V. **New Names agreed to by all interested parties**

Lake Siena, Florida (Docket 386)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

5. **Location and Time of Next Meeting**

5.1 The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will be held January 13, at 9:30 a.m., at the Department of the Interior, Room 3004.

5.2 The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon. Following the meeting, the members, staff, and guests adjourned to the Rachel Carson Room for a luncheon to honor Ron Grim who is retiring from the BGN, and Federal service. Dr. Grim was presented with a plaque in recognition of his years of service to the BGN, both on the Domestic Names Committee and Foreign Names Committee, serving a term as Board Chairman, and in appreciation of his dedication and support of the field of toponomy. The attendees wished him well in his future endeavors.

(signed) Roger L. Payne

Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) Chick Fagan

Chick Fagan, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee

