

U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Domestic Names Committee
Six Hundred Sixty-Fourth Meeting
Department of the Interior, Room 3004
January 13, 2005 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Chick Fagan (Chair)	Department of the Interior (National Park Service) – not voting
Mike Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Bonnie Gallahan	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Ed Harne	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress
Betsy Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (Forest Service)
Bill Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard)
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Joseph Marinucci	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)

Staff

Lesley Levi	BGN Administrative Assistant
Lou Yost	
Jennifer Runyon	

Guests

Scott Zillmer	National Geographic Society
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1. Opening

The Chairman called the 664th DNC meeting to order.

2. Minutes of the 663rd Meeting

The December 14th minutes were approved as written.

3. Communications and Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman's Report (Loy)

Loy reminded the Board members that the next meeting of the full Board will not take place next week as originally scheduled, but will meet on Tuesday, January 25th instead. The meeting will be held at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston, in Room 2A405, at 1:30 p.m.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Yost for Payne)

The next meeting of the Foreign Names Committee will take place at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in Bethesda, Tuesday, January 18th, at 2:00 p.m.

Yost noted that he and Payne will be attending the biennial meeting of the Board and the British Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN), in London, England, March 1st to March 10th. Any issues that need to be addressed at the meeting should be forwarded to Yost or Payne.

3.3 Report of the Publicity Committee (Yost for Wood)

No report.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost for Payne)

Yost reminded the Board about the Bureau of Land Management/U.S. Forest Service Land Management and Resources Workshop that will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, the week of April 18th. Kanalley will inform the Board members as soon as the workshop website becomes available.

3.5 BGN Staff Report (Yost)

The following is a statistical report of the BGN/DNC staff activities since the December 14th meeting:

- 0 cases written
- 82 inquiries received and answered
- 93 letters written (answered and initiated)
- 56 e-mail messages

Yost distributed a copy of an unsolicited proposal that the Board has received regarding the possibility of reformatting and editing the Domestic Names Committee's *Principles, Policies and Procedures* (PPP) document. After a discussion on the matter, it was concluded that the revised PPP should remain in its current format until such time as it has been reviewed by the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, but that it might be worth pursuing the production of a reformatted and condensed summary of the document. Harne stressed the importance of keeping these two documents synchronized. It was agreed that a certain amount of redundancy in the document is necessary. Fagan offered to forward a copy of the latest version to the Department's Plain Language Coordinator for review and comment. The Executive Secretary has been instructed to acknowledge receipt of the proposal.

Runyon reported on her attendance at the American Name Society's Annual Conference in Philadelphia, December 26-28, as a member of the ANS Executive Committee and Vice-President of the Toponymic Interest Group. Although the turnout was low, several outstanding issues were resolved at the Executive Committee meeting. It was also noted that this is the last year that ANS will meet in conjunction with the Modern Language Association in late December; beginning in 2006, the ANS will hold its meetings in early January with the Linguistic Society of America. The January 2006 conference will take place in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost)

There has been considerable activity in recent days regarding efforts by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to compile and update geographic names data for the State of Ohio. A preliminary review of a listing of streams in that State has suggested there are over 900 "unnamed" streams, so efforts will be made to gather local names for those features. In a separate but related activity, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) will be holding public hearings to compile local names and conduct "name-that-stream" contests for several counties in and around Columbus. Runyon added that she has spoken with a representative of MORPC, who has agreed to use a listing of names from GNIS, as well as

USGS topographic maps, for the project. She provided the MORPC with an explanation of the DNC and its procedures and the necessity of soliciting local, regional, and Tribal support for any proposed names. Both activities will be coordinated through the local USGS Mapping Partnership Office and the Ohio State Geographic Names Board.

Yost noted that there has been some dialogue with representatives of the U.S. Forest Service regarding the correct form of official names for National Forests, Wilderness, and National Park areas. The names of such entities are typically established by Congress. It was determined that if these names are established with abbreviations (such as Mt. or St. rather than Mount or Saint), the Board should accept that form and the names should be recorded as such in GNIS. Marinucci announced that the Census Bureau has decided that for its forthcoming FIPS 6-5 publication, it will follow the DNC policy of spelling out all county names containing the abbreviation for Saint(e).

3.7 Review of Pet Names Policy (Runyon)

Runyon asked the Board to review the Pet Names Policy, as there appears to be a discrepancy between the wording in the current version of the draft PPP (i.e. “the Board will not consider names for pets”) and the recollections of the staff. The members reiterated that the Board will consider naming features for pets on a case-by-case basis; however, the Board will not consider such names to be commemorative. The PPP wording will be revised to reflect this discussion.

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 Jarrott to Jarrett, Florida (Docket 386)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name change.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Keys Brook to Keyes Brook and Keys Pond to Keyes Pond, Maine (Docket 386, 387)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name changes.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Musselshell Creek, Minnesota (Docket 385)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against

0 abstentions

Change Squaw Reservoir to Buffalo Reservoir, Montana (Custer National Forest) (Docket 383)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve this name change, citing the lack of support from the Montana State Geographic Names Board and the U.S. Forest Service, both of which suggested the word “Buffalo” is already widely used throughout the State.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

The staff was instructed to encourage the proponent to submit an alternative replacement for the existing name.

Change Water Creek to Vail Creek, Wyoming and Idaho (Bridger National Forest/Caribou National Forest) (Docket 380)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve this name change, citing the lack of support of the U.S. Forest Service, which found evidence of the name in numerous water rights documents. The members also cited a reluctance to change a long-standing name simply to restore a historical name.

Vote: 6 in favor
3 against
0 abstentions

The votes cast against the motion cited the support for the change by the two counties and two State Names Boards. The name Vail Creek will be added to GNIS as a variant because it has been found in a historic State document.

III. New Commemorative Names

Chauncey Island, Connecticut (Docket 386)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Ridgebury Mountain to Seth Low Mountain, Connecticut (Docket 386)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve this name change. It was noted that neither the Town government nor the State Names Authority had responded to the Board’s requests for input, suggesting a lack of local support for changing a name in longstanding published usage.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Morgan Creek, Florida (Docket 387)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

IV. **Revised Decisions** – none.

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

Deer Canyon, Arizona (Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest) (Docket 387)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Willow Creek, Iowa (Docket 387)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Spirit Mound Creek, South Dakota (Docket 386)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 9 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 February 10, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., at the Department of the Interior, Room 3004.

5.2 The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

(signed) Roger L. Payne

Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary

APPROVED
(signed) Chick Fagan

Chick Fagan, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee