

U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Domestic Names Committee
Six Hundred Seventy-Second Meeting
University Club, Portland, Oregon
October 12, 2005, 1 p.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

	Tracy Fortmann	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
	Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
	Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
	Robert Bewley	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
	Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress
	Elizabeth Kanalley (Chair)	Department of Agriculture (Forest Service)
	William 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)
	Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
<u>Ex Officio</u>	Roger L. Payne	Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
<u>Staff</u>	Eve Edwards	
	Dwight Hughes	
	Jennifer Runyon	
	Robin Worcester	
	Lou Yost	

1. OPENING

1.1 Opening Remarks by the Chairman, Domestic Names Committee

Ms. Tracy Fortmann of the National Park Service, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, was introduced. Ms. Fortmann called the meeting to order and announced that she was serving by proxy as Chairwoman of the Domestic Names Committee on behalf of Chick Fagan, the outgoing Chairman. Mr. Fagan was unable to attend this year's conference. Ms. Fortmann then introduced and turned the meeting over to the newly appointed

Chairwoman, Ms. Elizabeth (Betsy) Kanalley from the USDA Forest Service, who will serve for the forthcoming two-year term.

The Chairwoman thanked Lewis McArthur and the members of the Oregon Geographic Names Board for hosting this year's conference of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA). She noted that BGN packets were available for all attendees at the meeting.

1.2 Introduction of Committee members and staff

The DNC members introduced themselves and stated which department or agency they represent, along with their position on the BGN.

1.3 Comments by Curtis Loy, Chairman, U.S. Board on Geographic Names

Loy thanked McArthur, the Oregon Historical Society, and the Oregon Geographic Names Board for hosting this year's conference.

The biennial meeting between the BGN and the British Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) was held in London, March 1-11, 2005. Loy also announced that he represented the BGN at the Annual Meeting of the Geographical Names Board of Canada in Edmonton, Alberta, in September. It was noted that the DNC has much in common with other national naming organizations and that they often are challenged with similar issues. As such, these meetings are a very useful forum of exchange. An agreement was renewed with the PCGN regarding continued specific collaboration between the BGN and PCGN. At the BGN/PCGN Conference, numerous position and information papers were presented along with discussion and lively debate regarding policies and procedures. The BGN will meet next with the PCGN in 2007 in Washington.

The Executive Committee met this summer to discuss the implementation of the new business plan for the processing of foreign names. Other matters discussed and resolved included relations between DNC and the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names, newly drafted policies on Undersea Feature Names, the frequency of BGN meetings, and a new website for the BGN. The BGN's next meeting will take place Tuesday, October 18, at which time biennial elections for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be held. The following meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2006.

1.4 Minutes of the 672nd Meeting

The minutes of the September DNC meeting were approved as submitted.

2. REPORTS

2.1 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Payne)

Payne described the contents of the folder distributed to conference attendees. He announced that a major realignment is underway at the U.S. Geological Survey which will involve the consolidation of all geospatial activities into one program office.

He also announced that the last two-year term for BGN members ended September 30, and appointment and reappointment letters should be arriving at the appropriate departments or agencies very soon. Since the letters were not received in the Geographic Names Office by the aforementioned date, each member and deputy member's term is presumed to continue.

Payne described the committees and administrative structure of the Board. The BGN empowers each of the standing committees to set policy and make decisions. The advisory committees are **not** empowered to make decisions, but rather make recommendations to the BGN. The members of the standing committees must be Federal employees. Members of the advisory committees can be employed inside or outside the Federal government; however, their appointments must be approved by the BGN.

In November 2004, Payne represented the United States as Vice-President of the U.S. National Section at the annual conference of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH). Also, the 17th annual geographic names course offered under the auspices of PAIGH was held in Panama City, Panama, August 22 to September 2, 2005. There were 30 students from numerous offices and agencies of the national government, as well as from academia. The course was very successful, and advancements were made in the establishment of procedures for implementing an existing law for geographic names standardization. Students were also instructed in methods of automated processing of toponymic data, and were offered guidance in preparation for their participation in the establishment of an integrated digital gazetteer for Latin America.

2.2 Publications and Publicity Committee (Kanalley for Wood)

It was reported that the BGN received 26 requests for media interviews during the past year. Six of the requests dealt with derogatory names; seven with general policy questions and clarifications; eleven with specific issues such as the "Squaw" name changes in Oregon; and two with issues involving indigenous names. Also, there was a considerable amount of correspondence related to the proposal to rename Mount Diablo in Contra Costa County, California (this issue is on today's docket).

Kanalley thanked the Geographic Names Office staff for attending the BLM/USFS GIS conference, which was held in Phoenix in April, and for presenting a paper and a GNIS maintenance training session. She announced that the next conference will be held in Portland in 2007 and extended invitations to all interested parties who wish to develop partnerships with GNIS.

2.3 DNC Executive Secretary Report (Payne)

Payne reported that he attended the Auto-Carto 2005 Conference held in Las Vegas, March 18-23, 2005, but was extremely disappointed in the attendance for the presentation on the BGN, partnerships, and GNIS maintenance. Only eight individuals were present at the session.

Payne presented a paper, and Worcester and Hughes also attended the BLM/USFS GIS Symposium in Phoenix, April 18 to 22, 2005. The day and a half training session on the GNIS Maintenance forms was well attended, with many representatives from the BLM, USFS, and other agencies.

On July 12, 2005, Payne made a presentation to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) regarding the importance of geographic names standardization and the processes involved in GNIS maintenance.

Payne reported that the BGN, of its own volition, decided in April to add “populated place” to the “administrative names” category. As a result, these names will no longer be under the purview of the BGN’s decision process. However, the Board will still accept proposals to name such features and will process them in accordance with the abbreviated staff processed procedure. Further, these new names and name changes **must** be reflected in GNIS before being considered official for Federal use. Those features under the BGN’s purview include all natural features plus reservoirs and canals.

It was reported at last year’s COGNA conference that there is a State Geographic Names Authority in all 50 States. However, in the past year, the Governor of Utah abolished all standing committees in that State, which included the Utah State Committee on Geographic Names. The Governor’s Office has assumed the role of State Names Authority, but it is hoped that the State Names Committee will be reinstated in the near future.

Payne reiterated to the audience that a recommendation on a name from local Federal officials is not official until it is sanctioned by the Federal agency’s BGN representative. Specifically, an “approval” of a name by a local ranger or even a Park Superintendent is not official; it is required that the recommendation be issued by the Federal agency representative on the BGN.

2.4 BGN Staff Report (Yost)

The following is a statistical report of the BGN/DNC staff activities since the COGNA Conference in 2004.

155	cases written
1,249	inquiries answered
928	letters written
1,528	e-mail message responses
138	proposals approved
5	proposals denied

In the past month, Quarterly Review List 390 was released; the staff prepared 45 new case briefs, received 143 inquiries, wrote 143 letters, and responded to 219 e-mail messages.

Yost reported that as a result of the reorganization process at the USGS, it is likely that within the next year the National Geospatial Technology Operations Center (NGTOC), under which the Geographic Names Office operates (but not the BGN Secretariat), will be moving its operations to Denver, Colorado.

Yost announced that a Phase II (extensive data compilation) contract has been awarded to Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky, for GNIS work in the eastern portion of Kentucky.

Yost also reported that two cooperative grants were awarded, one each to the State of Oregon and the State of Florida. These grants were given to investigate and create models for local and State maintenance of GNIS.

2.5 Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) and Data Compilation Program (Worcester)

Worcester reported that the Geographic Names Office and the GNIS database software engineers and administrators have been working full-time to transition from the old to the new database, and provided details about the new system and its relationship to the user community.

In the last year, approximately 18,700 new records were added to GNIS, approximately 3,900 additional variants were added, and there have been approximately 20,800 corrections and enhancements. Worcester indicated that the numbers were somewhat lower than the figures from last year because of down time during the transition period.

3. PUBLICATIONS

3.1 Quarterly Review, Docket, Action, and Decision Lists (Runyon)

Runyon announced that new wording and titles for the BGN's standard documents that have been adopted. Specifically, the term Quarterly Review List will now be used to refer to what was formerly the Docket; this document includes all the new proposals that have been received and prepared during the previous quarter. The monthly Docket is the former Review List and contains those cases that are ready for a DNC vote at that month's meeting. There is no longer a need for an Annual Decision List, as the information can be obtained from the newly-redesigned GNIS website. The Action List, a listing of the BGN's decisions at a specific meeting, has been suspended indefinitely due to a lack of resources. Runyon reminded the Federal and State representatives that if they ever have questions regarding the status of a case, they are always welcome to contact the BGN staff.

3.2 Digital Gazetteer (Worcester)

Worcester reported that the GNIS online maintenance forms have become operational, and that the comments received from users have generally been positive. He indicated that new records and updates that are made via the new forms, once committed, will be updated **immediately** at the public website. As a result, the geographic names layer of *The National Map* is also updated almost instantly.

Worcester also reported that all geographic coordinates in GNIS have been converted from NAD 27 to NAD 83.

4. GEOGRAPHIC NAMES CASES

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

4.1 Staff Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Change Negro Branch to Pride Branch, Georgia (Review List 389)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Squaw Creek to Council Spring Creek, Idaho (Review List 388)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Spruce Center Lake to Mill Pond, Minnesota (Review List 388)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Wagonga Lake to Lake Wakanda, Minnesota (Review List 390)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change the application of **Hamilton Creek**, Oregon (Review List 389)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

UNDOCKETED

Change **Granger Lateral** to **Granger Drain**, Washington

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

4.2 Review and consideration of cases with which there is disagreement

Change **Mount Diablo** to **Mount Miwok**, California (Review List 389)

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

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Mount Diablo** to **Mount Ohlone**, California (Review List 389)

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

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Mount Diablo** to **Mount Yahweh**, California (Review List 388)

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

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

The aforementioned motions were made citing the negative recommendations of many local residents, numerous local and regional organizations, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, and the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names. The members also cited a lack of evidence that the existing name is derogatory as well as a reluctance to change a name in long-standing and widespread verbal and published usage.

Reunion Peak, California (Eldorado National Forest and Toiyabe National Forest)
(Review List 385)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name based on the negative recommendations of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors, the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names, and the U.S. Forest Service, all of which cited a lack of evidence that the name had any significance to anyone other than the proponent.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Upland Peak, California (San Bernardino National Forest/Cucamonga Wilderness)
(Review List 387)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name, citing the negative recommendations of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names and the U.S. Forest Service, both of which cited the restrictions of the Wilderness Naming Policy and a lack of evidence that there is an overriding need for the feature to be named.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Mother Lake (Review List 389) vs. **Lake Wilderness** (Review List 390), Florida

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name Mother Lake citing the negative recommendations of the local governments and the Florida State Geographic Names Authority.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name Lake Wilderness. The members cited evidence that this name had come into local use in recent years and has been applied to a local real estate map.

Vote: 9 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in the belief that the name Lake Wilderness was not appropriate for this heavily built up suburban area.

Lake Bogus, Michigan (Review List 388)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name based on information recently uncovered by the staff that indicated that the name would in fact honor a living person and therefore is in violation of the Commemorative Naming Policy.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Lake Nonamee, Michigan (Review List 383)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name citing the negative recommendations of the local governments and the Michigan State Names Authority.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Liberty Bill Peak East, Liberty Bill Peak West, Nevada (Humboldt National Forest)
(Review List 387)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the names citing the negative recommendations of the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names and the U.S. Forest Service, both of which suggested there was no evidence these features in a wilderness area needed to be named, as well as evidence that the proposed names could be construed to honor a living person.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Buffalo Soldier Hill, New Mexico (Review List 388)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Chinese Massacre Cove, Oregon (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest/Hells Canyon National Recreation Area) (Review List 388)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Note: The NPS representative departed the meeting at this point.

Morning Glory Canyon, Utah (Bureau of Land Management/Negro Bill Canyon Wilderness Study Area) (Review List 389)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name citing the restrictions of the Wilderness Naming Policy and a lack of evidence that the feature needed to be named.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Promise Lake, Wyoming (Grand Teton National Park) (Review List 388)

A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name citing the negative opinions of the Wyoming State Board on Geographic Names and the National Park Service, both of which cited the restrictions of the Wilderness Naming Policy and a lack of evidence that the feature needed to be named.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

4.3 Review and consideration of proposed commemorative Names and Changes with which there is full agreement – none.

4.4 Review and consideration of cases changing BGN decisions

Change **Chakachamna Lake** (BGN 1930) to **Ch'akajabena Lake**, Alaska (Review List 389)

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

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

4.5 Review and consideration of new name proposals

Ch'akajabena Mountain, Alaska (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 387)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Little Manitou Rock, Little Manitou Rocks, Missouri (Review List 389)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the names.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Clay Creek, Oregon (Review List 389)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Questions and/or comments from the floor

No questions or comments were received.

6. CLOSING

6.1 Closing remarks by Committee members

6.2 The next DNC meeting will be held November 10, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., at the Department of the Interior, Room 3004.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The Chair, the members and the staff thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and for their valuable comments and contributions to the discussion.

(signed) *Roger L. Payne*

Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) *Elizabeth Kanalley*

Elizabeth Kanalley, Chairwoman
Domestic Names Committee