

**U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Domestic Names Committee**

Six Hundred Eighty-Second Meeting
Department of the Interior, Room 3004
September 14, 2006 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Robert Bewley	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Chick Fagan	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Mike Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard)
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Doug Vandergraft	Department of the Interior (Fish and Wildlife Service)
Meredith Westington	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

Lou Yost, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee

Staff

Eve Edwards
Jennifer Runyon

Guests

Jim Fulmer, Department of the Interior (Minerals Management Service)
Geoffrey Hatchard, National Geographic Society
Steve Kopach, Department of the Interior (Minerals Management Service)
Jane Messenger, Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey – Rolla, Missouri)

1. Opening

The meeting opened at 9:35 a.m. In Kanalley's absence, Fournier was asked to serve as chair of the meeting. He welcomed everyone to the 682nd meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC), and asked the members of the Committee and staff to introduce themselves. Fournier announced he would be voting today.

2. Minutes of the 681st Meeting

The minutes of the August 10th meeting were approved as submitted.

3. Communications and Reports

3.1 Chairman's Report

There was no report. Yost announced he would provide comments from the Chairman in his BGN Executive Secretary's Report.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

Yost reminded the DNC members about the recent e-mail he sent at Chairman Boughton's request regarding the need to review the BGN's by-laws. The Chairman will discuss his plans for the revisions at the next full Board meeting on November 1st.

3.3 Report of the Publicity Committee (Yost for Wood)

Yost reported that staff received a telephone inquiry from *Backpacker Magazine* requesting information on the BGN's policies and procedures. It was noted that a representative of the magazine is considering submitting a proposal in the near future.

Maine Public Radio telephoned BGN staff to discuss the DNC's decision to rename several geographic features in Piscataquis County that were named "Squaw." At the request of the county, the names were all changed to "Moose." A recent newspaper article reports that some local citizens have asked the State legislature to reverse its ruling that found the term "Squaw" to be derogatory, and in doing so, to undo the recent changes.

A representative from a CBS affiliate inquired about the naming of Afton Mountain (BGN 1998) in Virginia. The caller inquired why the name had not appeared on published maps when it had apparently been in local use for at least 50 years. Yost provided background information on the phases of GNIS compilation, and indicated that the name was not recorded since it had apparently not been published on a map or document that was used as a source.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

Yost reported that the National Park Service (NPS) is planning to publish its brochure of the San Juan National Historic Site in both English and Spanish, which has led to questions as to how the Spanish names should be recorded in GNIS. Are the Spanish translations of English names considered variants? Fagan was asked whether there might be a DOI or NPS policy regarding the publication of Federal documents and maps in languages other than English. He and the staff agreed to research this further.

Yost reported that Bill Carswell, Director of the National Geospatial Program Office, USGS, will make a presentation at the COGNA conference on the future of *The National Map*, GNIS,

and the National Geospatial Technology Operations Center. Karen Siderelis, Associate Director for Geospatial Information and BGN member from DOI, is unable to attend the conference.

It was reported that one of the COGNA conference sessions will involve a panel discussion, led by the U.S. Forest Service, on how the various Federal land management agencies interpret BGN policies and process geographic names proposals. This discussion will provide agencies with an opportunity to compare and discuss procedures, as well as educate State and local agencies on such matters.

3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

Runyon reported that the BGN has received a proposal for the new name Whispering Lake; this name would apply to a lake that has not yet been constructed. She asked the members whether they wished to have staff proceed with the proposal or wait until the feature has been constructed. It was decided that staff should ask the proponent for further details about the construction schedule and for evidence that State and local regulations have been satisfied. Runyon suggested this would be a good topic for discussion at the State-Federal Roundtable session at COGNA.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost)

No report

4. Docket Review (Runyon)

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal. For new names approved at this meeting, the newly-assigned GNIS Feature ID Number (FID) has been noted following the name.

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties – none

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change Lake Etta (FID 1028910) to Alkali Lake and change Alkaline Lake (FID 1027682) to Lake Etta, North Dakota

A motion was made and seconded to approve these changes.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Stolzenberg Mountain (FID 1526580) to Stolzenburg Mountain, Washington

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Wileys Slough, Montana (FID 2094697)

A motion was made and seconded to make official this name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Truman Lake, Michigan (FID 2094698)

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

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

III. Revised Decisions – None

IV. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

White Pine Pass, Colorado (FID 2094699)

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

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Cottonwood Creek and **Darting Minnow Creek**, Texas

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision on these names, citing a lack of response from the county or the State Names Authority, as well as confusion regarding whether the first name should be “Cottonwood” or “Cottonmouth.” Staff clarified that the proposed name was in fact Cottonmouth Creek.

5. Location and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will be held Wednesday, October 18, 2006, at 1:00 p.m., at the Harvest House Millennium Hotel in Boulder, Colorado.

(signed) *Louis A. Yost*

Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) *Betsy Kanalley*

Betsy Kanalley, Chairwoman
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
September 2006**

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties - none

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change Lake Etta (FID 1028910) to Alkali Lake
Change Alkaline Lake (FID 1027682) to Lake Etta, North Dakota
(Slade National Wildlife Refuge)
(Review List 391)

Proposed Alkali Lake:

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=14&n=5180255.00016727&e=435901.999999947&datum=nad83&u=6>

Proposed Lake Etta:

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=14&n=5184576.00016775&e=438830.999999962&datum=nad83&u=6>

Update: A decision on these two proposals was deferred by the DNC at its June 2006 meeting, citing a desire to view the documentation that the Township Manager and the Refuge Manager cited in their recommendations, one to support the proposal and one to oppose it. Copies of this material have been received. The Township Manager provided a copy of a map of Manning Township showing the names as proposed, along with a letter stating that she grew up on the shore of “Alkali” (the southern lake) and “when there is a drought the alkali dust will blow over everything.” The Refuge Manager submitted copies of 1987 and 1993 plat books from Midland Atlas Company; Kidder County Soil Survey maps; 1992, 2002-03 highway maps; Great Plains Directory service plat books published 1999 and 2003; USGS topographic maps; and National Wetlands Inventory maps, all showing the names as listed currently in GNIS.

These proposals were submitted by a resident of Goodrich, to change officially the application of the names of two lakes in Kidder County. He also wishes to change the name Alkaline Lake to Alkali Lake. The proponent reports that while living in that area he noticed that the two names are reversed on Federal maps. The more northerly of the two lakes is 17 km (10.5 mi) long and 1.1 km (0.7 mi) wide at its widest spot; it is named currently Alkaline Lake. The northeastern portion of this lake lies within the boundaries of the Slade National Wildlife Refuge. The smaller lake, which is approximately 4.8 km (3 mi) long and 1.6 km (1 mi) wide, is named Lake Etta. These names have been labeled as such on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1952. The official Kidder County map agrees with USGS maps. However, the proponent claims the smaller lake should be named Alkali Lake, while the longer lake to the north is Lake Etta. The origin of the name “Etta” is not known. Several North Dakota State websites refer to the “Alkaline Lake/Lake Etta complex” as a significant fishing area. There is another lake 26 km (16 mi) to the southeast, also named

Alkaline Lake; most online references to the name appear to refer to the latter feature because of its location within the Alkaline Lake State Wildlife Management Area, a prominent area for breeding birds.

The governments of both Manning Township and Kidder County have written letters concurring with the proposed changes, and both also agree that the correct form of the name is “Alkali” not “Alkaline.” The North Dakota Geographic Names Authority has no objection to the change; however, the National Wildlife Refuge Manager does not support it, citing long term published use of the existing names and applications, adding, “changing them at this juncture would lead to more confusion than resolution.” Three Federally-recognized Tribes, the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, and the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, were asked to comment, but no response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Change **Stolzenberg Mountain** (FID 1526580) to **Stolzenburg Mountain**, Washington
(Review List 373)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=48.1806307&LON=-124.4077199&datum=NAD83&u=5>

This proposal was submitted by a resident of Bellevue, to change officially the spelling of the name of Stolzenberg Mountain, a 649 m (2,128 ft) summit in northwestern Clallam County. The proponent reports that the feature was named for his ancestor, Herman Stolzenburg (1868-1955) who had a homestead and timber claim at the base of the summit in the 1890’s. The Washington State Board on Geographic Names located a copy of the homestead application confirming that the family name was spelled “Stolzenburg,” although all maps in its library showed the spelling “Stolzenberg” for the feature. That spelling has also appeared on Federal maps since 1953, and was also shown as such on the 1969 Clallam County highway map. The proponent provided a copy of the 1900 census record showing “Stolzenburg,” along with a death notice from that same year that included the proposed spelling. An undated map of Clallam County also shows the Stolzenburg spelling. The proponent concedes that his German surname is often misspelled and acknowledges that the incorrect form has also appeared in county records over the years.

Despite the evidence presented by the proponent, the State Board voted to deny the proposal for initial consideration, citing “a lack of solid background history and documentation” and “a need for the proponent to do additional research.” They added that they “wanted justification for such a minor change.” As the State had decided not to continue with the proposal, the Board’s staff contacted the Clallam County Commissioners for comment; the county responded with a letter of support for the change. They also provided a copy of a genealogical report from the county’s archives suggesting the family name was spelled as proposed. The State Board has declined to revisit the issue. A copy of the proposal was also sent to the Makah Indian Tribe, a Federally-recognized Tribe, but no response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Wileys Slough, Montana
(Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge)
(Review List 390)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=11&n=5333676.00030161&e=707412.000223184&datum=nad83&u=6>

This proposal is to make official the name Wileys Slough for a horseshoe-shaped, 4.8 km (3 mi) long oxbow lake located in the valley north of Flathead Lake. It was submitted by the Montana Board on Geographic Names on behalf of the Manager of the Kalispell Regional Office of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), which had been asked to comment on a previous proposal, to name the same feature Browns Slough (BGN Review List 387). The latter name, which has since been withdrawn by the proponent, had been submitted by a local farmer who reported that his neighbors, many of whom have ranched in the area for many years, primarily referred to the feature as Brown's Slough, ever since an individual named Brown established a homestead near the southern end of the feature. The proponent noted that since World War II, various property owners, several of whom are still living, applied their own names to the feature (Fickens Slough, Heines Slough, Weavers Slough, Wileys Slough), and this had led to confusion. Further research suggests the feature has also been known as Schoolhouse Slough.

The Montana DNRC was asked to comment on the proposal for Browns Slough, but in its response, stated that “renaming” Wileys Slough would cause confusion and would require updating a considerable number of water rights documents, permits, and GIS files. Although not listed in GNIS, the latter name was also found in several water rights reports published online in 2003 and 2005.

The Flathead County Commissioners had previously submitted a letter of support for Browns Slough, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also indicated it had no objection to that name. However, when asked to revisit the issue, the County Commissioners indicated they were withdrawing their support for the latter name and would endorse the name Wileys Slough instead. A member of the Wiley family living in the area today reports that her husband's ancestor, Christian H. Wiley (died 1918), homesteaded on the property in the early 1890's, and it is also believed that he was responsible for building a dike across the feature.

Citing the objections of the DNRC, the Montana Board on Geographic Names does not support the original proposal and recommends approval of Wileys Slough. The Manager of the Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge has reviewed the new information and agrees that the proposal for Wileys Slough is appropriate. He also confirmed that the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks supports that name as well. Copies of the two proposals were sent to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead

Reservation, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Truman Lake, Michigan

(Review List 391)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=42.0875&lon=-83.8816666666667&datum=nad83&u=6>

This proposal is to make official the name Truman Lake for a 15-acre lake in Saline Township in south-central Washtenaw County. In 1982, the proponents acquired the property that includes the lake, but for many years prior to that they visited Truman Jordan and his wife Lois who had owned the property since 1948. During the more than 30 years that he lived and farmed there, Truman Jordan maintained the lake in its natural and pristine state and allowed fishermen and hunters access to it. The Saline Township Board of Supervisors and the Washtenaw County Commissioners have both submitted letters of support for the name Truman Lake. The Michigan Board on Geographic Names has also recommended approval of the name. A copy was also sent to the Shawnee Tribe, the Wyandotte Nation, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, and the Huron Potawatomi Tribe, all of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is also presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. According to the GNIS, there are no other geographic features in Michigan named “Truman.”

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

White Pine Pass, Colorado

(Roosevelt National Forest)

(Review List 390)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=13&n=4494660&e=461120&size=s&u=1&layer=DRG25>

The new name White Pine Pass was submitted by a resident of Lafayette, who believes the unnamed gap located between West White Pine Mountain and East White Pine Mountain, within Roosevelt National Forest, should be named. He reports that the feature separates two watersheds, and that an official reference is needed, “to assist with identification and to make it distinct from nearby landforms.” The Larimer County Board of Commissioners, the Colorado State Board on Geographic Names, and the U.S. Forest Service have all recommended approval of this proposal. A copy was sent to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and the Northern Arapaho Tribe, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. In addition to the two aforementioned summits, there are three mines in Colorado named “White Pine,” and a community in Gunnison County named Whitepine.

Cottonwood Creek, Texas

(Review List 391)

Mouth:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=14&n=3444424&e=707109&s=50&size=1&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

Source:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=14&n=3444515&e=706063&s=50&size=1&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

This proposal is to make official the name Cottonwood Creek for a 1.1 km (0.7 mi) long tributary of the Brazos River at the southern end of Falls County. It was submitted by a professor of geology at Texas A&M University, who reports that the name was first applied informally to the stream by geologists approximately twenty years ago and has since been published in several geological reports. The name appeared in an article published in *Science* magazine in 1998. The proponent reports that the stream exposes important geological strata that have been studied by many scientists. He also notes that the current owners of the property through which the stream flows are supportive of the proposal. There are four other streams in Falls County named Cottonwood Creek; in the entire State of Texas, there are 115 streams with that name. The Texas State Names Authority was asked on two occasions for an opinion on this proposal, but no response has been received. A final e-mail and telephone message indicated that if no response were received prior to this meeting, the Board would assume the State had no objection to the name.

Darting Minnow Creek, Texas

(Review List 391)

Mouth:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=14&n=3443683&e=707024&s=50&size=1&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

Source:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=14&n=3443988&e=703767&s=50&size=1&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

This proposal is to make official the name Darting Minnow Creek for a 4.3 km (2.7 mi) long tributary of the Brazos River at the southern end of Falls County and in northern Milam County. It was submitted by a professor of geology at Texas A&M University, who reports that the name was first applied informally to the stream by geologists approximately twenty years ago and has since been published in several geological reports. The name appeared in an article published in *Science* magazine in 1998, and is also mentioned at least two other websites dedicated to geochemical and sedimentary studies of the Brazos River. The proponent also notes that the current owners of the property through which the stream flows are supportive of the proposal. There are no other geographic features in Texas known to be named “Darting Minnow,” although there are eight in the State in which the word “Minnow” appears. Of these, three are for features in Milam County; a reservoir and dam are named for the B and B Minnow Farm, while a locale is named M and M Minnow Farm. The Texas State Names Authority was asked on two occasions for an opinion on this proposal, but no response has been received. A final e-mail and telephone message indicated that if no response were received prior to this meeting, the Board would assume the State had no objection to the name.