

These minutes are provisional until approved by the Domestic Names Committee. Any changes will be noted in the minutes of the next meeting.

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Six Hundred Forty-Ninth Meeting
Asilomar Conference Center
Pacific Grove, California
October 1, 2003

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|--|
| 1.1 | Members
And Deputy Members | Betsy Banas
Department of Agriculture
(Forest Service)
Leo Dillon
Department of State (not voting)
Chick Fagan
Department of the Interior
(National Park Service)
Lee Fleming
Department of the Interior
(Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Ronald Grim
Library of Congress
Robert Hiatt (Chair)
Library of Congress
Curtis Loy
Department of Commerce
(Office of Coast Survey)
Joe Marinucci
Department of Commerce
(Bureau of the Census)
Barbara Ryan
Department of the Interior
(U.S. Geological Survey)
Doug Vandegraft
Department of the Interior
(U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Karen Wood
Department of the Interior
(U.S. Geological Survey) |
| 1.2 | Ex Officio | Roger L. Payne
Executive Secretary
U.S. Board on Geographic Names |
| 1.3 | Staff | Lou Yost
Jennifer Runyon
Dwight Hughes |
| 1.4 | Guests: | Scott Zillmer
National Geographic Society |

1. OPENING

The meeting was opened at 1:35 p.m. The Chairman thanked everyone for traveling to California to attend the meeting, and asked the Board members to introduce themselves. He welcomed Doug Vandegraft as the newest deputy member to the Board, representing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, a new agency to the Board. The Chairman noted that this is his last meeting as chairperson and that he has appreciated the opportunity to serve in that capacity.

Comments by the BGN Chairman (Dillon)

The Chairman reported that he and the Executive Secretary of the Foreign Names Committee (FNC) recently attended a meeting of the International Boundaries Commission, held in England. This also provided him and the FNC Executive Secretary an opportunity to meet with the British Permanent Committee on Geographical Names in London. He also indicated that he has been confirmed as the Convener of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) Working Group on Country Names.

Minutes of the 648th Meeting

The minutes of the 648th meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

2. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

2.1 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Payne)

The Executive Secretary outlined the contents of the packets that each member and attendee had been given. He asked that if there are any corrections to the State Names Authorities listing to forward these to the BGN Administrative Assistant.

In October 2002, the Executive Secretary represented the Board at the Annual Conference of the Canadian Board on Geographical Names in Victoria, Vancouver. As always, these conferences are very worthwhile and provide an excellent opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest between Canada and the United States, and provides an opportunity to hold an UNGEGN Divisional Meeting. The next conference will be held October 15-19, 2003 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

A joint meeting of the BGN and the British Permanent Committee on Geographical Names was held in December 2002 and was hosted by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Numerous topics were discussed, including national standardization, automation, indigenous names, and Antarctic names, as well as various topics related to foreign names activities. The next BGN-PCGN Conference is scheduled for late 2004 in London.

The Eighth United Nations Conference on Geographical Names was held in August 2002 in Berlin, Germany. This was an excellent conference, at which the United States introduced three resolutions. The Chairman of the BGN was elected to serve as convener for the Working Group on Country Names. The next meeting of the U.N. Group of Experts will be held April 20-29, 2004 in New York.

The Annual Geographic Names Course offered by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was conducted in Quito, Ecuador, June 23 – July 4, 2003. The course was once again very successful and well received. The 2004 course will likely be conducted in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

The Executive Secretary reported that all the reappointment letters, with the exception of the Department of Agriculture and the Government Printing Office (GPO), have been received. The GPO will likely be appointing one or more new members to serve for the forthcoming two-year term. The Department of Homeland Security has expressed an interest in appointing at least one member to the Board. It is hoped that there will be representation from the U.S. Coast Guard and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The next meeting of the full Board will be October 21, at 1:30 pm, at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston. At the meeting, elections will be held for the new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to serve for the next two years.

The BGN staff was introduced. It was noted that in the absence of Robin Worcester, Dwight Hughes, a contractor at the U.S. Geological Survey, will be available to discuss technical issues, such as the maintenance and redesign of the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS).

2.2 Report of the Publications and Publicity Committee (Wood)

The Chairperson reported that there has been considerable activity this year, with over 45 media inquiries. These have included general inquiries about the BGN and its policies, as well as specific names issues, such as the proposed renaming of Jewfish Creek in Florida; the efforts to rename Squaw Peak in Arizona; the proposed renaming of Lake Powell to Glen Canyon Reservoir, the naming of Columbia Point in Colorado; and the renaming of geographic features in North Carolina that on State maps and products use the pejorative form of the word “negro”. The naming of Columbia Point and the subsequent production by the U.S. Geological Survey of a special topographic map poster has generated good publicity for the BGN. A special signing ceremony was held June 10, 2003 at the Department of the Interior, at which Secretary Norton presented some commemorative material to the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

2.3 Executive Secretary's Report (Payne)

Copies of the latest revision of the Board's *Principles, Policies, and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Names* (PPP) were distributed to the attendees. A detailed review of all the changes and editorial corrections will take place during the State-Federal Roundtable.

Kim Dueling, formerly the BGN Administrative Assistant, left the Geographic Names Office in April. Lesley Levi was hired to replace her, and assumed her new position in September.

Claire Devaughan of the Geographic Names Office accepted an opportunity to relocate to Austin, Texas, where she joined the USGS Mapping Partnership Office. Efforts are being made to find a replacement, who can assume the duties of web and database maintenance, as well as FIPS55 data management. The Geographic Names Office continues to provide opportunities for individuals to work in the office on short-term details.

There continues to be a number of inquiries regarding various toponymic issues. Examples include the question of whether Hawaii is part of North America, as well as requests for definitions and extents of regions, and lists of "official" generic terms, of which there are none.

A summary of specific "high profile" issues that have been addressed by various State Boards was offered. Examples include the ongoing efforts to change the name of Mount McKinley in Alaska to Denali; the renaming by the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names of Squaw Peak to Piestewa Peak; the proposed renaming of Lake Powell in Arizona and Utah to Glen Canyon Reservoir; the naming of Columbia Point in Colorado; the rejection of the proposal to rename Jewfish Creek in Florida due an apparent lack of local support; and an attempt within Massachusetts to sell the names of parks to commercial ventures. In addition, the State Names Authority of Minnesota has suggested that its public hearing process is sufficient to solicit tribal input. In New Hampshire, despite several discussions with the Executive Secretary regarding Federal naming policies, the State Legislature voted to rename Mount Clay to Mount Reagan. No formal proposal has been submitted to the BGN, and the name Mount Clay continues to be the official name for Federal use. In North Carolina, the State Legislature passed legislation to remove the pejorative form of the word "negro" from the State's geographic names, an action which the BGN undertook in 1963. This provided an opportunity for the North Carolina State Board to make a presentation to the State Legislature on the State and Federal naming process. The Board has received a proposal to change the name of the island named Rhode Island to Aquidneck Island and continues to solicit comments on the issue. There has been very little activity over the past year regarding the renaming of geographic features named "Squaw". The Montana House Bill 412 "Squaw Name Change" Committee continues to submit proposals and several changes have been approved by the Board.

2.4 DNC Staff Report (Yost)

The following is a statistical report of the BGN/DNC staff activities since the meeting on September 11.

20 cases written
88 inquiries received and answered
135 letters written
109 e-mail inquiries received and answered

Docket 384 has been completed and will be distributed by e-mail shortly.

The staff continues to investigate the possibility of posting more information on the BGN website, such as BGN membership lists, quarterly dockets, monthly review lists, action lists, and decision lists. The USGS has announced that postage costs will increase significantly in 2005, so efforts are being made to reduce the amount of mailing that is done.

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

Data compilation in support of *The National Map* is continuing. Efforts are being made to complete Phase II of the GNIS compilation, particularly as the potential funding for compiling data for the 46 urban areas has not been forthcoming. The cosmetic changes to the GNIS webpage are generating positive comments.

3. PUBLICATIONS

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

An overview and explanation of each of these lists was provided. Once again, it was noted that in the future more of these publications will be available on the web.

3.2 GNIS Internet, LANDVIEW V on DVD, and Support of *The National Map* (Hughes)

The redesign of GNIS has been completed, and spatial data for use with Geographic Information Systems will be included. New web-based forms for GNIS maintenance have also been made available and are being used by various Federal agencies. It is hoped that more State partners, including State Names Authorities, will begin to use the forms, so anyone wishing to acquire a password and login access should contact the Geographic Names Office for assistance. A presentation on the web forms will be conducted on Friday during this conference.

The National Map Viewer provides users with the ability to search for geographic places via GNIS. This has encouraged the development of partnerships with Federal, State, and local agencies to share and coordinate data. These partnership agreements should be developed with the State Names Authorities as well as with State Mapping and GIS agencies.

4. DOCKET REVIEW LIST

Staff provided an overview of the various categories of proposals, including new names, staff processed name changes, application changes, and revisions to previous BGN decisions.

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

Change Phillips Branch to Kirkpatrick Creek, Alabama (Docket 382)

This proposal is to rename a stream in Winston County in recognition of James Wesley “West” Kirkpatrick (1854-1929), a local landowner in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (see Attachment A, #1). A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 7 in favor
1 against
1 abstention

The opposing vote was cast because it was believed “it is a bad thing to undo commemorative names” and because the proponent did not provide a compelling reason to change the existing name.

Change Nail Canyon to Naile Canyon and Nail Point to Naile Point, Arizona (Docket 382)

The valley and cliff named currently Nail Canyon and Nail Point lie within the Grand Canyon National Game Preserve in Kaibab National Forest. The proponent reports that the features were named for John Conrad Naegle (1825-1899), a German immigrant who anglicized his name to “Naile” (see Attachment A, #2). A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Japanese Lake to Paulson Lake, Minnesota (Docket 382)

This lake was named originally Jap Lake, but in 1971, all features shown on Federal maps named “Jap” were renamed to “Japanese”. However, there is no evidence that the area was inhabited by families of Asian descent, and subsequent research determined that the name Jap Lake was very likely derived from the initials of John and Addie Paulson, who in the 1880’s had opened an iron ore mine in the area (see Attachment A, #3). A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Squaw Creek to Dunawi Creek, Oregon (Docket 382)

This proposal is to change a name considered by some to be derogatory. The proposed name is reportedly of Kalapuyan origin and means “female elder” (see Attachment A, #4). A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Lily Lake to Lilly Lake, Oregon (Docket 380)

Research by the Oregon Geographic Names Board suggests that this lake was named in honor of Samuel Lilly, a resident of the Willowa Valley in the early twentieth century (see Attachment A, #5). A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

4.2 Disagreement on Docketed Names

Alice Peak, California (Docket 377)

This new commemorative name was submitted by the Southern California Forest Committee of the Sierra Club, and would honor Alice Marie Kreuper (1926-1996), who for the last thirty-five years of her life was active in the preservation of the San Geronio Wilderness (see Attachment B, #1). Citing the negative recommendations of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names and the U.S. Forest Service, as well as the criteria of the Wilderness Names Policy, a motion was made and seconded not to approve this name.

Vote: 9 in favor

0 against
0 abstentions

It was noted that Ms. Kreuper was very likely worthy of commemoration, but in view of her strong beliefs in the importance of preserving wilderness areas, it was suggested that she would likely not have wished to have a feature in a wilderness named in her honor.

Stonemason Creek, California (Docket 379)

The proponent of this new name is a stonemason. He suggests the proposed name was suggested by his neighbors in reference to the former owner who erected “stone walls taken from the creek.” (see Attachment B, #2). A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 3 in favor
6 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were made citing the negative recommendation of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names, which believed the name could be construed to be commemorative.

Mount Blaurock, Hinsdale County, Colorado (Docket 380)

This proposal is to name an unnamed summit in Hinsdale County in honor of Carl Albert Blaurock (1894-1993), a lifelong mountain climber and a well-known photographer of Colorado mountains. This proposal would name a 4,216 m (13,832 ft) high summit located on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as part of the Redcloud Peak Wilderness Study Area (see Attachment B, #3). Citing the negative recommendations of the Colorado State Board on Geographic Names and the Bureau of Land Management, as well as the criteria of the Wilderness Names Policy, a motion was made and seconded not to approve this name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Mount Blaurock, Chaffee County, Colorado (Docket 382)

This proposal for the name Mount Blaurock would apply the name to a 4,150 m (13,616 ft) high summit in the San Isabel National Forest in the northwestern corner of Chaffee County (see Attachment B, #4). A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Ervin Peak, Hinsdale County, Colorado (Docket 380)

This new commemorative name is proposed for an unnamed summit in Hinsdale County, in the Redcloud Peak Wilderness Study Area. The name would honor William “Bill” Ervin (1884-1943), who in 1912, was one of the founding members of the Colorado Mountain Club. Along with Carl Blaurock, Bill Ervin was one of the first to climb all of Colorado’s 46 then-known 14,000-foot peaks (see Attachment B, #5). Citing the negative recommendations of the Colorado State Board on Geographic Names and the Bureau of Land Management, as well as the criteria of the Wilderness Names Policy, a motion was made and seconded not to approve this name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Ervin Peak, Chaffee County, Colorado (Docket 382)

This new name is proposed for a summit in the San Isabel National Forest in Chaffee County. The proposal would honor William F. “Bill” Ervin (1884-1943), one of the earliest members of the Colorado Mountain Club and a friend and long-time climbing companion of Carl Blaurock (see Attachment B, #6). A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Squaw Creek to Leckrone Creek, Montana (Docket 382)

This proposal, submitted by the Montana House Bill 412 “Squaw Name Change” Committee, is to change officially the name of a stream in Lincoln County. The existing name is considered by some to be derogatory. The name Leckrone Creek would honor Glen Leckrone (1927-1982), who for many years leased a cabin near the mouth of the stream (see Attachment B, #7). A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 8 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The dissenting vote was cast in the belief that the replacement name should be more appropriate to the original name.

North Fork McNulty Creek, Oregon (Docket 382)

This proposal would apply the name North Fork McNulty Creek to an unnamed tributary of McNulty Creek (see Attachment B, #8). A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

4.3 Commemorative Names agreed to by all interested parties

Captain Roys Reef, Florida (Docket 383)

This new name is proposed for an offshore bar located within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), 16 km (9 mi) east of Key Largo. The proposal would honor Captain Roy J. Gaensslen (1924-1997), who made “lifelong contributions to understanding and protecting the Florida keys marine environment” (see Attachment C, #1). A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Killin Wetlands, Oregon (Docket 382)

This new commemorative name was proposed by the Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department to honor Benton Killin (1842-1905), a local real estate attorney and Oregon pioneer (see Attachment C, #2). There was some discussion regarding the extent of the feature. A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name, subject to the determination by the BGN staff and the Oregon Geographic Names Board of the feature’s locative attributes.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Greenwood Springs, Wyoming (Docket 381)

This proposal would honor James A. Greenwood, Jr. (1921-1989), who homesteaded on property that included these springs (see Attachment C, #3). A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

4.4 Revised Decisions

Change Rhode Island (BGN 1964 1930) to Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island (Docket 374)

This proposal was submitted to change officially the name of the island in Newport County named Rhode Island to Aquidneck Island (See Attachment D, #1). Staff recommended that a decision on this issue be deferred, as not all interested parties had yet commented. A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision on this name change.

Vote: 7 in favor
2 against
0 abstentions

The dissenting votes were cast in the belief that there was enough information available in the file to render a decision. It was agreed that those parties that have not yet provided their input be given a deadline.

4.5 New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Moon Gulch, Colorado (Docket 378)

This proposal would make official a name Moon Gulch for a stream in the City of Arvada. The proposed name appears on a city parks and trail guide (see Attachment E, #1). A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Trickle Creek, Idaho (Docket 379)

This proposal would make official a name for a stream in Bonner County. The proponent, a local resident, is the owner of Trickle Creek Enterprises (see Attachment E, #2). A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

There was some discussion regarding whether this proposal could be construed as commercial exploitation.

Cow Bay, Massachusetts (Docket 380)

This proposal would make official a name for a bay located off the northeast shore of Martha's Vineyard, between Oak Bluffs and Edgartown. The name is believed to relate

to a dairy farm that was once located nearby (see Attachment E, #3). A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Rain Dance Pond, New York (Docket 382)

This new name was submitted by the owners of an alpaca-breeding farm that is named Rain Dance Pond, LLC (see Attachment E, #4). A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 4 in favor
5 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast because of the commercial implications of the name and because the use of the term “rain dance” could be deemed to be stereotypical to the local indigenous population.

Quarter Corner Pond, Wyoming (Docket 381)

This proposed name would apply to a lake situated at the corner of a quarter section, at which is also located a witness corner monument (see Attachment E, #5). A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 9 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 The Chairman asked for questions or comments from the floor. Several members of the audience noted that they appreciated the opportunity to see the BGN “in action”.

6. CLOSING

6.1 The members thanked the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names, as hosts of the annual conference of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities, for providing the DNC with the opportunity to conduct its monthly meeting at the Conference.

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**

DOCKET REVIEW LIST

October 2003

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

#1 Change Phillips Branch to Kirkpatrick Creek, Alabama
(Docket 382)

This proposal was submitted by a resident of Southside, to change officially the name of Phillips Branch, a 2.1 km (1.3 mi) long stream in Winston County, to Kirkpatrick Creek. The proponent reports that he is the grandson of James Wesley “West” Kirkpatrick (1854-1929), who acquired property along this stream in the 1880’s. On this property, Mr. Kirkpatrick raised cattle, grew grain, fruit and sugarcane, and operated a blacksmith shop. Three generations of the family have since owned the property. According to the proponent, his grandfather was “an asset to his community and made many contributions toward developing and building a better community”. The name Phillips Branch has appeared on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps since 1936, and although the origin of the name has not been determined, a search of the Internet yielded several references to a family named Phillips living in the area since the mid-19th century. Martha Phillips acquired 160 acres in a nearby township in 1860, and several family members were listed in the 1920 Federal Census. A history of the community of Double Springs, the Winston County seat, referred to Stanley Phillips as one of the first to open a general merchandise store there, as well as serving as its first alderman in 1943. The proponent reports that one of the honoree’s daughters married into the Phillips family, which he believes may explain the source of the current name.

This proposal was deferred by the BGN at its June 2003 meeting, because of concern that a long-standing commemorative name was being changed. Following that meeting, and upon further investigation, it was determined that several of the Kirkpatrick family members who had submitted letters of support were also descendants of the Phillips branch of the family. Several other Phillips family descendants provided additional letters of support. The Winston County Historical Society was also asked to comment, but after its members were unable to find any historical association between the Phillips family and the stream, they indicated they had no objection to the change. Finally, the Winston County Commissioners, which had initially offered a letter of “no objection”, provided a second letter strongly endorsing the change.

The Alabama Board on Geographic Names has found no reference to a family named Phillips in the vicinity of the stream, and citing the County's position, has no objection to the change. Letters were sent to three tribes or indigenous groups having a possible interest in the issue: the Muscogee Creek Nation and the Cherokee Nation, both headquartered in Oklahoma and both Federally-recognized, and the Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama which is State recognized. No response was received by the prescribed deadline, which is presumed to indicate that the organization is neutral and does not wish to comment on the issue.

#2 Change Nail Canyon to Naile Canyon and Nail Point to Naile Point, Arizona
(Docket 382)

These proposals, to change officially the spelling of the names of Nail Canyon and Nail Point to Naile Canyon and Naile Point, respectively, was submitted by the Arizona Board on Geographic and Historic Names, on behalf of two residents of Bountiful, Utah. The valley and cliff lie within the Grand Canyon National Game Preserve in Kaibab National Forest, in northwestern Coconino County. The valley is approximately 16 km (10 mi) long and is a tributary of Snake Gulch, while the cliff is approximately 1.9 km (1.2 mi) long and lies on the western edge of Kaibab Plateau, overlooking Nail Canyon.

The proponent reports that she is a descendant of John Conrad Naegle (1825-1899), a native of Germany, who at the age of seven immigrated with his family to the United States. The family settled in Indiana, but by the early 1870's, Conrad Naegle had relocated to northern Arizona. During the war with Mexico, he joined the Mormon Battalion; company records list his surname as "Naile". Two of Conrad's sons, Alvin and Casper, also used the name "Naile" (the name is a translation of the German word "naegle", meaning "nails"), and the family is listed as such in the 1900 Federal Census of Navajo County. The name "Naile" appeared in various other land records and census reports from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Nail Canyon and Nail Point have been labeled as such on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1958, as well as on the 1948 and 1971 editions of the Coconino County highway map. The proponent reports, and the local Forest Service office has confirmed that the names "Naegle" and "Naile" are carved into rocks in nearby Snake Gulch. However, a history of the Arizona Strip region describes the development of agriculture and ranching in the 1870's, and the Nails [sic] are mentioned as early pioneers in the area. The valley is listed as Nail Canyon in Will C. Barnes' *Arizona Place Names* (1935) and in Byrd Granger's *Arizona's Names: X Marks the Place* (1983), with both authors reporting that the name is derived from that of "Alvin and Casper, two sons of an early settler named Nagel, who anglicized their name to "Nail"."

A cultural resources report prepared in 1989 jointly by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management refer to Nail Canyon, and report that the name was derived from that of the Nagel brothers, early ranchers in the area. The USFS/BLM report also suggests that the valley was known originally as Stewart's Canyon, but provides no information on the history of that name. The valley is labeled incorrectly on the USGS

topographic map index as Hail Canyon. The name Nail Canyon appeared in an 1908 novel by author Zane Grey; he suggests that the name is descriptive and that the valley is “aptly named”, as it is “long, straight and square-sided; its bare walls glared steel-gray in the sun...”. The Arizona State Board received a letter of support for the change to Naile Canyon and Naile Point from the Coconino Board of Commissioners. The State Board then voted to recommend approval of the proposed change. Letters seeking input were sent to the San Juan Southern Paiute Council, the Kaibab Paiute Tribal Council, and the Havasupai Tribal Council, all of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received prior to the prescribed deadline, so the presumption is that these organizations do not have an opinion on the issue. The U.S. Forest Service recommends approval of the proposed changes.

#3 Change Japanese Lake to Paulson Lake, Minnesota
(Docket 382)

The proposal was submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, to change officially the name of Japanese Lake to Paulson Lake. The lake is 146 acres in size and lies within the Superior National Forest/Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in northwestern Cook County. For much of 20th century, the lake was named officially Jap Lake, but in 1971, all features named “Jap” were renamed, thus making it officially Japanese Lake. There is no evidence that the area has ever been inhabited by families of Asian descent, and the name Jap Lake still appears on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps.

In 1997, the Minnesota State Names Authority received an inquiry regarding the possibility of changing the lake’s name to Passage Lake, in recognition of the Grand Portage Passage Sled Dog Race, which runs every January from Old Fort William in Thunder Bay, Ontario, south to the shores of Lake Superior, and close to Japanese Lake. While researching the history of the existing name, the State Names Authority learned that the name Jap Lake was very likely derived from the initials of John and Addie Paulson, who in the 1880’s had moved to the area to open a mine in the lucrative iron ore fields. The lake lies in the vicinity of the Gunflint Trail, which was established in the 1890’s following the course of an old Ojibwe hunting trail, and described today as “63 scenic miles of corridor through the north woods of Minnesota”. The Gunflint Trail website includes the following reference: “The Paulson Mine [was located] approximately 45 miles north of the entrance to the Gunflint Trail. John Paulson, a Minneapolis banker, opened the Paulson Underground Mine along the Gunflint Trail in 1888. Touted as “the most promising mine in 1893”, it closed within months due to steep competition and an unsavory investor”. The name Jap Lake was listed in Warren Upham’s *Minnesota Geographic Names* (1920 and 1969), and in various Minnesota State lake inventories from 1928 to 1985.

After learning of the origin of the name Jap Lake, the State Names Authority suggested that the original intent of the name should be retained and that Japanese Lake should be changed officially to Paulson Lake. The Commissioners of Cook County conducted a public hearing to consider both requests and voted to approve the proposal to change

J.A.P. Lake [sic] to Paulson Lake. The U.S. Forest Service, which administers the BWCAW, recommends approval of the proposal. Copies of the proposal were sent to the Bois Forte Indian Tribe, the Fond du Lac Indian Tribe, and the Grand Portage Indian Tribe, all of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion in the issue.

#4 Change Squaw Creek to Dunawi Creek, Oregon
(Docket 382)

This proposal was submitted by a student at Oregon State University in Corvallis, who believes the name Squaw Creek is derogatory and should be changed. The proposed new name, Dunawi Creek, is reportedly of Kalapuyan origin and means “female elder”. The name Squaw Creek has appeared on Federal maps since 1942, and was listed in a 1939 *Inventory of Streams and Lakes in Oregon* (State Engineer’s Office), but the origin of the name is not known. The stream in question is 4.2 km (2.6 mi) long and heads on the slope of Bald Hill before flowing to the east-southeast through Corvallis and into the Marys River. The Mayor of the City of Corvallis and the Commissioners of Benton County have indicated support for the proposed change. The Oregon Geographic Names Board has recommended approval of the change from Squaw Creek to Dunawi Creek. As part of its research, the State Board consulted with the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, which forwarded copies of the proposal to the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Reservation, both of which are Federally-recognized. The Tribal Councils were given 45 days to offer any input on the proposal, but no response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of interest in the issue.

#5 Change Lily Lake to Lilly Lake, Oregon
(Docket 380)

This proposal was submitted by the Chair of the Interim Committee of the Oregon Geographic Names Board, to change officially the spelling of the name of Lily Lake, a one acre lake in southwestern Wallowa County to Lilly Lake. The lake lies within the Eagle Cap Wilderness, 3.5 km (2.2 mi) south-southeast of the summit named “Matterhorn”.

Although the name Lily Lake has appeared on Federal maps since 1954, and was on the 1972 Wallowa County map, the proponent’s research suggests that the feature was in fact named in 1914 by J.H. Jackson for Samuel W. Lilly, who lived at the time in the Wallowa Valley. Mr. Jackson was stocking the lake with fish when he reportedly applied the name Lilly Lake to the feature. The volume *Streams and Lakes of Oregon* (State Engineers Office, 1939) included an entry for Lilly Lake, but listed it in the neighboring township. On early Federal maps, Lily Lake appeared as a small body of water, but more recent revisions indicate that it is little more than a marshy area today. The feature and name were no longer shown on the 1998 edition of the U.S. Forest Service Wallowa-Whitman National Forest visitors’ map. After it received a letter of support for the change from “Lily” to “Lilly” from the Wallowa County Planning Department, the

Oregon Names Board indicated that it was in favor of the proposal. The State Board, in consultation with the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, forwarded copies of the proposal to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, a Federally-recognized group. The Tribal Council was given 45 days to offer any input on the proposal, but no response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of interest in the issue. The Forest Service has expressed support for the proposed change.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

#1 Alice Peak, California
(Docket 377)

This new commemorative name was submitted by the Chair of the Southern California Forest Committee of the Sierra Club. The name would honor Alice Marie Kreuper (1926-1996), who for the last thirty-five years of her life was active in the preservation of the San Gorgonio Wilderness. The unnamed summit proposed to be named Alice Peak lies within the Wilderness, approximately 1.3 km (0.8 mi) south of San Gorgonio Mountain, which is the highest peak in southern California.

In the years following World War II, the area around San Gorgonio Mountain was facing development, especially for downhill skiing, so Alice Krueper and her husband Harry established Defenders of San Gorgonio, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the area as a wilderness. After an extensive campaign both in California and in Washington D.C., they were successful in persuading Congress to designate the area a wilderness in 1964. For the next 32 years, Alice Krueper worked tirelessly to continue the preservation of the wilderness, and beginning in the early 1980's, she volunteered with the U.S. Forest Service to maintain trails and lead interpretive tours. She produced a popular wilderness trail guide which is still sold today, and in 1984, was instrumental in getting an additional 21,500 acres added to the wilderness.

Letters of support for this proposal were submitted by Senator Dianne Feinstein, as well as by the San Gorgonio Volunteer Association, the San Bernardino Mountains Landtrust, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, the Rim of the World Trails Association, the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, and the Deep Creek Open Space Coalition.

The Supervisors of San Bernardino County have recommended approval of the proposal, suggesting the name “may aid rescue parties as well as provide greater educational opportunities for those interested in the preservation of wilderness areas”. However, the Forest Service, citing the criteria of the Board's Wilderness Policy and a lack of evidence of overriding need for the name, does not recommend approval of the proposal, and the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names concurs with that position.

Letters seeking input were sent to the following Federally-recognized groups: the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Augustine Band of Mission Indians, the Cabazon Tribal Business Committee, the Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, the Pala Band of Mission Indians, the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians, the Ramona Band of Mission Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the Santa Rosa Rancheria, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. Of this list, only one group responded; the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians indicated “the Tribe is unaware of any culturally sensitive areas regarding the proposed project.” The lack of response from the other entities is presumed to indicate those organizations do not have an opinion on the issue.

#2

Stonemason Creek, California
(Docket 379)

This is a proposal to name an unnamed stream that flows through private property. The stream is 3.5 km (2.2 mi) long, and heads 1.7 km (1.1 mi) west of Rock Creek Lake. It then flows northwest into Dry Creek. Although the proponent, who is the current property owner, lists his occupation as “stonemason,” he states that the proposed name was suggested by his neighbors in reference to the former owner who erected “stone walls taken from the creek.” No other features in the county apply the name “Stonemason”. The Placer County Board of Supervisors indicated they are in support of the proposal, but the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names is not, citing a lack of public use of the name and the fact that the name could be construed as having a connection to a living person. One Federally-recognized tribe, the Shingle Springs Rancheria, was contacted, but no response was received, suggesting a lack of an opinion on the issue.

#3

Mount Blaurock, Hinsdale County, Colorado
(Docket 380)

This proposal was submitted by a resident of Denver, to name an unnamed summit in Hinsdale County for Carl Albert Blaurock (1894-1993). Mr. Blaurock was a lifelong mountain climber and a well-renowned photographer of Colorado mountains. A 1916 graduate of the Colorado School of Mines, Mr. Blaurock first climbed Pikes Peak at the age of 15, and was the longest surviving charter member of the Colorado Mountain Club, which he helped to establish in 1912. In 1923, he and William Ervin (proposed Ervin Peak, q.v.) were the first to climb all peaks in Colorado known to be over 4,267 m (14,000 ft), and by 1957, he had climbed all peaks over 4,267 m (14,000 ft) in the conterminous United States. At the beginning of World War II, the War Department requested the assistance of Mr. Blaurock in evaluating the newly-developed nylon rope, which was intended to be used by the Army in Europe.

In 1996, the Board considered another proposal to honor Mr. Blaurock by naming a summit in the Sawatch Range, but it was not approved because that summit lies within a wilderness area and the Board did not see sufficient evidence that the name satisfied the criteria of its Wilderness Names Policy (BGN Docket 364).

This new proposal would apply the name Mount Blaurock to a 4,216 m (13,832 ft) high summit located on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management as part of the Redcloud Peak Wilderness Study Area. The Chair of the Toponymics Committee of the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) has indicated that the CMC would be in support of this proposal or any other that would honor Mr. Blaurock. The County Commissioners of Hinsdale County are in support of the proposal, suggesting that an exception to the Wilderness Policy is warranted, because the summits in question are within the top 100 peaks in Colorado (number 90 and 99) and also “to relieve some of the pressure being placed on our five fourteen thousand foot peaks which are currently being “loved” to death by thousands of hikers each year”. The Administrative Manager of the Town of

Lake City also endorses the name, suggesting that because the features lie within a wilderness study area, the Wilderness Policy rule should be “set aside”. Letters of support were also received from twelve area residents. However, both the Colorado Board on Geographic Names and the BLM, citing the Wilderness Policy, do not recommend approval of this proposal. There are no tribal entities having a possible current or historical interest within 50 miles of the feature.

#4 Mount Blaurock, Chaffee County, Colorado
(Docket 382)

The name Mount Blaurock is proposed for a 4,150 m (13,616 ft) high summit in the San Isabel National Forest in the northwestern corner of Chaffee County. The proposal would also honor Carl Blaurock (see above).

The proponents of this proposal submitted the same name in 1994 for a summit located in the Holy Cross Wilderness, but the BGN, citing the restrictions of its Wilderness Policy, did not approve that proposal. In addition to this new proposal for Mount Blaurock, the proponents have asked that another nearby summit be named Ervin Peak (q.v.) for Blaurock’s friend and climbing companion, William F. Ervin. When the proponent of this proposal learned that the aforementioned features (in Hinsdale County) lie within a BLM Wilderness Study Area, he decided to select two alternate features for consideration. Both proponents are aware of the counter-proposals, but neither wishes to withdraw his request. The proponent of the names for the summits in the BLM Wilderness Study Area does not believe the features in the National Forest are significant and thus not worthy of being named for such prominent individuals as Blaurock and Ervin. Letters of support for Mount Blaurock in Chaffee County have been received from the Commissioners of both Chaffee County and Lake County. The Colorado Board on Geographic Names and the U.S. Forest Service both recommend approval of this name. Letters seeking input were sent to the Arapaho Business Council and the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received by the deadline, which is presumed to indicate a lack of interest in the issue.

#5 Ervin Peak, Hinsdale County, Colorado
(Docket 380)

This new commemorative is proposed for an unnamed summit in north-central Hinsdale County. The name Ervin Peak would honor William “Bill” Ervin (d. 1944), who in 1912, was one of the founding members of the Colorado Mountain Club. Along with Carl Blaurock, Bill Ervin was one of the first to climb all of Colorado’s 46 then-known 14,000-foot peaks, completing them in 1921. As a businessman, Mr. Ervin was co-operator of the Denver Pressed Brick Company and later co-owner of an automobile distributing agency. The summit proposed to be named Ervin Peak has an elevation of 4,210 m (13,811 ft), and lies 3 km (1.9 mi) west of Grassy Mountain, in an area administered by the Bureau of Land Management as part of the Redcloud Peak Wilderness Study Area. Although the governments of Hinsdale County and Lake City, as well as twelve area residents, endorse the name, the Colorado State Board on

Geographic Names and the BLM both recommend disapproval, citing the criteria of the Wilderness Policy. There are no tribal entities having a possible current or historical interest within 50 miles of the feature.

#6 Ervin Peak, Chaffee County, Colorado
(Docket 382)

The new name Ervin Peak is proposed for a 4,124 m (13,531 ft) high summit in the San Isabel National Forest in the northwestern corner of Chaffee County. The proposal would honor William F. “Bill” Ervin (1884-1943), one of the earliest members of the Colorado Mountain Club and a friend and long-time climbing companion of Carl Blaurock. The summit is also located close to Ellingwood Ridge, which was named for Albert Ellingwood; Blaurock, Ervin, and Ellingwood are often regarded as pioneers in Colorado mountaineering and were the first three individuals to climb all peaks in the State over 14,000 feet. Like Mr. Blaurock, Mr. Ervin also climbed all 14,000-foot peaks in the U.S., and he was recognized as an accomplished amateur photographer. Letters of support for Ervin Peak were submitted by the governments of Chaffee County and nearby Lake County. There are no other geographic features in Colorado known to be named “Ervin”. The Colorado Board on Geographic Names and the U.S. Forest Service both recommend approval of this name. Letters seeking input were sent to the Arapaho Business Council and the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received by the deadline, which is presumed to indicate a lack of interest in the issue.

#7 Change Squaw Creek to Leckrone Creek, Montana
(Docket 382)

This proposal is to change officially the name of Squaw Creek in Lincoln County to Leckrone Creek, to remove a name that is considered by some to be derogatory. It was submitted by the Montana H.B. 412 “Squaw Name Change Committee”, on behalf of the students of Libby High School, as well as a member of the Leckrone family and a resident of Port Aransas, Texas. The name Squaw Creek has appeared on Federal maps since 1935.

The name Leckrone Creek would honor Glen Leckrone (1927-1982), who for many years leased a cabin near the mouth of the stream. He was well known for his love of nature and his extensive knowledge of the area around Squaw Creek. He was a longtime member of the Libby Rod and Gun Club and “spent many years working for the community” and “helping out with almost all community events”. The proposal included letters of support for the change to Leckrone Creek from Montana Governor Marc Racicot, from the Commissioners of Lincoln County, and from the Plum Creek Timber Company which owns much of the land in the valley of Squaw Creek. When asked to comment, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation responded that they were not in support of the proposal, citing “a desire to retain tribal placenames in our aboriginal territory”. The Director of Tribal Preservation indicated the Tribes would be submitting an alternative proposal, but when none was received, the H.B. 412

Committee voted to recommend approval of the change to Leckrone Creek. The BGN staff, citing the comments from the Salish and Kootenai, offered that group another opportunity to comment, but no response was received within the timeframe offered. Letters seeking input were also sent to the Kalispell Business Committee and the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council, both of which are Federally-recognized, but again, no response was received. The Montana Board on Geographic Names, citing a lack of objection from the State's Trust Land Management Division and the support of the Water Resources Division, has recommended approval of the change. The U.S. Forest Service also supports the proposal.

#8

North Fork McNulty Creek, Oregon
(Docket 382)

This proposal was submitted by the Planning Administrator of the City of Saint Helens, in order to apply the name North Fork McNulty Creek to an unnamed, 2.7 km (1.7 mi) long tributary of McNulty Creek. The proponent reports that, although unnamed, the stream is identified in the Saint Helens Local Wetlands Inventory and in the City's Comprehensive Plan as a significant riparian corridor. It has also been recognized by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as worthy of protection as a natural resource. These reports refer to the stream only by number, so it is suggested that a name is needed.

At a public hearing conducted by the City Council of Saint Helens, only one objection was received. A local resident suggested the stream should be named Batchelor's Creek or Batchelor Flat Creek because of its location within Batchelor Flat. However, this suggestion was rejected by the City Council and the proposal for North Fork McNulty Creek was endorsed. The government of Columbia County then indicated that it had no objection to the latter name. The Oregon Geographic Names Board has recommended approval of the proposal. The State Board, in consultation with the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, sent copies of the proposal to the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Reservation, both of which are Federally-recognized. The Tribal Councils were given 45 days to offer any input on the proposal, but no response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of interest in the issue.

III. New Commemorative Names agreed to by all interested parties

#1 Captain Roys Reef, Florida
(Docket 383)

The new name Captain Roys Reef is proposed for an offshore bar located within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), 16 km (9 mi) east of Key Largo. The proposal was submitted by the Superintendent of the FKNMS, in order to honor Captain Roy J. Gaensslen (1924-1997), who “made lifelong contributions to understanding and protecting the Florida keys marine environment”. From 1974 until his death in 1997, Captain Gaensslen’s two boats provided platforms for numerous scientific investigations, and he “stands out as an icon of reef discovery”. The proponent reports that “researchers who worked with him unanimously agree that we would know far less about this area today had they not benefited from Captain Roy’s expert navigation, diving, mechanical skills, and his general good humor to stay the course when frustration mounted.”

The bar proposed to be named Captain Roys Reef is described as “a cluster of three mountainous Star corals, *Montastrea annularis*. [The] largest specimen is 2.44 m tall and 18.3+ m in circumference. This is the largest of this species known in [the] FKNMS. Water depth is 3.66 m.”. In July 2001, scientists, friends and family gathered for a ceremony at sea; a memorial plaque was placed at the site, and Captain Gaensslen’s ashes were scattered over the bar that is now proposed to be named in his honor. The feature lies on the southeast slope of White Bank, just west of Key Largo Dry Rocks. It is depicted on National Ocean Service (NOS) nautical charts but not on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps. The Commissioners of Monroe County have expressed support for the proposal, as have the Florida State Board on Geographic Names and the Office of Coast Survey. A letter seeking input was sent to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, which is Federally-recognized, but no response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion in the issue.

#2 Killin Wetlands, Oregon
(Docket 382)

This new commemorative name was proposed by a representative of the Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department in Portland. The proposed name, Killin Wetlands, would honor Benton Killin (1842-1905), a real estate attorney and Oregon pioneer. Mr. Killin was born in Iowa but moved to Oregon as a young child. After inheriting his family’s property in 1872, he practiced law but continued to maintain his interest in agricultural practices. He also served as School Superintendent for two years. Following retirement from his law practice, he served as a regent of Oregon Agricultural College, and as a trustee of the Pacific University at Forest Grove. He also served one term as president of the Oregon Pioneers’ Society, and in 1897, was appointed by President McKinley to prepare a report on the agricultural prospects of Alaska.

The area of wetlands proposed to be named in honor of Mr. Killin is approximately 240 acres in size, and lies 3.2 km (2 mi) west of Banks, along the north side of State Highway 6. The application describes it as being located “on an ancient lake bed, formed by the impeded drainage of Park Farms Creek, a tributary of the West Fork Dairy Creek”. The proponent indicates that the ecological significance of the wetlands was outlined in a “Preserve Design Plan” that was prepared in 1991 for the Nature Conservancy, and the feature is also listed in the National Wetlands Inventory.

The Commissioners of Washington County have stated that they are in support of the proposal, and the Oregon Geographic Names Board also recommends approval of the name. The State Board, in consultation with the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, sent copies of the proposal to the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Reservation, both of which are Federally-recognized. The Tribal Councils were given 45 days to offer any input on the proposal, but no response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of interest in the issue.

#3

Greenwood Springs, Wyoming
(Docket 381)

This proposal was submitted by a member of the Wyoming Board of Geographic Names on behalf of a ranching family that resides in Sublette County. The proposed name, Greenwood Springs, would honor the proponent’s father, James A. Greenwood, Jr. (1921-1989), who homesteaded on property that included these springs and who was described as “a well-known and community oriented citizen”. The three springs in question are located in close proximity, along an unnamed tributary of Killpecker Creek, 36 km (23 mi) northwest of the community of Big Piney. The proponent, who now ranches on the original homestead, has applied to the State Engineer’s Office for a water right on the springs and so a name is needed for the feature. The Sublette County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in support of the name, and the Wyoming State Board also recommends approval of the proposal. A letter seeking input was sent to the Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, a Federally-recognized group, but no response was received indicating a lack of interest in the issue.

IV. Revised Decisions

- #1 Change Rhode Island (BGN 1964 1930) to Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island
(Docket 374)

This proposal was submitted to change officially the name of the island in Newport County named Rhode Island to Aquidneck Island. The proponent is a resident of Middletown, who wishes to restore the name that he claims to be in widespread local usage. The island in question is 25 km (16 mi) long and 7.2 km (4.5 mi) wide, and is bounded on the east by Sakonnet River and on the west by Narragansett Bay and East Passage. The name Aquidneck Island, which has numerous variant spellings, is of Indian origin, and reportedly translates loosely as “on the island”. The origin of the name Rhode Island is unclear, although there are several theories. Italian navigator Giovanni da Verrazzano, reportedly compared Block Island, located 32 km (20 mi) southwest, to the Greek island named Rhodes, and the name may have later been transferred to the island in question. Dutch explorers also reported seeing a “red island”. Another theory is that the waters of Narragansett Bay and Sakonnet River were referred to as “ship roads”, which may have led to the name “Road Island”.

The name of the island has been the subject of two decisions by the BGN, in 1930 and 1964. In a rare departure from established policy, both names, Aquidneck Island and Rhode Island, were approved for official use in 1930, with no preference given to either name. In 1962, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (USC&GS) submitted a proposal to make official one name, specifically Rhode Island, for the feature. The reasons provided for this proposal were that the dual usage on Federal maps and publications served only to continue the confusion regarding the feature's name, and that the name Aquidneck Island was not in local use. Because the name Rhode Island is part of the official name of the State, the USC&GS considered that to be the historical name for the feature. The decision for Rhode Island was rendered by the BGN in 1964.

In 1971, research uncovered a law in the Colonial Records, dated 1644, which stated, “It is ordered by this court, that the island commonly called Aquithneck, shall be from henceforth called the Isle of Rhodes or RHODE ISLAND”. Further research conducted at that time by the Rhode Island Secretary of State, the State Archives, and the Newport Historical Society indicated that the 1644 law had never been repealed, amended, or terminated, and was thus presumed to still be in effect. A representative of the State Library indicated that laws passed by the Colonial Legislatures (or General Courts) are known as the “Records of the Colony of Rhode Island”, and “are as applicable today as when originally enacted”.

In 1979, the proponent, who at the time was the Head of the Ocean Science Branch for the Naval Underwater Systems Center of the U.S. Department of the Navy, contacted the BGN regarding the possibility of revisiting the issue and reconsidering its 1964 decision. Although a case brief was prepared and preliminary investigation determined that the

name Aquidneck Island was in widespread local use, the issue was never docketed and no decision was rendered.

Twenty years later, the same proponent, having received no further communication from the BGN, contacted the BGN member from the National Ocean Service regarding reopening the case. A case brief was prepared for the change from Rhode Island to Aquidneck Island and letters to local governments, historical organizations, and two area native groups were sent. There is no official County government in Rhode Island.

Federal maps and publications dating from 1892 refer to the feature almost exclusively as Rhode Island. However, on other sources published throughout the 1900's, usage is mixed, with many sources acknowledging both names. Current local usage apparently seems to favor the name Aquidneck Island, with many websites referring to the island as such, including those of the following: the Newport Historical Society, the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center, the Town of Middletown, the Town of Portsmouth, the City of Newport, the Aquidneck Island Land Trust, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, and several tourist-oriented websites. The proponent also provided a copy of a publication prepared by the Rhode Island Sea Grant Communications Office in 2002 entitled *Shaping A Future: Aquidneck Island Achievements 1997-2002*. Websites that refer to the feature as Rhode Island include: the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations, and several tourist-oriented and history-oriented sites.

The President of the Aquidneck Indian Council, when asked to comment on the proposal, wrote a letter strongly endorsing official recognition of the name Aquidneck Island. He cited local usage of that name, as well as a 1978 Smithsonian Institution publication entitled *Handbook of North American Indians*, in which the island is labeled Aquidneck Island. He stated that this is “one of the few references accepted by the Federal Government (DOI) in matters relating to the historic legitimacy of Indian Tribes”. He also suggested that the Town governments do not represent the true opinion of the people and that in order to determine local and regional usage, letters should be sent to all native groups throughout New England.

Twenty-one such letters were sent, including four to the following Federally-recognized tribes: the Narragansett Indian Tribe, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut, the Mohegan Indian Tribe of Connecticut, and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) of Massachusetts. In addition, the following State-recognized groups were contacted for input: Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe/Wampanoag Nation, the Golden Hill Paugussett, the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot, the Schaghticoke Indian Tribe, the Hassanamisco Nipmuc, the Shinnecock Tribe, and the Unkechaug Indian Nation of Poospatuck Indians. Finally, the following organized entities that were determined to have a possible historical interest in the area were asked to comment: the Pokanoket/Wampanoag Federation, the Rhode Island Indian Council, the Eastern Pequot Indians of Connecticut, the Nehantic Tribe and Nation, the Nipmuc Indian Association of Connecticut, the Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuc Council, the Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook - Abenaki People, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the New England Coastal

Schaghticoke Indian Association & Tribal Council, and the Quinsigamond Band of the Nipmucs. Of this list, only two responses were received. The President of the Nipmuc Indian Association of Connecticut stated “Aquidneck Island has another name?! We did not know that. When speaking of “Rhode Island”, local people mean the State – not Aquidneck.” She also suggested that the name Aquidneck alone (Algonquian for “at the island”) was more appropriate than Aquidneck Island (“at the island Island”). The Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook-Abenaki People also recommended approval of the change, stating that “the proper proto-Algonquin spelling for this island is *Akwitanek*”, and that “the over whelming weight of Euro-American history should not be used to extinguish the place name that was used for thousands of years by the local inhabitants”.

Aside from the island, there are only two geographic features named “Aquidneck” listed in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS); these are a school and a shopping center.

Despite the apparent widespread usage of the name Aquidneck Island, including on many “official” websites and publications, the Portsmouth Town Council indicated it was “strongly opposed” to the proposed change, and the Town Council of Middletown stated, “While Aquidneck Island is commonly used here, it was the unanimous vote of the Council that the official name of our island remain Rhode Island in recognition of its historical significance.” Citing “the historical importance of the existing name Rhode Island”, the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission also recommended that the current name be retained, and the East Bay Chamber of Commerce stated, “our forefathers named it Rhode Island – we should keep with our heritage”. The City Council of Newport also recommends disapproval of the name change. However, the Environment Council of Rhode Island, stating the name Aquidneck Island “is the [name in] common usage, in fact most of us have never heard of Aquidneck Island being referred to as Rhode Island”, recommends the name be changed officially. Citing the predominance of opposition to the change, and after consultation with the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, the Rhode Island State Names Authority has recommended the proposal not be approved and the name Rhode Island be retained.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

#1 Moon Gulch, Colorado
(Docket 378)

This proposal is to make official the name Moon Gulch for a 4.3 km (2.7 mi) long stream in the City of Arvada in Jefferson County. The proponent, an employee of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Denver, provided a copy of a City of Arvada Parks Department “Open Space and Trail Map and Guide”, presumably published in the late 1990’s, on which the feature is labeled Moon Gulch. A park located near the mouth of the stream is named Moon Gulch Park; this park is shown and named on current USGS topographic maps. The origin of the proposed name is unknown, although the proponent reports that Moon was the name of “an early 20th century landowner”.

The stream proposed to be named Moon Gulch heads approximately 0.8 km (0.5 mi) north of Tucker Lake and flows to the east-southeast, before joining Ralston Creek in Ralston Valley Park. Although the generic term “gulch” typically applies to a valley, both the proponent and a representative of the USGS in Denver have confirmed that in Colorado, “gulch” is often used to refer to a stream, particularly one that is intermittent. Aside from Moon Gulch Park, there are no other features in Jefferson County named “Moon”.

The Commissioners of Jefferson County, when asked to comment on the proposal, stated they have no opinion, as “the County does not name geologic or hydrologic features found in the County. We are happy to rely on the U.S. Geological Survey to initiate such action.” A representative of the City of Arvada Planning Department expressed some concern that the feature is “no more than a drainage corridor” and therefore is probably not worthy of being named, but had no specific objection to the name, particularly as it has appeared already in official City documents. Letters seeking input were sent to the Arapaho Business Council and the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received by the deadline, which is presumed to indicate a lack of interest in the issue. The Colorado State Board on Geographic Names voted to endorse the name.

#2 Trickle Creek, Idaho
(Docket 379)

This proposal, to make official the name Trickle Creek for a stream in Bonner County, was submitted by a resident of Sandpoint who is the owner of Trickle Creek Enterprises. The stream is 6.5 km (4.1 mi) long and heads in an unnamed lake located 2.7 km (1.7 mi) southwest of Johnny Long Mountain, then flows south and southeast, to enter an unnamed tributary of the Pend Oreille River, 1.3 km (0.8 mi) west-southwest of Wrenco. The proponent, whose business is a distributor of crushed rock, sand, mulch, and bark, reports that the name Trickle Creek has been applied to the stream that runs

behind the property for 30 years, but he could provide no information on the origin of the name. There is one other feature in the State named “Trickle”, a valley named Trickle Gulch in Shoshone County.

The Bonner County government was asked to comment on the proposal, and responded that it had “no problem” with the name. Copies of the proposal were sent to the Coeur d’Alene Tribal Council, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation, and the Kalispell Business Committee, all of which are Federally-recognized. However, no response was received by the deadline, which is presumed to indicate a lack of interest in the issue. The Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council and the U.S. Forest Service have recommended approval of this proposal.

#3 Cow Bay, Massachusetts
(Docket 380)

The proposal to make official the name Cow Bay was submitted by a resident of Vineyard Haven, who reports that the name has been used locally for many years. The bay is approximately 6.4 km (4 mi) wide and lies off the northeast shore of Martha’s Vineyard, extending from the community of Oak Bluffs southeastward to the community of Edgartown. Although no maps or documents have been located to support the proposal, the proponent states that three long-time residents of the area, aged 96, 86, and 79, have confirmed that Cow Bay is the name they have always used for the feature. The Town Clerk of Edgartown suggested that the name Cow Bay was likely derived from a dairy farm that once existed “just below Sengekontacket Pond”. The proponent, who operates the sailing fleet of the Coastwise Packet Company and has sailed the waters off Martha’s Vineyard since 1947, reports that he has always known the bay as Cow Bay.

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head and the Narragansett Indians, both Federally-recognized tribes, were asked to comment on the proposal, but no response was received, indicating a lack of opinion on the issue. The governments of the Town of Edgartown and the Town of Oak Bluffs have both submitted letters supporting the proposal, while the Massachusetts Board on Geographic Names has no objection to the name. There is no County government in Massachusetts.

#4 Rain Dance Pond, New York
(Docket 382)

This new name was submitted by the owners of an alpaca-breeding farm that is named Rain Dance Pond, LLC. The proponents report that in 1989 they acquired 175 forested acres in the Town of Oppenheim, and shortly after, began raising alpacas there. They cleared land and constructed buildings and fences for the business, which they named Rain Dance Pond, LLC because of “the way the rain dances across the surface [of the lake] during the thunder storms we get in the summer.” The lake proposed to be named Rain Dance Pond is located along Little Sprite Creek and is 2.5 acres in size.

The New York State Committee on Geographic Names contacted the town and county governments for input and received letters of support from the Town of Oppenheim, the County of Fulton, and the Town Historian. Copies of the proposal were sent to the St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians, which is Federally-recognized, and the Kanatsiohareke Mohawk Community, a State-recognized group, but no comments were received, indicating a lack of interest in the proposal. The State Names Committee has recommended approval of the name.

#5

Quarter Corner Pond, Wyoming
(Docket 381)

This proposal, to name an unnamed lake in Lincoln County Quarter Corner Pond, was submitted by a surveyor in Big Piney, who also serves as a member of the Wyoming Board of Geographic Names. He reports that the lake, which is 122m (400 ft) by 91m (300 ft), is situated at the corner of a quarter section, and on its banks is a witness corner monument. A survey of the area conducted in 1904 by the General Land Office referred to the location of the quarter section, and so the proponent suggests that a name is needed to reference the feature. The Lincoln County Commissioners passed a resolution in support of the proposal. There are no other features in Lincoln County known to be named "Quarter", although there is a mine named Quarter Corner Pit Mine in Sublette County, 121 km (75 mi) to the north of this lake. A letter seeking input was sent to the Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Wyoming State Board of Geographic Names recommends approval of this proposal.