

U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
Domestic Names Committee

Six Hundred Fifty-Fifth Meeting  
Department of the Interior, Room 3004  
April 8, 2004, 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Betsy Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (Forest Service)
Chick Fagan (Chair)	Department of the Interior (National Park Service) – not voting
Mike Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Ronald Grim	Library of Congress
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Joseph Marinucci	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Executive Secretary     Roger L. Payne (Absent)

Staff

Lesley Levi	Administrative Assistant
Lou Yost	Acting for Executive Secretary
Jennifer Runyon	

Guests

Scott Zillmer	National Geographic Society
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1.     Opening

The Chairman opened the 655<sup>th</sup> meeting at 9:30 a.m.

2.     Minutes of the 654<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3.     Communications and Reports

3.1    BGN Chairman's Report (Loy)

The full Board has not met since the last DNC meeting and the Chairman had nothing to report. Due to the forthcoming United Nations Conference, the meeting of the full Board scheduled for April 20 has been cancelled. The next meeting of the full Board will take place on Tuesday, July 20.

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

It was noted that the Executive Secretary Payne, along with Loy, Flynn (Foreign Names), and Dillon (State Department) will be attending the forthcoming meeting of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), April 20-29 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Yost informed the Board that on March 22-23, Payne visited the U.S. Geological Survey Science Center for Coastal and Marine Geology in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, to participate in a Conference on Marine, Coastal, and Undersea Geographic Names. He gave a presentation on the Board and its policies, as well as GNIS and the names maintenance program. Several members of the Board's Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) also attended the meeting.

### 3.3 Report of the Publicity Committee (Yost for Wood)

No report.

### 3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost for Payne)

Yost informed the Board that Pastore of the DNC staff would be leaving the Geographic Names Office to participate in the USGS Career Development Program. He reported that Pastore has created a database in ACCESS that will allow the staff to track more efficiently the status of BGN cases. It will replace the present antiquated document tracking system,

Yost reminded those Committee members who serve on the full Board that April 9 is the deadline to provide input/comments regarding the recently-distributed list of new Antarctic name proposals.

The Geographic Names Office has received an inquiry from the government of South Korea regarding the use of the name "Sea of Japan" on a U.S. Geological Survey geologic map. The inquiry was forwarded to the Executive Secretary of the Foreign Names Committee, who reported that the same question was posed to that Committee and that the Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features had already responded.

Lewis L. McArthur and Cindy Gardiner, members of the Oregon State Geographic Names Board, will be visiting the Geographic Names Office in Reston during the first week of May. They will be assisting the Names staff in the ongoing maintenance of GNIS.

The Alaska State Board on Geographic Names recently received a letter from Senator Ted Steven's office regarding the proposal to name a summit, Mount Jimmy Doolittle. The State Board, which had recommended disapproval of the proposal in December, has agreed to revisit the issue at its summer meeting.

Several members of the DNC and its staff recently attended a meeting at the Library of Congress to discuss the issue of American Indian names, specifically to ascertain which maps and documents should be used to determine areas of historical interest to American Indian tribes. Yost thanked Ron Grim for hosting the meeting, which generated considerable interest and excellent attendance. Two American Indian liaisons, representing the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, were in attendance, along with several representatives of the Bureau of the Census. A graduate student at George Washington University provided an analysis of his research into the issue, which indicated that while there are some excellent maps showing historical Indian lands, there is not one definitive source that can be used to define the boundaries of these lands. In addition, it may prove difficult to correlate the names

of many of the historical tribes with present-day tribal authorities that can be contacted for input. It was suggested that the DNC staff, with the guidance of Lee Fleming (Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Bonnie Gallahan (USGS Indian Affairs Liaison), as well as other Federal tribal liaisons, should develop increased GIS with the BIA regional offices, which in turn should be asked to forward name proposals to the appropriate tribes for comment. Fleming offered to investigate the issue further and to report his findings to the Committee.

There was some discussion regarding indigenous names, specifically the addition of English generic terms to names where one is not included. Runyon provided some examples of recent proposals that do not include such generics and asked the Committee whether it would consider adding wording to its Principles, Policies, and Procedures to mandate that such terms be added. This topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The May meeting of the DNC will take place at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, on Friday, May 14, and will be hosted by the Virginia State Board on Geographic Names. The members were asked once again to indicate whether they plan to attend, so it can be assured there will be a quorum. At present, two USGS vans have been reserved, so members were asked to let the staff know if they wished to travel from Reston. The vans will leave USGS at 7:30 a.m. The staff will e-mail the Committee members to finalize the logistics.

Yost requested that in the future the Committee members send an e-mail to Lesley Levi if they will **not** be attending the monthly DNC meeting.

### 3.5 BGN Staff Report (Yost)

The following is a statistical report of the BGN/DNC staff activities since the March 11 meeting:

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

### 3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost for Payne)

Yost informed the Committee that the Geographic Names Office staff is still involved in addressing GNIS security issues and that progress is being made.

The staff continues to be involved in the development and maintenance of the geographic names layer in *The National Map*, with particular emphasis on the top 46 urban areas. Kanalley asked whether the USDA Forest Service would be expected to maintain these names if the features fall within its area of interest, to which Yost responded it would. This further demonstrates the challenges that the Geographic Names Office has experienced for years, not only in collecting names, but also in developing partnerships to maintain the data.

Progress is being made in adding additional documents to the BGN website. The quarterly dockets and the monthly meeting minutes are to be placed at the website and should be available in the very near future.

The contract for Phase II GNIS data compilation for Texas will end next month.

## 4. Docket Review List

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

Change **Squaw Creek** to **Dragonfly Creek**, Montana (Docket 383)

This proposal, to change the name of Squaw Creek, located in the Lolo National Forest in Sanders County, to Dragonfly Creek, was submitted by the Montana House Bill 412 Advisory Committee, which believes the current name is derogatory (see Attachment A, #1). A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Peak** to **Morning Star Peak**, Montana (Docket 383)

This proposal, to change the name of Squaw Peak, located in the Custer National Forest and Gallatin National Forest in Sweet Grass County, to Morning Star Peak, was submitted by the Montana House Bill 412 Advisory Committee, which believes the current name is derogatory (see Attachment A, #2). A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Creek** to **Storm Castle Creek**, Montana (Docket 383)

This proposal was submitted by the Montana House Bill 412 Advisory Committee on behalf of the Bozeman District Ranger of the Gallatin National Forest, to change officially the name Squaw Creek, considered by some to be derogatory. The proposed replacement name is associative, as there is a summit named Storm Castle just to the north of the mouth of the stream (see Attachment A, #3). A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Gulch** to **Travois Gulch**, Montana (Docket 383)

This proposal was submitted by the Montana House Bill 412 Committee to change the name of Squaw Gulch, a valley in Custer National Forest in Sweet Grass County, to Travois Gulch. The proposed name was derived from a word used for an American Indian sling (see Attachment A, #4). A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Powell Creek** to **Powells Creek**, Pennsylvania (Undocketed)

This proposal was submitted by Halifax Township, to change the name of Powell Creek to the plural form to recognize the name in local use (see Attachment A, #5). A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision, pending a need to solicit input from the other affected townships.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

### Colter Peak, Wyoming (Docket 379)

This proposal was submitted to name an unnamed summit in the Shoshone National Forest/North Absaroka Wilderness in Park County, Colter Peak, in honor of John Colter (ca.1774-1813), the famed explorer, fur trapper, and mountain man. There is another summit in Park County named already in honor of John Colter (see Attachment B, #1). A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the proposal, citing the Board's Wilderness Naming Policy and Duplicate Names Policy.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

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

### Anderson-Bull Spring, California (Docket 383)

This new name was submitted by the Anderson Springs Community Service District to name an unnamed spring in Lake County. The name would recognize the spring's location along Anderson Creek, and would also honor Robert Bull (1926-1985), who was responsible for discovering the spring and for developing it into the primary water source for the community (see Attachment C, #1). A motion was made and seconded to approve the new name.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

### Elizabeth Pond, Maryland (Undocketed)

This is the first of six proposals initiated by a representative of the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office to make official locally-used names for features in Anne Arundel County. The name Elizabeth Pond would honor Elizabeth Iliff (1908-1985), a longtime landowner in the area (see Attachment C, #2). A motion was made and seconded to approve the new name.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

### Rams Branch, Maryland (Undocketed)

This proposal, also submitted by the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, would name an unnamed stream for Dr. Edwin M. Rams (d.1980), a longtime area landowner and national expert on land use issues (see Attachment C, #3). A motion was made and seconded to approve the new name.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

#### IV. **Revised Decisions**

Change **Idle River** (BGN 1987) to **Brewer Creek**, Maryland (Undocketed)

Although the name **Idle River** was made official by the U.S. Board in 1987, the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office reports that the stream's former name, **Brewer Creek**, continues to be used locally (see Attachment D, #1). A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Magothy River** (BGN 1933) (part) to **Magothy Branch**, Maryland (Undocketed)

The name **Magothy River** is applied currently to both the tidal and non-tidal portions of a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. However, the proponent reports that local residents refer to the upper, non-tidal portion as **Magothy Branch** (see Attachment D, #2). A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

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

**Panther Creek**, California (Docket 379)

This is the first of four proposals to apply locally-used names to two streams and two valleys in the Klamath National Forest, in Siskiyou County (see Attachment E, #1). The valley through which the stream flows is proposed to be named **Panther Gulch** (q.v.). There was some discussion regarding the existence of several other features in the county already named "Panther". However, it was suggested that if the County government, State Names Authority, and USDA Forest Service did not have any concerns regarding the duplication and since the names had already been used locally for fifty years, the Federal Board should accept the local position. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 6 approve  
1 against  
0 abstentions

The dissenting vote was cast in the belief that the name violates the Board's Duplicate Names Policy.

**Panther Gulch**, California (Docket 379)

This name is proposed to be made official for a valley in the Klamath National Forest, in Siskiyou County (see Attachment E, #2). There was some discussion regarding the existence of several other features in the county already named "Panther". However, it was suggested that if the County government, State

Names Authority, and USDA Forest Service did not have any concerns regarding the duplication and since the names had already been used locally for fifty years, the Federal Board should accept the local position. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: 6 approve  
1 against  
0 abstentions

The dissenting vote was cast in the belief that the name violates the Board's Duplicate Names Policy.

**Peregrine Creek**, California (Docket 379)

This name is proposed to be made official for a tributary of the Scott River in the Klamath National Forest, in Siskiyou County (see Attachment E, #3). A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Peregrine Gulch**, California (Docket 379)

This name is proposed to be made official for a valley in the Klamath National Forest, in Siskiyou County (see Attachment E, #4). A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Cabbage Head**, Missouri (Docket 378)

This proposal was submitted by the Missouri State Board on Geographic Names, to make official a descriptive name that is reported to have been in local use "for a long time" (see Attachment E, #5). A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Walking Fish Pond**, Maryland (Undocketed)

This new name was suggested for a small lake in Anne Arundel County, because of its reputation as the site where several northern snakehead ("walking fish") were discovered in the summer of 2002 (see Attachment E, #6). A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Winterberry Pond**, Maryland (Undocketed)

This new name was proposed in recognition of the existence of the winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), a deciduous holly that used to grow around the lake (see Attachment E, #7). A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Neepaulakating Creek**, New Jersey (Docket 380)

This proposal was submitted by the Outreach Coordinator of the Wallkill River Watershed, to name an unnamed stream that flows from Lake Neepaulin to Papakating Creek. The proposed name is a contraction of the names of the aforementioned reservoir and stream. This proposal was deferred at the March DNC meeting because of concerns that the name might not be acceptable to the indigenous people who once inhabited the area, specifically the Delaware Tribe. The staff contacted the Director of the Lenape Language Project of the Delaware Tribe, who determined that the two names were not of Lenape origin and therefore the Tribe did not have any objection to the proposed name (see Attachment E, #8). A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 7 approve  
0 against  
0 abstentions

5. Location and Time of Next Meeting

5.1 The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will be held May 14, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia.

5.2 The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

*(signed)* Roger L. Payne

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Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

*(signed) Chick Fagan*

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Chick Fagan, Chairman  
Domestic Names Committee