

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 Eighty-sixth Meeting  
Department of the Interior, Room 2642  
February 8, 2007 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Bob Bewley	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Rebecca Diaz-Cartagena	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Mike Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Susan Hawes	U.S. Postal Service
Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress
Elizabeth Kanalley (Chairwoman)	Department of Agriculture (Forest Service)
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard)
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

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

Staff

Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Geoffrey Hatchard, National Geographic Society Maps

1. Opening

Chairwoman Kanalley welcomed everyone to the 687<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) and asked that all members of the Committee and the staff introduce themselves. She welcomed Susan Hawes of the U.S. Postal Service to her first DNC meeting, and announced that Rebecca Diaz-Cartagena had Marinucci's proxy to vote.

2. Minutes of the 686<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The minutes of the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with one correction. It was suggested that the reference to giving the members "a 60 day review period" on the revised bylaws be amended to simply state "a review period."

### 3. Communications and Reports

#### 3.1 Chairman's Report (Kanalley for Boughton)

The full BGN met on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston. At that meeting, there was a brief discussion regarding the status of the bylaws review, although no in-depth analysis took place. The Executive Committee held a follow-up meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> at Kanalley's office, at which time all the comments received thus far were compiled and analyzed. The discussions were productive, but a second meeting is needed to complete the process; this will be scheduled for sometime in February. Once the Executive Committee's review is complete, the results will be forwarded to the members for review and possible approval at the next full BGN meeting in April.

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

Yost reminded the members that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) will hold its five-year conference in New York in late August. Leo Dillon of the State Department will be forwarding the announcement shortly, and if any members wish to attend, they should contact him.

The DNC staff has been approached by a member of the geography faculty at East Carolina University with a request for funding or other support for a conference that has been scheduled for October to address "issues of toponomy." The conference attendees are presumed to be from the international arena, but more specific details are not yet known. Yost informed the inquirer that the BGN does not have a budget and therefore cannot offer financial support, but he would forward the request to the individual agencies in case there was any interest. It was hoped that this conference might have been scheduled to coincide with the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) conference, but it appears that will not be the case.

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

There was no report from the Publicity Committee, although Wood did convey to Yost that the USGS has received further inquiries from the government of the Republic of Korea regarding the ongoing Sea of Japan-East Sea issue.

Kanalley reminded the members that the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are co-hosting a Geospatial Conference in Portland, Oregon, May 7-11. At the conference, entitled "Building Bridges to Information Sharing," there will be a GNIS training session, which will include some hands on web training. Bewley noted that other agencies are welcome to attend, and that some of the sessions will address demographic issues, a topic in which the Census Bureau might be particularly interested.

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

Yost noted the changes in DOI Security procedures, whereby the names of all non-DOI attendees at the monthly meetings must be forwarded to the Security Office (via the USGS

office in the DOI building) in advance. He regretted the difficulties some members had in entering the building for this meeting, and also asked that in the future, members notify the staff in advance if they intend to bring guests. The USGS point of contact in the building is Ms. Angela Peavy (202/208-3888).

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, the DNC staff met with two representatives of Sandia National Labs, who were visiting the Washington area to present an overview of their new gazetteer endeavor. Entitled *The Patton Alliance*, the project is described as “a cooperative program involving both governmental and private sector organizations that will fundamentally change the way analytics research is transitioned to field operations for federal agencies.” The Alliance is aware that many field users are familiar with GNIS and the Foreign Names database, but there are issues regarding its maintenance and its practical applications. It was agreed that increased cooperation is needed and Sandia Labs has offered to keep the BGN more involved in the effort.

Yost announced that following this meeting he will meet with a representative of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior, to discuss the ongoing concerns raised by the individual who petitioned the DNC to rename Mount Diablo in California. The proponent of this change continues to express displeasure with the DNC’s decision to reject the name change, and has since requested that the DOI, and more recently The White House, investigate the DNC’s actions. The White House has asked that the DOI respond to the most recent letter and Yost has been asked to brief the Secretary’s office on the situation.

### 3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

Runyon announced that the proposal for Schoener Island in New York (Review List 393) has been withdrawn by the proponent, after it was learned that a county official had discovered another locally-used name for the feature. No counter-proposal has yet been received.

The DNC has received a new proposal to name an unnamed island in Minnesota, Lake Rangers Island. This name would recognize the fact that the island has long been used by a scuba diving club known as “The Lake Rangers.” Staff asked the members whether this name might be construed to be commemorative, and if so whether it would violate the Commemorative Naming Policy since many of the club members are still living. The DNC members agreed it would not, as commemorative names are considered to be those that honor a specific individual by name; names which “honor” a group of people are considered acceptable. There was some concern that the name might lead some to assume the lake was named “Lake Ranger,” which is not the case. The staff was instructed to proceed with this proposal.

Gilbert expressed some concerns regarding the DNC’s recent approval of several proposals to change long-standing names, particularly commemorative names that may have been spelled incorrectly for years but which are now published and listed in numerous maps and files. This led to some discussion regarding the need to evaluate all proposals on a case-by-case basis and to only approve such changes where there is strong evidence of local support.

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

The new GNIS staff in Denver continues to process data submitted to it by contractors and partners. Yost reported that in the past, funds were set aside by USGS specifically for names compilation, but now all monies are considered to be part of a “communal pot” and so the Names Office must compete with other projects. It is not yet known how this will impact the completion of Phase II for the last two remaining States.

### 3.7 Translating Official Names Into Other Languages (Yost)

This topic was discussed at a previous meeting, at which time the members were asked to consider the issue and prepare comments for further review. The staff has been asked how official geographic names ought to be shown on Federal maps that are being produced for a foreign audience, such as names applied to a Spanish-language edition of a National Park Service brochure. If the names are to be translated from English into Spanish or French, for example, who has the authority to determine the correct translation and should the foreign name become a variant name in GNIS? Yost asked whether it might be appropriate to establish a subcommittee, comprised of interested members and advisors, to address the issue? It was agreed this would be a good approach and the Executive Secretary and Chair will discuss how this might occur. There was a brief discussion of the need to hold a meeting to further discuss policies and procedures, and it was suggested that another offsite in Shepherdstown might be needed. Kanalley will contact Vandegraff to explore some options, possibly for June.

### 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**

Change **Squaw Dome** (FID 235312) to **Piyau Dome**, California (Review List 393)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:   9 in favor  
          0 against  
          0 abstentions

Change **Wetsel** (FID 1058134) to **Wetzel**, Ohio (Undocketed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:   9 in favor

0 against  
0 abstentions

Change Crooks Crossroads (FID 1247430) to Muddy Creek Crossroads, South Carolina (Undocketed)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 9 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**II. Disagreement on Docketed Names – none.**

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

Wallys Slough, Alaska (Review List 393) (FID 2106729)

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

Vote: 9 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Gene Autry Ridge, California (Review List 392) (FID 2106737)

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

Vote: 9 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change Omeara Point (FID 1507186) to O'Meara Point, Washington (Review List 388)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this spelling change.

Vote: 8 in favor  
0 against  
1 abstention

**IV. Revised Decisions**

Change Pedler Creek (FID 1571145) (BGN 1976) to Laxey Creek, Wisconsin (Review List 389)

A motion was made and seconded to consider this proposal, along with the other for Peddlers Creek (q.v.) together.

Vote: 9 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

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

Vote: 9 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

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

**Coho Creek, East Fork Coho Creek, and West Fork Coho Creek**, Alaska (Review List 393) (FIDs 2106689, 2107151, 2107243)

A motion was made and seconded to approve these new names.

Vote: 9 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Peddlers Creek**, Wisconsin (Review List 389) (FID 2106791)

As noted above, this new name was approved.

5. Location and Time of Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will be held March 8, 2007, at the Department of the Interior, Room 2642.

(signed) *Louis A. Yost*

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Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED  
(signed) *Betsy Kanalley*

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Betsy Kanalley, Chairwoman  
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE  
DOCKET  
February 2007**

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

[Please note: many of the URL's for the online map links are two lines; if clicking on the link does not work, you will need to cut and paste the URL into your browser.]

Change **Squaw Dome** (FID 235312) to **Piyau Dome**, California  
(Sierra National Forest/Ansel Adams Wilderness)  
(Review List 393)

This proposal is to change officially the name of Squaw Dome, a 2,383 m (7,818 ft) summit in the Sierra Nevada in Madera County, to Piyau Dome. The summit also lies within the Sierra National Forest, and along the boundary of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Although it is not clear when the current name first came into local use, it has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1904. Peter Browning's 1986 volume, *Place Names of the Sierra Nevada*, records the summit's name as Squaw Nipple Peak, noting that that name was recorded during a General Land Office survey of 1885.

The proponent of the change to Piyau Dome is the Tribal Chair of the North Fork Mono Rancheria; she believes the word "squaw" is derogatory and should be changed. The proposed replacement name is taken from the Mono Indian word meaning "mothers," which according to the proponent is appropriate because "historically, expecting or young mothers would touch the dome to improve lactation." She adds, "The location is in the traditional and current cultural territory of the North Fork Mono people."

The Madera County Supervisors have expressed support for the proposed change, as have the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names and the U.S. Forest Service. There are no other geographic features in California known to be named "Piyau."

Change **Wetsel** (FID 1058134) to **Wetzel**, Ohio  
(Undocketed)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=40.9467159&LON=-84.4360617&datum=NAD83&u=5>

The government of Van Wert and the Ohio State Names Authority both concur that the name of this small unincorporated community should be changed from Wetsel to Wetzel.

Change **Crooks Crossroads** (FID 1247430) to **Muddy Creek Crossroads**, South Carolina  
(Undocketed)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=33.7785&lon=-79.41033&datum=nad83&u=5&layer=DRG&size=l&s=50>

The government of Williamsburg County and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (State Names Authority) both concur that the name of this small unincorporated community should be changed from Crooks Crossroads to Muddy Creek Crossroads.

## **II. Disagreement on Docketed Names - none**

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

### **Wallys Slough, Alaska**

(Review List 393)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=62.1198&lon=-150.14074&s=100&size=1&u=5&datum=nad83&layer=DRG50>

This proposal is to make official the name Wallys Slough for a 2.4 km (1.5 mi) long gut located in Matanuska-Susitna Borough, just to the west of the Susitna River and 6.4 km (4 mi) SW of the community of Sunshine. The proponent, a resident of Anchorage, reports that the proposed name has been in local use for approximately four decades, ever since Wallace L. Coleman (1924-1998), a native of Kansas, homesteaded on property adjoining the slough in 1959. According to his obituary, Mr. Coleman was a “creative and innovative businessman” and an entrepreneur; he operated grain elevators in Iowa, a builders’ cache in Alaska, a farm in Hawaii, and a cattle business in Oregon, yet he always returned to his homestead in Alaska where he worked on many projects.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission passed a resolution in support of the proposal, and the Knik, Wasilla, and Willow Creek Historical Society endorses the name as well. The Trapper Creek Community Council, in submitting a letter of support, noted that Mr. Coleman was “a well respected member of our community.” The Matanuska-Susitna/Valdez-Copper Basin Area State Parks Department did not respond to the State’s request for comments, nor did the following Alaska Native groups: the Cook Inlet Region, Inc., Knikatu, Inc., Eklutna, Inc., the Gold Creek-Susitna Native Association, the Montana Creek Native Association, the Caswell Native Association, and the Talkeetna Community Council. The Alaska State Geographic Names Board recommends approval of this proposal.

### **Gene Autry Ridge, California**

(Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area)

(Review List 392)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=34.12622&lon=-118.39464&datum=nad83&u=6&layer=DRG25&size=m&s=25>

The name Gene Autry Ridge is proposed to be made official for a 324 m (1,064 ft) high ridge that overlooks Fryman Canyon in Los Angeles County. The feature lies in an area administered by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and also partially within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, managed by the National Park Service. The proponent reports that the name has come into local use in recent years, as the feature lies close



to the former home of Gene Autry, the late recording star, film actor, and famed “Singing Cowboy.”

Orvon Gene Autry was born in Texas in 1907, moving to Oklahoma as a teenager, where he performed on local radio as “Oklahoma’s Yodeling Cowboy.” In the early 1930’s he became known nationally for his singing talent and soon thereafter began a film career. By 1937 he was the top Western star at the box office. In 1972, Gene Autry was inducted into the Western Performers Hall of Fame at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma, and in 2003, five years after his death, into the Radio Hall of Fame. He is the only individual to receive five stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

In 1999, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy passed a resolution endorsing the name Gene Autry Ridge, and a recent map of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway labels one of its landmarks “Autry Overlook.” The Briarcliff Improvement Association and the Studio City Residents Association are also in support of the proposal. The Gene Autry Foundation was asked to comment on the proposal and responded with an enthusiastic endorsement of the name; they noted also that Mr. Autry’s widow is “very excited” about the naming effort. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in support of the proposal, and the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names endorses it as well. The National Park Service also recommends approval of the name. There are no Federally-recognized Tribes that have a current or historical interest within fifty miles of the feature.

There are no other geographic features in California known to be named “Autry”; the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum in Los Angeles was recently renamed The Museum of the American West. In 1941, the small community of Berwyn in Carter County, Oklahoma voted to change its name to Gene Autry; this change was made official for Federal use in 1950.

Change Omeara Point (FID 1507186) to O’Meara Point, Washington  
(Willapa Bay National Wildlife Refuge)  
(Review List 388)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=10&n=5139155.67082204%20&e=426922.747192824&u=6&datum=nad83>

This proposal is to change officially the name of Omeara Point in Pacific County to O’Meara Point. The proponent, a resident of Seattle, claims the cape, located along the eastern shore of Willapa Bay and within the Willapa Bay National Wildlife Refuge, was named for his grandfather John William O’Meara (1881-1949), who was responsible for the construction of the first road around the cape 100 years ago.

The current form of the name has appeared on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps since 1949 and on Office of Coast Survey nautical charts since 1948. It was also labeled Omeara Point on the 1967 Pacific County highway map and is listed at websites produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The 1981 USGS 1:100,000-scale map applied the spelling Omerara Point, as did DeLorme’s 1992 *Atlas of Washington*.

The Pacific County Commissioners have indicated they have no objection to the name change, while the Manager of the Willapa Bay National Wildlife Refuge has stated he has no opinion and “doesn't see a problem with either spelling.” The Showater Bay Indian Tribe was asked by the Washington State Geographic Names Board to comment on the proposal, but no response was received. Citing a preponderance of evidence that the proposed name is historically accurate, the State Board voted to recommend approval of the proposal.

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

Change **Pedler Creek** (FID 1571145) (BGN 1976) to **Laxey Creek**, Wisconsin  
(Review List 389)

Mouth:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=15&n=4752851.29184284%20&e=723479.988763562&u=6&datum=nad83>

Source:<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=15&n=4761683&e=728891&s=50&size=1&u=2&layer=DRG25>

This proposal, submitted by the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council (WGNC) on behalf of the Linden Community Historical Society, is to change officially the name of Pedler Creek (BGN 1976) to Laxey Creek. The stream is 13 km (8 mi) long and flows through the Town of Linden before entering the East Pecatonica River. This proposal was submitted to and approved by the WGNC in 1991, but apparently never forwarded to the BGN for consideration.

The proponent reports that the stream was always known historically as Laxey Creek and noted that it flows past Laxey Cemetery. There are also several references to the name in a published history of Linden, although it does not provide a precise location for the stream. Laxey is the name of a town on the Isle of Man from which many of the area's first settlers came.

The name Pedler Creek has appeared on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1952. In 1976, at the request of the WGNC, the BGN was asked to clarify the correct location of the source of the stream. The 1976 case file does not include any information regarding the origin of the name or its spelling, which according to all available evidence should be “Peddler.” The WGNC believes “Pedler” is a typographical error. Several early histories of Iowa County refer to an Irish peddler who accidentally discovered lead in the area in 1827. The Town of Linden was organized in 1849 and for its first six years was known officially as “the Town of Peddler's Creek.” However, the Post Office Department reportedly disallowed that name for the new post office, so “Linden” was made official instead. The proponent believes the name Peddler Creek (q.v.) should be applied to the next large tributary further upstream on the East Pecatonica River, and a separate proposal has been submitted for that name. The WGNC has confirmed that the Town of Linden and the Iowa County Commissioners support the name change, and has reaffirmed its earlier decision to endorse the proposal.

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

**Coho Creek, East Fork Coho Creek, and West Fork Coho Creek**, Alaska

(Review List 393)

Coho Creek: Mouth: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=61.62741&lon=-149.78645&s=63.360&size=1&u=6&datum=nad27&layer=DRG50>

Source: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=61.64892&lon=-149.79188&s=100&size=1&u=6&datum=nad27&layer=DRG50>

East Fork Coho Creek: Mouth: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=61.64892&lon=-149.79188&s=100&size=1&u=6&datum=nad27&layer=DRG50>

Source: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=61.66334&lon=-149.82295&s=100&size=1&u=6&datum=nad27&layer=DRG50>

West Fork Coho Creek: Mouth: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=61.64892&lon=-149.79188&s=100&size=1&u=6&datum=nad27&layer=DRG50>

Source: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=61.66954&lon=-149.77897&s=100&size=1&u=6&datum=nad27&layer=DRG50>

The new name Coho Creek is proposed for a 4 km (2.5 km) long tributary of the Little Susitna River in Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and East Fork Coho Creek, and West Fork Coho Creek are proposed as new names for the stream's two tributaries. These tributaries are 4.8 km (3 mi) long and 2.4 km (1.5 mi) long, respectively. The proposals were submitted by the Alaska State Geographic Names Board on behalf of a resident of Houston, through whose property a portion of the primary stream flows. The proposed names recognize the existence of coho salmon that spawn there. The Mayor of the City of Houston has expressed support for the name, while the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has no objection. The Planning and Land Use Department of Matanuska-Susitna Borough has stated it will defer to the Houston city government for comment. The superintendent of the regional office of the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has indicated he will abstain from issuing a recommendation, although he noted, "[it] seems a very common name placed on a very short, little creek."

According to GNIS, there are two bays and one other stream in Alaska named "Coho"; none are in Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The stream that is already named Coho Creek is in Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area, approximately 1,094 km (680 mi) to the east-southeast of the stream in question. As part of its research, the State Board forwarded a copy of the proposal to the following Alaska Native regional corporations for comment: Cook Inlet Region, Inc., Alexander Creek, Inc., Knikatu, Inc., and Eklutna, Inc. No response was received from any of these groups, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The Alaska State Names Board recommends approval of the proposed names.

**Peddler Creek**, Wisconsin

(Review List 389)

Mouth: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=15&n=4753591&e=723000&s=50&size=1&u=2&layer=DRG25>

Source: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=15&n=4759163&e=723541&s=50&size=1&u=2&layer=DRG25>

This proposal was submitted by the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council (WGNC), on behalf of the Linden Community Historical Society. The proponent wishes to make official the name Peddler Creek for an unnamed 6.2 km (3.9 mi) long tributary of the East Pecatonica River. The request was submitted to and approved by the WGNC in 1991, but was apparently never forwarded to the BGN. The name Pedler Creek (BGN 1976) is applied currently to another tributary just downstream, but the proponent reports that this is in fact Laxey Creek (q.v.). Several early histories of Iowa County refer to an Irish peddler who accidentally discovered lead in the vicinity of the stream in question in 1827. The Town of Linden was organized in 1849, and was originally named “Peddler’s Creek”, a name it retained until 1855. Peddlers Creek Cemetery [sic] is also located at the mouth of the stream proposed to be named Peddler Creek. The WGNC has confirmed that the Town of Linden and the Iowa County Commissioners support the name change, and has reaffirmed its earlier decision to endorse the proposal.