

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

Six Hundred Fifty-Seventh Meeting
Department of the Interior, Conference Room 3004
June 10, 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
Ed Harne	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Joseph Marinucci	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Douglas Vandegrift	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Karen Wood	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)

Ex Officio

Roger L. Payne	Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names
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Staff

Lesley Levi	BGN Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Runyon	

Guests

Scott Zillmer	National Geographic Society
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1. Opening

The Chairman called the 657th meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. He informed the Board that he has decided to vote at today's meeting only if there is a tie vote.

2. Minutes of the 656th Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted, with one minor editorial correction on Page 5, Buckle Island.

3. Communications and Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman's Report (Payne for Loy)

No report.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Payne)

The Board was informed that the geographic names course sanctioned by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) will take place August 23 – September 4, 2004, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

The Board was also informed that a meeting of the Executive Committee will be scheduled sometime in August or September. The Executive Secretary will contact those on the Committee to schedule the meeting.

It was agreed that the May meeting of the Domestic Names Committee, held at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, was very interesting and worthwhile. It provided an opportunity for the Virginia State Board to observe the DNC, and for DNC members to meet members of the Virginia Board and staff. A reporter from the *Richmond Times Dispatch* was present, and an article was published shortly after. Following the meeting, the DNC members and staff were treated to a tour of the Alan M. Voorhees Map Collection, an extensive exhibition of maps dating from the eighteenth century and earlier.

The Annual Conference of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) will be October 19-23 in Jacksonville, Florida. The program and first notice is to be distributed shortly.

3.3 Report of the Publicity Committee (Wood)

No report.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Payne)

There has been a recent increase in recommendations from the public regarding the proposed change to the name of Lake Powell, with the majority being submitted by fax. Thus far, there have been approximately 50 in this new wave, all of which are against the proposed change to Glen Canyon Reservoir.

Payne noted that he was interviewed by a newspaper reporter from Lawrence, Kansas, regarding the approval and controversy surrounding Burroughs Creek. The lengthy interview concentrated on the unanimous approval of the name by the DNC and the questionable character of Burroughs. Payne noted that the City of Lawrence had recommended approval of the name, but the county was divided on the issue and refused to make a recommendation. A newspaper article on the story was distributed.

The Vermont State Geographic Names Board reaffirmed its policy that proponents must submit proposals directly to the State Board, and referral by the DNC does not warrant a legitimate proposal to Vermont. This impasse will be a topic at this year's State/Federal Roundtable at COGNA.

It was noted that all the remaining issues regarding the revision of *Principles, Policies, and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Names* (PPP) have been resolved, with the exception of some slight rewording of a portion of the Policy on Derogatory Names, which is to be submitted by the USDA Forest Service. This will be the version that will be submitted at COGNA as a final draft.

The Committee was reminded that geographic names containing the word "Squaw" in Piscataquis County, Maine, have been changed to "Moose" by the County government, but no proposals have been submitted formally to the DNC, so for Federal use, the name is still "Squaw". It has come to the attention of the DNC staff that files are being submitted to the U.S. Geological Survey from the State Mapping and GIS Office that contain the State-approved name "Moose". This conflict was questioned by the DNC, and the staff is working on a solution.

The minutes for the previous six months meetings, as well as the past five quarterly dockets are now on the BGN website at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/bgn.html>.

3.5 BGN Staff Report (Runyon for Yost)

The following is a statistical report of the BGN/DNC staff activities since the May 14 meeting:

56	cases written
114	inquiries received and answered
136	letters written (answered and initiated)
99	e-mail messages

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Payne)

No report.

3.7 Indigenous Names Project (Payne)

The DNC staff was recently asked to support a project for collecting geographic names of indigenous origin on certain Tribal lands. Staff wholeheartedly supports this project, and has agreed to work with responsible individuals to expedite entry of this data into GNIS so that the names will be available at *The National Map* as soon as possible.

4. Docket Review List

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

Change West Chevelon Crossing to Barts Crossing, Arizona (Docket 375) (Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest)

This proposal was submitted by a representative of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, to change officially the name of West Chevelon Crossing, a locale on West Chevelon Creek in southeastern Coconino County, to Barts Crossing (see Attachment A, #1). A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Santa Ana Cove to Shaws Cove, California (Docket 381)

This proposal is to change officially the name of Santa Ana Cove, located in the City of Laguna Beach, to Shaws Cove, in order to recognize the name that is reported to be in local use (see Attachment A, #2). A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. **Disagreement on Docketed Names**

Change Carbonate Mountain to Mosca Peak, Colorado (Docket 378) (San Isabel National Forest and Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve)

This proposal was submitted by a longtime resident of southern Colorado, to change officially the name of Carbonate Mountain to Mosca Peak (see Attachment B, #1). A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name, citing long established use of the existing name, and a lack of evidence of widespread local and regional support.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Walker Mountain to Wauka Mountain, Georgia (Docket 368)

This proposal was submitted by the Director of the Family and Regional History Program at Wallace State College in Hanceville, Alabama. He requested that the Board consider changing officially the name of a summit located along the boundary of White County and Hall County in northern Georgia from Walker Mountain to Wauka Mountain to recognize the name that is in widespread local usage (see Attachment B, #2). A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 5 in favor
4 against
0 abstentions

The Chairman voted in order to break the tie. The negative votes were cast in agreement with the recommendation of the State Names Authority, which did not believe there was enough evidence to warrant the change of a name that has been published on numerous sources for many years.

Harmon Draw, New Mexico (Docket 374)

This proposal, to name an unnamed “stream,” Harmon Draw in honor of Harmon Black (1908-1995), was submitted by the New Mexico State Geographic Names Committee, on behalf of the Curator of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History (see Attachment B, #3). A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve this new name, citing a lack of evidence of direct association between the intended honoree and the feature, as well as the fact that a nearby American Indian tribe recommended against approval.

Vote: 4 in favor
3 against
1 abstention

The votes against the motion were cast in the belief that the name was warranted, and in support of the County and the New Mexico State Names Committee.

Johannah Creek (Docket 379) vs. Saw Pit Branch (Docket 380), North Carolina

The managing director of an environmental trading company submitted the proposal to apply the new name Johannah Creek to an unnamed tributary of Mill Creek in southern Johnston County (see Attachment B, #4). A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the name Johannah Creek, citing the lack of support of the County government and the North Carolina State Geographic Names Board, as well as potential confusion with nearby Hannah Creek.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

The members then considered the counter-proposal for Saw Pit Branch, which was submitted by the GIS Coordinator for Johnston County. The proponent had discovered the name on a 1982 deed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the name Saw Pit Branch.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Wilson Canyon to Flood Canyon, and change Hillsdale Canyon to Wilson Canyon, Utah (Docket 380) (Dixie National Forest)

These proposals were submitted by a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, to correct the names and applications of two valleys in Garfield County, Utah (see Attachment B, #5). A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the proposals, citing a lack of evidence of local and regional support.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

North Willow Peak, South Willow Peak, Utah (Docket 378) (Wasatch National Forest/Deseret Peak Wilderness)

These new names were proposed by a resident of West Valley City for two unnamed summits in the Stansbury Mountains in eastern Tooele County (see Attachment B, #6). A motion was made and seconded **not** to approve the names, citing the negative recommendation of the Utah State Geographic Names Board, which found no evidence of an overriding need to name these features in a wilderness area.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

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

Baxley Branch, Baxley Mountain, Alabama (Docket 384)

These proposals were submitted by a resident of Sylacauga, who wishes to commemorate his parents, James Baxley (1882-1954) and Kate Baxley (1886-?), by naming a stream and summit in their honor. James Baxley purchased the land on which both features are located in 1905 (see Attachment C, #1). A motion was made and seconded to approve Baxley Branch.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

A motion was then made and seconded **not** to approve Baxley Mountain, citing a belief that it was not necessary to name two features for one family, as well as the existence of another summit in the area already named Baxley Hill.

Vote: 2 in favor
6 against

0 abstentions

Those voting against the motion believed the commemoration was warranted and pointed out that there is no policy that prohibits more than one feature being named for an individual or family.

Bailey Butte, New Mexico (Docket 380)

This new commemorative name was submitted by a resident of Socorro, who wishes to honor his father, Arthur Paul Bailey (1899-1975), by naming a summit in Catron County, Bailey Butte (see Attachment C, #2). A motion was made and seconded to approve the new name.

Vote: 5 in favor
2 against
0 abstentions

The votes cast against the name were based on the apparent lack of association between the intended honoree and the feature.

At this point, one member left the meeting for another engagement.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change Mount Zwischen (BGN 1970) to Medano Peak, Colorado (Docket 378) (San Isabel National Forest and Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve)

This is the second of two proposals submitted by a resident of southern Colorado to restore historical names to two summits located in the Sangre de Cristo Range. This proposal is to change officially the name of Mount Zwischen to Medano Peak, to recognize the name that the proponent and other long-time area residents claim was once applied to the feature (see Attachment D, #1). A motion was made and seconded not to approve the change.

Vote: 7 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

The proposal was not approved because of the long established usage of the existing name as well as a lack of overwhelming support for the change.

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

This proposal, submitted by a resident of Middletown, is to change officially the name of the island named Rhode Island to Aquidneck Island, to recognize the name reported to be in widespread local usage (see Attachment D, #2). A motion was made and seconded not to approve the change.

Vote: 8 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

The change was not approved based upon recommendations of all local governments, the State Geographic Names Authority, and the Office of the Governor.

At this point, one member left the meeting for another engagement.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Spa Run, Pennsylvania (Docket 385)

This proposal is to name an unnamed tributary of French Creek, in the Borough of Cambridge Springs and Cambridge Township, Spa Run. It was submitted by a teacher at Cambridge Springs High School, who reports that "The Spa" is a long-standing nickname for the Borough (see Attachment E, #1). A motion was made and seconded to approve the new name.

Vote: 7 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Woods Creek, Pennsylvania (Docket 385)

This proposal was submitted by a representative of the Lickdale Community Fire Company in Jonestown, to make official the name Woods Creek for a tributary of Swatara Creek (see Attachment E, #2). A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 7 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

5. Location and Time of Next Meeting

5.1 The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will be held July 8, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., at the Department of the Interior, Room 3004.

It was announced that due to the scheduling of the COGNA Conference in late October, and the fact that the November meeting would coincide with the Veterans' Day holiday, there will be no DNC meeting in November. It may also be necessary to reschedule the October meeting to allow sufficient time to prepare for the COGNA Conference.

5.2 The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

(signed) Roger L. Payne

Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) *Chick Fagan*

Chick Fagan, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee