

Missouri Board on Geographic Names
11-08 Meeting
Interpretive Center
James Kirkpatrick Building
Missouri Office of the Secretary of State
Jefferson City, MO
November 19th, 2008 Minutes

Attendees: Chris Barnett, Gary Claspill, Jason Ebersole (for Arnold Williams), John Fisher, Ray Fox, David Kreighbaum, Gary Kremer, Gordon McCann, Jane Messenger, Lynn Morrow, Frank Nickell, Darrell Pratte, Walter Schroeder, Henry Sweets, Jay Turner, and Dwight Weaver

Guests: Larry Wrest, Ken Fox, and John Dougan.

Also in attendance was Jeanne Martin (recorder), Administrative Secretary for the Local Records Division.

Absent: Ken Dagel, Antonio Holland, and Russ Mueller.

Walter called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and gave a brief overview of the day's agenda.

Call for Proxies

Walter called for Proxies. Lynn Morrow carried proxy for Tony Holland, David Kreighbaum carried proxy for Russ Mueller, Henry Sweets carried proxy for Ken Dagel, and Jason Ebersole carried proxy for Arnold Williams.

Call for Additions to the Agenda

Walter called for additions to the agenda. Jane said there will be no report on CARES today. Lynn Morrow requested adding two MDHI items to the agenda. The first regarding the pilot project for c. 1890-1950 state soils maps, and second regarding the pilot project of DNR, Land Survey plat maps on microfilm.

Introduction of Darrell

Walter welcomed Darrell Pratte as a new voting member for MO DNR. Darrell is the acting State Land Surveyor for the Department of Natural Resources.

Introduction of Guests

Jane introduced Larry Wrest, a guest present to testify regarding South Sherrill Creek. Lynn let members know that State Archivist John Dougan would join the meeting after lunch to talk about the two MDHI pilot projects. Also, Jason Ebersole, with the Missouri

Department of Transportation, introduced himself letting members know he is representing Arnold Williams.

Walter asked board members to introduce themselves to the guests. After introductions, Jane said for the first in 12 years we have 100% representation of board members. She further commented that until today four members have had perfect attendance since the Missouri Board on Geographic Names began. Unfortunately Russ Mueller had to be absent today, so now there are just three members with perfect attendance.

Minutes of May 2008

Walter requested corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes from May 2008. Henry Sweets moved to approve the minutes as written. David Kreighbaum seconded the motion. Gary Kremer arrived at the meeting late, and at the end of the discussion requested that a phrase in the May 2008 minutes be changed to reflect his statement about the State Historical Society's budget. Motion carried.

Continuing Business – Johnston Summit/Johnston Mountain

Jane reminded members that the proposal to name an unnamed feature, Johnston Mountain, was deferred until the land owners could be contacted. Jane reported that John Townsend, the proponent, actually went to the land owners himself. Mr. Townsend reported that the landowners are excited about the name, Johnston Mountain, and are willing to make a plaque. Chris Barnett moved to name the unnamed mountain top in Reynolds County, Johnston Mountain. Dwight Weaver seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Questionable Names

Jane let members know she has not received anything on Questionable Names. Everyone is too busy right now, but if anyone needs to know what they are supposed to be working on just let her know and she will email the information.

South Sherrill Creek

Jane reminded members of the discussion regarding naming the stream through the Department of Conservation nursery in Texas Co. According to an historic soils map the creek is named Sherrill Creek. Jane said that makes two streams in Texas Co with the same name and the US Board doesn't like that. At the last MOBGN meeting, Larry Wrest proposed naming the stream South Sherrill Creek. A topo map was projected onto the screen showing the stream in Texas Co. The stream is not named on the topo map.

Jane said Texas Co was approached again regarding renaming the stream. They were originally contacted regarding the proposal to change the name of the northern Sherrill Creek to Crow Creek, at which time they refused to make a decision. In response to the proposal to rename the stream South Sherrill Creek, Texas Co responded that they will

not approve any name change to any stream in Texas County. When Texas County was originally approached about remaining the northern Sherrill Creek to Crow Creek, Texas County wrote that they felt the stream which runs through the Department of Conservation Nursery was too small to have a name.

John Fisher asked what bearing the county commission's non-approval has on the USBGN. Jane said usually their opinion has a lot of weight, but considering their blanket statement to not approve any stream name change for Texas County may not carry much weight. She said most of the southern Sherrill Creek is in Texas Co, but part of it is in Phelps Co and Phelps Co has not responded to this proposal, nor did they respond to the proposal to change the northern Sherrill Creek to Crow Creek.

Walter asked Jane if she would comment to the US Board regarding this situation and let the US Board figure it all out. She will also talk to Jenny Runyon about the situation. Larry Wrest confirmed that the Texas Co Commission told him the creek had no name. He also confirmed that the proposal was politically sensitive locally. Chris Barnett asked if, according to USBGN rules, we can say a feature is officially unnamed, but we found a name in 1917. Jane said no, it's not possible to unname something on a map, and the stream would have to disappear to be historic. She said we can make a note in the history field that local usage is as an unnamed stream.

Gordon McCann asked if MOBGN can say we approve the proposed name change and that's it. Jane said it still goes to the USBGN as a proposal to change the southern stream officially known as Sherrill Creek to South Sherrill Creek. Walter asked for a motion. Gordon moved to recommend the stream name be changed to South Sherrill Creek. Chris Barnett seconded the motion adding an addendum to use Sherrill Creek as the variant. Jane said the USBGN likes MOBGN to take into account local sympathies. However, the commissioners didn't publish the information in the newspaper (Larry Wrest confirmed that the commissioners did not put the information in the local paper). Chris asked if we can tell the US Board that we found the name on a federal document, that there is no local usage and the current residents don't want the stream named. Can the citizens propose a different name next year?

Jane said both streams are now officially in GNIS as Sherrill Creek. The names are already on on-demand printable maps. Also, both names will show on Google Maps, Google Earth, and any other similar site that uses the GNIS database because the names are in the GNIS database. Jane doesn't think we can remove the name. Chris commented that we need a way to distinguish between the two streams. Jane said that is why the US Board has the duplicate name policy. Jane said officially the Texas Co Commission can't have their wish that the southern Sherrill Creek remain unnamed because it did have and currently has an official name although this name does not appear on any published USGS topographic map. Frank asked if we need an MOBGN member to talk to the USBGN. Jane said we can put dates and other information in the description and history fields regarding the naming of the features. Larry Wrest asked if it would be easier to name the creek Old or Historic Sherrill Creek. Walter asked if it would be easier for the residents. Larry said it would be fine with him and suggested

portraying it as we have here to the residents of the county. He said when they were petitioned to change the northern Sherrill Creek to Crow Creek they didn't want the change. He feels if the residents knew what we know about the situation they would be okay with South Sherrill Creek. Jane said Old Sherrill Creek might let residents know we're talking about the originally named creek.

Jane said we do have evidence from Arnold Williams on a 1926 map showing the north creek was unnamed and the south creek was called Sherrill Creek. She said the south creek goes through the nursery, old 63 crosses the creek, and there is a sign at the creek. Larry said old 63 crosses both streams. He said there's a 1952 newspaper article about murder on the bridge over the northern creek and the article calls the creek Sherrill Creek. Darrell Pratt said he's always seen a sign on the northern stream but said there is no sign on the southern creek. Larry agreed saying there's no water in the southern creek where 63 crosses. Dwight Weaver said *old* is a relative term and south has no such baggage. Gordon said he thinks south is a better choice than old. Walter asked that the motion be repeated. Darrell Pratt said he doesn't need further information. Walter suggested members vote and see how it goes. Motion carried.

LargaVista Fork

Jane told members the proposed name is one word with a capital 'V' in the middle. She said it is a large stream in the Longview Lake Wildlife Area which is a wildlife refuge. Jane said the lady who made the proposal lives on LargaVista, her ranch, and it is not a commercial property, as far as Jane can tell. The lady wants the stream named for the ranch. Jane said the word means Long View in Spanish, and from the top of the stream there is a long view down the creek to the west. David Kreighbaum asked if the board can approve such incorrect spelling. Walter said the capital letter in the middle of a word is referred to as a camel capital in grammar. Jane said the Native American names come in with capital letters in the middle and it is acceptable. Jane went on to say that the US Army Corps is not opposed to the name Larga Vista, spelling it with a space between the two words. Chris Barnett asked how long the ranch has been in existence. Jane said she doesn't know. She said Jackson County does approve the name. Walter asked if Jackson Co has a legislature. Jane said the response came from John A Sharp, Councilman from the 3rd District, and he approves the name without spaces. Jane said the whole thing came to her via Priscilla Stotts of the Stream Team.

Walter spoke about the geography of the area. John Fisher asked why the Spanish name. Jane said the only connection for the name is the name of the ranch. Walter said the Jackson County area has historic connections with Santa Fe, and the Country Club Plaza is modeled after Seville, Spain. Darrell asked if the letters of correspondence Jane has all have a space in the name. Jane said no, just the letter from the Army Corps of Engineers. Chris asked if the US Board will need clarification of that since the approval comes from a federal agency. Jane said the man signing the letter is actually from the park, not an official representative of the Corps. Walter asked for a motion. Chris moved to accept the name LargaVista Fork for the unnamed hydrographic feature. Jason

Ebersole seconded the motion. Gordon asked if we are voting for one word. Jane said yes, LargaVista as one word and Fork as the second word. Motion carried.

Stults vs Stutts

Jane said there is no formal proposal for this change, but that the field man's notes indicate one name is for the cemetery and the other is the name of the populated place, i.e., Stults is the name of the cemetery and Stutts is the name of the populated place. Lynn Morrow explained to members why there is a need to correct the spelling of the town. Ray Fox said he is confused asking on what basis one would change the name. Lynn said it's not the first time that MOBGN has looked at a name and realized a surveyor, or someone else spelled it incorrectly. Several members referred to the field man's notes.

Lynn asked if anyone has heard of a Stutts name in that area. Gordon said no, but has seen the name Stults Band. Henry Sweets asked what the name appears on now. Jane said Stutts is on the topo map for unincorporated places and Stults is on the cemetery. Walter said linguists report that an "l" before a consonant is sometimes lost in speech over time. Henry asked does the Stutts name appear anywhere in the area? Lynn said he and Gordon McCann haven't seen it anywhere as a surname and it is not in the Ramsey online information.

Jane asked if members want her to go ahead with the change. Lynn said he will volunteer to do research on both names if members want to move ahead. Walter said the Board is not prepared to vote on the question today and would like Lynn and Gordon to do research. David Kreighbaum said he agrees, members are not ready to vote and asked Lynn if he feels it is an important issue. Lynn said he did not think there was any urgency, but that an inquiry about the names reached Board members. Lynn said he'd be surprised if he and Gordon find the name Stutts anywhere in Stone County. Walter directed Lynn and Gordon and anyone else to look into the question and bring back a report, then asked Jane not to move forward yet.

Break for Lunch

Gubernatorial Appointments

Walter said there are 10 board members who are gubernatorial appointees. Walter said he personally can't make appointment applications for members; each individual has to make his own application. He said the application process is difficult and time consuming. He has personally intervened on behalf of the appointees in the past but has been unable to track appointments with the current Governor's Boards and Commissions Office. He said that office doesn't even tell him who has applied. The Governor's Office communicates directly with the appointee. Walter would like board members to discuss changing the length of term for gubernatorial appointees and suggested 5 years, but it could be 4 or 6 years. Jane said the process is so difficult that Jerry Vineyard decided not to resubmit his application when the Governor's Office lost his application. She said

Dick Elgin from Phelps County asked how to be appointed. Jane commented that the appointment process has become a real pain. She said we wanted Jerry back on the board because he's a geologist very familiar with the state and had served as the MO DNR voting member for several years.

Walter asked how many members have received reappointment. Several members raised their hand. Walter asked if anyone who may also be a member of another board had similar problems with the appointment process. Darrell Pratte said yes. Walter said the bylaws state that members stay on the board until reappointed. Chris Barnett asked about a 4 year term. Jane said the terms were originally set at 3 years so no one Governor could control the board politically. Chris asked about changing the bylaws to a term of 4 years to start at the end of the 3 year term. Gary Kremer said he is in favor of a 6 year term.

Walter said he will prepare an amendment for 6 year terms and be prepared to present the amendment to members 30 days before the next meeting so the Board can vote on the proposal in accordance with MOBGN bylaws. Chris asked if that means 6 years starting in 2011. Walter said yes. Jane asked if she can tell Dick Elgin he can apply or if he should wait until Jerry Vineyard decides if he will reapply. Walter said Dick should apply, and he would encourage Jerry to get his application in early. Several members spoke highly of Mr. Elgin and there was much discussion regarding his qualifications and experience. Walter said the board needs Mr. Elgin as a resource.

Posting Minutes and Meeting Dates on the Webpage

Lynn and John Dougan gave members an overview of plans to create a webpage for MOBGN on the SOS website. Jane said she often finds herself printing meeting minutes for people. John Dougan said to just give the minutes to Archives and we'll put them up on the SOS Webpage. Lynn asked if meeting dates could be put on the first page with the member list. Jane said yes. Lynn and John Dougan said that would be easy to do.

MDHI Project: 1890 – 1950's Soils Maps

Lynn and John Dougan reviewed Missouri Digital Heritage Initiative (MDHI) with members letting them know several members have expressed interest in the future of the program. He said Chris Barnett and Darrell Pratte talked to them right away about projects.

Lynn said he and John visited with Chris at the University of MO Campus regarding the process for digitizing historic soils maps. Chris discussed how the University took digital copies of the maps and geo-referenced them; then went on to tell how the geo-referencing information can be used by other entities and institutions. Chris brought color prints of the maps to demonstrate how the maps can be used to lay over more modern soils surveys. He said we can eventually begin doing analysis from the comparisons of different kinds of maps.

There was discussion that other agencies may have the same maps the University has but in better shape for digitization. John suggested making an inventory or list of all the maps that were produced and present that list to the MDHI committee to eventually scan and digitize. Chris asked if MOBGN wants to do the list. Lynn said this is a win-win project that will have wide appeal. John asked if there is a national initiative to scan USGS maps to be digitized for usage. He said state maps can be digitized and soils maps, but are there others. Jane said Missouri River maps exist and they have many names on them that are not in GNIS. Chris mentioned doing geo-referencing on all the maps. Lynn said that's why we need sponsorship. John said MDHI can put maps on the website. Jane asked about doing geo-PDF. John said we use Content DM and he doesn't know if that will work. Chris said we can use ArchGIS to do Geo-PDF. Jane asked what the University uses. Chris said they use ArchGIS. Walter mentioned river maps in the Department of Geography that would be great for digitization. Lynn said just hearing all the discussion it sounds like digitizing the soils maps is a good project to do.

MDHI Project: DNR, Land Survey Plats on Microfilm

Lynn let members know that Darrell Pratte also approached MDHI with a couple of situations. John said DNR has copies of maps but they are small prints and not good resolution. Darrell wanted to know if MDHI could microfilm the digital files from the counties and produce good quality maps with better resolution. MDHI worked with the maps and the end result was very good, though with a little more refining the resolution can be improved. John said they are now working on splitting the images. Darrell said this will save DNR a lot of time, because now DNR has to go visit the counties to obtain their maps. If the counties just sent their maps to DNR in whatever digital form, they will send the maps to SOS to make into microfilm. Jane asked why microfilm. Darrell said because it's archival. Jane asked if microfilm files are stable. Lynn said very stable. John said you can't beat digital, and microfilm is the best legal archival format. Darrell said DNR has original surveys from the 1820's on microfilm, but it is black and white film. He said the original survey maps are in color and they want to bring those original survey maps to SOS for digital capture in color. Lynn told members of the partnership process to recapture Darrell's color maps, adding that there are lots of place names on those survey maps.

Jason Ebersole said MODOT used those maps for a hydrography mapping project, adding that he personally worked on the project. Walter asked Chris if those names are already in a database from Harlan notes. Jason said if the name of the field person was in the Harlan notes, that information is included in the hydrography maps project. Jane asked if it is searchable. Jason said yes. Darrell said it is searchable by township and name. Chris asked how confident they are in the spelling. Jason said most data was entered off of rewritten notes. He said sometimes they had to refer to the original and if there is a question they can go back to the original. Jason said there is enough information to get back to the original source to answer any questions. Walter asked if Jim Harlan is still in control of that database. Jason said yes. There was a little more discussion about using field notes instead of maps.

Redraft of Chapter 109

Lynn told members there is nothing different to report. John Dougan sent information to Administration to be added to the legislative agenda. John said there has been no word from them as to whether it will be added or not. Jane asked if there is any problem. John said it's more about priorities, what needs the Administration has versus available funds. Jane expressed a fear that the new administration will want to eliminate boards. There was discussion about previous administrations learning that it is very difficult to eliminate boards.

Demonstration of TerraServer

Jane pulled up the TerraServer website on GNIS showing members how to do a search. She said if the fields have nothing in the database, nothing will come of the search. Jane said to use the latitude and longitude as the primary coordinates of the feature they want to search. She said mouth is sequence 1 and source is the highest sequence number for streams and valleys. Streams are linear from the mouth to the source, however a canal is linear from the primary coordinate which is located in the center of the canal and is sequence 1. Subsequent coordinates generally alternate directions away from the center primary coordinate. For aerial features, the primary coordinates (sequence 1) and generally only have the one coordinate. Jane said there should be coordinates for every quad a feature falls on with the primary coordinate quad always being first.

Jane asked Ken Fox to take over onscreen navigation. She pointed to several map links letting members know her favorite link takes searchers to Google maps and should give searchers the source coordinates, and perhaps a topo map image. Ken Fox showed how members can zoom in and showed the satellite image. Ray Fox noticed there was no metadata about the image. Jane said Google Earth shows metadata as the copyright date of the map and that's the best we can do. Darrell asked if Jane tried a search since Topozone. Jane said the site just wants a subscription so she didn't get into Topozone. There was some discussion about *trails.com* not being as good as Topozone used to be. What you see is a small window of the map area. To get any additional information you have to be a subscriber. Jane told members if they do a search on lake as a feature type they may not find what they're looking for because the feature may be a reservoir. As an example, Lake Mead is a reservoir. Lake of the Ozarks is another example of a reservoir. It is not considered a lake in GNIS.

Report on 2008 COGNA

Chris and Jane said it was a good COGNA meeting. Chris said the GNIS Workshop presentation was outstanding. Jane said we were asked to prepare a similar presentation for the 2009 COGNA. Chris said the US Board approved our proposals and commented on how active our board is. Walter said that is due to Jane's knowledge and her ability to keep the board moving along. Ken Fox said the US Board commented that any time a Missouri proposal comes up they feel they can make a better decision because the

proposals have a lot of information. Jane said Missouri is the second largest board in the nation. Oregon has a larger board with 25 members.

Jane said at the COGNA business meeting various states were vying for a year to host the conference. She said Missouri was almost unanimously chosen to have the COGNA meeting in 2010, one person held out for having the meeting in Hawaii that year. The 2009 COGNA meeting will be in September, but COGNA asked Missouri to move the meeting to October instead, so now the **2010 meeting will be October 5th-9th**. Jane said we were asked to move to October because of Forest Service staff. During September they are either out fighting fires or don't have the funds to attend. The 2009 COGNA meeting will be in Charleston, SC in September, and the 2010 COGNA will be in Missouri in October. Tentatively, the 2011 meeting will be in Hawaii; 2012 in Minnesota; and 2013 in Texas. Hawaii and Texas may be reversed.

Report on 2010 COGNA

Jane said we have a contract with University Plaza for the **new dates, October 5th -9th**. Now the conference will be inside the hotel, not in the Conference Center, and that's good. It was necessary to go outside the hotel to get to their conference center, this will be more convenient.

Jane said we need committees for the various activities. She said there will be a toponymic tour the Saturday after the conference so she asked COGNA members what they want for a tour. Several COGNA attendees said they would like variety in tour stops for the toponymic tour. They also want to shop for souvenirs. The COGNA Executive Secretary suggested that lunch not be supplied by the tour but people allowed time to find their own lunch. This would allow folks time to shop if they so desired. Jane said there were several suggestions that the conference be in Branson. She and Chris looked into that but none of the businesses there would commit to them that far in advance. Jane said COGNA members suggested going to a show in Branson rather than having a banquet. She said no one would ever agree on what show to attend. Chris and Gordon said they want a banquet. Jane said we have to spend \$4,000.00 on food to get the conference rooms at no cost, and she doesn't think that will be a problem with a banquet. Gordon asked how many attendees there would be registered for the Conference and the hotel. Jane said it's hard to say because it depends on what night. She said maybe 70 or more than 100. Gordon suggested that because Springfield is close to Branson that may attract more people. Jane said also that the International Airport near Hollister will be open by then and airfare may be cheaper. Jane said she would like a toponymic tour over the new airport site because some of the mountains had to be decapitated to build the airport. She wants to know if any of them were named mountains.

Chris asked that anyone who wants to volunteer for a committee let him or Jane know. Jane said she is thinking about writing to Yakov Smirnoff to see if he would like to speak to the psychology of geographic names. She said we can't afford to pay him but it would be great for him to speak. Chris asked about getting a proclamation from the Governor. Lynn said that should be easy to get and asked that Chris route a request to John Dougan,

so he can take it from there. Jane mentioned that she would like to have experts lead the tours. Lynn mentioned talking to the Ozarks Institute about being part of the program. Jane said that by May we need to establish a theme for the conference. By next September we will have to have information to present to COGNA so we can catch the eye of people interested in attending. Gordon said a mill tour at Rock Ridge would be very good. Jane said lots of people don't know what a **bald** is and there are lots of places we could tour to show one. She said we have some very unusual names in Missouri.

Jane said she has Ray Fox, Gary Claspill, Gordon McCann, Lynn Morrow, and Jay Turner for volunteers. Lynn asked, in terms of national meetings, what are the parameters of the presentations. Jane said it depends. The State/Federal Roundtable and the Domestic Names Committee usually take up 5-6 hours of the conference each. The COGNA Business meeting is a must. Otherwise, the meeting is ours, so probably 8-10 hours of time is available for private presentations. The time depends on how many presentations there are. She said usually Monday, and part of Tuesday, are travel days. Tuesday evening is a reception. Tuesday afternoon is usually the State Board meeting. First thing in the morning on Wednesday is open for a keynote speaker.

Lynn asked if there are written guidelines for presentations. Jane said Wayne has some guidelines. Lynn asked if the presentation is okay as long as it's geographic. Jane said yes, but we can't pay for their presentations. She said funds mostly come from conference attendees. COGNA loans us \$500.00 as a start-up fund. COGNA is a non-profit organization.

Gary Kremer suggested raising money among our members as additional start up funds. He emphasized that it would be donations, not loans. Jason asked if it allows sponsors. Jane said she would love to get corporate sponsorship. She has already thought about asking Bass Pro and other corporations for support. Gary suggested we could charge corporations \$100 to set up a display at the conference. Jason asked if we've ever asked the USGS or others for a booth. Jane said no. Jane said she will talk to Wayne about setting up a bank account for the 2010 COGNA conference, and then she will contact the board members after the first of the year regarding their organizations donation of funds. Gary said SHS could do the bank account for MOBGN. Henry Sweets said if every member came up with \$25.00 that would be \$475.00 right now. Walter said he will put in a call for the May meeting to request people donate to offset the initial \$500.00 from COGNA.

Meeting Date for May 2009 and Adjournment

Walter let members know we have a choice of May 11 or May 26, which is the day after Memorial Day for our May MOBGN meeting, asking which date members preferred. **May 11th** was chosen.

Walter extended the thanks of the Board to Jane for her bodacious brunch, appreciated especially by those who had traveled to the meeting, and to the Local Records Program of the Missouri State Archives for the noon lunch.

With no further discussion meeting was adjourned.