

Missouri Board on Geographic Names
May 2012 Meeting
Interpretive Center
Secretary of State 600 W Main
Jefferson City, MO
May 22nd, 2012 Minutes

Attendees: Jane Messenger, Chris Barnett, Gary Claspill, Alan Foreman, Jerry Vineyard, Frank Nickell, Ray Fox, Henry Sweets, Dwight Weaver, Gary Kremer, Lynn Morrow, Tony Spicci, Joseph Carter (new board member taking Arnold Williams seat on the board), Gordon McCann and Debra Greene.

Also in attendance was Suzy Wolfe (recorder), Administrative Aide III for Missouri State Archives, and Merideth Johnson, Administrative Aide for Local Records.

Absent: John Dougan, John Fisher, Darrell Pratte, Ken Dagele, and James “Jay” Turner.

Lynn Morrow called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and gave a brief overview of the agenda for today’s meeting. He also welcomed guests to our meeting.

Call for Proxies

Chris Barnett called for proxies. Ray Fox is carrying the proxy for Jay Turner. Frank Nickell is carrying John Fisher’s proxy.

Introductions of Board Members

Chris asked the guest to introduce himself. Charlie Duscharme from DNR Water Resources attended the meeting to see the process of the board and find out how the naming process works. Chris then called for the introduction of the board and staff members.

Minutes for November 2011 Meeting

Chris asked for any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes from November 2011. Henry Sweets moved to accept the minutes as written. Debra Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

Jane Messenger mentioned that Willow Branch (a name from a previous meeting), had been resolved by the US BGN staff with an administrative decision to approve the name application change.

Case: Persimmon Spring

Summary: The spring feeds a 7.5 acre reservoir on the property of Dr. John Dymond, proponent. Originally proposed as Dymond Spring, then changed to Faith Spring, the proposal was finally submitted as Persimmon Spring. The proponent says this name is most appropriate because of the large number of persimmon trees growing on his farm, especially near the spring. The proponent said, “it is a landmark in this area.” He believes this spring needs a name because it is every bit as impressive as the other named springs in Miller County, Missouri and deserves an official name.

The existing reservoir was created by a dam built sometime between 1959 and 1983. No indication of a spring appears on any USGS topographic map at this location. MOBGN research by Dwight Weaver indicates that the property owner has posted a sign with the reservoir's name as "Dymond Lake." This name is not in GNIS nor will it be added to GNIS because the name violates the Commemorative Names Policy. Neither does the proponent wish to have the reservoir show a name on any map.

A query of GNIS found 17 features in Missouri using "Persimmon" in the feature's name. None of these features are springs and none of them are in Miller County. There is one gap, one gut, one lake, one locale, three schools, three streams, and seven valleys.

Jerry Vineyard said the board needs more information before voting. He said there's no real location and no listing on the topographic maps. The guest gave some suggestions about where to look for the answers they need in order to vote.

After more discussion from the board members, Jerry moved to table the case in order to do more investigating. Ray Fox seconded the motion. Jane went to the computer and pulled up a topographic map. After careful review of the map and more discussion, Jerry Vineyard and Dwight Weaver offered to do more research on the case. Motion carried.

Case: Bobcat Fork

Summary: This is the first of three names submitted by Melissa Phillips of the nature conservancy, Poplar Heights Farm. This 2.7 mile long stream proposed to be named "Bobcat Fork" rises in Summit Township and flows southwest then turns to flow northwest to its confluence with Willow Branch. According to the proponent, bobcats, one of the most common wild cats in North America, were plentiful in Missouri and especially Summit township, Bates County. However, hunting and trapping for the highly priced fur severely reduced their number to the point of near extinction in the county. A change in Missouri trapping laws and the change from row crop to mostly pasture farms in this area of the county has resulted in an increase in bobcat numbers. They are especially prevalent near the nature preserve, Poplar Heights Farm.

The proponent asked of local landowners in the area and found they favored the name "Bobcat Fork" for the stream. The proposed name also has the support of the Bates County Commissioners as well as the Poplar Heights Farm.

A query of GNIS for Missouri revealed no other features containing the word "Bobcat" in their name.

Case: Glass Branch

Summary: This is the second of three proposals submitted by Melissa Phillips of the nature conservancy, Poplar Heights Farm. This 1.6 mile long stream, proposed to be named "Glass Branch," rises in Summit Township and flows northwest to its confluence with Willow Branch. Major Glass patented 80 acres in Summit Township on September 10, 1844. He and his family were the earliest settlers in this part of Bates County, Missouri. By 1860 he had amassed considerable wealth with real property of \$6,400. In addition to farming, he was a merchant in the city of Butler. According to the proponent, by 1880 there were 17 members of the Glass family living in Bates County. The stream proposed to be named Glass Branch flows through the original Glass farm. The Glass Cemetery is on a hill above the stream.

With the Civil War and Ewing's Order #11 which required all persons living in Bates County to leave the county, George Glass moved his family first to Henry County and then to St. Clair County where he died in 1875.

The name is supported by the Poplar Heights Farm as well as the Bates County Commissioners.

A query of GNIS found five features in Missouri using the word "Glass" in their name: a cemetery in Bates County, one valley, and one stream in Dade County. Also found with "Glass" in the name were two churches; one in Pemiscot County and one in Shelby County.

Case: Seelinger Branch

Summary: This is the third of three proposals submitted by Melissa Phillips of the nature conservancy, Poplar Heights Farm. This 1.6 mile long stream, proposed to be named "Seelinger Branch," rises in Summit Township and flows southwest to its confluence with Willow Branch. The stream flows through the Poplar Heights Farm, a charitable foundation run as a nature conservancy. The original farm was owned by Adam Seelinger (1830-1908) who settled in Bates County, Missouri shortly after the Civil War with his wife and sons. He purchased the 640 acre property that is now Poplar Heights Farm and raised five sons. Adam Seelinger gave the farm to his son John Seelinger (d. 1933). John Seelinger later split the farm with his brother William Seelinger (d. 1944). John Seelinger was particularly influential in Summit Township, serving on township and church boards. William Seelinger donated land for Summit School in Summit Township. All three honorees were influential and innovative farmers in Summit Township. The proponent believes that the proposed name, Seelinger Branch, would honor these three progressive farmers and their contributions to the development of Bates County, Missouri.

The name is supported by the Bates County Commissioners as well as the Poplar Heights Farm.

A query of GNIS revealed one other feature in Missouri containing the word, "Seelinger" in its name; a school in Bates County.

All three cases were discussed by the board. Tony Spicci made a motion to approve all three names. Gordan McCann seconded the motion. Jerry Vineyard asked if the Conservation Department was okay with the name, "Bobcat." Tony said that the Conservation has no problem with that name. Chris Barnett called for a vote, and all were in favor. Motion carried.

MOBGN Operating Procedures/Bylaws

The MOBGN Bylaws had been through several discussions, meeting, and revisions. During this meeting the entire document was discussed and some final amendments were made. Henry Sweets moved to approve the bylaws with the amendments mentioned. Tony Spicci seconded the motion. Motion carried. The entire revised and final document is attached at the end of these minutes.

After the bylaws were discussed, Chris mentioned that there needs to be a board member appointed to the Executive Committee to serve as the Member-at-Large. Chris asked for volunteers for that position and Henry Sweets volunteered. The board members approved of Henry being the official Member-at-Large. The board also needs to have a new member added to the board to replace Ken Dagel, as he is retiring. Chris mentioned that he would like to get recommendations from the board for a new member. He will need all the recommendations by

the end of August, 2012. The Executive Committee will then meet in September to make all the recommendations to the Secretary of State.

Jane Messenger also mentioned that one item needs to be discussed. This is the Bennett Spring Branch vs. Spring Hollow Creek question raised by Anna Nowack of DNR. There needs to be some more research done to find out which one of these are correct, or if they are the same feature. The board discussed this briefly and Jerry said he has some information that he will send to Jane. She mentioned that if anyone else has anything to contribute, that they get the information to her in the next couple of weeks.

Reports

Lynn Morrow said the Missouri State Archives is finished with the scanning of the historical Soil Maps and they will be going back to the CARES office in Columbia. He said he would like to see the CARES office put those Soil Maps up on their website. Chris Barnett works at the CARES office and said they could put them up on a website that they host and send a link to the Missouri State Archives.

Lynn then showed some examples of the DNR Land Survey maps dating from 1790-Civil War, to the board members. He said they have several of the maps on disk for research.

He then mentioned that he has been working with Darrell Pratte and the University in Rolla to preserve a Pre-Civil War map. Local Records is going to have Bob Lyner (a digitization specialist) go to Rolla to digitize the map before it is brought to Jefferson City for conservation. After this is all finished, Lynn said it can then be published and the Archives Reference Room can produce copies for the public.

Lynn also mentioned that the Society for Ethno-history will be holding a conference at the University Plaza in Springfield on November 7-10, 2012. He said he will send a link on the conference to everyone after this meeting.

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next MOBGN meeting will be held in the Missouri Secretary of State's office in Jefferson City, MO on **November 15th, 2012 at 10:00 am**. Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting was adjourned.

MISSOURI BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

BYLAWS

Adopted by the Missouri Board on Geographic Names on May 22, 2012.

Article I – Name, Objectives, Duties, History

Sec. 1

The name of the organization shall be the Missouri Board on Geographic Names (hereinafter referred to as the MOBGN).

Sec. 2

The objectives of the MOBGN are:

- (a) to serve as the responsible organization to coordinate the place-naming activity between local, state and federal agencies;
- (b) to establish appropriate procedures for naming or renaming geographic features within the boundaries of the state;
- (c) to provide uniformity in geographic nomenclature throughout the State of Missouri; and,
- (d) to retain the significance, history and culture of the State of Missouri expressed by and associated with Missouri geographic names.

Sec. 3

The duties of the MOBGN shall be:

- (a) to receive and evaluate proposals for changes in or additions to names of geographic features and places in the State of Missouri;
- (b) to make official recommendations to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (hereinafter referred to as the US BGN) on behalf of the State of Missouri with respect to each proposal;
- (c) to assist and cooperate in matters relating to names of geographic features and places in Missouri;
- (d) to initiate proposals concerning geographic names in Missouri;
- (e) to assist in the maintenance of a geographic names database;
- (f) to maintain a record of MOBGN continuity and work;
- (g) to maintain a list of and consult Advisors who have special interest and knowledge in Missouri history, geography, or culture;
- (h) to develop and revise state priorities for geographic records projects following the guidelines of the US BGN;
- (i) to submit a report on its activities annually to the general assembly; and
- (j) to respond to public inquiry on Missouri place names.

Sec. 4

The MOBGN was authorized by Executive Order 95-28, signed on November 27, 1995. Senate Bill 480 (2009) was enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri and perfected on March 30, 2010, establishing the Missouri Board on Geographic Names in statute. The statute, RSMo (Revised Statutes

of Missouri) 109.225, took effect August 28, 2010, assigning the MOBGN to the Office of the Secretary of State for administrative purposes.

Article II – Membership and Committees

Sec. 1

Membership is based on the need, interest and expertise of institutions and agencies in the use and development of standard geographic names. The MOBGN shall consist of the following voting members:

The Secretary of State, or the Secretary of State's designee, who shall serve as the Chair of the Board;

Nine citizens of Missouri appointed by the Secretary of State; and

The Director/Commissioner, from each of the following agencies and institutions:

1. The Missouri Department of Transportation;
2. The Missouri Department of Conservation;
3. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources;
4. The Missouri Office of Administration;
5. The Missouri State Archives;
6. The State Historical Society of Missouri;
7. The United States Geological Survey;
8. The United States Forest Service; and
9. The United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Sec. 2

The Director or Commissioner from each agency or institution may appoint a designee to serve with all their voting rights and duties as outlined in Article III, Sec. 6. Such appointments shall be reported, in writing, to the Executive Secretary or Corresponding Secretary prior to any MOBGN meeting.

Sec. 3

Term of service for department or agency Members shall be at the discretion of the department or agency. Term of service for appointed Members shall be three-year terms and shall serve until the Member's successor is appointed. Any vacancy on the Board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and such Member appointed shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

Sec. 4

Each Member of the Board shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Sec. 5

The number of voting Members on the MOBGN shall not exceed 19.

Sec. 6

Appointees of the MOBGN, to the degree possible, should reflect geographic regions in determining the composition of the Board.

Sec. 7

Citizen Members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings may be recommended for removal by the executive committee.

Sec. 8

The Secretary of State shall designate an employee of the Secretary of State's office as Executive Secretary for the Board, who shall serve as a nonvoting Member and shall maintain the records of the Board's activities and decisions. The Executive Secretary and Corresponding Secretary may share duties as assigned.

Sec. 9

The Secretary of State's office shall designate a Corresponding Secretary for the Board, who shall serve as a nonvoting Member and shall be responsible for correspondence between proponents, the MOBGN, the United States Board on Geographic Names and other agencies. The Executive Secretary and Corresponding Secretary may share duties as assigned.

Sec. 10

A Vice-Chair is nominated from the Members and elected by the MOBGN. The term shall be three years and the Vice-Chair may be elected to successive terms.

Sec. 11 – **Executive Committee**

1. **Powers and Duties.** The Executive Committee shall have and exercise the authority of the Board to:
 - (a) review proposals and sign contracts as allowed by Missouri Statutes;
 - (b) assign items to the agenda for the full MOBGN meeting;
 - (c) represent the MOBGN Board to the public and to legislative bodies;
 - (d) receive proposals for amendments to the bylaws, their review, and presentation with recommendation to the Board as provided in Article VIII of the bylaws; and,
 - (e) review and approve the draft minutes of the MOBGN meetings for posting

2. **Composition.** The Executive Committee shall consist of five members as follows:
 - (a) voting Members:
 - i. the Chair or Designee;
 - ii. the Vice-Chair; and,
 - iii. a Member-at-Large selected from the Board
 - (b) non-voting Members:
 - i. the Executive Secretary; and,
 - ii. the Corresponding Secretary

3. **Member-at-Large.** The Member-at-Large shall be elected by the Board, from the members of the Board, to a two-year term. If the Member-at-Large is unable to fulfill their term, they may be replaced by a vote of the Board.

4. **Quorum.** A majority of the voting Members of the Executive Committee constitutes a quorum. Except as otherwise specified, a majority vote of the voting Committee Members present is required for any action.
5. **Meetings.** The Executive Committee shall meet at a time and manner designated by the Chair or the Chair's Designee. The Chair or the Chair's Designee shall preside at Executive Committee meetings, the Vice-Chair shall preside if the Chair or Chair's Designee is not present.
6. **Reporting.** At each meeting of the full MOBGN the Chair or Chair's Designee shall report on activities and actions of the Executive Committee since the previous full MOBGN meeting.

Article III – Duties of Members and Advisors

Sec. 1

The Chair

- (a) calls meetings to order;
- (b) presides at meeting in which Vice-Chair is unable to attend;
- (c) may call special meetings of the MOBGN;
- (d) assigns duties and provides direction to the Executive Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, as appropriate;
- (e) participates and votes in Executive Committee Meetings;
- (f) may attend ex officio, without a vote, meetings of any committee of which they are not a Member; and,
- (g) may cancel or postpone meetings in agreement with Vice-Chair.

Sec. 2

The Vice-Chair

- (a) calls meetings to order in absence of the Chair;
- (b) presides at meetings of the MOBGN;
- (c) performs the usual duties of Vice-Chair and other duties that may be assigned by the MOBGN;
- (d) appoints Members of all committees not specifically selected by the MOBGN;
- (e) serves as the principal spokesperson for the MOBGN;
- (f) serves as the representative of the Board at any national or international session; meeting, or conference, or may appoint a representative to serve;
- (g) participates and votes in Executive Committee Meetings;
- (h) may attend ex-officio, without a vote, meetings of any committee of which they are not a Member; and,
- (i) may cancel or postpone meetings in agreement with Chair.

Sec. 3

The Executive Secretary

- (a) prepares and distributes the minutes and reports of the MOBGN;
- (b) maintains records, including the correspondence files that pertain to geographic place names in the State of Missouri;

- (c) provides copies of the minutes and official actions of the MOBGN to the Chair and Members;
- (d) advises Members of the MOBGN of the time and place of meetings;
- (e) participates, without a vote, in all meetings of the MOBGN;
- (f) carries out other duties as assigned by the Chair or Vice-Chair; and,
- (g) participates, without a vote, in Executive Committee Meetings.

Sec. 4

The Corresponding Secretary

- (a) conducts correspondence of the Board in accordance with procedures formulated by the MOBGN;
- (b) participates, without a vote, in all meetings of the MOBGN;
- (c) serves as the principal point of contact between the MOBGN and the US BGN;
- (d) carries out other duties as assigned by the Chair or Vice-Chair; and,
- (e) participates, without a vote, in Executive Committee Meetings.

Sec. 5

The Executive Committee Member-at-Large

- (a) participates and votes in Executive Committee Meetings; and,
- (b) carries out all other duties of a Member.

Sec. 6

Duties of Voting Members

- (a) reviews all materials regarding items on the MOBGN agenda and provides input;
- (b) conducts research in their areas of expertise regarding proposed MOBGN actions;
- (c) attends and vote in meetings of the MOBGN; and,
- (d) if unable to attend, Member shall notify the Executive Secretary or Corresponding Secretary prior to the meeting.

Sec. 7

Duties of Advisors

- (a) upon request, provides information regarding items for which they have special knowledge.

Article IV – Meetings

Sec. 1

The Board shall meet annually and as otherwise required by the Chair.

Sec. 2

Special meetings may be called by the Chair or the Chair's designee.

Sec. 3

The MOBGN shall operate in accordance with Missouri open meetings and public records laws.

Sec. 4

A majority of the voting Members constitutes a quorum. Except as otherwise specified, a majority vote of the Members present is required for any action.

Article V – Geographic Naming Principles, Policies and Procedures

Sec. 1

The MOBGN shall follow the “Principles, Policies and Procedures” established by the US BGN.

Sec. 2

Any name proposal to be considered for action by the MOBGN must be received by the Corresponding Secretary 45 days prior to a scheduled meeting.

Article VI – Voting Process

Sec. 1

Upon receipt of any name proposal:

- (a) the Corresponding Secretary of the MOBGN shall prepare appropriate documentation and contact concerned authorities, agencies and departments;
- (b) documentation will be distributed by the Corresponding Secretary to Members;
- (c) members are to review and comment on materials for each geographic name case and return comments to the Corresponding Secretary of the MOBGN within the requested time;
- (d) the Corresponding Secretary shall prepare a summary of all comments and explanatory materials for distribution to Members prior to the meeting; and,
- (e) the Corresponding Secretary shall maintain a docket listing all geographic names to be considered at the meetings of the MOBGN.

Sec. 2

At the meeting of the MOBGN:

- (a) persons from the general public wishing to speak before the MOBGN regarding a name under consideration may do so during a time designated by the MOBGN;
- (b) the Vice-Chair will bring before the MOBGN each docketed name for discussion by MOBGN Members; and
- (c) the Executive Secretary shall record all motions, the number voting for and against each motion and the number of abstentions. When a geographic name proposal is disapproved, the reasons for disapproval shall be recorded by the Executive Secretary. Majority of the quorum shall decide the matter. Items may be deferred until the next meeting.

Article VII – Communications

Sec. 1

Proposals and relevant materials will be provided to MOBGN Members by the Corresponding Secretary at least 30 days prior to a scheduled meeting.

Sec. 2

Draft minutes will be posted to the MOBGN website for Members to review.

Sec. 3

The Corresponding Secretary shall inform all MOBGN Members, the Proponent and other interested parties of the decision of the MOBGN.

Sec. 4

The Chair or Corresponding Secretary may send MOBGN and US BGN actions to the Communications Department of the Secretary of State for distribution to news agencies.

Article VIII – Amendments to Bylaws

Sec. 1

Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by any MOBGN Member and be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at least 90 days before the MOBGN meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be considered.

Sec. 2

Upon review and/or revision by the Executive Committee, proposed amendments will be communicated to Members at least 30 days prior to a scheduled meeting.

Sec. 3

Amendments to these bylaws may be adopted in any duly called meeting of the MOBGN by a two-thirds vote of the Members in attendance.