

Missouri Board on Geographic Names
May 2013 Meeting
Interpretive Center
Secretary of State 600 W Main
Jefferson City, MO
May 21st, 2013 Minutes

Voting Members Present: John Dougan (Chair MOBGN), Chris Barnett (Vice-Chair MOBGN), Joseph Carter, Gary Claspill, John Fisher, Alan Foreman, Ray Fox, Gary Kremer, Amy Moorman, Frank Nickell, James “Jay” Turner, Darrell Pratte, Tony Spicci, Jerry Vineyard, and Dwight Weaver.

Voting Members Absent: Debra Greene, Lynn Morrow, Gordon McCann, and Henry Sweets.

Non-Voting Members and Staff Present: Jane Messenger (Corresponding Secretary MOBGN), Suzy Wolfe (Executive Secretary MOBGN), Brian Rogers, Principal Assistant for Boards and Commissions for Missouri State Archives, Chuck Lahmeyer, former proponent, and Anna Nowack of Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

John Dougan called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and gave a brief overview of the agenda for today’s meeting.

Chris Barnett called for additions to the agenda. Chris mentioned they should discuss the email from Lou Yost (US BGN), regarding the “apostrophe catastrophe.”

Minutes for November 2012 Meeting

Chris asked for any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes from November 2012. Ray Fox moved to accept the minutes as written. Jay Turner seconded the motion. Motion carried with no opposition and one abstention.

New Business

Chris stated that they needed to briefly discuss the federal sequester and how that was affecting the folks from USGS and, in turn, how it may affect the board.

Jane mentioned that the sequester has put a hold on virtually all travel for the USGS. She stated she was denied permission to attend the COGNA conference and was only able to attend this meeting because her supervisor granted her some leave time in order to come here and give the board some training on USGS’ principles, policies, and procedures. She also carpooled with Ray Fox to get to Jefferson City. She stated that the USGS staff will most likely have to take five furlough days and possibly more before the end of September.

Alan Foreman of the US Army Corps of Engineers stated that his office was being told to expect approximately eleven furlough days. He said they had not decided whether it would be civilian employees or military employees that would have to take the furloughs, but it will happen regardless. Jane stated she heard Fort Leonard Wood’s civilian employees had been ordered to take twenty furlough days.

John Dougan mentioned that the Secretary of State’s office also took a substantial hit on the budget (17%), and the board may see a reduction in accommodations from the Secretary of State’s office. For example, there may not be funds for members to stay in hotel rooms the

night before the meetings. Suzy Wolfe then mentioned that the budget for food provided in the meetings may take a cut as well.

Continuing Business

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 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 naming the reservoir, "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. There is one gap, one gut, one lake, one locale, three schools, three streams, and seven valleys. None of these features are springs and none of them are in Miller County.

At the May 2012 meeting, board members decided they needed more information on the feature before they could vote. The November 2012 meeting brought more discussion, but still no decision as to the name, since the proponent had not approved a visit. The name was tabled again.

Since the November meeting, the proponent provided pictures of the feature. The board decided that the pictures, while helpful, did not fully define where the feature is located or its exact type. There are still a few questions which call for a personal visit to the location by some of the board members.

Jerry Vineyard moved to table the name again and Gary Kremer seconded the motion. Motion carried with four abstentions and one opposition.

Case: Daylily Creek

Summary: This 0.2 mile long stream starts 1.1 mile northwest of Lynn Cemetery and flows north to enter Crossroads Creek. The proposed Daylily Creek reflects the passion for daylily hybridization in Wentzville and the proposed name helps celebrate this passion.

This name was on the agenda for the November 2012 meeting along with nine other names that were all part of a stream naming contest in Wentzville, MO. Daylily Creek was tabled at that meeting with Jay Turner offering to do further investigating.

Jay Turner gave an overview of his investigation and showed the Board pictures of the feature. He stated that the area does have daylily hybridization. Jay then moved to accept the name

Daylily Creek. Ray Fox seconded the motion and it was carried with no abstention or oppositions.

New Business

Lynn Morrow (retired from Missouri State Archives), accepted the appointment of citizen member to the MOBGN. Ken Dage's retirement from the board created the vacancy. The Secretary of State, Jason Kander, sent out re-appointment letters to all of the citizen members earlier in the spring.

Darrell Pratte stated the Land Survey offices are being shifted from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture. He said that the Secretary of State may need to ask for a change to be made in statute for another member to be added to the board from the State Land Surveyor's office.

New Business, cont.



Case: Howell Branch

This proposal was to apply the new name Howell Branch to a 1.8-mile-long tributary of Brushy Fork in Miller County. The proponent, who owns property through which the stream flows, states the proposed name is associated with the Howell School. The school once stood near the source of the stream. It was

also shown and named on the 1937 USGS topographic map but does not appear on present-day maps and there is no evidence of the building today. A road that crosses the stream is also named Howell Loop Road. The origin of the name of the school and road is not known, although the Federal census records from 1910 to 1930 list several individuals with the surname Howell in Miller County, all several miles from the stream in question. Pictured above is a map that Jane pulled up on the computer which showed four different points to the stream. The proponent's suggestion was for the mouth to be at point D and the source at point C.

Jerry Vineyard made a motion to approve the name Howell Branch, but then withdrew his motion. Darrell Pratte moved to approve the name with an amendment on the feature but also withdrew his motion as well. Jerry Vineyard made a new motion to adopt the name Howell Branch with the source being at point A, which is the longest fork of the branch. Tony Spicci seconded the motion. After some discussion about the source and the length of the feature, a vote was taken. The motion did not pass with nine members voting against.

Gary Kremer moved that the board go back to the proponent with a suggestion that the feature include all four points of the body of water and point A being the source and the mouth to remain at the proposed point D. Jay Turner seconded the motion. Motion carried with only one abstention.

New Business, cont.

Jane Messenger stated that the US BGN voted to approve Rio Run Creek despite the MOBGN's recommendation to disapprove at the last meeting due to the name being three generic terms. The US BGN did not have a problem with the feature having three generic terms and approved the name.

Archives Scanning Report

John Dougan deferred to Amy Moorman for the scanning report. Amy discussed the following map processing, scanning and conservation projects.

1. MSA Map Index Project
 - a. Discussed progress (about 75% of "phase 1" completed); Also mentioned that there were indexes of digital maps and oversize paper maps available for patron use, though they are works in progress.
2. Department of Transportation County Highway Maps, 1930-1956 (120 maps)
 - a. Explained that these were MoDOT maps annotated by Department of Conservation, especially noted those that marked deer populations from that time period.
3. New Sectional Map of State of Missouri, 1860
 - a. A printout of this map was provided for the members to view after the meeting.
4. Colton's Sectional Map of Missouri, 1866
5. Connected Plat of Town or Village of Portage des Sioux
6. Samuel Perry's Plat of Mine a Breton
7. Connected Plat of the Village of St. Ferdinand, 1854

Training Sessions

Anna Nowack from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources gave a presentation regarding the National Hydrology Dataset stewardship.

She stated that DNR was working on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to add United States Forest Service (USFS) Mark Twain district as sub-stewards to the Missouri NHD Stewardship. She informed the new stewards of the proper ways to propose name changes and errors. She also stated that next fiscal year, DNR stewards will focus on the Mississippi River and there will be many inquiries to clean up the names for sloughs, chutes, etc.

Anna also gave a presentation on the coordination effort for the COGNA conference and how she tracked the GNIS errors so she can fix the Department of Natural Resources data. She reported that she heard several comments at the conference that coordination between GNIS and NHD is lacking. She stated there is a common miscommunication about when it is appropriate for NHD stewards to perform the fixes to GNIS attributes when reporting errors in GNIS.

Jane Messenger gave a brief presentation on the email regarding the "apostrophe catastrophe," from Lou Yost and Doug Caldwell. In short, the apostrophe has not been permitted to be used in names, as far as the US BGN was concerned. In 1890, US BGN issued a bulletin stating "The possessive form should be avoided whenever it can be done without destroying the

euphony of the name or changing its descriptive application.” Then, as late as 1971 it was stated that, “The Domestic Names Committee reaffirmed its long-standing position of omitting the genitive apostrophe in geographic names.” The committee has granted only five possessive apostrophes in 113 years.

The annual COGNA conference was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota April 30th to May 3rd, 2013. Chris Barnett and Anna Nowack attended the conference. They gave an update of the conference and mentioned that the attendance was substantially lower due to the sequester. Chris stated this year’s attendance was 28 instead of the normal 75-100. The COGNA conference will be held next year in Austin, TX around the end of April, 2014.

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 7th, 2013 at 10:00 am**. Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting was adjourned.