

Missouri Board on Geographic Names

November 21, 2024

James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center

600 W. Main St.

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Voting Members Present: Chair Designee John Dougan, Vice Chair Chris Barnett, Carey Bridges, Scott Faenger, John Fisher, Alan Foreman, Debra Greene, Melanie Hans, Gary Kremer, David Nail, Alicia Struckhoff and Steve Vance. Participating virtually were Bryan Chinn, Brett Chloupek, Henry Sweets and Jon Taylor.

Voting Members Absent: None.

Non-Voting Members Present: Secretary Brian Rogers.

Advisors Present: Tony Spicci.

Chair Designee John Dougan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He then thanked everyone for participating and called roll, asking members to introduce themselves for new member Jon Taylor.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 16, 2024

John Dougan presented draft minutes from the MOBGN's May 16, 2024, meeting. Henry Sweets moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Chris Barnett. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

COGNA Report

Chris Barnett recounted that the MOBGN hosted the 2024 COGNA Annual Conference, held September 16-18 in Columbia, thanking Gary Kremer and the State Historical Society for the use of their space, then Henry Sweets, John Fisher, and Debra Greene for their presentations. He then reported that the event was attended by 34 individuals from across the country, with another 12 online, explaining that attendance numbers were affected by the slow rollout of the conference website and announcements.

In addition to the regular conference session, 20 conference goers participated in the optional toponymic session that included stops at Rock Bridge State Park, the Missouri State Capitol, the National Churchill Museum and Arrow Rock State Historic Site on September 19th.

Barnett then explained that the only real negative feedback came from individuals wishing more time was allotted for the US BGN meeting. During said meeting, the US BGN voted to change the name of Tennessee's Clingman's Dome to Kuwohi to reflect the traditional Cherokee name for the mountain, among other decisions. The board also announced the start of virtual US BGN Office Hours meetings, held the last Monday of each month to promote discussion between state and federal naming authorities.

Board Appointments

John Dougan explained that with Jon Taylor joining the board, there are now three open citizen member seats. He asked board members to contact Brian Rogers with the names of any possible candidates, noting that we need individuals from the east, southwest and northeast parts of the state.

Rogers stated that, with Henry Sweets stepping down, the board's Executive Committee is now down a member-at-large. He then asked board members to also contact him if they have an interest in filling the position. Dougan added that the member-at-large on the Executive Committee does not have to be a citizen member.

Chris Barnett then expressed thanks to Henry Sweets for serving on the Executive Committee and his 25 years of service on the MOBGN.

Continued Waugh Creek Proposal Discussion

Chris Barnett summarized the proposal, stating that Waugh Creek is a new memorial name for an unnamed 4.2-mile-long tributary of the North Fork Pomme de Terre River in Webster County. The stream runs along the edge of property owned by the proponent and, at its closest, is approximately one mile from property owned by her ancestors, Lee Ellison Waugh and William Waugh. The honorees have no direct association with the stream, though the proponent notes the family did live in the area. Eleven Waugh family members are buried in a cemetery 2.7 miles north of the stream's head.

Brian Rogers reminded the board that at the time of the May meeting, the proponent's address, 411 Cattle Drive, could not be found using Google Maps. Upon a recent check, however, the address does appear (37.367742674439086, -93.0402578141885). Barnett added that this address seems to sit along the identified stream. Rogers then explained that Jenny Runyon, on behalf of the US BGN, has now signed off on the board moving forward with a vote.

Rogers added that a July 2023 letter was sent to the Webster County Commission seeking input, but there has been no response.

Barnett asked for a motion to officially consider the Waugh Creek proposal. So moved by David Nail. Motion seconded by Melanie Hans. With no further discussion, Barnett called for a vote on whether to recommend the proposal to the US BGN. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Heeb Creek Discussion

Chris Barnett summarized the proposal, stating that Heeb Creek is a new memorial name for the current Hindman Creek, a 4.3-mile-long stream in Scott County. The stream heads at Lake Tywappity, flowing generally southwest along the outskirts of Chaffee, Missouri, then west before entering an unnamed channel. The proponent is a local resident with surname "Heeb", but he indicates that Heeb Creek has long been in local usage and that the name memorializes his great-great-great grandfather, John Martin Heeb (1829-1914),

who was a Union veteran and owner of roughly 1,000 acres located on both sides of the feature. The name “Hindman Creek”, meanwhile, has been used on USGS topographic maps since 1934. Though the specific origin of this name is uncertain, there were many Hindman’s in the Chaffee area throughout the first half of the 20th century.

David Nail noted that Hindman Creek is actually not on the 1934 or 1939 USGS topographic maps of the area and that it is instead identified as “Drainage Ditch No. 17”. It is, however, identified as Hindman Creek on the 1963 topographic map. Barnett thanked Nail for the correction then stated he believes the stream was identified as “Hindman Creek” upon the creation of Lake Tywappity sometime in the 1950s. Alisha Struckhoff confirmed this point, stating that the Missouri Department of Conservation manager in the area has the same understanding.

John Fisher said he reached out to several longtime Chaffee residents who indicated that they had always known the stream as “Heeb Creek,” and never “Hindman Creek.”

Scott Faenger then stated that he identified a 1947 map of Chaffee that labels the stream simply as “dry creek.” Fisher replied that it was likely just a description of the feature, rather than a name. Barnett agreed, noting that the map was created in August.

Barnett asked Rogers if the board had received any input from the City of Chaffee. Rogers replied that Scott County replied indicating no recommendation, but that no letter was sent to Chaffee itself because of all the supporting documentation provided by the proponent, including several sets of Chaffee City Council meeting minutes identifying the feature as “Heeb Creek.”

Barnett asked for a motion to officially consider the Heeb Creek proposal. So moved by John Fisher. Motion seconded by Greene. With no further discussion, Barnett called for a vote on whether to recommend the Heeb Creek proposal to the US BGN. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Sni-A-Bar Point Discussion

Chris Barnett summarized the proposal, stating that Sni-A-Bar Point is a new name for a 940-foot summit in Jackson County. The summit is located at the north end of Monkey Mountain, in Monkey Mountain County Park in Sni-A-Bar Township. The proponent, a resident of Illinois who has submitted a number of other proposals for features in various states, reports that the name refers to Sni-A-Bar Creek that runs along the western edge of the feature, as well as the nearby Sni-A-Bar Farm, on which it was once located. He is not sure how long the name has been in local use, but notes that it is listed on a Peakbagger.com forum.

According to Wikipedia, “Sni-A-Bar is possibly a corruption of *chenail Hubert* (French pronunciation...meaning ‘Hubert channel/slough.’ Alternatively, the name may have come from a French frontiersman named Abar, who was charting a course on the Missouri River in the early 1800s.”

Barnett said that he was familiar with the *chenail Hubert* origin story, but not with that of the French frontiersman, Abar. He asked if anyone had heard of this before. John Dougan

replied that “Abar” is a common French surname in Louisiana, but that he had not heard the name in reference to Missouri.

Scott Faenger asked if Sni-A-Bar Point is at all in local usage or if they simply refer to it as Monkey Mountain. Brian Rogers replied that the only actual usage of Sni-A-Bar Point is on Peakbagger.com, and it appears to have been entered by an individual with the same last name as the proponent.

Barnett asked if there is any local support. Rogers replied that a comment request letter did go out to the member of the Jackson County Legislature in which the feature sits, as well as the Legislature’s clerk, but that no response was forthcoming.

Barnett stated that input is probably needed from either Jackson County itself or the county’s parks department before the proposal is brought to a vote. Rogers indicated he would attempt to find the appropriate contact within the parks department.

Henry Sweets moved to table discussion until more information is available. Motion seconded by John Fisher. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Howl Creek Discussion

Chris Barnett summarized the proposal, stating that Howl Creek is a new name for an unnamed 2.65-mile-long tributary of Middle Fork Salt River in Monroe County’s Jackson Township. The stream heads two miles north northeast of Paris, Missouri, and flows generally south. The proponent owns land on the stream and has put this name forward in honor of the abundant coyotes and other area wildlife that make use of it for travel and as a water source.

Barnett then indicated that GNIS shows no named streams anywhere in the vicinity of the feature. Scott Faenger added that GLO surveyors found the feature small enough not to mention in their notes when it crossed the nearby township line.

Brian Rogers stated that the Monroe County Commission does approve of the name.

Barnett stated that he finds it somewhat unusual to name a stream after an animal sound. He asked if there is any record of support from other area landowners. Rogers replied that there is none other than the proponents use of “everyone”, which may or may not indicate the support of other landowners.

Barnett asked for a motion to officially consider the Howl Creek proposal. So moved by Gary Kremer. Motion seconded by Alicia Struckhoff. Barnett then opened the floor to further discussion.

Alicia Struckhoff noted that though the name is unusual, its uniqueness sets it apart and is part of its appeal. John Dougan agreed.

With no further discussion, Barnett called for a vote on whether to recommend the Howl Creek proposal to the US BGN. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Discussion of Proposals Requiring No Action

Chris Barnett stated that three other proposals came in since the board's last meeting that will not be voted on today for various reasons. The first, Michael D. Parks Lake, because it honors an individual who has been deceased for less than five years, violating the US BGN's principles, policies, and procedures.

The second would rename Grand Glaize Creek as Wah-Zha-Zhi Creek, using an Osage term. The proponent failed to obtain support from the Osage Nation, however, so the US BGN recommends holding off on official consideration at this time.

The third proposal, Mule Shoe Bluff, lies on Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) land. It was put forward by a MDC employee, but later withdrawn because he did not first obtain an official MDC endorsement. Alicia Struckhoff added that the employee did not realize they needed MDC buy in. Barnett added that proponents, in general, need the support of the managing agency, as is the case with the Sni-A-Bar Point proposal, but that federal and state agency employees should feel free to submit proposals.

Next Meeting Date Discussion

Barring any major conflicts, Brian Rogers stated that the board's next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2025. As always, there will be a virtual component, but in-person attendance is encouraged.

Adjournment

Carey Bridges moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Chris Barnett. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.