

Missouri Board on Geographic Names

May 19, 2022

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 and Gary Kremer. Participating virtually were Bryan Chinn, Brett Chloupek, Scott Faenger, John Fisher, Alan Foreman, Melanie Hans, David Nail, Alicia Struckhoff and Henry Sweets.

Voting Members Absent: Joseph Gillman, Debra Greene, Lynn Morrow, Frank Nickell and Steve Vance.

Non-Voting Members and Advisors Present: Secretary Brian Rogers and Tony Spicci.

Chair Designee John Dougan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and thanked everyone for participating.

After calling roll, Dougan indicated this is Scott Faenger's first meeting representing the Missouri Department of Agriculture. He also mentioned that Steve Vance is now representing the Missouri Department of Transportation, though he is unable to participate in today's meeting.

Approval of MOBGN Meeting Minutes from Nov. 18, 2021

John Dougan presented draft minutes from the MOBGN's meeting on Nov. 18, 2021. Gary Kremer moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Chris Barnett. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

COGNA Update

Chris Barnett reminded the board that since the last meeting, Christine Johnson of Nevada replaced Wayne Furr as COGNA Executive Secretary. Since stepping into the position, she's created regional state working groups to better coordinate place naming activity among COGNA members facing similar geographic nomenclature challenges. Barnett indicated he volunteered to chair the central region group consisting of 18 states, including Missouri. Virtual meetings of these groups will occur once a year, approximately six months before the annual meeting (the 2022 meeting occurred in March).

Discussion of Derogatory Naming Issues

Chris Barnett stated that the Department of the Interior issued two secretarial orders in late November 2021. The first of these (SO 3404) declared "squaw" a derogatory term

and implemented procedures to remove it from federal usage, while the second (SO 3405) addressed the identification of additional derogatory terms in existing geographic feature names.

Barnett then shared a PowerPoint presentation put together by the U.S. Geological Survey's Mike Tischler about the impact of the secretarial orders. In accordance with SO 3404, a task force has identified 650+ feature names that include the term sq___. This group then identified the five named geographic features closest to each, regardless of feature class. Proposed new names are to be based on one or more of these already existing feature names.

There was a brief, not-well-publicized comment period during which the public could submit feedback about possible replacement names. Board secretary Brian Rogers in March 2022 sent letters to the county commissioner(s) of the five Missouri counties (Atchison, Christian, Holt, Madison and Nodaway), in which sq___ features are located (seven total features) notifying them of the renaming process and the public comment period. It is unknown if this resulted in any submitted feedback.

The short timeframe of this process meant that the MOBGN did not have time to draft alternative feature name proposals. If other names are desired, Missouri proponents will need to submit standard renaming proposals to the US BGN.

SO 3405, meanwhile, creates a federal advisory committee, co-chaired by the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service, that will consider other potentially derogative terms in geographic feature names.

Barnett asked those present if there were any questions or comments. John Fisher stated that it appears there is not much for the board to do until proposals are submitted. Barnett agreed.

Barnett then asked Melanie Hans if the U.S. Forest Service had received any information about specific features on federal land in Missouri, to which she replied they had not.

Board Reappointments

John Dougan stated that Frank Nickell is the only citizen board member with a term expiring in 2022. Brian Rogers has reached out to confirm his willingness to continue on the board, but has not yet received a response.

Gary Kremer indicated that Nickell has had some recent medical issues that may prevent his responding.

Chris Barnett asked how many individuals are on the board. Rogers replied that there are 18 current members.

COGNA 2024

Chris Barnett reminded the board that because the 2020 and 2021 annual COGNA conferences—that were to be held in Oregon and Missouri, respectively—were cancelled due to COVID, these states have offers to host the 2023 and 2024 conferences. When the MOBGN planned to host the 2020 conference, the board selected Columbia as the host city, but had not yet settled on a venue.

Now that COGNA conference planning has resumed, Barnett asked the board if interest remains in hosting the 2024 event in Columbia. He noted that the higher rates for flights to and from Columbia, compared to St. Louis and Kansas City, was the main concern in the past.

Tony Spicci stated that federal employees are now able to fly in and out of Columbia.

Gary Kremer asked about the estimated attendance. Barnett replied that 40 to 50 had attended annually before COVID, but that he should have a better idea after attending the annual conference in Maryland later in the fall of 2022. In any case, a large venue is likely unnecessary.

Brian Rogers asked if COGNA wants to now schedule the annual event each fall, instead of early summer as in the past. Barnett replied that the 2022 conference was scheduled for later in the year to allow more planning time, but that they hope to return to June moving forward.

Spicci stated that it would be difficult to hold the conference in a large city unless a venue close to the airport could be found. Holding it somewhere smaller, like Columbia, would allow more intimate options, like the Broadway Hotel.

John Dougan suggested that a committee be established to begin planning the 2024 conference and asked if anyone present would volunteer. Barnett, Bryan Chinn, Melanie Hans, Gary Kremer, David Nail and Alicia Struckhoff all agreed to serve and Rogers indicated he would arrange a meeting.

Before moving on, Dougan asked if there were any reservations about moving forward with Columbia as the host city. None were forthcoming.

Discussion of Next Meeting

John Dougan indicated that the next meeting date is now scheduled Nov. 17, 2022.

Adjournment

Gary Kremer moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Chris Barnett. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.