

Missouri Board on Geographic Names
November 15, 2018
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, Joe Carter, Bryan Chinn, Gary Kremer, Lynn Morrow, David Nail and Tony Spicci. Participating by conference call were Brett Chloupek, John Fisher, Alan Foreman, Frank Nickell and Henry Sweets.

Voting Members Absent: Joseph Gillman and Debra Greene.

Non-Voting Members Present: Executive Secretary Brian Rogers.

Chair Designee John Dougan called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center.

After calling roll, Dougan asked if there were any additions to the agenda. None were forthcoming.

Approval of Minutes from the MOBGN's May 17, 2018 meeting

Henry Sweets moved the minutes be approved as presented. Joe Carter seconded the Motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Board Appointments and Reappointments

John Dougan stated that Senate Bill 843 was signed into law earlier in the year, which added a representative from the Missouri Department of Agriculture to the board and lowered the number of citizen appointees from nine to eight. all citizen appointed board members with terms that expired in November 2017 have agreed to serve another three-year term. This includes Henry Sweets, John Fisher and Frank Nickell. He then stated that Lynn Morrow is the only citizen appointed member with a term expiring in 2018, and that Lynn will be asked if he would like to serve another term prior to the board's next meeting in November.

Archer Alexander Creek Publicity

Executive Secretary Brian Rogers played a St. Charles County government produced video about Archer Alexander and the process through which the County officially named a creek in his honor. The short program originally aired on O'FallonTV, a local cable access station, and is now available to stream through the channel's YouTube page.

Vice Chair Chris Barnett added that the US BGN members present at the 2018 COGNA Conference were familiar with the emancipation monument bearing Alexander's likeness

in Washington, D.C., but did not know his story until they reviewed the Archer Alexander Creek proposal.

Discussion of Huesgen Creek Proposal

Chris Barnett began by summarizing the proposal, stating that “Huesgen Creek,” currently “Housgen Creek,” is a 3.6-mile-long stream with its head 6.8 miles southwest of Chamois, in Osage County. It flows southwest, then northwest before flowing into Loose Creek 5.4 miles southwest of Mokane. “Huesgen” is the surname of the family traditionally living in the area, as well as that of the proponent, James Huesgen. Online genealogical records confirm that the “Huesgen” family lived in the area as far back as 1870. Additionally, a “Huesgen” Lane runs along a portion of the stream. The proponent indicates that the stream is named for earlier generations of his family that lived in the area and that they have always spelled their surname as “Huesgen.” He believes the “Housgen” spelling error dates to the 1970s, but research has found the stream listed as “Housgen Creek” on USGS topographic maps dating as early as 1945. Regardless, it is likely that at some point, the name was incorrectly recorded in a survey of the area and that it was subsequently used on maps on other publications.

Barnett asked for a motion to recommend the change from “Housgen Creek” to “Huesgen Creek.” Gary Kremer moved to recommend said change. Tony Spicci seconded the motion.

Barnett then opened the floor for discussion, asking Gary Kremer about the local usage of “Huesgen” because he grew up in the area. Kremer indicated that he has always known the surname to be “Huesgen,” but that the stream is referred to as both “Creek” and “Branch.” He added that through his own research, he has found that the Huesgen family has been in the area since before the Civil War. Executive Secretary Brian Rogers added that in the original proposal, the proponent listed the new stream name as both “Huesgen Creek” and “Huesgen Branch,” but that after it was explained the change from “Creek” to “Branch” could cause complications, he amended the proposal to include just the change to “Huesgen Creek.”

Barnett indicated that MOBGN members should have received several maps documenting the stream, including two USGS topographic maps dating from 1945 and 1975, and historic highway maps and surveys from the Missouri Department of Transportation. All these show the stream with spelling “Housgen” but the latter also identify it as “Branch” and the adjacent road as “Huesgen Lane.” Joe Carter stated that an Osage County plat map from 1930 also shows several “Huesgens” owning property near the stream. He added that even though the 1968 Missouri Department of Transportation map shows Missouri Route C crossing “Housgen Branch,” it identifies two “Huesgens” owning property adjacent to the bridge.

Barnett asked if there was any further discussion surrounding the motion on the floor. Spicci asked for clarification that the board is just recommending a change from “Housgen” to “Huesgen,” and not the generic “creek” to “branch.” Barnett replied that the board is only voting to recommend the change from “Housgen Creek” to “Huesgen

Creek.” He added that the board does have ability to recommend variant names, either now or in the future, but “Huesgen Branch” is not part of the current proposal.

John Dougan then asked about the process for obtaining an updated geographic feature sign with the stream’s new spelling if the US BGN approves the proposal. Carter replied that the Missouri Department of Transportation does not pay for such new signs on roads classified as “letter routes,” as Missouri Route C is, but it is possible for private citizens or groups to do so. In these instances, the Department will pay for their maintenance. Dougan asked that Carter provide him with the contact information of the Missouri Department of Transportation employee responsible for creating new signs. Carter replied that he would send it as soon as possible.

No further questions were forthcoming so Barnett requested a vote on the motion to recommend changing the name of the stream from “Housgen Creek” to the proposed “Huesgen Creek.” All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

2018 COGNA Conference Report

Chris Barnett stated that in early June he attended the 2018 COGNA Conference in Tacoma, WA. The main business discussed affecting the MOBGN is a change to the US BGN’s interim policy on tribal geographic names. Instead of relying on the National Park Services’ Native American Consultation Database to identify tribes from which to solicit comment on name proposals, as has been the case since 2001, the US BGN will now communicate directly with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This change comes as the result of several incidents where the database search results failed to identify tribes that should have been contacted.

Lynn Morrow asked if the new process will include input from tribes that were only in an area for a limited time. Barnett replied that he is uncertain, but the intent is to be more inclusive so he believes it will. Melanie Hans added that whenever the Mark Twain National Forest has a question on matters related to Native Americans in southern Missouri, they communicate with 26 tribes that at one time had a presence in the area. She then offered to run any Native American related questions from the board through the Mark Twain National Forest’s tribal liaison.

Barnett asked if any board members knew of an expert on Missouri tribes, such as the Osage, Missouria and Ioway. Morrow replied that Mike Dickey is probably the state’s preeminent scholar on the Osage and Missouria. Barnett indicated he would probably be a good resource should the board receive a name proposal related to either of those groups.

Barnett then returned to the 2018 COGNA Conference, summarizing a report given by a representative of the South Dakota BGN on a recent proposal to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak. After holding several public meetings around the state, the board voted to recommend the change, but later—after the name had officially been approved by the US BGN—learned there was evidence of potential financial gain by some of the backers. The incident attracted the attention of the South Dakota State

Legislature where there was an effort to pass legislation that would limit their BGN to the review only of proposals they deem offensive. If passed, the legislature would review all other, non-offensive proposals, so the BGN's work would be severely limited. Barnett indicated that prior to the meeting he attempted to find if the legislation was still under consideration, but no further information was readily available. He continued that if nothing else, this episode should remind the board that decisions can very quickly become political and could easily affect the board's future ability to function.

Morrow added that a similar situation happened in Missouri back in the 1990s when a group calling themselves the Northern Cherokee Nation tried to gain federal recognition, claiming as evidence their forced migration along the northern portion of the Trail of Tears. The federal government eventually denied the request after it was linked to an effort to build a tribal casino to McDonald County.

Barnett then remembered another change to the US BGN's policy on tribal geographic names, explaining that any proposal now submitted by a tribe that lays entirely on tribal land will automatically be accepted on submission without further review.

Barnett lastly reported that the federal government, through an executive order, quietly changed the name of the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge to the Loess Bluff National Wildlife Refuge. Barnett stated that he spoke with a representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who apologized for not sending the press release about the change to the MOBGN. The representative later sent an email explaining that he could not find the release, but he did provide a link to the order itself. Barnett then reminded the members present that the board long ago decided not to change the Squaw Creek feature name unless an official proponent came forward.

Discussion of 2021 COGNA Conference Proposal

Chris Barnett explained that the state of Louisiana will host the 2019 COGNA Conference and Oregon will host in 2020. Additionally, the conference organizers accepted Missouri's proposal to host in 2021. Barnett then moved to establish a 2021 COGNA Conference committee to communicate with COGNA Executive Secretary Wayne Furr and make decisions regarding the location, venue, toponymic tour and other logistics. Motion seconded by Melanie Hans. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Barnett then said he would serve on the committee and asked for other volunteers. John Dougan, Melanie Hans, David Nail, Tony Spicci and Joe Carter all indicated they were willing and Rogers stated he would soon schedule the first meeting.

Barnett turned the discussion to a potential conference location, stating that several 2018 COGNA Conference attendees expressed displeasure with Springfield because of the high travel costs. He then reminded the board that St. Louis, Jefferson City/Columbia and St. Joseph were mentioned as possible locations at the May 2018 meeting. Lynn Morrow stated that he would prefer not to see St. Louis as the location because it hosted the conference in 2000.

Hans then asked how many people attend a typical COGNA conference. Barnett replied that 60 attended this year's meeting in Washington, but that in past years Missouri has hosted, attendance has been higher than when held on one of the coasts.

John Dougan stated that he has a contact with the St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau and that they would likely be willing to work with the board to schedule the event, but he was not sure how hosting it in St. Joseph would help support the bicentennial of statehood theme discussed at the May 2018 meeting.

Joe Carter then stated that the Columbia Regional Airport should have a new terminal by 2021. Tony Spicci said he thought the terminal would not be complete until 2022. Carter replied he would follow up with a contact about the completion date and report back to the board. Barnett added that the State Historical Society of Missouri's new building in Columbia would also be available as a venue. Rogers stated that if the conference theme is the bicentennial, Jefferson City/Columbia is the logical choice because of its central location and proximity to state government.

David Nail asked what time of year the conference is generally held. Barnett replied that it is usually scheduled for some time in early summer.

Barnett then agreed with Morrow that either Columbia or St. Joseph would be the best choice. Gary Kremer stated that the State Historical Society's new facility will be available, including a dining space able to accommodate up to 250.

Nail asked how long the conference usually runs. Barnett replied that it is three days, Wednesday through Friday, with the toponymic tour on Saturday. Kremer asked how many break out spaces would be needed. Barnett replied that all sessions are held back-to-back in the same space, so no break out rooms are necessary.

Barnett then stated that if Columbia is chosen as the conference location, there are many features/attractions in or near Jefferson City could be included on the toponymic tour.

Kremer indicated that the Broadway Hotel is within easy walking distance of the State Historical Society's new facility. Barnett stated the Tiger Hotel is nearby as well. Morrow added that parking is better at the Broadway Hotel.

Barnett asked about parking at the State Historical Society's new building. Kremer replied that there will be 50 spots available for visitors, but there is a parking garage right across the street. Spicci added that it is possible to purchase one or two day parking passes for use on the University of Missouri campus.

Hans brought up the possibility of holding the conference somewhere in the bootheel. Frank Nickell stated that the Cape Girardeau area would welcome the opportunity, but that it is quite a distance from St. Louis and the other nearby airport of any size in

Memphis, Tennessee. He added that with the bicentennial as the focus, he would prefer to see the conference in Columbia.

Barnett stated Columbia and St. Joseph appear to be the board's two preferred conference locations and that Rogers would schedule a time in January for the committee to meet and discuss them both further.

Discussion of MOBGN Representation at 2019 COGNA Conference

John Dougan indicated that Chris Barnett has long represented the MOBGN at the annual COGNA conference. He then asked Barnett if he feels confident he will again be able to do so in 2019. Barnett replied that he plans to go and, because Baton Rouge is relatively close, he does not feel he will have any issues obtaining funding. Tony Spicci moved Barnett represent the MOBGN at the 2019 COGNA Conference. Motion seconded by Gary Kremer. All in favor. None opposed.

Update of Bylaws

Brian Rogers presented three potential changes to the MOBGN bylaws. Following Jane Messenger's stepping away from the board, the first would combine the roles of the Executive and Corresponding secretaries into one position with the title of "Secretary." The second would change all mentions of "Executive Secretary" and "Corresponding Secretary" to simply, "Secretary." And the third would change the current language of Article VI, Sec. 1, Part a, reading "the Corresponding Secretary of the MOBGN shall prepare appropriate documentation and contact concerned authorities, agencies and departments" to " the Secretary of the MOBGN, with assistance from the US BGN, shall prepare appropriate documentation and contact concerned authorities, agencies and departments." Henry Sweets moved to amend the bylaws as presented. Tony Spicci seconded the motion. Barnett asked if the draft language of Article VI, Sec. 1, Part a, could read "in coordination with the US BGN," instead of "with assistance from the US BGN." Rogers replied in the affirmative. The board then voted on the motion with the modification from Chris Barnett. All in favor. None opposed.

Discussion about Next Meeting

John Dougan stated the tentative date of the board's next meeting is May 30, 2019, and that it will likely again be held at the Secretary of State's office in Jefferson City.

Adjournment

Chris Barnett moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Joe Carter. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.