

**Missouri Board on Geographic Names**  
**November 17, 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, Bryan Chinn, Melanie Hans, Gary Kremer, Lynn Morrow and Steve Vance. Participating virtually were Brett Chloupek, Scott Faenger, John Fisher, Alan Foreman, David Nail, Alicia Struckhoff and Henry Sweets.

**Voting Members Absent:** Joseph Gillman, Debra Greene and Frank Nickell.

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

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

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 19, 2022**

John Dougan presented draft minutes from the MOBGN's meeting on May 19, 2022. Vice Chair Chris Barnett moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Henry Sweets. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

**COGNA 2022 Report**

Chris Barnett indicated that there were a higher than expected 51 attendees from across the country at the Sept. 13-16, 2022, COGNA annual meeting in Frederick, Maryland. This included 32 full conference registrations, 12 one-day registrations and another seven virtual registrations. Reports from 40 states were presented at the state board roundtable. With the high attendance, the conference almost broke even with just a \$300 deficit, though sponsorship money is still coming in.

Among topics discussed were a recent Maryland case involving a "Negro Ridge" and a decision by the Wisconsin state board to limit proposals to water features longer than five miles. Barnett also had conversations with individuals from other states which led him to believe there could be a new federal regulation preventing federal employees from voting on state boards.

Melanie Hans replied that she had not heard this. John Dougan added that Missouri statute actually requires federal employee votes.

David Nail said that the USGS ethics office is clamping down on state board activity, but is primarily concerned with decisions that involve federal money.

Barnett then stated that perhaps boards in western states run into this issue more often for this reason.

The 2023 COGNA annual meeting will be held Sept. 12-16 in Portland, Oregon.

### **Discussion of Derogatory Naming Issues**

Chris Barnett reminded the board of Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland's Secretarial Orders 3404 and 3405, the former declaring "squaw" a derogatory term and implementing procedures to remove it from federal usage, and the latter addressing the identification of other derogatory terms in existing geographic feature names. He then stated that as of September 8, 2022, 650 names across the country including "sq\_\_\_\_" went out of usage, and in their place, new names identified by a Department of Interior-appointed task force. Seven such Missouri features changed names, in Atchison, Christian, Holt, Madison and Nodaway counties. All but one was renamed for other, nearby features or the current names was shortened by eliminating the term, per the task force's standard procedure. The single remaining feature was renamed Center Creek. The MOBGN can take issue with any of the changes, should the need arise.

Secretary Brian Rogers asked about the COGNA attendee response to the renaming process. Barnett replied that it was generally negative because the quick time frame for comments made it difficult for state boards to be readily involved. The overall feeling, however, was that the process could have gone a lot worse.

John Dougan added that the state association of county commissioners discussed the upcoming changes at their last meeting, so some of their members may have provided feedback ahead of the comment period end.

Barnett then indicated that the task force is on a five-year timeline when it comes to identifying and changing other offensive feature names. He has yet to hear of any action taken in this regard, though, when it does, the COGNA executive secretary will have a voice.

### **Board Reappointments**

John Dougan stated that Frank Nickell is the only citizen board member with a term expiring in 2022. Brian Rogers has on multiple occasions reached out to confirm his willingness to continue on the board. No response has been forthcoming, however, so it is time to start identifying other potential citizen members. Dougan then asked the board to contact Rogers with any candidates.

Chris Barnett asked from which geographic regions the board needs representation. Dougan replied that southwest Missouri and the Kansas City area are probably the most underrepresented regions.

### **COGNA 2024**

Chris Barnett reminded the board that because the 2020 and 2021 COGNA annual 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, and, at the MOBGN's last meeting, decided to again pursue hosting in Columbia, though no venue was selected.

Brian Rogers then related that the 2024 planning committee now consists of Chris Barnett, John Dougan, Bryan Chinn, Melanie Hans, Gary Kremer, David Nail and Alicia Struckhoff.

Barnett added COGNA Executive Secretary Christine Johnson needs to be on the planning committee as well. Also, that he and Johnson had spoken with Terra Crane, a representative from the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau, who indicated the group could provide planning and support, though an RFP is required.

John Dougan stated that a date and general attendance figure is needed before an RFP can be submitted. Barnett noted that earlier planning efforts had looked at June, but that a date that early in the year might place the 2024 COGNA meeting in the same fiscal year as the 2023 meeting, making it difficult for some to attend.

Rogers will setup a meeting of the planning committee in 2023.

### **Upcoming Proposals**

Brian Rogers indicated two proposals came in after the pre-meeting 30-day cutoff period, Big Rock Spring and Calypso Spring. Both were submitted by the same individual and are unnamed features in Barry County. Materials for these and any others received will be distributed ahead of the next MOBGN meeting in May 2023.

Chris Barnett then encouraged board members to research proposals using the unique resources at their disposal.

### **Jane Messenger Memorial**

John Dougan indicated he attended longtime MOBGN board secretary Jane Messenger's Irish wake in January 2023. Those present were treated to a meal and drinks in her memory at one of Rolla's better restaurants. The dessert was even made from one of the recipes included in her cookbook.

Chris Barnett thanked Dougan for attending on the board's behalf.

### **Discussion of Next Meeting**

Brian Rogers stated that the board's next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2023. Though there will be a virtual component, in-person attendance is encouraged.

## **Adjournment**

Henry Sweets moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Melanie Hans. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.