

# **Missouri Board on Geographic Names**

**November 18, 2021**

**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, Debra Greene, Lynn Morrow and David Nail. Participating virtually were Bryan Chinn, Brett Chloupek, John Fisher, Melanie Hans, Gary Kremer, Alicia Struckhoff and Henry Sweets.

**Voting Members Absent:** Alan Foreman, Joseph Gillman, Ron Heimbaugh and Frank Nickell.

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

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

After calling roll, Dougan welcomed new member Alicia Struckhoff, representing the Missouri Department of Conservation.

## **Approval of MOBGN Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2021**

John Fisher asked that the “c” be removed from his name in “Voting Members Present” section. Henry Sweets moved to approve the minutes with the correction. Motion seconded by Debra Greene. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

## **COGNA Report**

Vice Chair Chris Barnett stated that COGNA Executive Secretary Wayne Furr last February gave notice that he is stepping down from the position. A search for a willing replacement has been ongoing ever since and it now appears it will be Christine Johnson, who currently serves on the Nevada Board on Geographic Names. Before she can take over the position, however, the COGNA bylaws require her approval by the naming authority in each state.

Barnett indicated that the executive committee could have handled the matter, but the timing of today’s meeting made it appropriate to take it to the full board. He asked if anyone had reservations about Johnson’s nomination. None were forthcoming, but Gary Kremer did ask Barnett if he supported the nomination. Barnett replied in the affirmative, stating that she would bring a new energy to the organization’s executive committee. Additionally, she hopes to divide state representatives into four regions to facilitate improved contact between proximate naming authorities.

Kremer moved that the MOBGN support Christine Johnson’s nomination to the position of COGNA Executive Secretary. Motion seconded by Henry Sweets. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved. Barnett stated he would pass along word of the board’s support to COGNA.

Barnett then brought up a recent COGNA Executive Committee discussion about future conference sites, reminding the board that the 2020 conference was to be in Oregon and the 2021 conference in Missouri, though both were cancelled due to COVID. He explained that Oregon now feels they do not have enough time to organize a conference in 2022, so they are now planning to host in 2023. The COGNA Executive Committee then inquired if Missouri is willing and/or able to arrange an event in 2022, to which Barnett expressed doubt, explaining 2024 is more feasible. At this time, there is no 2022 conference planned, but Christine Johnson may pursue some options after she takes over as Executive Secretary.

John Dougan asked if federal offices now allow travel out-of-state, to which David Nail replied they are not. Barnett added that this was a concern brought up by Oregon.

Barnett asked the board if there was any interest in pursuing a conference in Missouri before 2024. No replies were forthcoming. Dougan, Melanie Hans and John Fisher all indicated support of hosting a conference in 2024.

Debra Greene asked if the COGNA Executive Committee is thinking of strictly in-person events in the future or some type of hybrid allowing virtual attendees. Barnett stated that virtual attendance is still very much part of the discussion. In the past, Wayne Furr was hesitant to incorporate a virtual component because he felt fewer in-person attendees would hurt the conference financially. Christine Johnson, however, is in support of facilitating virtual attendance.

### **Board Appointments**

John Dougan indicated that Henry Sweets, John Fisher and Lynn Morrow are continuing on the MOBGN, each agreeing to serve a new three year term ending Nov. 11, 2024. Brian Rogers will soon be contacting members with terms expiring in 2022 to confirm their willingness to continue on the board.

### **Discussion of Zentner Fork Proposal**

Brian Rogers reminded the board that the Zentner Fork proposal submitted in July 2019 attempted to assign a name to a stream confluence in Polk County. However, because a “confluence” is not a nameable feature in GNIS, and the proponent failed to reply to messages suggesting the submission of a proposal to name either a stream or an unnamed locale instead, the US BGN is now considering the proposal closed.

Chris Barnett asked if the MOBGN would keep the records acquired through the proposal and if any further board action is necessary. Rogers replied that the board would keep the records for future use if need and that no further board action is required at this time.

### **Discussion of Avery Creek Proposal**

Chris Barnett began by summarizing the Avery Creek proposal, stating the stream is currently an unnamed, 1.2-mile-long, generally north flowing tributary of Twomile Creek in St. Louis County. According to the proponent, the stream is a “significant part of the Deer Creek Watershed” and the name was chosen because it flows alongside Avery Court and Avery Drive near its source in the City of Kirkwood. Barnett then indicated

there are three other Missouri natural features with the name “Avery” in GNIS, but that none are in St. Louis County.

Barnett asked for a motion to consider recommending the proposed name to the US BGN. So moved by Henry Sweets. Motion seconded by Melanie Hans.

Henry Sweets asked if the source of the street names “Avery Court” and “Avery Drive” is known. Barnett replied he was unable to determine the source of the names. John Dougan added it is likely the name of someone known by the land developer that created the subdivision. Barnett then stated that because the name comes from the nearby street names, and not an individual, the proposal does not risk violating the US BGN’s commemorative name policy. David Nail indicated there is also a nearby Avery Park, but that it was established in 2013 and likely given the name because of the streets.

Brian Rogers added that letters seeking comment were sent to St. Louis County Executive Dr. Sam Page, City of Kirkwood Mayor Tim Griffin and City of Huntleigh (confluence location) Mayor Richard Nix on Aug. 23, 2021. No responses were forthcoming, so the board can assume these officials have no issue with the proposed name.

Barnett then called for a vote on the motion to recommend the proposed name, “Avery Creek,” to the US BGN. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

### **Discussion of Hoot Owl Creek Proposal**

Chris Barnett began by summarizing the Hoot Owl Creek proposal, indicating the stream is currently an unnamed, 2.2-mile-long, generally south southwest flowing tributary of the Meramec River in St. Louis County. The name, according to the proponent, comes from an owl that resides in the vicinity of the source near the intersection of Lemay Ferry Road and Providence Place Drive. He added that when the area was developed, a formerly natural stream was converted into a storm water runoff channel that now requires a name before Operation Clean Stream volunteers can begin cleaning it. Barnett then indicated there are three other Missouri natural features that include “Hoot Owl” in the name, but that they are all valleys, the closest of which is 29 miles to the southwest in Jefferson County.

Barnett asked for a motion to consider recommending the proposed name to the US BGN. So moved by Gary Kremer. Motion seconded by David Nail.

Barnett pointed out that as far back as the 1990s, the MOBGN has supported proposals aiding the Missouri Stream Team.

Brian Rogers stated a letter seeking comment was sent to St. Louis County Executive Dr. Sam Page on Aug. 19, 2021. No response was forthcoming so the board can again assume he has no issue with the proposed name.

Barnett called for a vote on the motion to recommend the proposed name, “Hoot Owl Creek,” to the US BGN. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

### **Discussion of Possible Adrian Island Proposal**

John Dougan stated that the board may want to consider assembling a proposal to officially name Jefferson City's "Adrian Island" after the completion of the Bicentennial Bridge in 2022. Chris Barnett indicated that the board had rejected a proposal from Walter Schroeder to do so at some point in the past, but he was not sure of the reason. Dougan replied that he will examine past minutes from the meeting at which it was considered and report back to the board at the next meeting.

Gary Kremer stated that the island, the island's park and the bridge are all to be named after different individuals.

Lynn Morrow described Walter Schroeder's theory that the island was created following the 1911 fire that destroyed the Missouri State Capitol. When laborers removed the debris from the site, they dumped it in the river creating a sort of wing dam that collected enough aggregate to become usable land.

### **Discussion of Next Meeting**

Brian Rogers indicated the next meeting of the MOBGN is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2022.

### **Adjournment**

Chris Barnett moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Brett Chloupek. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.