

Missouri Board on Geographic Names

November 21, 2019

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, John Fisher, Alan Foreman, Debra Greene, Melanie Hans, Ron Heimbaugh, Lynn Morrow, David Nail, Tony Spicci, Henry Sweets. Participating by conference call were Brett Chloupek and Gary Kremer.

Voting Members Absent: Joseph Gillman and Frank Nickell.

Non-Voting Members Present: Secretary Brian Rogers.

Chair Designee John Dougan called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center. He then announced that former MOBGN secretary, Jane Messenger, retired from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on September 27, 2019, and that she is now formally on the MOBGN's list of advisors and will also likely be considered for the next citizen appointee board vacancy.

After calling roll and asking board members to introduce themselves, Dougan asked for additions to the agenda. None were forthcoming.

Approval of MOBGN Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2019

Henry Sweets moved to approve the minutes as presented. Tony Spicci seconded the Motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Council of Geographic Name Authorities (COGNA) 2019 Conference Report

Vice Chair Chris Barnett indicated that he represented Missouri at the June 2019 COGNA Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He stated that COGNA decided to diversify its leadership and several individuals stepped forward to assist COGNA Secretary Wayne Furr with council activities. Additionally, Barnett volunteered to work with Furr to update the COGNA website over the coming year.

National Geospatial Technical Operations Center (NGTOC) Open House Report

David Nail stated that the NGTOC in Rolla is one of two USGS production-mapping facilities in the country, and that on November 13, 2019, National GIS Day, it hosted an open house promoting geography awareness. At the event, various groups set up informational displays, including a National Map Corps table staffed by MOBGN member, Joe Carter.

Carter thanked Nail for the opportunity to learn about topographic map production and interact with the public on behalf of the corps. He explained that The National Map Corps is a public crowdsourcing effort to identify/edit structures in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Once verified, the structures identified and/or edited by the volunteer corps are added to the USGS National Structures Database. Carter noted that

this database is often useful to the MOBGN when comparing proposed feature names to nearby structures with the same or a similar name.

Carter then distributed packets with additional information about The National Map Corps and invited board members to volunteer.

MOBGN Appointments

John Dougan indicated that if he has not already done so, Brian Rogers will soon reach out to citizen board members with expiring terms to inquire about their willingness to remain on the board. If they choose to serve again, Secretary of State Ashcroft will make the official three-year appointment sometime in the early spring of 2020. He then reminded everyone that citizen board members are by statute allowed to remain on the board until re-appointed or replaced.

2021 COGNA Conference

Chris Barnett indicated that the 2021 COGNA Conference planning committee met in January 2019, deciding to hold the 2021 COGNA Conference in Columbia, with a toponymic tour of all mid-Missouri. He stated that the committee discussed the possibility of holding a portion of the conference at the State Historical Society of Missouri's new facility, but that it would come at a cost. He added that Wayne Furr suggested the board instead look to a hotel because the conference space would likely come at a discount if reserved along with a room block.

Brian Rogers indicated that the committee should meet again soon to make a final decision regarding the conference site and hotel. Barnett agreed then urged Rogers to contact the committee about setting a date in January 2020.

Tony Spicci asked about the State Historical Society of Missouri's room rental rates. Rogers replied that the charge for the lobby and main hall is \$100 per hour (each), and that the price goes up to \$125 after normal business hours. A/V equipment comes at an additional cost. Barnett said he had spoken with the individual in charge of booking the rooms and she indicated a discount might be possible.

Chris Barnett asked if there were any volunteers to serve on a toponymic tour planning committee. Melanie Hans, Joe Carter and Bryan Chinn volunteered. Rogers indicated he would set up a meeting for some time in May 2020.

Discussion of Arndt Creek Proposal

Chris Barnett began by summarizing the proposal, stating that the proposed "Arndt Creek," is a currently unnamed, .75-mile-long tributary of Maries Creek located in Lafayette County, with its head in the City of Higginsville. The stream flows east, then southeast to enter Maries Creek 1.6 miles west of Higginsville Reservoir. The name would commemorate the proponent's grandmother and uncle, Frances Virginia and Mark Paul Arndt, who lived and operated a meat processing plant in the area. The stream flows in part across property owned by the proponent's family since the 1960s.

Barnett opened the floor for discussion. Joe Carter stated that on aerial views, it appears the proposed stream's head is located at the end of a block-long man-made canal, and that he was uncertain if this would have any bearing on the board's decision.

Melanie Hans asked if there is a length requirement for feature proposals. Chris Barnett replied that there is not. Barnett also explained that in GNIS, there are separate classes for canals and streams, but there are many examples of categorized "streams" that have been channelized in places, and that he is not certain separating the two would serve any purpose in this instance.

John Dougan asked for a motion to recommend naming the unnamed stream, "Arndt Creek." Henry Sweet moved to recommend said change. Debra Greene seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Other Proposal Inquiries

John Dougan indicated that the board received a proposal to name a "Zentner Fork" in Polk County, adding that the USGS does not consider a "fork" to be a nameable feature. Rogers stated that he has approached the proponent about instead naming a "locale," but has so far received no response.

Chris Barnett mentioned that the board also received a request to change the name of Crawford County's "Negro Wool Hollow," to "Little Bat Hollow." He then indicated that a campaign conducted by a popular YouTube personality is likely behind the proposal's submission. He stated that Robert Ramsay originally recorded the name "Negro Wool Hollow" as part of an early-20th century research project, but that the exact location was then, and remains now, unknown. John Dougan added that this being the case, the request does not meet the naming standards set by the US BGN and no board action is required.

Barnett asked the board if they are comfortable handling proposals of a sensitive nature—like the one involving "Negro Wool Hollow"—on a case-by-case basis as has been done in the past, or if they would prefer to be proactive in identifying potentially problematic existing feature names. Debra Greene replied that by being pro-active and changing names, the board would be losing history and that as a historian and African-American, she felt it unnecessary. The rest of the board agreed, but indicated they would consider sensitive name change proposals if submitted by individuals residing near the feature in question.

Bylaws Update

Brian Rogers indicated the board's bylaws need to be updated to reflect the November 15, 2018, meeting decision to shift one of the citizen member appointments to a Missouri Department of Agriculture designee. Tony Spicci moved to make said changes. Motion seconded by David Nail. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

2020 COGNA Conference Representation

Chris Barnett indicated that the 2020 COGNA Conference will be held June 23-27 in Portland, Oregon. John Dougan asked if any board members are planning to attend.

Barnett replied that he has a verbal commitment from the University of Missouri to fund his attendance. Henry Sweets moved Chris Barnett represent the MOBGN at the 2020 COGNA Conference. Motion seconded by David Nail. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Vice Chair and Member at Large Election

John Dougan stated that Vice Chair Chris Barnett and Executive Committee Member at Large Henry Sweets have done an exemplary job over the years and that he would welcome their continuing in these positions for another term (three years for vice chair and two years for the member at large). Debra Greene nominated Chris Barnett to serve another term as Vice Chair and Henry Sweets to serve another term as the board's Executive Committee Member at Large. Motion seconded by Tony Spicci. Dougan then asked if there were any other nominations. None were forthcoming. All in favor of the nominees election. None opposed. Motion approved.

Discussion of Next Meeting

John Dougan indicated that the board will tentatively next meet on May 21, 2020.

Adjournment

Chris Barnett moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Melanie Hans. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.