

Missouri Board on Geographic Names (MO BGN)  
Meeting No. 1  
July 12, 1995

Location: State Information Center, Office of Secretary of State, Jefferson City, Missouri

Attendees: Christopher Barnett, Ryan Burson, Duane Meyer (rep. Robert Flanders), James Goodrich, Timothy Haithcoat, Keith Hassler, Antonio Holland, Donald Lance, Gordon McCann, Margot McMillen, Jane Messenger (Recorder), Russ Mueller, Walter Schroeder (Chair), Claude Strauser, Dwight Weaver (rep. Jerry Vineyard), and Kenneth Winn

The meeting began at 1:00 pm with introductions by all in attendance indicating their area of interest or office. Walter Schroeder chaired this first meeting. Materials from Mr. Roger Payne, Executive Secretary of the US Board on Geographic Names (BGN), were distributed as well as a copy of the Executive Order submitted to the Lt. Governor's Office for revision and submission to the Governor. Ms. Toni Messina, Chief of Staff, of the Lt. Governor's Office is working on writing the Executive Order adding the Office of the Secretary of State as the body to which the MO BGN will be attached. According to Mr. Winn, when the order has been drafted and sent to the Governor's Office, his lawyers will examine it for legal concerns. If the Executive Order does not have any legal problems, it will then be presented to the Governor.

Mr. Ken Winn announced that a fourth copy of the Ramsey Collection had been located in the State Archives.

Everyone was asked to verify their address and telephone numbers on the roster. Corrections will be made and a new roster distributed.

A teleconference with Roger Payne and Mr. Lou Yost of the USGS Domestic Names Committee (DNC) Staff support office occurred. Mr. Payne spoke about the principles, policies, and procedures of the DNC and the need for a State Authority. He announced that Missouri was now the 38th State with a names authority. He mentioned that the MO BGN needed to adopt some operating procedures and said that we could use or modify those of the BGN to meet our needs. The Board could operate either formally or informally.

Mr. Payne informed the members that the Federal BGN does not have to agree unanimously on a name decision; just a simple majority rules.

He also mentioned that names listed in the Geographic Names Data Base are the only names which may be used on or in any Federal publication and any name which appears in a Federal publication must have the approval of the BGN. He stated that this policy is not applied to State or other types of publications. He did, however, stress the hope that States would abide by the decisions of the Federal Board.

Mr. Payne also reminded the board members that any State west of the Mississippi with a State Names Authority is automatically a member of the Western States Geographic Names Council (WSGNC) and that the Chairman of the board or his appointed representative is a voting member of the WSGNC. A workshop on preparing a Domestic Geographic Names Report will be presented at the conference in Oklahoma this year. The Federal-State Roundtable has also been expanded to six hours this year.

When asked about the timeliness of replies to inquiries sent by the Staff to the MO BGN, Mr. Payne said that he would like a reply within three months. He also stated that the Federal BGN must make a decision within one year of contact by a State board.

Mr. Payne discussed the new BGN policy on diacritics. Diacritics as well as non-Roman alphabetic characters will now be allowed in names as long as these are

well founded in orthography.

Mr. Payne mentioned that the DNC has identified 10 potential Missouri names problems.

It was decided that the mode of operation for the MO BGN will be through electronic mail, faxes, US mail, and telephone. Rarely, if ever again, will the full MO BGN meet unless the Secretary of State feels it is necessary. It was also clarified that the term of board members would be at the discretion of the member agency.

A question was raised concerning the wording "shall" in number 2 of the draft Executive Order. It was suggested that the word be changed to "may." Mr. Schroeder will talk with Ms. Mesenna about this.

Mr. Tony Holland moved and Mr. Jim Goodrich seconded that Ms. Jane Messenger be elected as Executive Secretary of the MO BGN and be a non-voting member. This motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jim Goodrich moved and Ms. Margot McMillen seconded that Mr. Walter Schroeder be elected Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jim Goodrich moved and it was seconded that Mr. Ken Winn, State Archivist, be elected Vice-Chair. It was decided that this position should be held by the State Archivist since the MO BGN will operate under the control of the Secretary of State. Mr Winn clarified that, due to State government reorganization, all State Boards now need a State governmental department overseer. The MO BGN will function under the Office of the Secretary of State. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schroeder asked for a committee to develop Operating Procedures for the MO BGN. Mr. Jim Goodrich moved and Mr. Tony Holland seconded that Mr. Walter Schroeder, Dr. Don Lance, Ms. Jane Messenger and Mr. Ken Winn be appointed to the committee to write the operating procedures for the MO BGN. This document is to be returned to the full MO BGN for approval. The motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.