

MISSOURI BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Meeting Number 2
August 14, 1996
Sports Hall of Fame
State Information Center
600 W. Main Street
Jefferson City, Missouri

Attendees: Christopher Barnett, Ryan Burson, Robert Flanders, James Goodrich, Keith Hassler, Donald Lance, Craig Manning, Gordon McCann, Margot Ford McMillen, Jane Messenger (Recorder), Gloria Miller, Russ Mueller, Walter Schroeder (Chairman), Claude Strauser, Kenneth Winn (Vice-Chairman)

Absent: Gerald Cohen, Elizabeth Cook, Timothy Haithcoat, Antonio Holland, and Jerry Vineyard

Meeting of the Missouri Board on Geographic Names (MOBGN) was called to order by the Chairman at 10:10 AM. A quorum was present.

Continuing Business:

Minutes of the July 12, 1995 meeting were read and approved as read.

New Business:

Missouri Sunshine Law: Mr. Ken Winn reported that according to the attorneys for the Secretary of State, any meeting having to do with state policy must be open to the public. An announcement of the meeting must be posted in a public spot at the meeting site 24 hours in advance if possible. If this is not possible, then the Sunshine Law spells out various alternatives of advertising the meeting. He explained that if notice of a meeting is not posted in accordance to the law then the Board and the State could be held liable.

Mr. Winn explained that the law does not require that the public must be allowed to speak at the meeting. This would be determined by the individual Board or panel.

It would be possible to arrange a meeting via speaker phone.

He went on to explain that if any two or more MOBGN members discuss board business this discussion constitutes a meeting and, therefore, must be open to the public. Only if the communication is between the administrative officer (the Executive Secretary) of the Board and a Board member is the action not subject to the open meeting policy of the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Winn mentioned that the Office of the Secretary of State has a booklet explaining the law available for the general public.

Mr. Winn suggested the possibility of setting up a "Chat Room" on the Internet but said that would require input from the state's Attorney General.

MOBGN By-laws: Bob Flanders asked the Chairman to provide for a set of by-laws for operating. These by-laws would spell out membership as well as procedures of operation. Ryan Burson asked for a draft of the by-laws to be developed and Jim Goodrich suggested that the by-law committee work on the concept of two meetings per year. By a show of hands the two meetings would be in the fall and spring.

Don Lance moved and Keith Hassler seconded that a committee be appointed to draft by-laws for operation of the board. The motion passed unanimously. This committee would be composed of Mr. Walter Schroeder, Chairman MOBGN, Mr. Ken Winn, Vice-Chairman MOBGN, Mr. Ryan Burson and Ms. Jane Messenger, Executive Secretary MOBGN.

Suggestions for incorporation into the by-laws:

- two meetings per year, one in the fall one in the spring.
- cancellation of meetings in the event of no business to be discussed.
- two kinds of members, appointed members and others.
- number of members be odd.
- membership removal regulations.
- member responsibility.
- amend operating procedures to meet by-laws.
- staggered terms of appointed members.
- membership term.
- membership reflect geographic representation of the state.
- a record of MOBGN continuity and work be kept at the Secretary of State's Office via minutes and copies of formal communications.
- MOBGN should contain non-affiliated members.
- a member's designee be allowed to vote.
- name voting process.

Board Membership: Mr. Bob Flanders brought to the Board's attention that current members not associated with a State or Federal agency listed in the Governor's Executive Order had not been appointed by the Governor. It was moved by Mr. Bob Flanders, seconded by Mr. Jim Goodrich, and unanimously passed, that Walter Schroeder and Ken Winn be delegated as representatives of the MOBGN to visit the Governor's office and shepherd through the appointments.

Mr. Ryan Burson suggested that letters of appointment for board membership be prepared for the Governor's signature.

Board members were reminded that the original suggested format of the Executive Order went to the Lt. Governor's office with specific names but that this was changed by one of the executive offices.

Mr. Gordon McCann commented that he felt any board should have non-affiliated members on it. MOBGN members agreed.

Ms. Messenger mentioned that Mr. Gerald Cohen reluctantly agreed to serve on the MOBGN but had not attended either meeting or responded to any of the issues put before the Board. Mr. Jim Goodrich moved that Mr. Cohen's name be removed from the list of names to go to the Governor's Office. Ms. Margot McMillen and Mr. Ryan Burson amended the motion to be worded "upon his acceptance." The amended motion was seconded by Mr. Bob Flanders and carried unanimously.

Press releases: Mr. Ken Winn stated that the MOBGN may use the Secretary of State's Office for releasing newsworthy articles after the MOBGN votes on any recommendations. It was decided by the members not to release any news items to the press concerning Grand Lake O' the Cherokees and to wait until after the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) of the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) makes a decision in September on the proposed new name Boehmer Hollow before a news article is released about MOBGN's favorable recommendation on this name. The MOBGN felt that a news release at this time would be inappropriate but that the public could be made aware of the existence of the MOBGN when the decision concerning Boehmer Hollow was released. This news release could be used to announce the purpose of the MOBGN and processes for proposing new names or changing existing names.

Operating forms: Ms. Jane Messenger mentioned the addition of two new forms to the proposed examples: 1) a form highlighting the involved principle and Domestic Geographic Names Committee of the Board on Geographic Named Regulation; 2) a news release form.

Reports to the Secretary of State: Mr. Ken Winn stated that he feels the current Secretary of State will be satisfied with his apprising her of the activities of the MOBGN and that no formal report is necessary at this time.

Western States Geographic Names Conference: Ms. Jane Messenger informed the MOBGN that it was automatically a member of the Western States Geographic Names Council and as such had a vote in council meetings. She mentioned that she and Mr. Manning would be attending the upcoming meeting in Salt Lake City, UT in September and asked if any other MOBGN members

were going. None was planning on attending.

Ms. Messenger asked if the MOBGN would consider hosting a conference in the future. It was strongly accepted that the MOBGN look into hosting the conference in the year 2000, the Board's fifth anniversary. Mr. Jim Goodrich moved and it was unanimously passed that Ms. Messenger (with Mr. Craig Manning acting as her alternate) represent the MOBGN at the WSGNC and propose that the MOBGN host the WSGNC in the year 2000.

Mr. Ken Winn expressed concern that the Secretary of State's Office would become responsible for organizing such an event and felt that it would be inappropriate. Mr. Bob Flanders, Dr. Don Lance and others mentioned that there are offices within the various universities whose purpose is to organize conferences. Their charges for this service could be incorporated into the conference fee. Mr. Flanders will look into what Southwest Missouri State University would charge and possible locations for a conference.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 14, 1996, 10:00 AM Sports Hall of Fame, State Information Center, 600 W. Main Street, Jefferson City, MO.

Agenda Item: MOBGN By-laws

Spring meeting: Thursday, May 22, 1997, 10:00 AM, Sports Hall of Fame, State Information Center, 600 W. Main Street, Jefferson City, MO.

Open Forum - St. Mary vs St. Marys: Mr. Bob Flanders mentioned the research he had been asked to do recently on the incorporated name of St. Mary. Ms. Jane Messenger mentioned that according to the Principles, Policies, and Procedures of the Board on Geographic Names, the legally incorporated name is the official name of a feature except in rare cases. This was supported by Mr. Craig Manning who mentioned that local usage was of paramount importance to the DNC. No MOBGN action was taken on the name St. Mary.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.