

MISSOURI BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Minutes of the 97-2 Meeting (corrected)
November 13, 1997

Attendees: Chris Barnett, Ryan Burson, Liz Cook, Bob Flanders, Kieth Hassler, Tony Holland, Don Lance, Margot McMillen, Jane Messenger (Exec. Sec.), Russ Mueller, Walter Schroeder (Chair), Claude Strausser, Jerry Vineyard, Ken Winn (Vice-Chair), Peggy Eckert represented Gloria Miller. Walter Schroeder carried the proxy for Jim Goodrich.

Absent: Craig Manning, Gordon McCann

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM.

Don Lance moved and Margot McMillen seconded that the minutes of the 97-1 MOBGN meeting be approved with the amendment of the year of the meeting changed from 2997 to 1997.

A menu for ordering lunch was started around.

Chair asked that the members approve reordering of the agenda. Members so approved.

Names Issues:

Streiler Branch vs Streile Branch - Jerry Vineyard mentioned that there is a cave in Perryville named Streiler. Bob Flanders moved and Tony Holland seconded that the proposed spelling of Streiler Branch be approved. Motion carried by 100 per cent (15-0).

Ken Winn asked how the MOBGN should handle a news release. He was reminded that originally the Board decided to wait until the US BGN had made a decision before making a news release. However, after learning that the amount of time between MOBGN's recommendation and the US BGN's decision could be more than a year, it was suggested the MOBGN send a news release immediately after a name recommendation. Dr. Winn volunteered to review and distribute the news release if the Executive Secretary would write a draft version. The entire Board thought this was a good idea. The Executive Secretary also mentioned that a letter mentioning the recommendation of the MOBGN to the US BGN and the subsequent procedures would be sent to the proponent and all concerned parties.

Saint Mary vs Saint Marys - Bob Flanders asked how the issue got started and the Executive Secretary mentioned that a request for clarification on the correct name spelling came from Rocky Mountain Mapping Center during their revision of the Kaskaskia, IL-MO, map. After contact with JoAnn Donze, St. Mary City Clerk, the Executive Secretary called RMMC and explained the incorporated name was City of St. Mary, which is the name the city council wanted known but that local usage was mixed, but St. Marys was still listed in GNIS as official.

Don Lance provided a dozen pictures and photocopies of the pictures of the variant forms of St. Mary but stressed that official name usage was St. Mary. Don moved and Tony seconded that the MOBGN recommend the name be St. Mary to the Federal Board and that City of St. Mary, St. Mary, St. Marys, and St. Mary's be variant names.

Bob Flanders mentioned he had spent several days in the city and heard St. Mary used by some locally and as the official name but also heard St. Marys used. Comments were made that this usage was much like people saying they "were going to Walmart's." Bob went on to say that JoAnn was the epitome of a City Clerk, always correct in what was written and spoken. He pointed out that she had mentioned in a communication with Craig Manning that it would probably take a generation before the spoken usage of the name lost the "s" among all residents. Bob asked that Don and Tony be more specific in the spelling out of Saint as opposed to the abbreviated form.

There was much discussion on whether or not the US BGN required the spelling out of Saint. Reference was made to the new PPP concerning abbreviations. Claude Strausser pointed out that historically, no evidence exists that Saint was ever spelled out. Walter Schroeder mentioned and Chris Burnett agreed that during Phase II, the US BGN requested that all names be completely spelled out (possibly because of automated alphabetizing). The Executive Secretary mentioned that she had been inconsistent in the documentation and would redo all documents created by her to reflect the Board's view. Don and Tony agreed to the complete spelling of the word Saint.

The question was called. The vote was 14 - 1 to approve the name Saint Mary. The dissenting member felt that the primary should be the abbreviated form "St." not Saint. The member agreed that Mary is the correct form of the second word in the name.

Bob Flanders, who knows JoAnn Donze well will call her and inform her of the recommendation of the MOBGN. The Executive Secretary is to prepare a news release for review by the MOBGN members and then distribution by Ken.

Manitou Bluffs - Don Lance proposed this name for an unnamed feature (visible from the Katy Trail) based on an article by Jim Denny in which Mr. Denny states that the National Park Service will delineate and name this feature on its next version of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail map. The article written by Mr. Denny suggests additional similar names for other unnamed features along the Katy Trail. Margot McMillen asked for justification of this spelling. Don said that this is the earliest version recorded. MOBGN members wish to have the feature(s) delineated on maps. Due to the increased popularity of the Katy Trail and the agreement by the NPS, they requested the Executive Secretary write to Mr. Denny asking him to make formal proposal(s) for the name(s), indicating the area(s) of location(s) and providing historical information.

Sayers Creek vs Sawyer Creek - The Executive Secretary mentioned that information on Sayers Creek vs Sawyer Creek in Greene and Webster Counties had not be returned yet. This name would probably be on next meeting's agenda.

Derogatory Names - Don Lance distributed a newspaper article about Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. The US Fish and Wildlife Service currently has no plans to change the name. The Executive Secretary distributed a list of Missouri "Squaw" names. This was done to make MOBGN members aware of the 10 geographic features within Missouri carrying a name which might be considered derogatory by a segment of our society. It was also stated that GNIS lists no Missouri geographic names with the word "nigger" or "Jap" in it.

Committee Reports:

Bylaws - The Executive Secretary asked for input on possible changes to the bylaws. It was mentioned that according to our bylaws our May meeting is the second Thursday of the month which is inconvenient for the academics on the Board. Bob Flanders moved and Russ Mueller seconded that we move the May meeting to the third Thursday. Based on Article VII of the current bylaws for changing them, his motion was tabled until next meeting. The motion will be placed before the members at least 60 days prior to the May meeting. The motion will then be voted upon at the May meeting.

Western States Geographic Names Conference - 2000 - Don Lance reported on the Western States Geographic Names Conference held in Flagstaff, AZ, September, 1997. Activities, programs, and amenities were discussed in light of MOBGN hosting in the year 2000. Don also mentioned that the year 2000 may see the Western States Geographic Names Council (WSGNC) being extended to include many more state names authorities than just the states west of the Mississippi River. It was noted that currently Canada participates in the WSGN Conference but has no voting rights in the Council.

Bob Flanders and Don reported on the progress of the committee working on the WSGNC - 2000 meeting. A first call for papers/presentations to be developed was made to MOBGN members. The three primary state localities of Branson, St. Louis area, and Kansas City area were described with possible toponymic tours listed. Bob is going to check to see if motels in the Branson area are aware of and will provide accommodations at government rates. Committee members are to continue working on developing in greater detail possible sights and tours. A report is to be presented to MOBGN in May for their vote on the appropriate locality. It was noted that motel/hotel sites are already being booked for the year 2000 and we need to make our reservations soon.

All WSGNC-2000 committee members are to provide to Jane a list of their available meeting dates during the months of March and April. She will determine when everyone is available to meet, schedule the meeting and arrange for the room.

New Business:

A request was made that the Executive Secretary make a copy of the monthly minutes of the Domestic Names Committee as well as the quarterly minutes of the US BGN and distribute these to all MOBGN members.

Next Meeting:

Walter Schroeder stated that the next meeting of the MOBGN would be the third Thursday of May (May 21, 1998). The time will be 10:00 AM to allow travelers from afar to get to the meeting site of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, State Information Center, 600 W. Main Street, Jefferson City, MO on time.

Meeting was adjourned about 1:35 PM.