

MISSOURI BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Minutes of the 98-2 Meeting
November 12, 1998

Attendees: Kieth Hassler, Don Lance, Craig Manning, Gordon McCann, Margot McMillen, Jane Messenger (Exec. Sec.), Gloria Miller, Russ Mueller, Walter Schroeder (Chair), Jerry Vineyard, Ken Winn (Vice-Chair).

Absent: Chris Barnett, Ryan Burson, Liz Cook, Bob Flanders, Jim Goodrich, Tony Holland and Claude Strausser

Guests: Mr. Jim Denny, Historian, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, and Mr. Lynn Morrow, Conservation Lab, Secretary of State Office

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM by Walter Schroeder.

Chair asked that the members approve the order of the agenda. Members so approved with the addition of the following items: under New Business add Reappointments, Board Expansion, and Lewis & Clark Expedition

Chair mentioned that Jim Goodrich sent his proxy to the Chair. Don Lance mentioned that he carried the proxy for Claude Strausser.

Ken Winn moved and Kieth Hassler seconded that the May, 1998 minutes be approved with the following corrections:

Under Names Issues, Page 1, Manitou, paragraph two, line two - add the word "Little" before Moniteau Creek both places

Under Names Issues, Page 1, Manitou, paragraph three, line two - correct spelling of Cous' to Coues'

Under New Business, Page 2, line 5 - change "State Information Building Conservation Lab" to "Missouri State Archives"

Under Continuing Business, Page 3, paragraph 3, line two - change "A suggestion" to "Don Lance suggested"

Continuing Business:

Squaw Names

Craig Manning reported that he had informed the Domestic Names Committee staff of the variants and submitted the records to be changed. He routed one copy of this information, along with a Hawaiian airport name report, around the table. Various members asked for a copy of the MO squaw names report. Several MOBGN members felt that the MOBGN should become more aware of the squaw names issue and what was happening throughout the US.

The Executive Secretary suggested a search of the Internet and will provide a list of some of the sites and reports gleaned from this search to the MOBGN members. Don Lance reminded the Board that the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge is not changing its name. Don mentioned that William Bright is publishing a paper concerning Native American names and he will contact Mr. Bright, via e-mail, to see if he will provide Don with a pre-publication copy of the paper.

Sayers Creek vs Sawyer Creek

Gordan McCann reported for Bob Flanders who was unable to attend due to the flu. Bob had visited the area and talked with Flora (Florene?) Claxton, a lady in her 70's, who has been a life-long resident of the area. She said the creek has always been known as Sayers Creek. Bob also learned that there is currently a sub-division being developed which is using the name Sawyer. In addition, action is being taken by an environmental group against a sewage lagoon going in and they are using the name Sawyer. In both instances, the name has come from the USGS topographic map of the area.

Don Lance asked about White Oak Hollow carrying Sawyers Creek on the map and it was explained to him that the name White Oak Hollow referred to the valley or hypsographic feature and not the stream.

The Executive Secretary mentioned that she had researched the history of Webster County in a book in the Rolla Public Library but found no mention of either Sayers Creek or Sawyer Creek.

Don Lance moved and Gordon McCann seconded to approve the proposal to change the spelling of the creek to Sayers Creek from Sawyer Creek. The motion was passed unanimously.

Big Manitou Bluffs and Little Manitou Bluffs

Mr. Jim Denny presented another report on further studies concerning the Big and Little Manitou Bluffs. He stated that additional evidence has been located to support a theory that the Little Manitou rocks are just that--a couple of large rocks. He wishes to defer the proposed new name, "Little Manitou Bluffs," until more research is done.

He is still in favor of the proposal for the new name "Big Manitou Bluffs." Margot McMillen asked if local authorities and residents had been contacted. The Executive Secretary reported that she had waited for the report from Mr. Denny before approaching any of the local authorities, the Boone County Historical Society, etc. She will do so, via letter, shortly.

Don Lance said that he had talked with a couple of locals in a bicycle shop about how the name Big Manitou Bluffs. One individual said the name was derived from the Manitou Indians. The other individual said the name came about when the railroad was being built. The railroad builders had accumulated a large pile of dirt at the base of the bluffs and the Indians climbed this pile of dirt and made the paintings on the bluffs. Both of these stories made MOBGN members realize that local residents may not be experts on name derivation.

Jim also stated that he would be willing to accept the spelling of Moniteau which is in local usage for a creek and a county name but that he feels Manitou is much more resonant and would prefer it. Jim stated the word Moniteau is a French derivative of Manitou, the Indian word for Great Spirit. Jim pointed out that the Sac and Fox Indians, especially hunting parties, historically roamed this area.

Jim also provided a couple of copies of the newest Lewis and Clark Trail map published by the National Park Service, in which Manitou Bluffs are mentioned. He commented that the statement was probably due largely to his input to the NPS concerning the bluffs.

The Executive Secretary reported finding the spelling suggested by Jim being used in Oklahoma. The board deferred both names issues.

Western States Geographic Names Conference, Cody, WY, report

Don Lance reported on the Western States Geographic Names Conference held in Cody, WY, September 8-12. He stated that the name of the council has been changed to Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) and membership opened to all 50 states as well as Territories and Commonwealths of the US. Don provided a summary of the council meeting as well as information on conference costs and a schedule of activities.

He answered questions about the types of papers presented and other activities associated with past conferences and what the committee plans were for the year 2000 meeting in St. Louis. Walter Schroeder suggested that Chris Barnett could develop a visual presentation on Missouri generics. Walter also suggested the toponymic tour remain solely within the state of Missouri, possibly into the Old French Mines area or to Hannibal. Jerry Vineyard mentioned that a conference he had recently attended held an evening activity at the Gateway Arch. He thought that cost was relatively inexpensive--about \$1500.00. The committee will meet in February or March in St. Louis to examine various ideas. Don was given the go ahead to establish a mailing address and bank account.

News Releases

Ken Winn will see that the Secretary of State's office sends letters announcing the decisions of the US BGN about the name issues St. Mary and Streiler Branch to local authorities. It was still felt that a statewide issue or a well known event associated with a Missouri geographic name issue would be the most appropriate time in which to make a statewide news release about the Missouri Board on Geographic Names. Ken felt that the Big Manitou Bluffs name issue, since it is so closely associated with the Lewis & Clark Expedition and bi-centennial would be the appropriate name issue and time to make the MOBGN more prominently known and that the year 2000 conference would also be a good time, especially if the two coincided.

New Business:

Mark McGwire Interstate Route 70

The action by the U.S. Congress to name a portion the US Interstate-70 to Mark McGwire Interstate Route 70 was discussed. A question concerning the appropriateness of a commemorative name being used for a living individual was raised. It was pointed out that the commemorative naming policy indicates the individual needs to be deceased for five years but that this was a US Congressional decision and that neither the MOBGN nor the US BGN (which at this time does not have any purview over road names) can make rulings on Congressionally mandated names. It was suggested that educational materials be provided to our congressmen but Ken pointed out that this name issue was probably very politically motivated--politicians could associate themselves with the state from which a famous individual comes.

Board Expansion

Don Lance pointed out that we have openings for additional voting members and that we need to try to get individuals from under-represented geographic areas. He mentioned corresponding with Henry Sweets, Director, Mark Twain Museum, Hannibal, and Frank Nickell, Professor of History, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau. Both are interested. Ken Winn suggested a nominating committee be formed. Walter appointed Don Lance, Ken Winn and Ryan Burson.

Kieth Hassler volunteered his graphics department to make any graphics which would show MOBGN areas of representation if we needed them.

Reappointments

Current gubernatorial appointments expire June 30, 1999. Ken and Ryan will work on letters to Governor Mel Carnahan to reappoint these members as well as any new members. Action is to be taken before the May, 1999, meeting. The Executive Secretary will send copies of the existing appointment letters to Ken.

Lewis & Clark Expedition Bi-centennial celebration:

Ken Winn reported he and Jim Goodrich are on the bi-centennial (2004) committee. The committee is looking for partners to work on the bi-centennial and asked MOBGN members, between now and our May meeting, to see if there is anything they or the organization they represent can do.

Ken also reported that Don Lance is giving a "Missoura vs Missouri" presentation at the State Archives building on December 1, at 7:00 PM. The presentation will be in the Interpretative Center. All are welcome to attend.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the MOBGN will be held in the Cook Conference Room, State Information Center, on May 20th, 1999, starting at 10:00 AM.

The November meeting of the MOBGN, normally held the second Thursday of November is being moved to the third Thursday in 1999. This is due to Veterans Day falling on our normal meeting day. Therefore, MOBGN will meet November 18, 1999.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 PM.