

MISSOURI BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Minutes of the 00-02 Meeting
Radisson Hotel and Suites
4th and Pine Streets
St. Louis, Missouri
September 26, 2000

Attendees: Walter Schroeder (Chair), Gloria Miller (Vice-Chair), Chris Barnett, Bob Flanders, Liz Cook, Tony Holland, Don Lance, Craig Manning, Margot McMillen, Lynn Morrow, Russ Mueller, Frank Nickell, Claude Strauser, Henry Sweets, Jerry Vineyard, Jane Messenger (Exec. Sec.)

Absent: Ryan Burson, Brent Fischer, Jim Goodrich, and Gordon McCann

Walter called this special meeting at the Radisson Hotel and Suites, St. Louis, MO, to order at 3:18 PM and welcomed guests which included Roger Payne, Executive Secretary US Board on Geographic Names and many Council of Geographic Names Authorities 2000 Conference attendees.

Diana Steele, research assistant for Frank Nickell was present.

Minutes of the May 18, 2000, meeting were approved as corrected.

Walter asked if anyone was carrying a proxy for those MOBGN members not in attendance. No proxies were being carried.

The MOBGN members introduced themselves to the guests.

Continuing Business:

Haley Mountain vs Aley Mountain vs Alex Mountain

Jerry Vineyard distributed material and summarized his research. Local usage is ambivalent. Both Haley Mountain and Aley Mountain are names in local usage for this summit. The book "Wayne County, Missouri" by Rose Fulton Cramer (1972, pg. 11) states that the mountain was named for Solomon Aley and that is it misnamed Haley Mountain on some maps.

Jerry moved and Gloria seconded to recommend Aley Mountain as the correct name and Haley Mountain and Alex Mountain be entered as variants in GNIS.

Motion was approved unanimously.

Little Whitewater River, Whitewater River, East Channel Whitewater River

Frank Nickell asked that the Little Whitewater River issue be revisited because he had done some additional research and had more information. During the May 18, 2000, meeting the MOBGN voted to recommend the name Little Whitewater River as the official name and Little Whitewater Creek as a variant.

Walter asked that Little Whitewater River, Whitewater River, and East Channel Whitewater River all be considered under the same discussion.

Frank presented evidence that local usage is generally without a generic but if one is used it could be either "River" or "Creek." He also presented evidence that the amount of water flowing in the streambed would indicate by definition (Webster) that the generic "Creek" would be more appropriate. When asked if a generic was always applied to a name, Roger Payne, US BGN, replied no but almost always.

Frank moved and Chris seconded that the MOBGN reverse its May decision and to recommend the official name be Little Whitewater Creek with Little Whitewater River becoming a variant. Motion carried 14-1. The dissenting vote was cast because the voter was not swayed by current water conditions, but wanted historical usage.

Frank and Diane Steel distributed a book prepared for the Whitewater River issue and presented their research results before the MOBGN. What was one drainage system is now clearly two

separate drains but local usage for the generic applied to the names of each drain is mixed. Frank stated that those living north of the Headwaters Diversion Channel and on the northern end of the drain refer to most often as Whitewater Creek. Residents near the communities of Whitewater and Allenville most often refer to the drain as Whitewater River. Residents south of the channel most often refer to the generic as "Creek." Diane stated that earlier surveyors of the area were mapping in the spring when the Whitewater would have been in flood. Most of the time, water conditions indicate that the flow more closely approximates a "creek" according to Webster's definition. During the great flood of 1993, Diane and Frank pointed out that the drain north of the channel was in flood, while the drain south of the channel was dry.

The spelling of the name is almost always currently "Whitewater" although historical evidence indicates multiple spellings and generics.

Frank moved and Henry seconded that the portion of the original drain north of the Headwaters Diversion Channel be called the Upper Whitewater Creek and the portion south of the channel be called the Lower Whitewater Channel. Further discussion revolved around mixed local usage and whether a state names authority should propose names for features. Jane asked for clarification from the US BGN members if the name of a stream applied to the channel in which it flowed or to the water in the channel. Roger Payne explained that it applied to the water NOT the channel. Frank withdrew his motion. Jerry moved and Don seconded that the drains from their original source to their original mouth at the Little River be named Whitewater Creek. Jane asked for clarification if this name was to apply to the drain as one continuous drain or as two drains. Jerry said same name, two drains. Motion carried 12-1-1.

Roger Payne, Executive Secretary US BGN, pointed out that the application for the names would have to be redefined and that the MOBGN would need to decide if the drain flowing into the Headwaters Diversion Channel had its mouth at its confluence with the channel or at the Mississippi River. This definition would depend on the name of the water flowing in the Headwaters Diversion Channel.

East Channel Whitewater River was redeferred due to time.

Sankey vs Sanke vs Sarkey was redeferred due to time.

New Business:

Jane mentioned that other streams in the boot heel region of Missouri have suffered the same alteration of their courses due to channelization. The Castor River being an example of one. Redefinition of the name application will be needed.

Jane also mentioned that a larger area along the Missouri River encompassing the Big Manitou Bluffs will become an issue to research and discuss.

Committee Reports:

Don reported that the Council of Geographic Names Authorities was holding their annual conference from September 25-30 at the Radisson. He told of some of the upcoming events to take place during the conference.

Announcements:

The regular November meeting will be 9, 2000, at 10:00 AM in the Cook Conference Room, State Information Office, Jefferson City. If you are unable to attend the meeting be sure to send a deputy or designate a MOBGN member to carry your proxy.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.