

## MISSOURI BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Minutes of the 00-03 Meeting

Map Work Room

State Information Center

600 W. Main St.

Jefferson City, MO

November 9, 2000

Attendees: Walter Schroeder (Chair), Gloria Miller (Vice-Chair), Don Lance, Craig Manning, Lynn Morrow, Russ Mueller, Frank Nickell, Claude Strauser, Henry Sweets, Brent Fischer, Gordon McCann, Jim Goodrich, Jane Messenger (Exec. Sec.) (12 voting members)

Absent: Ryan Burson, Jerry Vineyard, Tony Holland, Liz Cook, Margot McMillen, Chris Barnett, Bob Flanders

Proxies: Don Lance carried proxies for Liz Cook, Margot McMillen, and Tony Holland; Lynn Morrow carried a proxy for Bob Flanders (4 proxies)

Total of 16 votes being cast

Guests: Diana Steele, Research Assistant to Frank Nickell

Walter called the meeting to order at 10:06. The MOBGN met in the map work room of the State Information Center. The guest was welcomed.

Walter introduced the newest member to the MOBGN, Brent Fischer, who has been designated the MODOT representative, replacing the retired Kieth Hassler.

Jane mentioned that Ryan had now missed three consecutive meetings without providing a proxy to anyone or sending a substitute. She mentioned that Ryan had left a voice mail message with her on the Friday before the September meeting. Unfortunately, she had left work early and did not get the message until 10 days later. Neither had Ryan given her his proxy. According to bylaws (Article II, Sect. 6) "Members who fail to participate or send a substitute to three consecutive meetings or votes shall be removed from membership." Walter asked that he be given the chance to talk with Ryan to learn why he has been unable to attend.

Walter mentioned that the MOBGN had received the official notification from the US BGN that Big Manitou Bluffs had been approved.

Walter also read a letter from Glen Yakel, Minnesota names authority, congratulating the MOBGN on an excellent COGNA conference and specifically the MOBGN September meeting that was both "informative and entertaining." (See attachment) Additional congratulations were also mentioned.

Minutes of the Sept 26, 2000, meeting were approved as corrected.

### **Continuing Business:**

Walter asked for a motion that the actions taken by the Board at the September 26, 2000, meeting be confirmed in respect to Missouri's Sunshine Law. The Executive Secretary mentioned that she had to post the agenda 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Henry so moved and Don seconded the motion. It carried unanimously (16-0).

### Sankey vs Sarkey vs Sanke

Jane reported that the controversy is for a feature that is now historical. All evidence indicates that the populated place (now incorporated into the Steelville city limits), was named Sankey for E. B. Sankey, a supervisor for the St. Louis, Salem and Little Rock railroad. Even though an existing road is spelled "Sanke," Jane reported that, according to a conversation with Connie Smith, Crawford County Clerk, the road spelling may be the result of the "y" falling off of the road sign. She could not remember how the name of the populated place was originally spelled but thought it was "Sanke."

Jim moved and Lynn seconded that the spelling "Sankey" be entered into the GNIS database as the correct spelling and Sarkey be entered as a variant. Approved unanimously (16-0).

## Little River Drainage District hydrographic features discussion

Jane reported on the research she had done. The Castor River flows into the Castor River Diversion Channel where the river is bisected. The CRDC flows into the Headwater Diversion Channel at the confluence with the Whitewater River (Creek) then empties into the Mississippi. Jane reminded MOBGN members that the US BGN needs source and mouth coordinates for the stream feature. She mentioned that the CRDC and HWDC were not hydrographic features and was reminded that a channel is considered hydrographic not hypsographic. Jane then clarified that she meant these two features were not classified as streams in GNIS. During a break, Craig and Lynn verified the GNIS feature type of these features as "channels."

Diana Steele mentioned that there are four major drains that have been bisected by the two diversion channels and Jane suggested that a study of the hydrographic features in regards to the effect of the Little River Drainage District channelization on the boot heel drainage would make a good research thesis. She also asked that the MOBGN members consider examining all of the drainage in the area to assure that GNIS had correct applications for the features. Jane mentioned that flow direction was often determined by which ditch or canal filled first.

After break Jane read the GNIS definition of "Channel" from the U. S. Geological Survey Circular 1011. It says a channel is a "linear deep part of a body of water through which the main volume of water flows and is frequently used as a route for watercraft: (passage, reach, strait, thoroughfare, throughfare)." The GNIS also indicates that a channel is a natural feature when the feature class is "channel" and a man-made feature when the feature class is "canal." Diana pointed out that some of the channels were indeed natural. However, most of their lengths are man-made and have diverted natural drains.

Frank and Diana pointed out a letter from Larry Dowdy, Executive Vice-President of the Little River Drainage District, that the water flowing in the Castor River and Headwater Diversion Channels is considered to be Castor River water all the way to the Mississippi River.

Don distributed a page detailing the history of the definitions of the words "river" and "creek."

Additional discussion centered on whether or not the Castor River and Whitewater River (Creek) are one or two features from above the diversion channels to below the diversion channels. Some felt that the drains were each a single, continuous feature with their sources and mouths as described in GNIS. It was pointed out by several others that there is no way water from the portions north of the diversion channels can get into the portions of the streams south of the diversion channels because of levees and a lack of pipes through the levees. It was agreed that the valleys containing the rivers were still continuous features but that the streams themselves were not.

More discussion centered on whether the MOBGN should propose names for newly created features, especially if the name is not in local usage. It was felt that the MOBGN should not propose names but retain names in local usage even if man or nature had made multiple features out of one named feature.

Jim moved and Henry seconded that GNIS change the feature classification of the Castor River Diversion Channel to canal and that GNIS change the feature classification of the Headwater Diversion Channel to canal. It was approved 15-1. The one nay vote was because local usage calls it the Little River Diversion Channel.

Jim moved and Craig seconded that the water flowing in the Castor River Diversion Channel (feature class canal) be classified as a stream with its source where the Castor River enters the Castor River Diversion Channel and its mouth where the Castor River Diversion Channel, the Headwater Diversion Channel and the Whitewater River (Creek) meet. Motion approved unanimously (16-0).

Gloria moved and Russ seconded that the water flowing in the Headwater Diversion Channel (feature class canal) be classified as a stream with its source where the Castor River Diversion Channel, the Headwater Diversion Channel and the Whitewater River (Creek) meet and its mouth at the Mississippi River. Motion approved unanimously (16-0).

Jim moved and Henry seconded that the MOBGN recommend to the US BGN the name Castor River be retained for the portion of that stream north of the Castor River Diversion Channel with the source being as is currently in GNIS and its mouth being where the Castor River enters the Castor River Diversion Channel and that the name Castor River be retained for that the portion of that stream south of the Castor River Diversion Channel with the source being just south of the Castor River Diversion Channel and its mouth

being as entered in GNIS. Motion approved 15 yea –1 abstain. The abstaining vote was because the person felt that the lower stream should be named differently.

#### Whitewater River vs Whitewater Creek (revisited)

Jim moved and Gordon seconded that the MOBGN recommend to the US BGN the name Whitewater Creek be entered into GNIS for the portion of that stream north of the Headwater Diversion Channel with the source being as is currently in GNIS and its mouth being where the Whitewater Creek enters the Headwater Diversion Channel and that the name Whitewater Creek be entered into GNIS for that the portion of that stream south of the Headwater Diversion Channel with the source being just south of the Headwater Diversion Channel and its mouth being as entered in GNIS. Motion approved 15 yea-1 abstain. The abstaining vote was because the person felt that the lower stream should be named differently.

#### East Channel Whitewater River vs East Channel Whitewater Creek vs East Fork Whitewater River

Frank and Diana presented their research on the name of this split of the Whitewater stream into two streams. Local usage and historical precedence indicate that the name of the eastern fork of the stream is East Fork of Whitewater Creek and that the western fork or branch is referred to as either West Fork of Whitewater Creek or Whitewater Creek. Both branches or forks are intermittent but the eastern branch carries less water than the western fork or branch. Where the two rejoin to form the Little River the channel is often dry and one picture indicates the confluence is now a cornfield.

Frank moved and Jim seconded the MOBGN recommend to the US BGN that the name of the East Channel Whitewater River be changed to East Fork Whitewater Creek. Motion carried unanimously (16-0).

#### **New Business:**

Jane notified MOBGN of an additional name Jim Denny plans to propose that would name a large area along the Missouri River "Manitou Bluffs." This area would encompass the recently approved Big Manitou Bluffs.

A second name proposal has been submitted by Jim Denny to name an unnamed feature on the Jamestown quadrangle "Roche Percée Natural Bridge". This feature is a natural bridge near the mouth of the Perche Creek and is mentioned in GNIS in the historical notes field for the Perche Creek feature. Jim asked that Don Lance, Ray Wood, Jerry Vineyard, and Gary Moulton be invited to visit this feature, examine the evidence, and provide their opinions. Don was the only one on this list of names present at this meeting, and he agreed to work with Jim. Jim hopes the name will be approved in time for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration as the feature is mentioned in their journals.

Claude and Jim moved that the MOBGN remind the Lewis and Clark mapping committee about the federal law regarding feature names appearing on and in federal publications. Motion approved unanimously (16-0).

#### Web page

Gloria asked that a MOBGN web page be put on the State web site. This page would be an extension of the state's web page, not a separately maintained site. On it the MOBGN could post its recommendations to the US BGN, bylaws, upcoming issues, membership, and agenda. Lynn said he would need to provide a specific list of what we need and what to expect with regards to expansion. Gloria will provide this information to Lynn.

Gloria moved and Don seconded that the MOBGN ask for a web page on the Missouri State web site. Motion approved unanimously (16-0)

Lynn mentioned the Supreme Court documents that have maps to which the State Archives now have access. He distributed two examples showing historical geographic names.

Lynn asked if MOBGN is expecting to host any annual meetings because he would need to mention this to the incoming new Secretary of State, Matt Blunt.

Claude suggested that MOBGN participate in the academic conference to be held sometime in the near future for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial. The MOBGN decided to prepare a booth/presentation. Lynn will request \$500.00 from the Secretary of State.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Don distributed a draft summary of the final accounting of the COGNA 2000 conference. This summary indicates that conference committee will be able to refund the \$500.00 seed money and a very few dollars (under \$20.00) to COGNA. Don noticed that he had forgotten to put a line in the summary indicating the amount donated by the Secretary's of State office although the amount had been added to inflow. Gloria asked for a more detailed accounting to be presented at the spring meeting of MOBGN. Don agreed.

**Announcements:**

Lynn is exploring the possibility of the state reimbursing travel expenses for Board members who do not receive agency travel expenses. This may not be possible because the MOBGN was created via an Executive Order instead of a state statute.

Jane provided copies of an article sent to her by Frank Nickell that mentioned the USACE was moving the location of part of the St. Francis River.

Lynn will provide letterhead stationery once Jane supplies softcopy of the MOBGN logo.

Next meeting will be May 17, 2001. Exact Jefferson City location will be announced later.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.