

MISSOURI BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Meeting 0102 Minutes

November 8, 2001

Blunt Conference Room

600 W. Main Street

Jefferson City, MO

Attendees: Chris Barnett, Brent Fischer, Don Lance, Craig Manning, Lynn Morrow, Russ Mueller, Walter Schroeder (Chair), Claude Strauser, Henry Sweets, Jerry Vineyard, and Jane Messenger (Executive Secretary)

Absent: Liz Cook, Margot Ford McMillen (Resigning)

Proxies: Ryan Burson, Bob Flanders, Jim Goodrich, Tony Holland, Gordon McCann, Gloria Miller, and Frank Nickell

Walter called the meeting to order at 10:01 and called for proxies. He asked for additional agenda items. Two items were added: 1) Web Page under Continuing Business, and 2) Boise meeting under Committee Reports

The minutes of the 0101 meeting were approved with the following corrections:

The name of the building where we met in May is correctly known as the Governor's Office Building now;

Under Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Academic Conference, paragraph 2, sentence 3 change Craig to Jenny Runyon. Add the sentence "Craig is recompiling the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail."

Walter announced that Ryan Burson has been reappointed to the MOBGN.

**Continuing Business**

Roche Percée

Don distributed pictures of the feature. Don reported that Jim Denny will send coordinates to Jane. Don was asked if he knew the dimensions but didn't know. He will ask Jim to provide that information also. The name is the source for Perche Creek. Don stated that Jim Denny thought that the feature may be on state property. Russ will check. [Russ replied by e-mail "Pierced Rock appears to be on Conservation land known as the "Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area" as located on the map that Don had" which was the map Jim Denny had provided to Don.]

Don moved and Henry seconded that the name be redeferred. Approved unanimously

## Grand River vs Thompson River

Walter discussed the fact that locals still use Grand River (Chariton, Carroll, Livingston, Daviess, Gentry, and Worth counties in MO, and Ringgold county, IA) for the name of the feature although the official name in GNIS by a 1922 BGN decision is Thompson River (Livingston, Grundy, and Harrison counties in MO, and Decatur county, IA). MOBGN is satisfied with the Thompson River name but discussed the fact that Iowa is not following the BGN decision and still refers to the stream as Grand River.

Brent reported on MODOT labeling process. They use official sources but for streams and creeks MODOT adheres to local usage and label the features with the term in local usage. Signage is the responsibility of the regional MODOT offices.

## Wild Boar Hollow

Lynn reported that Gordon found only Boar Bend, AR, as a feature name bearing the word boar in the states of OK, MO, or AR. "Boar" is not used in polite society; historically Southern females avoid the term because it is embarrassing. Gloria officially proposed the name at the May 2001 meeting but has not sent any further documentation with location and description.

Claude moved and Don seconded that the name be deferred pending further documentation and research.

Motion approved unanimously

## Dairy Queen Hill

Craig reported the US BGN doesn't like commercial names. Jerry is uncomfortable with the name because he feels we might be trivializing the feature and names should have some association with the feature not just because some kid working on making the trail said "God, I wish there was a Dairy Queen here." Gloria proposed this name at May meeting but no documentation with location or description has been forwarded to the MOBGN. Several members reported that they are familiar with the area. Dairy Queen Hill is not in local usage. In fact several other names are used for that hill. Each group of visitors seems to have its own name for the hill.

Claude moved and Jerry seconded that the MOBGN take no further action on Dairy Queen Hill. Discussion stated that if someone wanted to resubmit then we should have an interview process in the Chadwick area.

Motion approved unanimously

## Statutory Bill

Lynn updated the Board on the progress of covering the operations of the MOBGN under a statutory bill. Secretary Blunt is thinking over pursuing this bill but since he is not currently in the country the issue is being delayed. Secretary Blunt is a very “hands on” administrator and probably will not assign this issue to someone else. [Lynn e-mailed me the following note with his corrections to the minutes: “Blunt’s legislative liaison is exploring the bill with the governor’s office.”]

## Web Page

Lynn reported that the MOBGN mission statement is on our web page. The SOS will not post agendas or minutes for any board. If there are any revisions to the web page, we need to send them to Lynn. The web site address is

<http://mosl.sos.state.mo.us/rec-man/archives/geographic.html>

## **New Business**

### Kit Creek

This proposal to name an unnamed creek in Franklin County was submitted by Mr. Walter Schlemper at the suggestion of Jerry. Mr. Schlemper is a member of a stream team and this team wishes to get this stream classified for a “Livestock, Wildlife and Bodily Contact” stream. To begin the process, the stream must have a name. There are nearly 2000 stream teams in Missouri and they are under the Conservation Federation. Contact may be made through Russ Mueller of the Department of Conservation or the Missouri Clean Water Commission.

The proponent chose the name “Kit Creek” because kit is a baby fox and this stream flows into Little Fox Creek which then flows into Fox Creek.

Claude moved and Jerry seconded that the MOBGN approve Kit Creek subject to Franklin County’s approval. If Franklin County does not approve the proposed name for the unnamed stream, then the MOBGN would revisit the issue. [I have received the approval from Franklin County and forwarded the proposal on to the US BGN staff along with a request that they expedite the process so we could have a “christening” ceremony in the spring to promote the MOBGN. I’m thinking we could maybe have the May meeting at the Ramada at Six Flags because that is close to the feature IF the US Board can approve in time.]

Motion approved unanimously

## GNIS MO update

Don requested this item on the agenda because at the Boise, ID, Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) meeting he learned that two states have a program to maintain/update administrative names. Craig said that he will submit update information if people send him the information. Missouri has a lot of names not entered in GNIS. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) historic preservation has several databases with information in it as do other state databases. Jeff Patrick is the contact at DNR. Craig mentioned that the US BGN would like access to state and local databases.

Walter asked if there was any funding available for Missouri to participate in maintaining/updating GNIS. Jane will check with Roger.

Jane mentioned the Earth Science Corp, a group of volunteers, who “adopt” a map and do field verification on the features found and not found on the map. These volunteers provide names information to the USGS. Chris asked for more information about this program.

Don moved and Claude seconded that the chair appoint a committee to determine ways in which the MOBGN as a whole or members individually can participate in updating the Federal database. The committee is to report their findings at the next meeting.

Motion approved unanimously

Walter appointed Chris Barnett (Committee Chair), Craig Manning, and Lynn Morrow to the committee.

### Missouri Squaw Names

Jane reported that at the Boise, ID, COGNA meeting a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) spoke about the resolution made from the floor of their national convention and passed that all branches within states that have geographic features containing the word “squaw” work to change these names to less derogatory names. Jane said that as president of the Rolla Branch of AAUW she was specifically approached at the COGNA meeting and asked about Missouri squaw names and what her branch was going to do about them. Jane also mentioned the Nebraska Governor’s request that all Nebraska “squaw” names be changed. She mentioned that most of the Missouri “squaw” features are in the northwestern corner of the state and some of these features may cross the border with Nebraska.

Claude said some local Native Americans do not find the word to be derogatory. The Board was reminded that the Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge had decided a couple of years ago not to change their name.

Don explained that the process followed in ID is that locals need to propose the change.

Jerry suggested adding “k” to the end of the word squaw.

Walter reported that Clyde Wilson, a local archeologist, advised Walter to let this issue lie. Missouri has no reservations or organized Native American groups that are actively trying to change these names.

Jane reported that at a meeting of the Rolla Branch of AAUW, there is absolutely no interest in changing these names for features in a distant part of the state and that none of the women (all Caucasian) found the term derogatory.

MOBGN decided to lie low on this issue and will wait for proposals, not initiate any name changes in regards to the word “squaw.”

#### Communication from the Domestic Names Committee (DNC), US BGN

Jane mentioned that because the MOBGN voted to approve the name Cabbage Head before hearing from the county authority, the DNC had written to them and sent a copy of the inquiry to her. She mentioned the DNC considers Missouri a “pink” state\* because we normally provide the DNC with local authority decisions concerning names issues. However in this case, we were presented with the proposal by the Forest Service, who had done much research in the area because the feature is located within the Mark Twain National Forest, and we voted on the issue immediately although the county had not been contacted. Jane forwarded the proposal and MOBGN vote to the DNC immediately. This led to the DNC contacting the county instead of the MOBGN. Jane said that if the county disapproved the proposed name, the DNC may ask the MOBGN to reconsider, to justify their decision, or just forward both recommendations to the US BGN. Jane did point out that the MOBGN probably should continue to wait for information on a names issue from governing bodies before making a recommendation because unknown data may be forwarded on a names issue of which the MOBGN is unaware and that information may influence their decision.

#### MOBGN Names Process

Jane mentioned that under the current names process, the MOBGN generally waits until replies are received from all the involved governing authorities in the area before a decision is made by the MOBGN. She also mentioned that as a “pink” state, the US BGN staff expects that in the materials forwarded by the MOBGN to them will be the replies from these governing bodies. Otherwise, the US BGN staff will delay their docketing of the proposal until a reply is received.

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\* “pink” state is the term used by the US BGN staff to designate that at state names authority seeks county and other administrative comments on name proposals before sending the proposal on to them. It was the marker handy at the time when they were marking the states.

The MOBGN will continue to be a “pink” state but may decide to vote on a name “subject to approval” by governing agencies. Once the Executive Secretary has received appropriate paperwork she will then forward all materials and MOBGN decisions to the US BGN staff. If the governing bodies do not agree with the decision made by the MOBGN, the issue will be revisited at the next meeting of the MOBGN.

Another issue addressed was having a MOBGN vote on an issue at the same meeting where there is a presentation about the issue. Claude asked that MOBGN members decide on each case because he felt that MOBGN members should be able to not be swayed by emotion and because the Board meets only semi-annually.

Jane mentioned that the minutes from the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) of the US BGN are now coming digitally and she asked if she could forward these digitally instead of killing a forest. Members agreed. Jane said that she would “snail” mail them to Gordon until he provided her with his e-mail address.

#### Permanent Collection of Files

Jane needs to make a copy of all of her files and forward to Lynn at the State Archives because they are the repository for all state information. [Although Lynn stated that he had all the information that had been sent to Ken concerning names issues, some additional paperwork is done, corrections are made to forms, and copies of data that Jane summarized for the names issues sent to MOBGN members are in Jane’s files and copies have been sent to the DNC. This information was not copied for all MOBGN members in an effort to save trees. Jane will make a copy of everything for the archives to assure that everything is there.]

Jerry moved and Henry and Don, simultaneously, seconded that MOBGN accept the offer of the State Archives to maintain the official records of the MOBGN.

Motion approved unanimously

#### Committee Reports

Greg Olson, SOS exhibit designer, attended the Board meeting for this discussion. Greg suggested that we plan a layout or story board showcasing the MOBGN. MOBGN must decide what we want to showcase. Brent said that they can plot images up to 60”. SOS can plot up to 42” wide. Greg said that photos could be plotted easily. He would prefer photos be no less than 100DPI in .tiff format and less than 40 Meg in size.

Jane is to supply Lynn with the names submission process for possible inclusion.

Lynn stated that the SOS can fund the cost if it is not high.

Claude, as a member of the Lewis and Clark committee, volunteered the committee to create a storyboard.

Boise, Idaho, Council of Geographic Names Authorities meeting

Don reported on the process handled by ID in addressing geographic features containing the word "squaw" in the name.

### Walk-ons

Walter announced that Margot Ford McMillen submitted her resignation from MOBGN effective immediately due to conflicts with the meeting times and teaching schedule. She felt that she was not really adding much to the MOBGN but asked that if we ever have any names issues in Calloway County to be certain to contact her for information.

Walter asked MOBGN members to think of a possible replacement and reminded the Board that we have no one from the northwestern part of the state sitting on the Board. The individual would need to be a Gubernatorial appointee.

Walter also mentioned that the Governor's office thought that Gubernatorial appointees were lifetime appointees but he explained that according to our bylaws they are appointed for a term on only three years and then must be replaced or reappointed.

New letters of appointment for Gubernatorial appointees are due by May. Walter will pursue this.

Next meeting will be Thursday, May 16, 2002, in the Blunt Conference Room beginning at 10:00 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM

**Just received (12/03/01)from the US BGN: They approved the name Aley Mountain.**