

MOBGN
Secretary of State Office Building
Blunt Conference Room
610 W. Main Street
Jefferson City, MO
Minutes
0202
November 14, 2002

- Attendees: Chris Barnett, Ryan Burson, Bob Flanders, Tony Holland, Gordon McCann, Jane Messenger, Lynn Morrow, Russ Mueller, Frank Nickell, Walter Schroeder, Bill Sneed, Claude Strauser, Henry Sweets, Jerry Vineyard
- Proxies: Ryan Burson held proxy for Liz Cook,
Bill Sneed held proxy for Gloria Miller
- Absent: Brent Fischer, Larry Grimes (undergoing surgery), Jim Goodrich
- Guests: Charles Hayes, DNR; Bob Priddy, Missouri Net Radio Reporter; Claudie Mathis, Bill Mathis (son) opponents to a name change proposal; Jim Hoss, Mayor Newburg, MO, proponent for a name change proposal

Walter called the meeting to order at 10:03. He mentioned the great loss sustained by the MOBGN due to the passing of Dr. Don Lance, MOBGN member and the person instrumental in establishing the MOBGN.

Walter also mentioned that upon arrival at this morning's meeting Jane had received word that Dr. Larry Grimes was undergoing surgery. Walter expressed our wishes that all would go well with the surgery and that recovery would be rapid.

Walter asked if there were any additions to the agenda. None were mentioned.

Walter welcomed guests and particularly Mr. Bill Sneed, the new member representing the USGS. He suggested that all MOBGN members introduce themselves to the guests and Mr. Sneed.

Walter then explained the MOBGN policies to guests and that we wouldn't vote on all issues today because of the need to study or receive additional information on particular names issues. He mentioned that the Chair could call a special meeting if it was deemed advisable or necessary.

Minutes of 0201 Meeting

Walter then called for corrections to minutes as distributed of the May, 2002, meeting. In the paragraph under Committee Reports, the word "arrears" should be corrected to "areas."

Lynn commented that he had gone to MO DNR and gotten the information about the fields of their database of National Registry for Historic Sites place names.

Minutes were accepted with the correction.

Continuing Business

Little Manitou Bluffs (MO Docket # 97-4)

Jane reported that no additional information had been received from Mr. Jim Denny regarding Little Manitou Bluffs. Neither had he withdrawn the name proposal.

Henry moved and Chris seconded to redefer the issue.

Motion carried unanimously.

Wild Boar Hollow (MO Docket # 01-02) and Wild Boar Ridge (MO Docket # 01-03)

Jane reported for Gloria, that since the single edition versions of the quad maps showing the features proposed to be named Wild Boar Hollow and Wild Boar Ridge by the USFS have now been published, the rangers in this district are not actively pursuing gathering information in support of the names. Gloria said they would probably get around to it eventually.

Ryan moved and Russ seconded to redefer the names Wild Boar Hollow and Wild Boar Ridge.

Motion carried unanimously.

Redraft of Chapter 109

Lynn reported that the four (4) person committee examining Chapter 109 will not submit the redraft to the Legislature this session. The redraft should be completed in about one (1) year. MOBGN will be listed in the Chapter 109 redraft. Lynn further explained to new members that getting the MOBGN listed in Chapter 109 would allow the Board to receive soft monies such as grants, etc.

New Business

Jane explained that according to Roberts' Rules of Order, there must be a motion made before an issue can be discussed. Therefore, starting with this meeting, members would make motions concerning names issues prior to any discussion.

Straub Mountain vs Baird Mountain (MO Docket # 02-02)

Bob moved and Gordon seconded to approve Straub Mountain.

This proposal came to the MOBGN through the US BGN. Jane explained that according to the commemorative naming policy of the US BGN, simply dying on a feature does not signify a close association with the feature.

This proposal was received from Chief Dana Aumiller to change the name of Baird Mountain in Branson, MO, to Straub Mountain to honor a firefighter who died trying to rescue a couple of stranded climbers. Jane also mentioned that no reply had been received from Taney County or the city of Branson concerning their opinion about the name change.

Gordon reported that his small survey concerning changing the name was 100 percent against changing it. He reported that the feature was named for the Baird family.

Jerry pointed out that Baird Mountain is heavily entrenched in geologic literature—Baird Mountain Limestone—and it would be very confusing to change the name of the mountain.

Bob mentioned that it is visually prominent and a well-known landmark.

Jane reported that Baird Mountain is extensively used in tourist literature of the area with many tours stopping at Baird Mountain. However, this Baird Mountain is not the Baird Mountain associated with the Baird Mountain method of playing the mountain dulcimer.

Jane was asked if the proponent would be willing to name a different feature for the fallen firefighter. She reported that the US BGN staff had asked the proponent this question but that the proponent did not wish to change the proposal.

The MOBGN voted unanimously to recommend to the US BGN to NOT approve changing the name from Baird Mountain to Straub Mountain regardless of what Taney County and the city of Branson eventually decide. The reason to recommend not approving the name change is based on the heavily entrenched, both in print and orally, local usage of the current name.

Holloway Mountain (MO Docket # 02-03)

Russ moved and Chris seconded to approve the proposed name Holloway Mountain for an unnamed feature.

Jane explained that this proposal received through the US BGN staff, was not yet complete as the proponent had been asked by the US BGN staff to clarify the exact location and provide information about the person for whom the feature is to be named. Jane further stated that due to the lack of coordinates for the exact location of the feature, she had not yet written to the administering governmental bodies for their opinion.

Chris moved and Henry seconded to amend the proposal to defer Holloway Mountain.

Amendment passed unanimously.

Walter suggested that we take a break before we get into the next issues as we would be having several presentations.

Jane requested that during break she be provided with changes to the roster.

Little Piney River vs Little Piney Creek (MO Docket number 02-01)

Jerry moved and Bill seconded to recommend approval of changing the name of Little Piney Creek to Little Piney River.

Newburg Mayor, Jim Hoss, proponent, presented additional information supporting his proposal to change the name. He provided photocopies of baptismal records, a petition with 100 names agreeing to the proposed name change, and plans by the Newburg Water Works System showing the stream called Little Piney River. He mentioned that he wants the stream to get "its rightful due" and mentioned the Missouri political candidates, Sarah Steelman, Carol Gaddy, and Claire Ichord were all in favor of the name change. He mentioned that candidate Bob May wanted more time to study the issue. Mayor Hoss also volunteered to withdraw his petition to change the name if it "upsets anyone or costs anyone anything."

[Please note that to date he has not done so.]

Claudie Mathis, landowner along the Little Piney Creek, stated that she has always known [her age approximately 65 years] it as Creek and is worried about losing land control along the stream. She stated that all land owners along the stream wanted the name "Creek" retained. She also stated that the stream through her property is not

floatable. Claudie further provided a list of more than 800 names on a petition against changing the name from Creek to River.

Jane pointed out that a lot of additional information was provided in the packets supplied at the beginning of the meeting. She stated that all three counties had replied, in writing, to the issue. Dent and Phelps Counties approved the proposal but Texas County was opposed to the proposal. Texas County opposed the name change because the Texas County Commission and other Texas County residents believe that the stream known in GNIS and on USGS maps as West Piney Creek that flows into the Big Piney River is really Little Piney River and it would be very confusing to have two separate streams in Texas County called Little Piney River. Mr. Larry Southern, Texas County Presiding Commissioner, has asked the MOBGN to begin the process to get the name of West Piney Creek officially changed to Little Piney River.

Jane mentioned that the size or amount of water flowing through a stream channel does not influence the stream's generic designation and pointed to several pictures she had prepared of many US and international streams whose generic names were not indicative of the amount of water, if any, flowed in their channel. These pictures included pictures of the Mississippi River near its headwaters with a log across it for a bridge and then a picture of its delta at its mouth. Jerry mentioned that a watercourse is generally named for its larger portion and it is normally thought that a creek flows into a river. Jane then mentioned the two streams in Virginia that Roger Payne, Executive Secretary, US BGN, often cites—Little River flowing into Goose Creek. She also stated that according to dictionary definitions, it is mostly only in America and Canada that generally is a creek thought to be smaller than a river.

The question about land owners' rights concerning trespassing restrictions and accessibility to a stream if it is designated "River" as opposed to "Creek" was raised. Charles Hayes, MO DNR, explained that there is **NO** relationship between name and Federal "navigational servitude." Lynn said that lawyers for the Secretary of State Office could find **NO** Missouri regulations existing regarding access. Property owners can't limit anyone access to Missouri streams on the basis of the generic term applied to the name.

Bob asked if the Little Piney Creek was used for commerce. Claudie Mathis said that at one time it had been.

Lynn presented a list of documents checked concerning the name of the Little Piney Creek that flows into the Gasconade as well as the names of West Piney Creek [Missouri Docket #02-02] that flows into the Big Piney River. He pointed out that the power of tourism influenced the stream name changing from Little Piney or Little Piney Creek to Little Piney River. He also stated that the upper stretch was more often known as creek whereas the lower stretch was called river, mostly for tourism purposes. Several people present agreed that from their research, the name of the stream both in print and orally is very often referred to as just "Little Piney" without any generic applied.

Jane was asked if a generic was necessary and she replied that the US BGN wanted one because people who were not familiar with a feature would not know what type of feature it is without a generic term in the name. Generic terms also define what feature is being referred to when multiple feature types have the same given name, i.e. Cumberland. There are more than 25 different types of features with the name Cumberland, but without the generic term people may not know which one is being referenced.

Russ distributed information which indicated that the Missouri Department of Conservation used Little Piney, Little Piney Creek, and Little Piney River when referring to the stream. He said that he would ask they be more careful in the future to use the Federally recognized name.

Bob moved and Ryan seconded to table the name issue to allow Board members more time to study the materials. The motion to table was defeated 9 to 5.

The MOGBN voted unanimously to recommend to the US BGN that the name Little Piney River not be approved and the current name, Little Piney Creek, be retained. The reasons for not approving the name change are the heavy local opposition and historical evidence that the stream has been called Little Piney, Little Piney Creek, and Little Piney River but that the latter has only been used more since the advent of tourism in the area.

Little Piney River vs West Piney Creek [Missouri Docket #02-04]

Chris moved and Lynn seconded to approve the name change from West Piney Creek to Little Piney River.

Jane mentioned that Mr. Larry Southern, Texas County Presiding Commissioner, had asked that the MOBGN begin the process of getting the official name of the stream officially known as West Piney Creek changed to Little Piney River. He said that the people of Texas County have always known that stream as Little Piney River. Jane said that she was awaiting additional supporting evidence to come from Mr. Southern.

Lynn pointed out that so far his research into the name of the stream has revealed it has always been West Piney Creek in print. This information is summarized in the material he distributed during the Little Piney Creek vs Little Piney River discussion.

Chris moved and Tony seconded to table the issue.

Motion to table carried unanimously.

Election of Executive Committee

Walter pointed out that the Executive Committee member's terms have expired and that elections must take place. He mentioned that the USGS had written a letter to support Jane continuing as Executive Secretary.

Since Vice-Chair Gloria was absent, Walter asked that Jane conduct this portion of the meeting as he excused himself. Jane mentioned that, although Walter had retired from teaching, he had no intention of retiring from the MOBGN and in fact thought he might have more time to devote to Missouri names issues.

Tony nominated Walter to continue as MOBGN Chair and Gordon seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Walter was asked to return to the meeting and continue as Chair.

Walter opened the floor to nominations for Vice-Chair.

Jane mentioned that Gloria was planning on retiring from the USFS during the next 18 months. Upon retirement she would no longer represent the USFS and she did not wish to be considered for another term as MOBGN Vice-Chair.

Bob nominated and Tony seconded Lynn Morrow as Vice-Chair.

Lynn was elected by unanimous acclamation.

Committee Reports

Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Exhibit

Lynn reported on the Lewis and Clark exhibit possibilities. The exhibition material is a folding three-panel desktop display that provides a total of six sides (panels) for information.

Bob wanted to know why the MOBGN was involved in the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration. Lynn and Walter informed all that we want to enhance MOBGN work, to recognize what we do, to highlight some of the principles and policies of geographic naming, and to have some professional presentation material developed for travel to conferences, etc., with MOBGN members. Bob felt that few cared about the actual work of the Board.

Claude suggested we acknowledge the Mississippi River as a part of the Lewis & Clark expedition and, therefore, highlight St. Mary. Russ agreed.

Other suggestions were the Missouri River sites of Sugarloaf and Big Manitou Bluffs.

Bob suggested Missouri names as they existed in 1803 and as they existed during the Civil War. Lynn pointed out that this would require additional work.

The following items were suggested as highlights:

Big Manitou Bluffs	MO River name associated with L&C
Roche Percée	MO River name associated with L&C
St. Mary	Mississippi River name possibly near an L&C camp
Whitewater River	Highlights the policy to avoid duplicate names for similar features
Little Piney Creek	Highlights the local usage principle
Information about the MOBGN, and The process for getting a name changed or an unnamed feature named.	

2002 COGNA report

Jane reported on the July meeting of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities. She mentioned that the US BGN reiterated its stance that they would not docket a name until they had heard from all administering agencies IN WRITING. The US BGN would not accept the idea that if an administering agency did not reply to a letter of inquiry that this agency agreed with the proposal even though the letter of inquiry would state that no response signified agreement to the name proposal. Some staff reported that they want to initiate the process that if an agency doesn't reply to a letter of inquiry concerning a name issue within a specified period of time, then the DNC staff will assume that the agency has "no opinion" concerning that name issue.

Jane mentioned that the 2003 COGNA meeting would take place at Asilomar State Resort, Monterey Peninsula, California. The 2004 COGNA meeting would be somewhere in New Mexico, and that both Oregon and Kentucky had proposed to host the 2005 meeting.

Walk-ons

Jane was asked to send a copy of the Elder vs Delcour 1954 Missouri Supreme Court case summary to MOBGN members.

Walter mentioned the multiple spellings of "Aunts," "Ants," and "Ance" for a stream where the James River flows into the White River at Table Rock Lake.

Next meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. in Jefferson City on Thursday, May 15, 2003.

Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.