

# MISSOURI BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Secretary of State Office Building  
KSIC Interpretive Center (auditorium)  
610 W. Main Street  
Jefferson City, Missouri  
Minutes  
0301  
May 15, 2003

Attendees: Chris Barnett, Ryan Burson (arrived very late), Bob Flanders, Jim Goodrich, Larry Grimes, Tony Holland, Dave Kreighbaum (USCOE non-voting rep), Gordon McCann, Jane Messenger, Lynn Morrow (Vice-Chair), Russ Mueller, Frank Nickell, Walter Schroeder (Chair), Bill Sneed, Claude Strauser (USCOE voting rep), Jerry Vineyard

Proxies: Lynn Morrow held proxy for Ryan Burson  
Bill Sneed held proxy for Gloria Miller  
Frank Nickell held proxy for Henry Sweets

Absent: Liz Cook, Brent Fischer

Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Walter announced Liz Cook's intention to resign from the MOBGN due to our meeting times conflicting with other meetings.

Claude Strauser announced his intention to retire from the USCOE and introduced Mr. Dave Kreighbaum, who will be the representative from the Corps. Claude stated that he hand picked Dave and expects that Dave will do a fine job.

Many members expressed sorrow to hear that Claude intended to leave the MOBGN and said they especially like the sense of humor he often brought to our discussions. Claude, you will be missed.

MOBGN members briefly introduced themselves to Dave and welcomed him aboard.

## **Minutes of 0202 meeting**

Walter called for corrections to the minutes of the November, 2002, meeting. He made a few corrections.

Minutes were accepted with the corrections.

## **Continuing Business**

Little Manitou Bluff (MO Docket # 97-4)

Jane reported that no additional information had come from Jim Denny. We are waiting on the exact location data from Mr. Denny. Walter will talk with Jim Denny about his plans. If Mr. Denny wishes to drop the name issue from consideration, he will need to officially withdraw his proposal. MOBGN redeferred the issue.

#### Wild Boar Hollow (MO docket # 01-02)

MOBGN is waiting on additional information from the Mark Twain National Forest ranger district involved. Jane mentioned that Gloria had reported that since the single edition maps have been published there seems to be little interest or time to work on this name. Jane will talk with Gloria for further information and status.

#### Wild Boar Ridge (MO docket # 01-03)

See Wild Boar Hollow.

#### Redraft of Chapter 109

Lynn reported that there is a paragraph in the redrafted version of Chapter 109 mentioning the existence of the Missouri Board on Geographic Names. He says we are still on track but that the process takes time.

#### Little Piney River vs West Piney Creek (MO Docket # 02-04)

Jane explained the difference between local usage and historical usage and that with time names can and do change so that the name currently in use today (local usage) may not be the same name that was in use 100 years ago (historical usage). She also explained that if there is controversy or division between names, one of which is the officially recognized name, the US BGN is reluctant to change the name.

Lynn reiterated that his findings and the findings of Ed McKinney, who wrote a paper concerning names in this area, revealed no written evidence other than the single newspaper article that this stream had ever been called Little Piney River. Lynn also restated the tendency to change names from creek to river for tourism purposes.

Jane mentioned that one of the ladies she works with who has lived in the area for more than 40 years, said that she has always known the stream as Little Piney River and she got the name from her father.

Jim moved and Bill seconded to redefer this issue until additional research could be done.

Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that changing the name from West Piney Creek to Little Piney River, if done, would affect the pending issue before the US BGN to change Little Piney Creek to Little Piney River (in Phelps, Dent, and Texas counties). If both changes were approved, it would result in two Little Piney Rivers in the same are, in fact the same county (Texas).

Jane noted that the US BGN latest docket listing for this issue was confusing in that it made considerable reference to the Little Piney Creek vs Little Piney River name change listed on a previous docket. Jane will check with the US BGN staff to see if the West Piney Creek vs Little Piney River docket listing could be clarified more.

Jane will contact the Houston newspaper and ask them to publish an article requesting input on the stream name. She will also contact the proponent and ask him to provide some additional evidence. Lynn will ask Ed McKinney to do a classroom survey about the name.

### Holloway Mountain

Bob moved and Jim seconded that we lay on the table this issue.

Jane informed the members that the name proposal was for an unnamed feature, the gentleman for whom the feature is to be named met all of the commemorative naming criteria, and that McDonald County approved the proposed name.

Bob amended and Jim seconded his motion to approve the proposal to name a summit in McDonald County Holloway Mountain.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### Joe Shirk Mountain (MO Docket # 03-01)

Bob moved and Jim seconded to reject the proposal to name a summit in Taney County Joe Shirk Mountain.

Jane read the Commemorative Naming policy to the MOBGN and the comments from the proponent that Mr. Joe Shirk, although he liked the Ozarks, had never seen the feature that is proposed to be named for him. It was suggested that the information about commemorative naming should be made available through the MOBGN web site. Jane will send to Lynn the appropriate link to the U.S. BGN site. [That site is

<http://geonames.usgs.gov/bgn.html>

Once there, click on principles, policies and procedures.]

The outpouring of letters from local residents, the comments from the White River Valley Historical Society, the opposition of the City of Branson indicate that there is much opposition to naming the feature Joe Shirk Mountain.

Motion to reject the proposed name carried unanimously.

Snapp Bald (MO Docket # 03-02), Snapp Balds (MO Docket # 03-04), and Sourwood Mountain (MO Docket # 03-03)

Gordon moved and Jim seconded to discuss these three names at the same time.

Gordon, who is a member of the White River Valley Historical Society, said that there seems to be some confusion as to which summits are proposed to be named. The proponent to name a summit Snapp Bald indicated one summit but most of the local people thought that the name had historically been applied to the summit immediately to the north.

Many MOBGN members felt that naming a single summit Snapp Bald within a range named Snapp Balds would be very confusing.

Lynn, also a member of the White River Valley Historical Society and former editor of its journal, pointed out that Harrison Snapp owned a tremendous amount of land between Harrison, Arkansas and Springfield, Missouri. He had three sons and at the time of the Civil War owned 5 slaves. Traffic between these two towns passed immediately by the most northern summit and it was used as landmark.

The White River Valley Historical Society felt that no one particular summit within the range should be named. This position was supported by the City of Branson.

However, everyone was in agreement that the name of the range should bear the correct spelling of the family name with two "p's." (Currently, GNIS has Snap Balds.)

Jerry stated that when he was researching the name Sourwood Mountain, he learned that sourwoods do not grow in southwest Missouri. The plant that grows in that region is the sorgum. Lynn and Gordon reported that there is no known historical or literary evidence to support the name Sourwood Mountain. Gordon said that the members of the White River Valley Historical Society were unaware of this name in local use as it would apply to a summit. They did know of a road named this, but said that the road name did not reflect known local usage for a summit.

Members agreed that people who live in an area could give a name to that area but that action did not constitute widespread local usage or acceptance of the name for that feature or area.

Bob moved and Lynn seconded to approve the proposal to correct the spelling of the range of summits to Snapp Balds (as a replacement motion for the motion to discuss, still on the floor).

Motion carried unanimously.

Jim moved and Russ seconded to reject the name Snapp Bald for the single summit.

Motion carried unanimously to reject this proposal because it is unclear historically which summit might have carried the name.

Jerry moved and Chris seconded to reject the proposal to name a summit Sourwood Mountain.

Motion carried unanimously to reject this proposed name because of the lack of historical or literary evidence for the name.

Jane will provide an article to Linda Morgan of the Taney Times, Forsyth, MO, describing the discussion and decisions of the MOBGN concerning the names Joe Shirk Mountain, Snapp Bald, Snapp Balds, and Sourwood Mountain.

### **Committee Reports**

Lynn reported that the MOBGN exhibits for the Lewis & Clark celebration had hit a slight snag when Frank lost all of his staff support to supply pictures of the Whitewater River name issue. However, with the new emphasis that the Secretary of State is placing on information technology, Lynn stated that there are many other options available to MOBGN members for creating displays for the Lewis & Clark celebration as well as other opportunities to put the work of the MOBGN before the people of the state of Missouri. Lynn said that he thought it would be possible to put a lot of pictures and other information on our web site. It is also easy to make "poster-like" displays that are very portable and cost efficient to make. All of the information used to produce these displays or web links is digital in form. If members have digital pictures of Missouri geographic features that have been debated by the MOBGN, Lynn could make posters and web images.

Lynn asked members to look at the mental health electronic version and see if something like that could be applied to MOBGN. Please send your recommendations to Lynn before the November meeting.

Walter mentioned that it would be nice if this state-supported technology presentation of MOBGN's activities could be reported at the COGNA meeting, but Lynn said nothing would be ready before the COGNA September 29 meeting.

Lynn will report the number of hits to the MOBGN web site at the next meeting.

## **COGNA 2003**

The Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) will meet at Asilomar State Resort on the Monterey Peninsula, California, September 29 through October 3. Jane explained to Dave that this is a group of state names authorities and Federal agency representatives who get together to discuss geographic names issues, methods of dealing with these issues, and the policies of the various authorities. One of the main topics of discussion during the meeting is the State/Federal Roundtable where State authorities get a chance to discuss problems and issues with the US BGN policies, procedures, and principles. The US BGN explains the reasoning behind these and listens to suggestions or concerns of the state authorities. Another highlight of the conference is the toponymic tour that is a one-day tour of the local area discussing geographic names in the area and how these names came to be applied to the features.

Bob moved and Jim seconded that Bill Sneed act as the MOBGN representative in the COGNA Business meeting and that Jane act as Bill's alternate in case Bill is unable to attend the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Squaw names**

The MOBGN members discussed the squaw name issues that have arisen in recent years. Jane told members about what happened in Arizona with the governor and the Arizona Board. A question was raised concerning whether any of the Missouri squaw names were being addressed. Walter and Jane said that no proposals to change any of the squaw names have been received and no board member reported hearing any concern with squaw names in Missouri.

The next meeting of the MOBGN will be on Thursday, November 13, 2003, starting at 10:00 a.m. Members liked meeting in the Interpretative Center auditorium so Lynn will try to reserve this room for the November meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.