

Missouri Board On Geographic Names
03-02 Meeting
Interpretative Center
James Kirkpatrick Building
Missouri Office of the Secretary of State
Jefferson City, Missouri
November 13, 2003
Minutes

Attendees: Chris Barnett, Brent Fischer, Bob Flanders, Lynn Wolf Gentzler (acting for Jim Goodrich), Dav Kreighbaum, Ewell Lawson, Gordon McCann, Jane Messenger (Executive Secretary), Gloria Miller, Lynn Morrow (Vice-chair), Russ Mueller, Frank Nickell, Walter Schroeder (Chair), Bill Sneed, and Henry Sweets

Visitors: Bill Pepmiller, Jay Turner, Arnold Williams

Absent: Tony Holland, Jerry Vineyard

Walter called the meeting to order at 10:05.

Walter called for proxies. Frank Nickell carried a proxy for Jerry Vineyard. It was noted that Jerry had properly informed Frank how to vote on the upcoming names issues.

No additional agenda items were added to the agenda.

Report on Jim Goodrich

The chair asked Lynn Wolf Gentzler to report on Jim Goodrich. Lynn's report was great news. After getting a second opinion, it was discovered that Jim does not have cancer. He is now back in rehab to help with recovery from his stroke earlier this summer. It is hoped that he may eventually return to work and participation on the MOBGN. A card was distributed for MOBGN members to sign for Jim.

Report on Larry Grimes

The death of Larry Grimes in August, 2003, was reported. A sympathy card to be mailed to the Larry Grimes family was distributed for signatures.

Introduction of members

Many members brought guests with them. Introductions were made. Gloria Miller announced her retirement from the Forest Service effective before the May, 2004, meeting and that her replacement on the MOBGN would be Jay Turner. Bill Sneed announced his move to the Arkansas Mapping Partnership Office lead position where he hopes to make Arkansas more aware of the need for an active geographic names board. He introduced Bill Pepmiller as his USGS replacement on the MOBGN.

Brent Fischer announced that MoDOT is undergoing reorganization and he wasn't certain if he would continue to act as the voting member on the MOBGN or if Arnold Williams would be the MoDOT representative. Lynn Wolf Gertzler announced that she would be acting in Jim Goodrich's position until he returns. Ewell Lawson announced that he is replacing Ryan Burson who resigned from the MOBGN.

May, 2003, minutes

Walter asked for any corrections to the May meeting minutes. None were forthcoming. Walter declared the minutes approved as submitted.

Continuing Business

Little Manitou Bluff

Walter stated that he had contacted Jim Denny, proponent for the name Little Manitou Bluff. Jim assured Walter that the needed information would be forwarded to the Executive Secretary in time to be discussed and voted on at the May, 2004, meeting.

Wild Boar Hollow

Gloria reported that the Mark Twain National Forest rangers are not providing information and requested that the proposed name be withdrawn since the Forest Service had originally proposed the name. Jane was asked to remove the name from the MOBGN docket.

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Redraft of Chapter 109

Lynn Morrow reported that there are no changes since the May meeting. Jane mentioned the controversy that happened with the Arizona board and the fact that the AZ Governor tried to ramrod a commemorative name through the Arizona board. She wanted to change the name of Squaw Peak to commemorate a Hopi woman killed in the war with Iraq. When the then chairman of the Arizona board mentioned that the policy of the US BGN and the Arizona board required an individual to be deceased for five years and that the individual have some close association with the feature to carry that individual's name, the Governor demanded the Arizona chair's resignation and tried to force other Arizona Board members to vote in favor of the proposal. Because the Arizona board was not

established by Executive Order, the governor was unsuccessful in abolishing the board. She also could not remove the then chair from participating on the board. She was, however, able to create an uncomfortable feeling among many of the state officials serving on the board and successful in having the then chair removed from his chairmanship. Jane reported that the Arizona board is now involved with reviewing their bylaws and operating procedures.

Although she foresaw no problem, Jane mentioned that the MOBGN could be dissolved through another Executive Order. Walter explained that at the time of forming the MOBGN it was recommended to him and Don Lance that the fastest and easiest way to get the MOBGN established was through an Executive Order.

Lynn Morrow suggested getting someone of high influence in the Democratic party to write a letter supporting the MOBGN. However, at the suggestion of Ewell it was decided that the MOBGN would do nothing for the time. Ewell felt that it was possible to approach the governor by explaining that the MOBGN could, in fact, help keep the Governor's office out of potential political turmoil if such a similar situation arose in Missouri. If the MOBGN was under the state's statutes, then the Governor's office could not be forced to make a decision about abolishing the board or trying to ramrod a name through the process.

Ewell said that when it comes to the Office of Administration for review, he will do what he can to aid us as much as possible to achieve status under the state's statutes.

Little Piney River vs West Piney Creek

This name change was proposed by Larry Southern, Texas County Commissioner. It was initiated when the Executive Secretary was informed by Texas County that they opposed the proposal to change the name of Little Piney Creek to Little Piney River because they had another stream named Little Piney River in Texas County. Upon review it was discovered that the official name in GNIS for this stream was West Piney Creek. Mr. Southern then requested that the process begin to get the name officially changed to Little Piney River.

Lynn Morrow reported on the survey he ran in the Houston, MO, area concerning the name currently in local usage for the stream officially known as West Piney Creek. Of the 27 responses none replied that they knew or had ever known it as West Piney Creek. Twelve call it Little Piney River, eleven call it Little Piney, and four call it Piney River.

At this point Lynn Wolf Gentlzer asked that Jane give her presentation on generics so that Board members could possibly have some guidance on how or which generic should be applied.

Jane gave the same presentation that she had given at the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) conference in California last October. The gist of the presentation is that the applied generic has little structure and often is misleading. The Board members came to the conclusion that no hierarchy exists for applying generics to streams or summits.

No one could supply the reason why the stream was named West Piney Creek. Jane pointed out that it does flow into the Big Piney River from the west.

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

Passed unanimously

Jane was asked to be certain to mention to the DNC that this stream name is closely allied with the Little Piney Creek vs Little Piney River issue. Even though Little Piney Creek flows through Texas county it is not the same stream as the currently named West Piney Creek.

New Business

Sourwood Mountain, Snapp Bald, and Snapp Balds

During the May, 2003, meeting the MOBGN had voted to recommend not approving the names for the two summits but to recommend changing the spelling of the range to reflect the correct spelling for the family the name commemorates. The MOBGN based their decision on not approving Sourwood Mountain because sourwoods are not native to Missouri and the White River Historical Society could find no historical evidence that this summit ever bore that name. The reason for not approving the Snapp Bald name proposal was that the White River Historical Society indicated that the particular summit proposed to carry that name may not be the correct summit—that in fact, it is unclear which of the summits in the area should carry the name. The City of Branson supported the White River Historical Society. Although letters had been written to Taney County, the MOBGN had received no reply to the inquiries. After forwarding the name proposals and recommendations to the DNC, the DNC wrote to Taney County and received a reply from the presiding commissioner, Chuck Pennel, stating that he agreed with the proposals for the above two summits and one range. The DNC asked the MOBGN to revisit the name proposals.

Bob moved and Gloria seconded to reaffirm the MOBGN decision to not recommend adoption of the name Sourwood Mountain.

Even though it was pointed out that the name was in local usage, Gloria asked what constituted local usage versus common usage.

Jane was asked if she or the DNC had talked with the county commissioner to learn if his decision was based on a vote of the commission or his personal decision. Jane replied that she hadn't contacted Mr. Pennel and was fairly certain that the DNC staff had not. [Jane later confirmed that the DNC staff had not contacted Mr. Pennel other than via the original letter.]

Motion was carried 15 to 1

The dissenting vote wanted to wait until contact had been made with the county commissioner to learn if the approval of the name was based on a vote of the county commission or a personal decision.

Snapp Bald

Bill moved and Chris seconded to reaffirm the MOBGN decision to not recommend adoption of the name Snapp Bald for the reason that it is unclear which particular summit should carry the name.

Motion was carried 15 to 1

The dissenting vote wanted to wait until contact had been made with the county commissioner to learn if the approval of the name was based on a vote of the county commission or a personal decision.

Snapp Balds

No additional action was required on this name as the recommendation of the MOBGN to correct the spelling of this name was supported by Taney County.

Jane mentioned that the majority of names issues within the State of Missouri will need a tribal review prior to a vote by the US BGN. She displayed the Federally recognized historical tribal lands map. She mentioned that the DNC, by law, must inform tribes whose historical or current tribal land boundaries plus 50 miles beyond those boundaries encompass or touch any feature for which there is a name issue. The DNC must provide them with enough time to reply with their comments. Jane mentioned that this will be done by the DNC. In the case of the above names, the DNC allowed the Osage tribe 45 days to reply to their letter or the DNC would assume they had no opinion. Bill Sneed mentioned that Lee Fleming of the BIA stated at the COGNA meeting in California that 45 days often is not enough time to allow tribal councils to meet. The DNC may change the allotted time to apply to 60 days. In any case, this adds to the length of time needed to get a name proposal through the full US BGN process.

Jane mentioned that she received very little response from county commissioners when she mailed letters concerning names issues. Ewell and Lynn stated that

sending the letter to the county clerk was more likely to get action since it was the county clerk who set the agenda for county commission meetings.

Privacy Act

Jane mentioned that due to security and privacy act information regulations, she is no longer able to keep the roster or any MOBGN information on her work computer. All work will need to be kept on CDs and in a locked file drawer. Federal law requires that all names and associated private addresses and telephone numbers must have either a privacy act statement signed allowing publishing of the information on and in Federal publications or be removed from Federal publication.

Replies to outside inquiries

Jane mentioned that in the future, she would be including in the letter of receipt of a name proposal that the proponent's name would become a matter of public record. The DNC is doing this and Jane would start.

Committee Reports

Lewis and Clark Exhibit

Lynn Morrow reported that the MOBGN members will need to decide in May which traveling displays they would like to have available to them. There will be several to choose from and Lynn is hoping that several members will be anxious to take one with them to use to promote the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial and the MOBGN.

Lynn also reported that Claude Strauser (WHO HAS NOT YET RETIRED FROM THE USACOE), past member of the MOBGN, will be giving a presentation on the Mississippi River for the Mapping Missouri April exhibit opening at the State Archives.

2003 Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) Conference Report

Bill Sneed reported that the "miserable" location (Pacific Grove, Monterey Peninsula, CA) of the 2003 COGNA meeting made for a pretty tough meeting but that he persevered, toughed it out, and attended the sessions. The business meeting ran out of time so voting members completed their business via e-mail.

He reported that the 2004 COGNA conference would be in Jacksonville, FL, from October 19-23. Hotel rates are guaranteed at Federal Government per diem. The 2005 meeting would be in Portland, OR, but the dates were not set in stone as the proposed dates would cause Federal employees to have to budget for two COGNA conferences in the same fiscal year.

Jane mentioned that there was a gap between the Oregon conference and the next state to propose hosting and wondered if Missouri would consider hosting again. MOBGN members then discussed possible venues and years. General consensus was that Jane should learn exactly which year(s) had a gap. MOBGN members thought also that maybe in 2009 or 2010 would be good years to propose hosting.

Conference costs were mentioned and possible solutions of having these conferences in locations that were not as costly with the meeting actually taking place where there would be no charge for conference rooms.

Executive Committee Report

Walter reported that the MOBGN Executive Committee met to discuss several issues. One of the issues was the meeting dates. MOBGN bylaws state that the meetings will be the second Thursdays of May and November. However, MOBGN has for the past several years met on the third Thursday in May due to conflict with finals for the academics on the MOBGN. The second Thursday in November has conflicted with Veterans' Day. So Walter proposed we amend the bylaws to state:

Meetings of the MOBGN are held in May and November of each year. Precise date will be determined at the previous meeting by MOBGN members present. Special meetings may be called by the Chair. The Chair may cancel any meeting in the event there is no business to conduct.

Another issue discussed was the three meeting rule, Article II, Sec. 6, that states "Members who fail to participate or send a substitute to three consecutive meetings or votes shall be removed from membership." This rule conflicts with Article II, Sec. 3 that states

"Term of service for department or agency appointed Members shall be at the discretion of the appointing department or agency. Term of service for Members appointed by the Governor shall be three year terms. Members may be reappointed to successive terms. The first appointees' term of office shall commence on July 1, 1996 and expire on June 30, 1999. (Successive appointments shall expire every three years.) In the event that a new appointment has not been made by the time of expiration of the appointees term, that member shall serve until reappointed or replaced."

Walter asked for suggestions from MOBGN members on rewording. Jane asked that suggestions be sent to her at least 60 days prior to the May, 2004 meeting so she would have the time to get the amendments to members for consideration.

Walter also mentioned that the Executive Committee discussed the four open positions currently available on the MOBGN due to the deaths of Don Lance and

Larry Grimes, and the resignation of Liz Cook and Margot Ford McMillan. He mentioned that the Board has always strived to achieve a statewide representation and that currently we are lacking people from the northwest and north central parts of the state.

Lynn Morrow said that he knew someone who had proposed a couple of people. One was interested but one was not when he learned that there would be no financial support to attend the meetings. Lynn also knew of a possible third individual. Frank also mentioned that he knew of someone interested in participating on the MOBGN. Walter asked that if any MOBGN member knew of individuals who would be willing to serve at their own cost or were able to get their employer to subsidize them the current member should supply the name to Walter.

The Executive Committee also discussed a social event so that Board members would have a chance to become better acquainted with each other. It was mentioned that several MOBGN members would go to a local fast food Italian restaurant following each of the semi-annual meetings and that everyone was welcome. Unfortunately, most members are not able to go for a late lunch because of other work commitments.

Training of MOBGN members on the Principles, Policies, and Procedures of the US BGN was also an issue discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

Lynn Morrow suggested that we could have a training and social meeting in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark exhibit opening at the State Archives in April. However, too many members felt that they would be unable to get away for an additional half to full day.

It was then suggested that the May meeting be extended in length to cover training, a catered lunch, and the regular business. This met with the approval of the members present. The May meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. with approximately two hours of training on the PPPs and geographic names in general, followed by a catered lunch, and the business meeting that, hopefully, will end between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m.

Jane will arrange/provide the training.

Another item discussed by the Executive Committee was the need for better/more recognition. Lynn Morrow suggested a fact sheet. This fact sheet could be included in the letter to various officials the Executive Secretary needs to contact regarding names issues as well as distributed by Board members. Jane will work on one to distribute to members prior to the May meeting for discussion.

Round robin

Lynn supplied a print out of the number of hits the MOBGN web page has received in the last year. Monthly hits ranged from a low of 7 in Feb., 2003 to a high of 467 in July, 2003. Our average for that last 16 months is more than 152/month.

Lynn Morrow mentioned the pre-Civil War road map collection that had been found during a move and the Excel spreadsheet created to record information about the maps. He provided two CDs that contain nearly 90 percent of the maps inventoried. One CD will be sent to the DNC and Jane will keep the other.

Jane mentioned the new web enabled forms for geographic names data entry. One form is the data entry form that is used when a geographic name not listed in GNIS is found published in a source. The other form is the data edit form for supplying administrative name changes and variant names. Both of these forms can and are being made available to organizations and individuals to enter the information via web access to submit to the DNC for review and immediate entry into the GNIS. This process will save a lot of time and provides an easy way to maintain the GNIS database with names found on published sources but not in the database. Jane mentioned that if anyone was interested in possibly getting access they should contact Robin Worcester of the USGS. His e-mail address is: rworcest@usgs.gov.

Next meeting will be May 20, 2004. This is the THIRD THURSDAY IN MAY. Meeting time will be from 10:00 – 3:00. Meeting will consist of training on the PPPs of the DNC, followed by a catered lunch, and the business meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Additional Notes:

Jane contacted Mr. Chuck Pennel, Taney County Commissioner, by phone on November 18, 2003,. He felt pretty certain that he had discussed with other county commissioners the names. He was sure that he had talked with a couple of residents concerning these names. He expressed the desire of the commission that Snapp get spelled correctly but was pretty certain that there was no real strong opinion one way or the other about Sourwood Mountain or Snapp Bald.