

Missouri Board on Geographic Names
04-01 Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2004
600 W. Main Street
Interpretative Center
Jefferson City, MO 65102

- Attendees: Chris Barnett, Bob Flanders, Tony Holland, Dave Kreighbaum, Ewell Lawson, Gordon McCann, Jane Messenger (non-voting, Executive Secretary), Lynn Morrow (Vice-chair), Russ Mueller, Bill Pepmiller, Walter Schroeder (Chair), Henry Sweets, Jerry Vineyard, Arnold Williams
- Guests: John Fisher, Jim Denny
- Proxies: Walter carried proxy for Lynn Gentzler
Jerry carried proxy for Frank Nichols
Lynn Morrow carried proxy for Henry when he had to leave at 3:30 p.m.
- Absent: Jay Turner

The MOBGN met on Thursday, May 20, 2004. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. with two hours of training on the Principles, Policies, and Procedures of the Domestic Names Committee and the Missouri Board on Geographic Names. Jane Messenger and Bill Pepmiller provided the training.

Jane and Bill were unable to demonstrate the new web entry and web edit forms for GNIS but did inform MOBGN members that the Board now has its own logon and password plus biblio code so that designated members can provide information directly to the Domestic Names Committee staff for direct entry into GNIS.

During the training Jane mentioned that she is not sending letters to proponents about MOBGN actions because she feared that the proponent may feel that since the MOBGN approved the proposal, the name was then official for use. She also was concerned that the sometimes long delays between the MOBGN action and US BGN action may cause concern with the proponent. Members asked that the Executive Secretary begin sending letters to proponents telling them of the recommendation of the MOBGN but to carefully word the letters so that the proponent will understand that the US BGN may or may not agree with the MOBGN and that the name becomes official for use only after the US BGN approves the name as official. The proponent would be notified by the US BGN once the members had made their decision.

Jane also mentioned that she does not contact Native American tribes, specifically the Osage, that have or have had tribal lands over or within a 50-mile radius of the geographic feature under consideration. She proposed a process to reopen a case if a

tribe contacted by the US BGN disagreed with a decision of the MOBGN. Members agreed this was appropriate.

The training was followed by a delicious lunch catered by the Moreau Café.

Business meeting started at 12:45 p.m. with Board members introducing themselves to John Fisher.

Walter called for proxies and additions to the agenda. The affect of the revised Missouri Sunshine Law was added to the agenda.

Arnold Williams was welcomed as the new voting member from MODOT.

Members decided that a letter from each agency should be sent to the Chair whenever a new representative is appointed. Walter will request from MODOT a letter announcing Arnold's official appointment as their representative.

Walter announced that Jim Goodrich has officially resigned as Director of the State Historical Society. Lynn Gentzler is still acting director and currently representing that agency on the MOBGN.

Jerry Vineyard announced that although he is officially retired from the Department of Natural Resources, DNR still feels that he should continue as their representative to the MOBGN. Jerry will continue as their voting member.

Jane told the MOBGN members that Jay had called her apologizing for having to miss this meeting but his wife had given premature birth to their child Tuesday morning. Jane had no other news to pass along about how mother and child were doing. MOBGN members felt that Jay's excuse was reasonable and that it was amazing he thought to call to inform us he wouldn't be attending. It was also understandable that he forgot to ask a voting member to vote his proxy.

Total number of votes being cast at this meeting: 15 of 16 possible.

Minutes of 03-02 meeting

Henry moved and Tony seconded to approve the minutes of the November, 2003, meeting as corrected.

Motion passed unanimously.

Jane mentioned that she had lost her softcopy of these minutes and asked if any of the MOBGN members still had softcopy. Ewell said he did and would send her a copy of the file.

Continuing Business

Little Manitou Bluffs

Mr. Jim Denny, proponent, gave a Power Point presentation showing the area under consideration. His original proposal was for an area encompassing three rocks that are known to have had Native American significance and mention in the journals of early explorers to the area including William Clark during the 1804 Lewis and Clark exploration. Two of the rocks had pictographs on them as indicated in these journals. Mr. Denny explained that the two most eastern rocks already have names but that the third does not. These rocks are all on the southern side of the Missouri River. The most eastern of these rocks, Sugar Loaf Rock, is about 1.8 mi. southeast of Bull Rock, the second of the rocks. The third unnamed rock is about 2.5 mi. northwest of Bull Rock. Mr. Denny commented that he supposed that this third rock should really be named. At one time, before the railroad was put through and a good portion of the rock was destroyed it had been known as Lover's Leap. It was also named the Little Manitou Rock in some of the journals of early explorers. Local residents no longer know it by any name and when he asked them specifically about the name Lover's Leap residents did not know where it was.

Board members asked if Mr. Denny would like to propose to name the third rock as Little Manitou Rock. Jim readily agreed.

Bob moved and Tony seconded to approve the name Little Manitou Rock for the northwestern most rock on the south side of the Missouri River near Marion, Missouri, subject to Cole County not opposing the name.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued concerning the apparently overlarge boundaries described for the encompassing area and the name of the area. Jim explained that this area was more difficult to define than the Big Manitou Bluffs area because the river has shifted location since the early explorers traversed the area. He said that he had drawn a simple rectangle so that it would surround the three rocks but would not be opposed to restricting the bounding area to south of the river and closer to the rocks. He would also like to change his proposal to name the area the Little Manitou Rocks Region because the area is not really a bluff but rather three distinctive and widely separated rocks.

When questioned why he had not proposed to name and define an area to encompass the Big Manitou Bluffs and the Little Manitou Rocks Region, Jim said that he had not thought to do so until the 2000 COGNA conference in St. Louis and a discussion with Jenny Runyon. He does now plan to propose the name Manitou Bluffs that will define the entire area but he wanted to get the individual features within the area named first.

Jerry Vineyard expressed the concern that the Missouri Department of Tourism had not been contacted for their opinion. Jerry felt that the Department of Tourism would be very interested in these names issues because of the potential for increased tourism to the area.

Bob moved and Henry seconded to approve the name Little Manitou Rocks Region for a refined smaller area, subject to Cole County and the Missouri Department of Tourism not opposing the name.

14 members voted for motion.

1 abstention because member felt that there was not enough information.

Jane will contact Cole County and the Missouri Department of Tourism. If there is disagreement expressed by either agency, she will bring the name issue back to MOBGN for reconsideration.

Jane will work with Jim Denny to redefine the area as described at the meeting. She will also work with Jim on preparing the proposal for Manitou Bluffs.

Wild Boar Hollow and Wild Boar Ridge

Jane explained that the original proposals (made in 2001) from the Mark Twain National Forest had been withdrawn by the USFS representative because the local ranger district had not provided the location information. However, these names were subsequently published on a Mark Twain National Forest visitors' map. Therefore names were resubmitted and the locations obtained.

Tony moved and Chris seconded to approve the names Wild Boar Hollow and Wild Boar Ridge.

Motion passed unanimously.

Redraft of Chapter 109

Lynn explained that due to current legislative conditions, the Secretary of State, has withdrawn the bill to redraft Chapter 109. The redraft of Chapter 109 included a proviso that would give the Missouri Board on Geographic Names statutory status. Ken Winn and Lynn plan to resubmit the bill through representatives of the next administration. Lynn commented that he had surveyed about 15 other state authorities and of the replies he got, only the Arizona had a board operated under statutory law. He does believe the fact that original Executive Order to establish the U.S. Board on Geographic Names was later changed to law under Truman's administration might add some weight to being able to establish the MOBGN under Missouri law.

Filling gubernatorial member vacancies

At this time Walter asked John Fisher to step out of the meeting for a few minutes.

Walter explained that the MOBGN has three vacancies that could be filled by gubernatorial appointments. Three individuals had been nominated by members. Two of the nominees said that they would be willing to serve if appointed. The third nominee declined.

Ewell asked if the gubernatorial appointments had to be nominated by MOBGN members. Walter said no, but that it had been habit for the Board to make suggestions to the Governor's office.

Bob moved and Tony seconded to recommend to the Governor's Office the appointment of John Fisher and Kenneth Dagle to the Missouri Board on Geographic Names.

Motion passed unanimously.

John was invited to return to the meeting.

New Business

Mott Creek

Jane explained that the US BGN had received a letter from James Mott asking why signage and local maps were displaying the name Little Creek for a stream whose name had been known as Mott Creek. She explained that the official name in GNIS is Mott Creek and that the name Little Creek was listed as a variant in GNIS because the name had appeared on the Chariton County Map produced by the Department of Transportation. Jane commented that she had heard from Chariton and Randolph Counties who agreed that the name in local usage is Mott Creek. A letter was written to Howard County but no reply was received by the MOBGN meeting date.

MOBGN members asked that Arnold work with MODOT to change the map and any road signs put up by MODOT to the official name of Mott Creek. Arnold said that he would.

Jane will contact the US BGN and Mr. Mott about the results of the MOBGN discussion.

Silver Spring Creek and Silver Spring

Jane explained that these two names are being submitted by James Hock in association with Priscilla Stotts of the Missouri Stream Team program. The Stream Team program is operated under Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The purpose of the program is to get individuals to adopt a stream tributary and work to clean up the stream. Since streams with names provide a sense of pride and feeling of “ownership” to the members and more recognition for the stream, the Stream Team program now makes it a policy to suggest that stream teams who adopt an unnamed tributary propose a name for the stream. Russ also explained that a lady in the Department of Conservation told him named streams were more likely to get grants for funding than streams without names.

Jane said that the city of Wentzville approved the proposed names. In addition, they supplied plats of developments that are being built around the stream. The county was contacted but since no reply has been received we will assume that they have no opinion.

Jane read a comment received from Priscilla that said the locals often refer to the creek as a spring and the spring as a creek. She further stated that the spring is actually three springs but that they are so close together they appear as one. These springs feed this wet weather creek.

Tony moved and Chris seconded to approve the names Silver Spring Creek and Silver Spring.

Jerry noted that the stream flows into Enon Branch. He stated that ordinarily, a branch flows into a creek, and a creek flows into a river, etc., and is a convention that is normally applied. Jane and others explained that the US BGN recognized no such hierarchy. Neither did physical geographers. Russ said that the Missouri Department of Conservation Fisheries personnel followed a stream order (1st order, 2nd order, etc) but acknowledged no other order, as far as a name is concerned, such as stream, creek, branch, etc. Jerry and Bob argued that it should be the responsibility of MOBGN to guide proponents of stream names on the hierarchical convention normally used by DNR and when the proposed name violated this hierarchy the Executive Secretary should suggest an alternative. Questions were raised about how this should be accomplished when local usage did not agree with DNR’s normally used convention. Walter commented that it was often habit in this part of the country to think of small streams as creeks regardless of what they flowed into. Others asked if we did this for streams would we do it for other feature classes such as summits. Bob still felt that the MOBGN should establish a stream hierarchy. Chris commented that any stream hierarchy would be hydrographically based and not toponymically based.

The discussion concerning the proposed name Silver Spring for three springs brought out the concern that sometime in the future there may be another proposal

to name one of the three springs something different. A few members felt that the plural should be added to the proposal.

Ewell moved and Tony seconded to split the original motion into two motions and vote on Silver Spring Creek and Silver Spring separately.

Amendment to the motion passed unanimously.

The amended motion to approve Silver Spring Creek

Amended motion passed
10 yeas
5 nos

4 no votes based on the belief that a creek should not flow into a branch
1 no vote based on fear that if the stream gets a name, too much recognition will be achieved for the stream and it will result in a lack of control over the stream by owners and developers. This no vote did not agree that a creek cannot flow into a branch.

The amended motion to approve Silver Spring

Amended motion passed
10 yeas
3 nos
2 abstentions

3 nos wanted the plural version of the name.
2 abstentions felt they needed more information.

Proposal for grant to maintain/update MO GNIS

Chris reported that he had recently been informed that the Cooperative Topographic Mapping (CTM) program of the USGS had requested proposals for grants dealing with geographic name issues. He said the request for a proposal came with very little lead time but that he was able to put together a proposal within a couple of days and get the proposal through the University of Missouri system. The proposal was to compile Missouri structure names for *The National Map* program of the USGS. Chris was informing MOBGN members about the grant proposal because the proposal stated that MOBGN members would be providing expertise and advice.

Chris gave a brief introduction about *The National Map*. *The National Map* is a digitally based national, seamless, integrated map of eight base themes. The eight themes are: 1) imagery; 2) elevation; 3) hydrography; 4) land cover; 5) boundaries; 6) transportation; 7) structures; and 8) geographic names. The

majority of the funding for *The National Map* program comes from CTM. With homeland security issues in the forefront, structure names are vitally important and very lacking in GNIS.

Chris explained that the high cost of the proposal included a 24% administrative fee for the University. He has since learned that there may be a way around this fee. Bill also said there may be other options we could pursue to obtain funding to update the Missouri portion of GNIS.

Unfortunately, the amount of funds available for geographic names work through CTM grants is very limited and the proposal was not approved.

Walter, Chris, and Bill will pursue other options to get grants.

During this discussion it was learned that the Missouri Department of Conservation has created many state conservation areas and not provided the names or boundaries to GNIS. Russ will take an action to see that GNIS receives this information.

Amendments

Walter explained the reasoning behind the two proposed amendments to the bylaws.

Amendment 2 is to change the date of the semi-annual meetings from the specified third Thursday in May and second Thursday in November to any day in May and November that is decided upon by members at the previous meeting.

Tony moved and Gordon seconded to adopt the proposed amendment.

Motion passed.

14 members voted for adoption
2 members not present had not provided proxies
(Ewell had to leave and forgot to assign his proxy)

Amendment 3 is to add a statement at the end of Article II, Sec. 3 to clarify Article II in regards to Sec. 6. The statement to be added is "If a gubernatorial member leaves the Board by provisions of Article II, Sec. 6, then that position will remain vacant until a new member is appointed." Current bylaws state that if a member resigns or is removed, that member will remain on the Board until a new member is appointed.

Tony moved and Chris seconded to adopt the proposed amendment.

Motion passed.

14 members voted for adoption

2 members not present had not provided proxies
(Ewell had to leave and forgot to assign his proxy)

Outreach

Jane reported that she and Bill Pepmiller had staffed a geographic names presentation during the Mid-Continent Mapping Center open house on April 29. The presentation mentioned and provided contact information for the MOBGN and how to propose new or correct geographic names in Missouri.

Lynn provided information concerning the monthly hits of our web page.

Committee reports

Traveling exhibit

Lynn said that it was possible and the SOS office would finance developing a few panels to use as a traveling exhibit for MOBGN purposes. These panels are relatively inexpensive to make because they are produced from digital files. He said that the panels would be like those on the display in the lobby with the exception that they would contain our logo and information. Any of the images on the current panels could be used, altered, or new images could be developed.

Lynn requested input from members about what should be placed on the panels. Bob said that images were much more attention getting than text. Chris suggested possibly having a map of Missouri pinpointing locations of names issues the MOBGN has dealt with. The names could be color coded to indicate US BGN status as approved or pending.

Chris and Lynn will work to develop an image.

COGNA 2004

Jane mentioned that the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) international conference in 2004 will take place in Jacksonville, Florida, from October 19-23. She plans to go. Bill said that he would like to go but won't be able to attend unless Mid-Continent Mapping Center funds costs which is unlikely.

At the last MOBGN meeting Jane reported that there was a blank in one of the future years for a location for a conference host state and asked if MOBGN wished to host again. She said she would learn more about the future conference sites and report at this meeting. She has learned that there appears to no longer be a gap in hosts. Future years' conferences are as follows:

2005 – Portland, OR

2006 – suggested for Colorado
2007 – Oklahoma
2008 – suggested for North Carolina

MOBGN suggested that Bill represent MOBGN at the COGNA business meeting if he attends the 2004 COGNA, otherwise Jane is to represent Missouri.

Addition to agenda

Missouri Sunshine law changes

Walter reported that recent changes to the Missouri Sunshine law could affect how MOBGN conducts business, especially in regards to e-mails. He will look into this further and report at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

Since the second Thursday of November is the 11th and a state and Federal holiday, the meeting will be on November 18, in the Secretary of State Building, starting at 10:00 a.m. Lynn will try to reserve the Interpretative Center for our meeting.

A request was made by Gordon that Jane make a devil's food cake for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.