

Missouri Board on Geographic Names
05-06 Meeting
Room 470
Governor Office Building
Jefferson City, MO
May 18th, 2006 Minutes

Attendees: Chris Barnett, Gary Claspell, John Fischer, Ray Fox, Gary Kremer, Gordon McCann, Jane Messenger, Lynn Morrow, Russ Mueller, Frank Nickell, Walter Schroeder, Henry Sweets, Jay Turner, Jerry Vineyard, Dwight Weaver, and Arnold Williams.

Guests: Jane introduced Marsha McIntire, who in turn introduced her parents, Don and Nina McIntire, and her fiancé William Womack.
Also in attendance were Suzy Wolfe (recorder), Office Assistant for the Local Records Division, and Jeanne Martin (recorder), Administrative Secretary for the Local Records Division.

Absent: Ken Dagal, Antonio Holland, and Dave Krieghbaum.

Walter called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He gave a brief overview of the day's agenda.

Call for Proxies

At this time Walter called for Proxies. Walter carried a proxy for Ken Dagal. Jay Turner carried a proxy for Dave Krieghbaum. Lynn Morrow carried a proxy for Tony Holland.

Gary Claspill let the Board know he is sitting for Richard AuBuchon, the Assistant Commissioner for OA, and that he will likely do so in the future. Walter confirmed that Gary carried a proxy for Richard for this meeting.

Introduction of Guests

Jane Messenger introduced Marsha McIntire, letting the Board know Marsha and her family are here to give testimony regarding an item of New Business on today's agenda. Marsha in turn introduced her parents, Don and Nina McIntire, and her fiancé William Womack.

Introduction of MOBGN Members

For the benefit of guests present at the meeting, Walter asked Board members and others seated at the table to introduce themselves and give their job title.

Minutes of the May 2005 Meeting

Walter requested corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes from the November 2005 meeting. With no changes requested, Walter asked for a motion to approve. Ray Fox moved to accept the minutes from the November 2005 MOBGN meeting as read. Henry Sweets seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Gubernatorial Appointments

Walter let Board members know he finally got confirmation of gubernatorial appointments to the MOBGN Board. New appointees will begin July 1st, 2005 with termination June 30, 2008. Richard AuBuchon, Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Administration is a new member of the Board. Walter reminded the board that Chris Barnett is still a voting member even though he doesn't have all his papers yet. Current gubernatorial appointees will continue as voting members until they are replaced.

Report on Missouri Questionable Names

Jane reported to the Board that Chris Barnett and Walter Schroeder have both done a lot on Missouri Questionable Names. Jane said Chris had some questions that she passed along to Jenny Runyon and Lou Yost that spurred lots of discussion between the three of them. As to Chris' first question, Jane reported that Jenny said Indian mounds could be considered archeological sites. Chris' second question was how to note a subdivision within a metropolitan area. Jane said that Jenny wrote that such a subdivision should be listed as a ppl with the subdivision listed parenthetically after the name. Jane commented that Quality Hill in Kansas City may be considered as a variant in part because it is in Kansas City. Jane said she is waiting on a reply from Jenny and Lou as to whether Quality Hill should be added to the Kansas City feature name description field to indicate that it is part of Kansas City. Gary Kremer asked if it is the goal of the Board to provide to GNIS these subdivisions or named places within urban areas. Jane said GNIS would love to have data entered on all these named places if the names ever appeared in print. She said Lou Yost doesn't even care if all of the data are correct. Jane said don't deliberately input incorrect data. Walter said he thinks names should be there already, should be contemporary names used now. Jane noted that historical names do get put into the GNIS database but with a parenthetical statement of historical after the name. She said it took years to get GNIS to put in the name Rocky Mountains in the database because extremely large features are hard to define. She mentioned that if anyone goes to the GNIS search site and queries for the name United States of America they will not find it because that name is not in GNIS.

Chris' third question was in regard to land claims. Jane said Jenny's inclination is not to include land grants, but Lou Yost said that many land grants from several states are listed in GNIS and he feels that it would be great to get Missouri land grant names in GNIS. However, Jane said do not use the 'other' as the feature class even though it is a feature class. Lynn said Archives has a couple of databases with old Spanish land grants. Walter asked how they are named; they are all numbered with the American State Paper citation

and the Land Claims decision number. Lynn will send electronic copies for Walt and Jane to review.

Chris' fourth question was about identifying swimming holes. Jane mentioned that in Arizona and Utah they are often listed as springs. Jane said Jenny thinks lake is fine but channel is not appropriate. Chris said the descriptions he is working with come from the Ramsey files. Jane said she called GNIS because she feels Robin Worcester needs to chime in on this discussion of naming swimming holes. Walter took this opportunity to express appreciation to Suzy for copying all 19 of the Ramsey file books housed at the State Archives.

Russ Mueller has also been working on Missouri questionable place names. He had a temp working in the office over Christmas who went onto the internet and looked at some names. Making notes based on what she saw they were able to make note of some changes that are needed. For example she found a feature named Jims Ponds and there's only one pond. Jane pointed out that we are not going to change the feature name in GNIS unless the GNIS version is different than the source version possibly due to data entry errors. What Jane proposed is to verify that the feature class in GNIS is correct and to supply descriptive information to GNIS to validate that a name which may appear to be incorrect is indeed correct according to the source and/or MOBGN research. For instance, that although the source showed only one pond, the source contained the plural generic for Jims Ponds.

Chris mentioned he has issues with class versus generics when the generic name is listed as a plural. He also said when he comes across typos he is fixing them. Jane said Robin will get Chris an account and password so he can go into GNIS and make these corrections on-line. Jane said Chris can use a Web Edit form on-line, make changes and enter the MOBGN assigned Biblio code. She encouraged anyone who wants such capability to just e-mail her and she will get Robin to set it up. Jane assured Board members that if they do an edit to GNIS it is reviewed before it is submitted to the database. No one goes directly into GNIS, but instead uses a Web Edit form that is reviewed.

Walter noted that Missouri's Ramsey files are a great historical treasure for our state. Jane added that the Domestic Names Committee staff would love our help. She said the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) is also getting into naming structures for Homeland Security purposes and that Lou Yost would like Missouri involved in this and the maintenance process. Jane said there may be funds available for some of this work and to discuss this with Ray Fox. Chris asked about structural names being contemporary and historical. Jane said there are 133 cities working on naming their structures. The University of Alabama has a contract for 46 of them. She suggested checking with Ray to see if St. Louis and Kansas City are already contracted to be done.

Chris suggested that the Ramsey files should be revisited. He noted that two counties, Reynolds and Shannon, had not been entered into GNIS. He said graduate students could

go into those areas now and work. Walter asked Chris and Ray to report on such a project at our November meeting.

John Fisher has been working in Dunklin County and asked about the generic “island” when applied to features that are no longer islands. He ran across a feature named island that is actually a channel bar deposit from the ancestral Missouri and Ohio rivers. He said they actually were islands, but they aren’t islands anymore, not the way we think of an island. Some of these features still have some water around them, but not in the sense of an island. Lynn said lots of these sites are important because they were sporting areas, for example Buffalo Island. They became resorts for sportsmen from the cities and the locals became guides. Jane read the formal definition of the feature class “island”. She said she feels John’s islands can still be called islands, just note that some of the water surrounding them is channelized now. John said one of his islands needs to be put in the proper county; it is not in Dunklin County.

Walter assured Board members that the Missouri questionable and maintenance of Missouri names is an ongoing project so if they haven’t started working on their names yet it isn’t too late to start.

At this time Board Members took a few minutes of break until 11:00.

New Business

Walter turned over this part of the meeting to Jane. Jane let Board members know there has been a request to change the name of Harper Spring to McIntire Spring, to name the spring house McIntire Spring House, and to name part of the valley Jim’s Creek flows through McIntire Valley. Jane said all of this property is in Shannon County, and that Shannon County approves the request for renaming the spring and naming the spring house. However, they don’t want that valley Jim’s Creek flows through to be renamed. Don McIntire stated that he is willing to withdraw the proposal to name the valley. He said Blair Creek is nearby, so maybe the valley that carries the stream from the spring to Blair creek could be renamed.

Jane said the Domestic Names Committee would consider Harper Spring to be a commemorative name and the DNC is not in favor of renaming commemorative names for fear that it would appear to dishonor the honoree. Jane feels from talking with Shannon County Commissioner Count, who spoke with several local residents, that Harper Spring is not truly a commemorative name; it just happened to get that name when someone asked a local what it was called and the local replied something like “that’s Harpers Spring” meaning that Harper owned land nearby. She said that she could find no evidence that the name was meant to commemorate Harper but just to indicate ownership which was incorrect because the Harpers never owned the land on which the spring sits. Jay Turner has done some research and found that Harper Spring has been in at least one pamphlet, a copy of a portion of which was included in the e-mail materials sent by Jane. Jerry Vineyard asked what the local usage is of McIntire Spring. Walter

asked the family if anyone refers to it as Harper Spring. Don McIntire said no, the old timers know better.

Jane asked that the Board consider all three requests separately.

Jerry Vineyard said he wants to check with the Board of Pioneer Forest, which is part of the LAD Foundation, to see if they object to the renaming of Harper Spring to McIntire Spring. Walter asked the Board if they wanted to table the renaming until LAD board meets. Jerry Vineyard said that would be a nice courtesy to Pioneer Forest. Jerry had contacted the LAD in regards to the name proposals but had not received any reply from them. Jerry said he is on the Board and they will meet next week so he will bring this issue to their attention and get their feedback.

At this time, Marsha McIntire asked the board if her father could speak of the value of the spring house to their family. Don McIntire shared his memories of being about 10 years old when his family built the spring house and remembers carrying rocks to the site.

Russ asked Jane if there is any name in GNIS attached to the spring house. Jane said no. Lynn asked if DNC offers any evidence of Harper being a commemorative name. Jane said no. Walter asked if the Board can vote approval of naming the spring house contingent upon approval of Pioneer Forest. Ray Fox moved to accept naming McIntire Spring House contingent upon approval of Pioneer Forest. Chris Barnett seconded the motion. Gary Kremer asked if this move puts the Board in the position allowing the current land owner to make a name change. Jane commented that the MOGBN has set a precedent in contacting land owners with the Baird Mountain case and Silver Dollar City.

Jerry Vineyard asked if this will be a commemorative name. Jane said yes, in commemoration of Leo McIntire, father to Don and the person responsible for developing the spring. Gary said he would choose to vote against the motion; he feels it is inappropriate to give the current land owners (the LAD Foundation) authority to change the name. He did not want the motion to have the "Contingent upon approval of Pioneer Forest" in the wording. Chris wanted to know if the land owner has to agree when a governing body approves renaming a feature. Jane said no.

Ray reworded the original motion. He moved to approve the name McIntire Spring House and Chris seconded the motion. A vote was taken on the motion to name the spring house according to the proposal. All approved except Jerry Vineyard, who abstained because he wanted the LAD Foundation to be able to provide comments.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name McIntire Spring. All approved except Jerry Vineyard who abstained because he felt that the LAD Foundation should have been informed.

Walter noted that Don and Nina McIntire were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary today. A round of applause was given.

Don McIntire withdrew his proposal for naming the valley. Jane said there will be a proposal at the next board meeting for McIntire Spring Branch. Our guests left the meeting.

At this time Board Members enjoyed a catered lunch buffet by Chez Monet.

Election of Executive Committee Officers

Walter called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and let Board members know it is time to elect Executive Committee Officers; Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Secretary. At this time Walter turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Lynn Morrow, and Walter left the room. Lynn opened nominations for Chair. Chris Barnett nominated Walter Schroeder as Chair of MOBGN. Arnold Williams seconded the motion. Gary Kremer proposed acclamation of the nomination. Proposal accepted. Walter Schroeder is Chairman of MOBGN.

Next the board will elect an Executive Secretary for MOBGN. Jane let Board members know she will be losing her job with the USGS in Rolla when the USGS closes the mapping operations there. She explained that everyone employed by the USGS in Rolla could get a 'pink slip' very soon, or the decision may be made to keep it open. Jane said Rep. Jo Anne Emerson has proposed funding that is currently being considered in Washington DC. If funding is not approved they will close the USGS in Rolla. If funding is approved, the USGS upper level management may decide to close the Rolla office anyway.

It's still not decided. Jane briefly outlined her duties with MOBGN. As Executive Secretary Jane serves as liaison between the US Board on Geographic Names and the Missouri Board on Geographic Names, she is liaison between names proponents and the MOBGN, she does all the paperwork for the Board, she does research on Missouri place names, and she collects and sends information to MOBGN board members. Jane reminded members that the Executive Secretary position is a non-voting position. At this time Jane left the room. Lynn opened nominations for Executive Secretary. Chris Barnett nominated Jane Messenger as Executive Secretary for MOBGN. Henry Sweets seconded the nomination. Nomination approved.

Jane came back into the room and opened nominations for a back up for Executive Secretary. Gordon McCann nominated Chris Barnett as back up for Executive Secretary for MOBGN. Jay Turner seconded the nomination. Nomination approved.

Next the board proposed to elect the Vice Chair. At this time Lynn left the room. Jane opened nominations for Vice Chair. Gary Kremer nominated Lynn Morrow as Vice Chair of MOBGN. Gordon McCann seconded the motion. Nomination approved. Lynn and Walter returned and were updated.

Additions to Agenda and Walk-ons

Walter called for additions to the agenda. With no additions he moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Report on personnel changes in US BGN and DNC

Jane let board members know that Roger Payne retired as Executive Secretary of DNC and USBGN. Lou Yost has been elected as the new Executive Secretary of both the DNC and the US BGN to fill Roger's positions.

Report on Status of Rolla Office and Jane

Jane let Board members know that nothing official has been announced but that September 30th is the date that management is preparing employees for as the closing date for the USGS National Geospatial Technical Operations Center III (NGTOC III) previously known as the mapping operations of the Rolla office. Jane has applied at NGA in St Louis, and has applied for a position as state liaison in Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, or Nebraska. Jane informed MOBGN members that if she remains in Missouri she wants to remain with the Board.

Report on COGNA 2006

Walter let Board members know the COGNA (Council of Geographic Names Authorities) meeting this year is scheduled for October 17th through 21st in Boulder, Colorado. Walter said MOBGN is entitled to send someone to vote at the business meeting and proposed Jane represent us. In the event that Jane is unable to attend, Walter proposed Chris Barnett attend. Henry Sweets moved that Chris Barnett be the primary voting member to attend the 2006 COGNA meeting for MOBGN. Gary Kremer seconded the motion. Motion passed. Jane will be the alternate if Chris can't attend. Ray Fox may attend. If he does he will act as the alternate if Chris and Jane don't attend.

Adjournment

Board members discussed a date for the November meeting. Lynn said the only available dates for meeting at JKSIC are November 14th, or 20th, 21st, or 22nd. Board members did not want to meet the 20th, 21st, or 22nd, the three days before Thanksgiving, so the next MOBGN Board meeting will be Tuesday, November 14th at JKSIC.

Arnold Williams asked MOBGN members to review a draft version of the 2007 MODOT state highway map. He will send draft copies to members for their comments.

With no further business Walter adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.