

Missouri Board on Geographic Names

DRAFT

November 19, 2025

James C. Kirkpatrick

State Information Center

600 W. Main St. Jefferson City, MO 65101

Voting Members Present: Chair Designee John Dougan, Vice Chair and citizen member Chris Barnett, Carey Bridges (DNR), executive committee member at large Scott Faenger (MDA), member at large John Fisher, Steve Vance (MODOT), citizen member Debra Greene, Melanie Hans (USFS), Gary Kremer (SHSMO), Alicia Struckhoff (MDC) citizen member Jon Taylor, and citizen member Brett Chloupek.

Voting Members Absent: Mitch Bergeson (USGS), David Nykodym (OA), Alan Foreman (USACE)

Non-Voting Members Present: Secretary Lena Evers-Hillstrom

Also attending: Joel Rhodes, incoming member from the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO)

No Advisors Present

John Dougan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He then recognized new appointments to the Board David Nykodym, from the Office of Administration, and Joel Rhodes, replacing Gary Kremer as the agency appointment from the State Historical Society of Missouri. John Dougan then noted his appreciation of Gary Kremer for long time service to the MOBGN and as a past State Archivist, and a round of applause was given for Gary Kremer's service. John Dougan acknowledged loss of previous Board Secretary Brian Rogers and new Board Secretary Lena Evers-Hillstrom.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2025

John Dougan presented draft minutes from the MOBGN's May 15, 2025 meeting, and asked for any additions or corrections. No additions or corrections were suggested.

Both John Dougan and Chris Barnett moved to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Melanie Hans. All in favor. None opposed or abstaining. Motion approved.

COGNA Report

Chris Barnett reported on the annual meeting of Council on Geographic Name Authorities (COGNA), held in Golden, Colorado, from August 18-21st, hosted by the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board.

Lifetime achievement awards were presented to Wayne Furr, former COGNA Secretary, and Jenny Runyon, from the US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN). Presentations included those on Dene place names in Alaska, the renaming of Mount Evans to Mount Blue Sky, federal executive orders impacting the USBGN, and the documenting of derogatory names by the organization Coalition for Outdoor Renaming and Education (CORE), whose website is outdoorrenaming.org. CORE is focused on both United States and international geographic names and place-name public policy, working with a variety of partners.

Chris Barnett passed around items from a tour of Golden, including a sticker and book relating to a local gold mine. Further discussion of said mine ensued.

The COGNA Board also approved a yearly budget, with next year's conference set to be held in California (possibly Sacramento). State level and tribal attendance were good, with less of a presence from the federal level.

MOBGN Appointments

John Dougan noted that two citizen representatives are still needed for MOBGN from southwest Missouri and the northeast and/or St. Louis area, particularly for conducting site visits. Chris Barnett mentioned the possibility of contacting someone at Missouri State University, with Gary Kremer specifically mentioning Brooks Blevins. John Dougan stated that he will reach out to Brooks Blevins regarding this position.

Discussion of Lossing Spring Proposal

Chris Barnett read the case summary for Lossing Spring, a proposed new place name for a previously unnamed spring in Barry County, Missouri.

John Dougan and Lena Evers-Hillstrom presented a PowerPoint presentation with photographs of the site, with Lena Evers-Hillstrom noting that Scott Faenger provided the GLO plat map. Lena Evers-Hillstrom provided a close up of a 1909 plat map from Barry County that did contain the spring, but noted that the system for naming natural features in the plat map was unclear. John Dougan then added that because of this it had been unclear if the feature was natural, but it became clear during the site visit that the spring was in fact a natural feature.

John Dougan began further discussion of site visit, noting that the original plan was to bottle spring water, but that plan did not come to fruition, and that while the feature was natural, the flow rate given was likely inaccurate.

Lena Evers-Hillstrom noted that the county submitted a letter of support to the MOBGN. Lena Evers-Hillstrom added that during the site visit she and John Dougan visited with both the proponent and the former County Commissioner, 87-year-old Cherry Warren, who stated that he was supportive of the measure and that to his knowledge there was no previous name for the spring.

Joel Rhodes raised the question of when a commemorative name can be made for a deceased person. Chris Barnett outlined the policies in the USBGN Policies, Principles, and Procedures surrounding commemorative names. He also noted that interpretation of these guidelines is at the discretion of the Board, but that changes could then be made by the USBGN.

Melanie Hans asked if Audrey Lossing was still alive. Chris Barnett stated that she passed away around 2004. Lena Evers-Hillstrom noted that proponent John Lossing's mother went by Nadine or Dee Lossing, rather than Audrey.

John Dougan asked Scott Faenger if he had been able to procure the report on water flow rates at the spring created by the University of Arkansas. Scott Faenger indicated that he had not. John Dougan noted that while the water flow was significant, it was likely not at the levels given in the proposal. Further discussion surrounding a nearby cave system collapse ensued.

Gary Kremer moved for approval. Motion seconded by Melanie Hans. All in favor. None opposed or abstaining. Motion approved.

John Dougan noted that had any members voted no, the USBGN would like more information as to why.

Upcoming Proposals

John Dougan said that due to a federal government shutdown, the US Board on Geographic Names has not yet met. No upcoming proposals are on the agenda at this time.

Discussion of Next Meeting

Meeting scheduled for May 14th 2026 at 10:00 am.

Adjournment

With no further business, John Dougan adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.