Missouri Board on Geographic Names

November 19, 2025

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State Information Center

600 W. Main St. Jefferson City, MO 65101

Voting Members Present: Chair Designee John Dougan, Vice Chair Chris Barnett, Carey Bridges, Scott Faenger, John Fisher, Steve Vance, Debra Greene, Melanie Hans, Gary Kremer, Joel Rhodes, Alicia Struckhoff and Jon Taylor.

Voting Members Absent: Tony Spicci, Mitch Bergeson, and David Nykodym

Non-Voting Members Present: Secretary Lena Evers-Hillstrom

No Advisors Present

Chair Designee John Dougan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He then discussed new appointments to the Board David Nykodym, from the Office of Administration, and Joel Rhodes, replacing Gary Kremer as the agency liaison from the State Historical Society of Missouri. John Dougan then noted his appreciation of Gary Kremer for long time service to the MOBGN, and a round of applause was given for Gary Kremer's service.

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

COGNA Report

Vice Chair Chris Barnett reported on the annual meeting of COGNA, held in Golden, Colorado, from August 18-21st.

Lifetime achievement awards were presented to Wayne Furr and Jenny Runyon from the US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN). Presentations included those on Dene place names in Alaska, 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.

The COGNA Board also approved a 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

Chair Designee John Dougan noted that two citizen representatives are still needed for MOBGN from southwest Missouri and the St. Louis area, particularly for conducting site visits. [x person?] mentioned the possibility of contacting someone at Missouri State University, with Joel Rhodes specifically mentioning Brooks Blevins. Chair Designee John Dougan stated that he will reach out to Brooks Blevins regarding this position.

Discussion of Lossing Spring Proposal

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

Chair Designee John Dougan and Secretary Lena Evers-Hillstrom pulled up PowerPoint presentation with photographs of the site, with Secretary Lena Evers-Hillstrom noting that a 1909 plat map from Barry County did contain the spring, but the system for naming natural features in the plat map was unclear. Chair Designee 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. Secretary 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 supported the measure and that to his knowledge there was no previous name for the spring.

Agency Designee Joel Rhodes raised the question of when a commemorative name can be made for a deceased person. Vice Chair Chris Barnett outlined the policies in the USBGN Policies, Principles, and Procedures surrounding commemorative names. He also noted that how strongly these guidelines are followed is at the discretion of the Board.

Secretary Lena Evers-Hillstrom noted that proponent John Lossing's mother went by Nadine or Dee Lossing, rather than Audrey.

Chair Designee John Dougan asked Scott Faenger if he had been able to procure a report on water usage at the spring made by the University of Arkansas. Scott Faenger indicated that he had not. Chair Designee John Dougan noted that while the water flow was significant, it was likely not at the levels given in the proposal.

Agency Designee Gary Kremer called for a motion. Motion seconded by Melanie Hans. All in favor. None opposed or abstaining. Motion approved.

Upcoming Proposals

Chair Designee 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. All in favor.

Adjournment

John Dougan moved to adjourn. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.