

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid RG 5.54

Office of Secretary of State

Missouri State Archives

Missouri Board of Geographic Names

Abstract: Records of the Missouri Board on Geographic Names (MOBGN), including applications, research, and maps for the various place names proposed. 1954-present (bulk dates, 1995-present).

Extent: 4.9 cubic ft., (11 Hollinger boxes, 1 oversize box).

Physical Description: Paper files, maps, photos, bound volumes, CD.

Alternative Formats: None.

Location: Missouri State Archives.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain except for maps and bound volumes. Items that are not maps and bound volumes reproduced for online or physical publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives. Maps and bound volumes need to be attributed to their original publisher.

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [Date]; [Box and Folder] OR [Volume and Page]; [Series]; Missouri Board on Geographic Names, Record Group 5.54; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Agency transfer and donation. Accession numbers 2016-0002, 2018-115, 2018-0127, 2022-0166, 2025-004, 2025-0142, and 2025-0148.

Processing Information: Processing completed by Amy C. Nickless on August 17, 2022. Updates completed by Amy C. Nickless on January 13 and June 23, 2025.

Historical and Biographical Notes

Governor Mel Carnahan created the Missouri Board on Geographic Names in 1995 via Executive Order 95-28 to coordinate place-naming activities among local, state, and federal agencies. The board reviews all proposed geographic feature name changes and makes recommendations to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for approval and inclusion in the Geographic Names Information System database (<https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/domestic-names>). MOBGN was codified into law in 2009 by Senate Bill 480 and updated in 2018 with Senate Bill 843. Reports are submitted annually to the general assembly.

The current board has 19 members. These include the Secretary of State, director of the Missouri State Archives/State Archivist, executive director of The State Historical Society of Missouri and designees from the Departments of Transportation, Conservation, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Office of Administration. The United States Geological Survey, United States Forestry Service, and the United States Corps of Engineers provide federal representation. The remaining eight members are citizens appointed by the Secretary of State to serve three-year terms. Additionally, one employee of the office of the Secretary of State serves as the executive secretary for the board to maintain records, including correspondence. The board meets at least once a year.

Additional Descriptive Information

Bibliography

“Missouri Board on Geographic Names.” Missouri Secretary of State. Accessed July 15, 2022. <https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/about/geographic.asp>.

Official Manual of the State of Missouri. Jefferson City, MO: Missouri Secretary of State. Volumes 2001-2002 through present. <https://www.sos.mo.gov/bluebook>.

Related Material

MS 368 State Archivist Collection.

- See Jane Messenger Disk (#0004975033) for the Missouri Board of Geographic Names Cookbook. Location: Vault 11-04-03-06.

“The National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program.” United States Geological survey. Accessed August 1, 2022. <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/national-cooperative-geologic-mapping-program>.

“Ramsay Place Name Lists.” The State Historical Society of Missouri. Accessed August 1, 2022. <https://collections.shsmo.org/manuscripts/columbia/C2366/lists>.

RG 5.56 Record Services Administrators

RG 391 Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission

“Theses on Missouri Place Names.” MOSpace (University of Missouri). Accessed August 1, 2022.

<https://mospace.umsystem.edu/xmlui/browse?value=Missouri+place+names+theses&type=title>.

- Source materials for the original Ramsey Place Names list

Series

The records are organized into the following series:

Business Files, 1995-2022

Correspondence, 1995-2012

Minutes, 1995-2023

Place Name Files, 1995-2023

Presentations, 2003-2005

Reference Materials, 1954-2006

Business Files, 1995-2022

Extent: .4 cubic ft. (1 Hollinger box)

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

Series contains items used by the Missouri Board on Geographic Names in the course of business, including grammar guides and bylaws.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	1	Agendas	1995-2002
1	2	Apostrophes	Undated
1	3	Bylaws	1997-2009
11	19	Bylaws	2019
1	4	Comments	2006
1	5	Council of Geographic Name Authorities (COGNA) (includes 1 4x6 color photo)	2000-2005
11	20	COGNA (Council of Geographic Name Authorities) Conference Planning	2021-2024
11	21	Derogatory Name Changes	2022
1	6	Docket Covering 1995-2021	July, 2022
1	7	Entry for Directory of Authorities and Organizations Involved with Geographic Names	Undated
1	8	Executive Orders	1995
1	9	Expertise	2005
1	10	Forms	Undated
1	11	Inquiries	1993
1	12	Legislation, SB480 Correspondence and Files	Undated
1	13	Letters of Appointment	1997-2001
11	22	Letters of Appointment	2013-2014
1	14	Library Holdings	Undated
5	2	Library Holdings	Undated
1	15	Member Data	2005
1	16	MO Questionables	Undated
1	17	Press Releases	2000-2012
1	18	Periods	Undated

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	19	Principles, Policies, and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Names	2003
1	20	Public Relations	2000-2001
1	21	Rosters	1995-2012
1	22	State Board List	2000

Correspondence, 1995-2012

Extent: .2 cubic ft. (1/2 Hollinger box)

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

Series includes both mail and e-mail correspondence of the Missouri Board on Geographic Names. Additional correspondence is included in meeting packets and place name files.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
1	23	2005	2005
1	24	2005-2007	2005-2007
1	25	2007-2012	2007-2012
2	1	Correspondence from Draft Minutes	1996-2002
2	2	Correspondence-Incoming	1996-2006
2	3	Correspondence-Legislation	2004
2	4	Correspondence-Outgoing	1995-2009
2	5	Miscellaneous E-mails	2003-2007
2	6	Miscellaneous Correspondence	1995-2001
6	14	MOBGN Chair Designee	2017
6	15	Thank Yous	2023-2024

Minutes, 1995-2021

Extent: 1.4 cubic ft. (3.5 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Minutes include discussion on proposed place names, administrative decisions, and other related files. Minutes also include three regional conferences. May contain duplicates of some documents also found in the Place Name Files series.

From 2020 onwards, the minutes files include only the minutes and not additional associated material.

Container List

Box	Folder	Date
2	7	July, 1995
2	8	August, 1996
2	9	November, 1996
2	10	May, 1997
2	11	November, 1997
2	12	May, 1988
2	13	Western States Geographic Names Conference, September, 1998
2	14	November, 1998
3	1	May, 1999
3	2	November, 1999
3	3	May, 2000
5	2	May, 2000
3	4	September, 2000
3	5	Council of Geographic Name Authorities (COGNA) Annual Meeting, St. Louis, September 29, 2000
3	6	November, 2000
3	7	May, 2001
3	8	November, 2001 (includes 2 4x6 color photos)
3	9	May, 2002
3	10-12	November, 2002
OB1	5	November, 2002
4	1	May, 2003
OB1	8	May, 2003
OB1	4	May, 2003
4	2	November, 2003
OB1	7	November, 2003

Box	Folder	Date
4	3	May, 2004
5	2	May, 2004
4	4	May, 2005
4	5	November, 2005
4	6	May, 2006
4	7	November, 2006
4	8	May, 2007
4	9	November, 2007
OB1	1	November, 2007
4	10	May, 2008
4	11	November, 2008
5	1	May, 2009
5	2	November, 2009
5	3	May, 2010
5	4	Council of Geographic Name Authorities (COGNA) Conference, October 5-9, 2010
5	5	October, 2010
5	6	May, 2011
5	7	November, 2011
5	8	May, 2012
5	9	November, 2012
5	10	May, 2013
5	11	Executive Committee, April, 2014
5	12	May, 2014
5	13	November, 2014
5	14	November, 2015
6	1	Executive Committee Meeting, November, 2015
6	2	May, 2016
6	3	November, 2016
6	4	November, 2017
6	5	May, 2018
6	6	November, 2018
6	7	November, 2019
6	8	November, 2020
6	9	May, 2021
6	10	November, 2021
6	11	2022
6	12	2023
6	13	2024 (including draft minutes for November)

Place Names Files, 1995-2019

Extent: 1.4 cubic ft. (3.5 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement: Alphabetical until 2018; Docket Order after 2019

Scope and Content

The Place Name Files series contains the applications and supporting evidence, as well as the board's research into proposed place names or name changes. In most cases, maps are included as part of the evidence.

The associated year for a file comes from the application date unless there is no application. When there is no application, the earliest and latest year/s are used.

Container List

1995-2019:

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
7	1	Adonis Lost Hill	2000
7	2	Alton Creek	2011
7	3	Archer Alexander Creek	2018
7	4	Arndt Creek	2019
7	5	August A. Busch Lake	2011
7	6	Bee Hollow, Bee Hollow Branch, Island Branch, and Stillhouse Hollow	2011
3	10-12	Big Piney Creek/River	2002
OB1	5	Big Piney Creek/River	2002
7	7	Boehmer Hollow	1995
7	8	Bob White Cove	2014
7	9	Cabbage Head	2001
7	10	Castor River	2000
7	11	Castor River Diversion Channel (Canal)	2000
7	12	Castor River Diversion Channel (Stream)	2000
7	13	Christisen Vs. Christenson	1996-1997
OB1	5	Christisen Vs. Christenson	1996-1997
7	14	Clearview Elementary School (includes 3 3.5x5 color photos)	2003
7	15	Coleman vs. Kulhman	2006
OB1	5	Coleman vs. Kulhman	2006
7	16	Crow Creek (includes 3 4x6 color photos)	2007
OB1	1	Crow Creek	2007

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
7	17	Daisy Creek	2011
OB1	1	Daisy Creek	2011
7	18	Deer Creek Watershed: Burroughs Creek	2010
7	19	Deer Creek Watershed: Dechamps Creek	2010
7	20	Deer Creek Watershed: Denny Creek	2010
7	21	Deer Creek Watershed: Dielman Creek	2010
7	22	Deer Creek Watershed: Fern Ridge Creek	2010
7	23	Deer Creek Watershed: Fordyce Fork	2010
7	24	Deer Creek Watershed: Magnolia Creek	2010
7	25	Deer Creek Watershed: Monsanto-Sunswept Creek	2010
7	26	Deer Creek Watershed: Northwest Branch of Two Mile Creek	2010
7	27	Deer Creek Watershed: Pebble Creek	2010
7	28	Deer Creek Watershed: Rodes Creek	2010
7	29	Deer Creek Watershed: Rosenfelder Creek	2010
7	30	Deer Creek Watershed: Warson Woods Creek	2010
7	31	Deer Creek Watershed: Windrush Creek	2010
7	32	East Fork Whitewater Creek	1999
7	33	Fretwell Branch	2006
7	34	Frog Rock	2016
8	1	Fulbright Spring	2014
8	2	Grand Lake of the Cherokees	1995
8	3	Groger Creek	2011
8	4	Hackleton Hollow	1999
8	5	Haley Mountain (aka Aley Mountain and Alex Mountain)	1999-2001
8	6	Happy Sac Creek (includes 1 3.5x5 color photo)	2003
10	19	Hathaway Meadows	2019
8	7	Headwater Diversion Channel	1999
8	8	Headwater Diversion Channel (Stream)	1999
8	9	Holloway Mountain	2002
OB1	4	Holloway Mountain	2002
8	10	Howell Branch	2013
8	11	Huesgen Creek	2018
8	12	Inez	1998
8	13	Joe Shirk Mountain	2003
OB1	4	Joe Shirk Mountain	2003
8	14	Johnson Shut-Ins	2008
OB1	2	Johnson Shut-Ins	2008

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
8	15	Kelley Valley	2001
8	16	Kit Creek	2001
5	2	Kit Creek	2001
8	17	La Barque Creek (includes 1 window cling)	2009
8	18	Larga Vista Fork	2009
8	19	Little Manitou Bluffs	2004
8	20	Little Manitou Rock and L.M. Rocks	2005
8	21	Little Piney Creek vs. River	2002
OB1	8	Little Piney Creek vs. River	2002
8	22	Little Piney River vs. West Piney Creek	2002
OB1	8	Little Piney River vs. West Piney Creek	2002
8	23	Little Whitewater River	2000
5	2	Little Whitewater River	2000
8	24	Manitou vs. Moniteau	1998-2000
OB1	5	Manitou vs. Moniteau	1998-2000
9	1	McIntire	2016
OB1	3	McIntire	2016
9	2	Minneville	2006
OB1	3	Minneville	2006
9	3	Mott Creek	Undated
9	4	Negro Names	Undated
9	5	Orchard Switch	Undated
9	6	Orr Hollow Creek	2007
9	7	Pearl River	2014
10	20	Persimmon Artesian Spring	2014-2019
9	8	Persimmon Spring	2012
9	9	Piquet Cave	1999
OB1	4	Piquet Cave	1999
9	10	Powder Creek	2016
9	11	Price Branch	1995-1996
9	12	Quail Cove	2014
9	13	Roche Percée Natural Bridge	2000-2002
9	14	Rutherford Cave	1999
9	15	Rutledge Bluff	2015
9	16	St. Mary vs. St. Marys (includes 1 4x6 color photo)	1996
OB1	6	St. Mary vs. St. Marys	1996
9	17	Sankey vs. Sarkey vs. Sanke	2000
OB1	4	Sankey vs. Sarkey vs. Sanke	2000
9	18	Sayers Creek vs. Sawyers Creek	1997
OB1	6	Sayers Creek vs. Sawyers Creek	1997
9	19	Silver Springs Creek and Silver Springs	2003
5	2	Silver Springs Creek and Silver Springs	2003

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
9	20	Seely Creek	2009
9	21	Smith Branch	1999
9	22	Snapp Bald	2003
OB1	4	Snapp Bald	2003
9	23	Snapp Balds	2003
OB1	4	Snapp Balds	Undated
9	24	Sourwood Mountain	2003
9	25	South Sherrill Creek	2008
9	26	Spring Creek	Undated
9	27	Squaw Names	2001
10	1	Straub Mountain	2004
10	2	Streile vs. Streiler	1997
OB1	4	Streile vs. Streiler	1997
10	3	Thompson River vs. Grand River	2001
10	4	Wentzville City Names	2012
10	5	Whitewater River	2000-2001
5	2	Whitewater River	2000-2001
10	6	Wild Boar Hollow	2004
10	7	Wildflower Creek	2011
10	8	Willow Branch	2011
10	9	Zenter Fork	2019

2020-present:

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
10	21	19-03 Little Bat Hollow	2019
10	10	20-01 Jones Branch	2020
10	11	21-01 Bandy Creek	2020-2021
10	12	21-02 Avery Creek	2021
10	13	21-03 Hoot Owl Creek	2021
10	14	23-01 Calypso Spring	2022
10	15	23-02 Big Rock Spring	2022
10	16	23-03 Waugh Creek	2023
10	17	23-04 Frisco Creek	2023
10	18	23-05 Sycamore Creek	2023
10	22	24-01 Heeb Creek	2024
10	23	24-02 Sni-A-Bar Point	2024-2025
10	24	24-03 Michael D. Parks Lake	2024
10	25	24-04 Wha-Sha-Zhi Creek	2024
10	26	24-05 Mule Shoe Bluff	2024
10	27	24-06 Howl Creek	2024

Presentations, 2003-2005

Extent: .1 cubic ft. (1/4 Hollinger boxes)

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

Series includes presentations by members of the Missouri Board on Geographic Names at both local and national meetings.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
11	1	Is It a Creek or a River?	Undated
OB1	5	Is It a Creek or a River?	Undated
11	2	Is It Really Called That? COGNA 2005	2005
11	3	Stream Hierarchies?	2005
11	4	Training: Principles, Policies, and Procedures of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) and the MOBGN (2 copies)	2004
11	5	What is in a Generic Name? COGNA 2003 (2 copies)	2003
11	6	What is a Geographic Name?	Undated

Reference Materials, 1954-2006

Extent: .8 cubic ft. (3/4 Hollinger box and 1 photo box)

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scope and Content

Includes publications used by the Missouri Board on Geographic Names as reference materials. Also included are 8"x5" index cards alphabetized by lead mine in the Ste. Genevieve District created by Walter Schroeder, who created the cards in the 1980s and 1990s. The cards were donated to the MOBGN by a member.

Container List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date
11	7	Geographic Names and the Federal Government: A Bibliography	1990
11	8	Geological Survey Topographic Instructions, Book 6, Part 6A	1954
11	9	The Lurline H. Coltharp Collection of Onomastics: A Bibliography	1993
12		List of Lead Mines in (Old) Ste. Genevieve District	Undated
0005483866		Missouri Board on Geographic Names Cookbook by Jane Ann Messenger	2021
11	16	Missouri Questionable Names	Undated
11	17	Mixed Files labeled "Miscellaneous" (includes 2 4x6 color photos)	1996-2016
OB1	5	Mixed Files labeled "Miscellaneous"	1996-2016
11	10	Names	1979
11	11	National Geographic Names Database: Phase II Instructions	Undated
11	12	Principles, Policies and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Names	1997
11	13	Public Rights in Missouri Streams	C. 2002
11	18	Topozone.com Missouri Features	Undated
11	14	United States Board on Geographic Names	1990