

DRAFT

NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES

Tuesday October 4, 2022

Public Meeting of the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names

Richard H. Bryan Building
Tahoe Hearing Room. 2nd Floor
901 S. Stewart Street. Carson City, NV

Board Members Present:

- Paul White, Chair, University of Nevada Reno, Dept. of Geography
- Christine Johnson, Executive Secretary – University of Nevada Reno, Dept. of Geography (non-voting Executive Secretary, voting alternate for UNR)
- Craig Burkett – Senior Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General’s Office (non-voting)
- Don Harper, GIS Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada
- Rachel Micander, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
- Christina Clack, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology (voting alternate)
- Scott Carey, Nevada Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources (voting alternate)
- Catherine Magee, Nevada Historical Society
- Stacey Montooth, Nevada Indian Commission
- Cynthia Laframboise, Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records
- Josh Owens, Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records (voting alternate)
- Gabriel Judkins, University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Dept. of Geoscience UNLV

Board Members/Alternates Not Present:

Clifford Banuelos, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Dean Tonenna, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada (voting – alternate)
Dominique Etchegoyhen, Nevada Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
Jeff Welter, Nevada Department of Transportation
Shery Hayes-Zorn, Nevada Historical Society (voting alternate)
Arthur (Duff) Callan, Nevada Department of Transportation (voting alternate)
National Park Service Representatives

Advisory Panel

Nevada State Assemblyman Howard Watts
Cathy Wilson, Cartographer - US Fish & Wildlife Service
Larry Schmidt, USFS (Retired)

Guests

Jennifer Runyon, USBGN – Research Staff, US Board on Geographic Names
Matthew O’Donnell – USBGN – Research Staff, US Board on Geographic Names
Mary Covington – Nevada State Museum
Roger Gash

1. Call to order and approval of Agenda (For possible action)

Meeting was called to order at 9:37am by Chairman Paul White. Motion to approve agenda made by Scott Carey, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. Vote to approve done by roll call

of each agency. Call for votes in favor, all responding in favor. Votes opposed: none. Abstentions: none. Motion carried.

2. Introduction of Board, Guests (Action will not be taken).

Board Members, Advisory Panel and Guests were introduced (attendees noted on Page 1 of these minutes).

3. Public comment (Action will not be taken)

Pursuant to N.R.S. 241, this time is devoted to comments by the public, if any, and discussion of those comments. Comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item on the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on a successive agenda and identified as an item for possible action. All public comments may be limited to 5 minutes for each person at the discretion of the Chair.

Guest Jennifer Runyon thanked Executive Secretary for attending and running the COGNA conference in Maryland in September. Mentioned that COGNA 2023 is in Portland, Oregon in mid-September, 2023.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the January 2022 meeting (For possible action).

Minutes of May 2022 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve May 2022 minutes made by Scott Carey, seconded by Gabriel Judkins. Votes to approve: NIC, NHS, NLA, BLM, UNR, UNLV, NMBG, NV Dept of Conservation & Nat. Resources (DCNR). Votes to oppose: none. Agencies absent for vote: ITCN, NDOT, USFS, NPS. Motion carried with 8 votes in favor of approval.

5. Announcements, Chairman or Executive Secretary.

Announcements from Executive Secretary: Secretarial Order 3404 (replacing derogatory names Sq*** names on the landscape) – names were changed as of 9/8/22, and 34 of those names were in Nevada. Approximately 16 names on the list for Nevada names received Tribal suggestions for name replacements or restorations. NSBGN would like to continue dialogue to determine if all names receiving replacements are found to be suitable by all Tribes and other stakeholders at the state level moving forward. Mentioned that the Executive Secretary has been appointed to serve on the Federal Advisory Committee for Reconciliation in Place Names for Secretarial Order 3405.

Announcements from the Chair: COGNA conference was in Maryland in September after a hiatus of two years. The USBGN met during the conference and allowed all state representatives to observe the Federal process. Next COGNA meeting will be in Portland, OR. The former Chair of the BGN (Marcus Allsup) has retired and is moving to Nevada and is interested in serving on the NSBGN Advisory Panel. Another situation mentioned here is that an independent group is attempting to name a feature for a person who has recently passed away, and the feature is already named, and they would like to circumvent the traditional process (and current policies and procedures of the USBGN) to ensure Cone Peak (near Verdi) is renamed “Sue’s Peak.” Exec. Secretary explained the NV board cannot support actions that go against current policy and will not be supporting this action. Also mentioned that AB88 requires the NSBGN submit annually as to progress and management of directives assigned as a result of AB88. Mentioned first meeting of committee for S.O. 3405 is upcoming in December.

6. Announcements from Board members

Scott Carey (NDCNR) announced that 8/22/22 meeting of the Legislature’s interim committee on public lands, they approved a request to draft a bill for the upcoming legislative session, to amend the statute of the NSBGN to allow members of the board to received per diem and incidental expenses as well as travel expenses to conduct the business of this group, championed by Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, based on testimony of Executive Secretary earlier in the year, and wishes to publicly thank

Assemblywoman Carlton for her support. Assemblyman Watts added and confirmed that public lands subcommittee make the recommendation and the interim natural resources committee which he chairs, took the recommendation and approved it – there will be a Legislative bill put forward for these actions. US Fish & Wildlife Dept. request to be added as NSBGN voting agency will be added to the bill during modification periods during the Legislative session. Assemblyman Watts is in support of assisting this board in performance of its duties, and thanks the NSBGN for its efforts thus far and wants to ensure that the members of the board do not have to pay personally to conduct business of the board.

7. Protocol and streamlining of NSBGN procedures update (For possible action)

Standing item reserved for discussing efficiency of NSBGN operations.

NSBGN Members

- Forms created and updated since January meeting (agency site report, and site checklist) and distributed to NSBGN board members discussed. Forms are to assist in annual reporting to the Legislature and grow transparency. Question asked if the forms are adopted, the expectation is that each agency fills out the form, (answer is yes), and agencies will submit to the Executive Secretary 15 days prior to the next meeting in order to have included in upcoming meeting packet. Reminder email will be sent to submit agency reports for any sites open ahead of upcoming meeting. Discussion suggesting amendment to Site checklist form – affiliated agency/agencies – will be amended to “Administering Land Agency.” Paul White moved to adopt forms with verbiage change. Seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. Agencies voting to approve the forms: NIC, NHS, NSLA, BLM, UNR, UNLV, NBMG, DCNR. Votes to oppose: none. Agencies not present for vote: NDOT, ITCN, USFS, NPS. Motion to adopt forms carries with 8 votes in favor of approval.
- Website is being hosted by UNR, and UNR has agreed to dedicate time and money to overhaul the website to include more content, meet ADA standards (required by UNR), etc. NRS will be included, reformatting structure for ease of use including a page with board member info and contact information, for better contact/involvement/communication of board with public. More intended design of Website discussed including information for the public on how to name places, potentially including a digital submission form and explanation of process and timeline of process as well as what is needed from proponents in names applications. Website may include a status of any name proposal (where it is in the process) as well as information on discriminatory names (principles behind changes and what names have changed). Cynthia Laframboise mentioned accessing records (current website posts minutes, etc.). Records and retention (minutes of public bodies) NRS 241.015 records must be retained for 5 calendar years from date of meeting and then transferred to State Library and Archives (can be transferred electronically). Chair is hopeful to have content to be designed before next meeting and will coordinate with UNR website developer.
- Agencies adding to the Board hopefully in this next Legislative Session – US Fish & Wildlife Service and possibly Nevada State Museum. USFWS has submitted a letter requesting to be on the Board, and NSM has the only official anthropology department in the state museum system. General discussion revealed bill draft request will have language by December, next meeting we can have future agenda item to add both agencies to the upcoming bill draft request. General statements made that both the NSM and the USFWS would be great additions to the NSBGN. Question as to quorum number – to ensure participation and quorum for each meeting. Executive Secretary mentioned all voting and alternate members for each

agency are reported to State annually (as required). All agencies need to ensure if voting member is not available that the voting alternate is present at each meeting.

8. Humboldt Pass/Secret Pass (For possible action)

First hearing for proposed name change of Humboldt Pass is Elko County NSBGN Members

This is the first hearing for the proposed name change for Elko County. Proponent sent application in the NSBGN, seeking. Proponent described application packet, included several maps and more information. Notes that Secret Pass should be the name, with Humboldt Pass as the variant. Feature is erroneously plotted as Humboldt Pass on topographic maps. Humboldt Pass is the variant of secret pass based on Advisory Committee member's research and knowledge. BGN staff members Jennifer Runyon and Matthew O'Donnell spoke and displayed maps on this topic (proponent had reached out to BGN first). Notes this doesn't have to be a full-fledged proposal. Ms. Runyon noted BGN is considering this a database cleanup, looking for local opinion – they just would like a decision on whether these are two separate features. Not every geographic feature case needs to be a full-fledged proposal – this proposal is an example of this idea (NSBGN or other agencies just need to confirm if this feature is one feature or two, and which name of the two should be on it) for database purposes. Mr. O'Donnell spoke and displayed various maps and added explanation that this is clearly a single feature. Secret Pass was first applied, and Humboldt Pass was added later, coordinates on a large feature applied at two separate times. Same feature with two names applied at two different times. The point on maps should be put at the highest point of the low point of the feature (this is a 'gap' feature – a 'saddle' is another term). GNIS can store variant names, not both as the primary name. GNIS manager would like more input on this to update GNIS. Proponent just seeking streamlining. Mr. O'Donnell explained if change supported, feature will be labeled Secret Pass with Humboldt as the variant. Dr. Judkins asked for further clarification. Discussion revealed there is but one pass, local use is Secret Pass. The feature needs to have a single name and the point for that single name will be placed on the "gap" – the point will be the highest point on the inflection change in the slope (the minimum in the "saddle" of this feature). Question as to why the feature name point will not be on the actual pass where the river flows through, but the quirk of the database and the need to name the entire feature – it therefore needs one single coordinate, which traditionally is the inflection point in the slope. Historically Humboldt Pass referred to the entire crossing between the ridges. Chair inclined to move this to a second hearing, for a second and final reading on this if no objections, wherein the board members will share final opinions on this feature. Motion made by Paul White to move this to a second hearing, seconded by Scott Carey. Votes to approve: NIC, NHS, NSLA, BLM, UNR, UNLV, NMBG, DCNR, Conservation and Natural Resources, Votes to deny: none. Agencies absent for vote: ITCN, NDOT, USFS, NPS. Motion carried with 8 votes in favor of approval.

9. Select tentative meeting place and date for January 2023 meeting (For possible action)

DCNR can host next meeting, building schedule necessitates meeting being scheduled for Tuesday, January 17th. Motion made by Paul White to hold next meeting on January 17th at 9:30 – 12pm in person and online in the Richard H. Bryan Building, Tahoe Hearing Room, 2nd Floor at 901 S. Stewart Street in Carson City, Nevada. Votes to approve made by all agencies simultaneously. Votes in opposition: None.

10. Public comments (Action will not be taken)

Pursuant to N.R.S. 241, this time is devoted to comments by the public, if any, and discussion of those comments. Comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item on the agenda until the matter

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Comment made by Deputy Attorney General on Humboldt Pass – has a client engaged in creation of a conservation easement/wildlife management area in the area of Secret Pass/Humboldt Pass, stating clarification of the name would be helpful for people using/working in the area, as they expect more public use of the area in the future.

USFWS asked about a submission for a name change for a peak in NV, NSBGN doesn't seem to have the application – further follow up will occur.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned made by Paul White. Motion by Scott Carey to adjourn, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise, unanimous vote to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:18am.