



STATE OF NEVADA
Nevada State Board on Geographic Names

MEMBERS: Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada Historical Society, Nevada Indian Commission, Nevada State Library and Archives, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, University of Nevada, Reno, National Parks Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES

Wednesday May 11, 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)
Craig Burkett – Deputy Attorney General’s Office (non-voting)
Scott Carey, Nevada Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources (voting alternate)
Dominque Etchegoyhen, Nevada Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
Don Harper, GIS Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada
Gabriel Judkins, University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Dept. of Geoscience UNLV
Cynthia Laframboise, Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records
Rachel Micander, Geologist, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
Josh Owens, Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records (voting alternate)
Dean Tonenna, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada (voting – alternate)
Jeff Welter, Nevada Department of Transportation
Sydney Wilson, Nevada Department of Transportation (voting alternate)

Board Members Absent:

Clifford Banelos, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Shery Hayes-Zorn, Nevada Historical Society (voting alternate)
Catherine Magee, Nevada Historical Society
Stacey Montooth, Nevada Indian Commission
National Park Service Representative

Guests Present:

Ron Moe – Citizen
Jennifer Runyon, USGS – Research Staff, US Board on Geographic Names, Reston VA

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Advisory Panel Present:

John Burgess – NV Dept of Transportation, Former Board Member

Jeff Kintop – Former chair, former NSBGN board member, Advisory Panel

Chrissy Klenke – Earth Sciences, GIS & Maps Librarian, University of Nevada Reno NSBGN

Paul Starrs, University of Nevada Reno Dept. of Geography, Geographer, Professor Emeritus, Cathy Wilson, Cartographer - US Fish & Wildlife Service

Karl Yonkers, Former board member, NDOT

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

Meeting was called to order at 9:33am by Chairman Paul White. Dr. White requested attendees online to turn on cameras. Motion to approve agenda made by Dominique Etchegoyhen, seconded by Gabe Judkins. Vote to approve done by roll call of each agency. Votes to approve: NBMG, Conservation & Natural Resources, NDOT, NSLA, BLM, UNLV, UNR. Votes to deny: none. Agencies absent for vote: NHS, NIC, ITCN, USFS, NPS. Motion carried with 7 votes in favor of approval.

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.

No comments made during this time.

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

Minutes of January 2022 were reviewed, two small changes noted (name spelling and status of Board Chair. Moved to approve January 2022 minutes made by Vice-Chair Dominique Etchegoyhen with corrections, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. Votes to approve: NMBG, Lands, NDOT, BLM, NSLA, UNLV, UNR. Votes to deny: none. Agencies absent for vote: NHS, NIC, ITCN, USFS, NPS. Motion carried with 7 votes in favor of approval.

5. **Announcements, Chairman or Executive Secretary.**

Announcements from Executive Secretary: Mentioned that the ashes of Jeff Dunn were deposited at Dunn Butte – named for him – by family members. Dunn Butte named in recent years for former cartographer Jeff Dunn who worked for years at the NV Dept of Transportation and the feature had received support from the Washoe Tribe. Dunn Butte is in the very top left corner of Washoe County near the Oregon border, and the family shared images from the site to share with the NSBGN. Next: Council of Geographic Names Authorities conference to occur week of September 13th – 16th in Frederick, Maryland, and Executive Secretary will be attending conference representing the NV board. COGNA works to connect state names authorities (SNAs) to each other and also to the members of the US Board on Geographic Names that might attend. COGNA held five digital meetings between February – April (organized by time zones and a follow-up meeting). ITCN attended along with Executive Secretary the Pacific Time Zone meeting. Follow-up meeting on April 1st - the



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NIC sent a representative to attend the meeting along with the Executive Secretary as well – good dialogue shared between SNAs and questions sessions, etc. COGNA 2023 will be in Portland, OR, and COGNA 2024 will be in Columbia, MO.

Second announcement from Executive Secretary: Ashes of Mr. Jeff Dunn were spread on Dunn Butte in NW Washoe County – Dunn Butte named officially several years ago in honor of Mr. Dunn – former cartographer with the NV Dept. of Transportation.

Announcements from the Chair: Exec. Secretary and Chair have been working on what is happening with S.O. 3404 (pertaining to “Sq___” names), questioning the period of public comment and NSBGN sent letter to NIC and ITCN to notify them of the public comment period, hoping the NIC and ITCN were able to help distribute the information. Exec. Secretary and Chair met with three advisors (including the liaison to the Nevada Indian Commission) to the Governor regarding letting the Governor and his staff know what has been going on with regard to S.O. 3404, to discuss the process on how S.O. 3404 is happening, and our hope to have tribal involvement, but the expediency behind S.O. 3404 is taking precedent over principle. Notified the Gov. staff that NV does not have a choice in the matter, but the NSBGN intends to contact the Tribes following the Federal decisions on name replacements and work to solicit input and remedy names if necessary. Also notified that the unfunded nature of this board is detrimental to satisfactory outreach and the NSBGN would like to receive financial support. The Governor’s Office was not aware of the intended action of names changing on the landscape with regard to S.O. 3404.

6. **Announcements from Board members**

Dean Tonenna noted he worked with a number of Tribes with regard to the derogatory names, as well as Marissa Weaselboy who worked with Shoshone Tribes in eastern Nevada; 7-8 names were submitted to the Federal Task Force. Noted that the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe were made aware of the opportunity to submit names, but he was unsure if they did submit. He also worked with Tribes in Eastern California who submitted two names as well.

BGN staff representative noted Tribal comment period ended 4/25, Task Force divided the 660+ names in to sections to manage between Task Force members, and public comments are being reviewed at this time. September 24, 2022 is the deadline for the USBGN to vote to approve name changes.

From Vice-Chair: he serves on behalf of the Director of Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources, who has recently been appointed to a position by the President, (Nuclear Regulatory Commission), and therefore Vice-Chair Etchegoyhen is unsure if he will remain as the NSBGN representative based on departmental shifts moving forward but will advise.

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

Standing item reserved for discussing efficiency of NSBGN operations.

NSBGN Members

Chair notes that NSBGN should review forms and wording for documents we are planning to install as part of AB88 required reporting. Noted that UNR is working to help build a new

website for NSBGN, but transfer of files, design, and ADA compliance (necessary if hosted on University website). Hopes to have forms available to download or auto-fill and submit online, would like to have this done in order to help with outreach and explanations when interacting with Tribes and County Commissions. Vice-Chair Etchegoyhen and Cynthia Laframboise volunteered to assist with website design and discussion. Chair may ask for other input.

Exec. Secretary noted comments to add in “dates and contacts for Tribal consultations,” and removing the word “appropriate” from the forms. Intent is to have something to use as formal records to refer to as part of mandated annual reporting as part of AB88. NSBGN is seeking a more comprehensive and transparent process. All forms are requested henceforth to be submitted to the Exec. Secretary no less than 15 days prior to the next meeting. Additionally – Executive Secretary stated that several Tribal Historic Preservation Officers have requested to be copied on Tribal notification on all outreach done addressed to Tribal Chairpersons as well, hoping to ensure Tribes are getting information. Vice-Chair noted work on forms is essential for what needs are pertaining to outreach and documenting the process of outreach is essential.

BGN representative noted any proposal submitted for a perceived derogatory site (that might be part of 3405) should be processed and submitted to BGN in a normal fashion (don’t sit on these waiting for derogatory names list in S.O. 3405). Process in a normal fashion if any are received.

Dean Tonenna noted that “Federally recognized Tribes” do not include tribal people on traditional lands that are not part of “Federally Recognized Tribes” – and notes in CA some tribes are in process of obtaining their official recognition, and in this way some can be left out of dialogue that pertains to them. NSBGN should note this. BGN representative suggests Native American agencies assist in outreach to both Federally and non-federally recognized groups, noted that the US board is not permitted to engage with non-federally recognized Tribes.

Vice-Chair Etchegoyhen moved to approve use of proposed forms moving forward, seconded by Gabriel Judkins. Votes to approve as amended: NMBG, Conservation & Natural Resources, NDOT, NSLA, BLM, UNLV, UNR. Votes to deny: none. Agencies absent for vote: NHS, NIC, ITCN, USFS, NPS. Motion carried with 7 votes in favor of approval.

8. Squaw Peak Renaming (For possible action)

Second hearing for proposed renaming of Squaw Peak in Mineral County.

NSBGN Members

This renaming proposal was presented by Dean Tonenna and the name has been forwarded to the Federal Task Force as a renaming suggestion, which takes the proposal out of the hands of the NSBGN as part of S.O. 3404. Intensive discussion by NSBGN members on how to manage this proposal. Vice-Chair Etchegoyhen stated that since our traditional process is to have a second hearing, we should process normally in order to further indicate the viewpoint of the NSBGN as part of traditional process as well as to reflect support, in the event that something happened at the federal level, that this process at the state-level was not lost, that voting on this renaming at the state-level would document the process and leave a permanent record. Cynthia Laframboise supported this statement citing that the NSBGN should follow ‘normal’ procedures in this way. Dean Tonenna was asked to review



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the site renaming, during which time he discussed that he discovered this named feature on BLM land in 2018, two miles east of the Walker River Paiute Reservation, and he worked with the Tribe to find out if there was interest in renaming this derogatory name (long before S.O. 3404). The Tribe was very interested, and this Tribe has great interest in seeing the landscape reflect their history and language. The name Kwe'na'a (suggested name replacement) means "golden eagle." Chairperson of the Walker River Paiute Tribe Amber Torres signed and submitted a letter supporting this name change. The NSBGN is in possession of the Tribal letter of support. Comments and discussion: Gabriel Judkins asked for alternate name to be submitted at the same time, for the translation of this name. BGN staff stated the translation of the name cannot be accepted as an alternate – the translation can be included in the database as the meaning, but an alternate is only for terms found used in other publications or on maps. Question as to whether a generic term or descriptor should be added by BGN staff. "Peak" not implied in name, but the Tribe did not want to mix the languages by having a Paiute name followed by an English descriptor. Public comment time was offered: Ron Moe – public guest – stated he liked the name. Motion made by Paul White to rename Squaw Peak in Mineral County to Kwe'na'a, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. Votes to approve: NMBG, Conservation and Natural Resources, NDOT, NSLA, BLM, UNLV, UNR. Votes to deny: none. Agencies absent for vote: NHS, NIC, ITCN, USFS, NPS. Motion carried with 7 votes in favor of approval.

9. Deacon Peak (For possible action)

Second hearing for proposed naming of Deacon Peak in Nye County. Carried over from Sept 2021 meeting. NSBGN Members

Executive Secretary noted that an email was received this day by the proponent which stated that he would be absent at today's meeting, but was hoping the site could be discussed, which it is as it is on the agenda. Exec. Secretary reminded NSBGN that the proponent attended the last meeting and explained the background of the site, and reminded that the US Fish & Wildlife representative has voiced support previously as well as the support received in the form of letters (in meeting packet). James Deacon was a distinguished Professor Emeritus at the Department of Biological Sciences and the Department of Environmental Studies at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Dr. Judkins added he hadn't received any additional institution-based feedback to this point. Exec. Secretary noted a misstatement from previous NSBGN meeting that outreach had not been done – this was an error. Outreach had been done originally in 2019 prior to Covid, and was repeated for this recent process. No feedback from Tribes or County Commissions was received. Only feedback received recently was two additional letters of support from the general public (which is included in the packet). Outreach was done twice (in 2019 and 2022). Motion made to forward to the USBGN with support of this name by NSBGN made by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Gabriel Judkins. Votes to approve NMBG, Conservation & Natural Resources, NDOT, NSLA, BLM, UNLV, UNR. Vote to deny: none.

Agencies absent for vote: NHS, NIC, ITCN, USFS, NPS. Motion carried with 7 votes in favor of approval.

10. Select tentative meeting place and date for Sept. 2022 meeting (For possible action)

Seeking to defer traditional meeting date of the second Tuesday of designated meeting months (Jan/May/Sept) in favor of hearing COGNA update. September meeting dates thereafter were problematic and to push back one week was not possible to secure the proper meeting facility to accommodate the digital resources currently being provided by the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources. Dr. Judkins suggested waiting an additional week in favor of ensuring that the NSBGN has updates on federal actions regarding S.O. 3404. Motion made by Cynthia Laframboise to approve meeting to take place on Tuesday, October 4th at 9:30am in the same location (Richard H. Bryan Building, Tahoe Hearing Room, 2nd Floor, 901 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV) and seconded by Paul White. Votes to approve: NMBG, Conservation & Natural Resources, NDOT, NSLA, BLM, UNLV, UNR. Votes to deny: none. Agencies absent for vote: NHS, NIC, ITCN, USFS, NPS. Motion carried with 7 votes to approve.

11. 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 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.

Comment made by Ron Moe – public citizen: Asking about who to submit proposal to. Explained any of us can take it. He is also questioning what “ancestral lands” means with regard to naming places moving forward. Vice-Chair noted NSBGN cannot comment on this – this time is only for public comment.

John Burgess – wanted to thank Executive Secretary for comments and inclusion on Dunn Butte in this meeting, stated it is a beautiful place, that Jeff Dunn meant a lot to the NDOT and the State in general. Exec. Secretary noted that the Washoe Tribe did write a letter of support of this site and for Jeff Dunn particularly as an educator.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned made by Paul White. Meeting adjourned at 11:25am.