

# DRAFT

## NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

### MINUTES

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

The meeting began at 9:31am, at the Richard H. Bryan Building, Tahoe Hearing Room. 2nd Floor 901 S. Stewart Street. Carson City, NV, and simultaneously streamed interactively on Lifesizecloud.com.

#### **Board Members/Others Present at 901 S. Stewart St.:**

Cynthia Laframboise, Chair, Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records  
Christine Johnson, Executive Secretary (non-voting); University of Nevada Ren Dept of Geog. (alternate)  
Scott Carey, Nevada Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources (voting alternate)  
Dominique Etchegoyhen, Nevada Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources

#### **Board Members Present on Streaming Site:**

Josh Owens, Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records (voting Alternate)  
Paul White, University of Nevada, Reno – Department of Geography (voting alternate)  
Catherine Magee, Nevada Historical Society  
Don Harper, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada  
Robert Francis, regional cartographer for Region 4, USFS (voting alternate)  
Gabriel Judkins, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Department of Geosciences  
Dean Tonenna, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada (voting alternate)  
Stacey Montooth, Nevada Indian Commission  
Craig Burkett, Sr. Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Attorney General's Office (non-voting)

#### **Members of Public/Advisory Panel/Public present online:**

Larry Schmidt, retired – USFS  
Jack Hursh, retired – Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology; Past-Chair, NSBGN  
Mary Schaff, Washington State Library, Washington State Board on Geographic Names, Regional Coordinator for Pacific States COGNA  
Christina Clack, Graphic Designer, UNR Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology (voting alternate)  
Rachel Micander, Geologic Information Specialist, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology  
Cathy Wilson, Cartographer, USFWS  
Caleb Maki, Washington State Committee on Geographic Names  
Jennifer Runyon, USGS/U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
Paul Starrs, retired UNR Department of Geography  
Cassandra Farrell, State Library of Virginia, Regional Coordinator Eastern States COGNA, Virginia State Board on Geographic Names  
Brian Rogers, Missouri State Archives, Missouri State Board on Geographic Names  
Assemblyman Howard Watts  
Marissa Weaselboy, Environmental Director – Yomba Shoshone Tribe  
Louis Forline, University of Nevada, Reno – Department of Anthropology (Advisory Panel)

#### **Absent:**

National Parks Service Representative  
Clifford Banuelos, Nevada InterTribal Council

**1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda (for possible action)**

Meeting called to order at 9:31am by Cynthia Laframboise. Motion to approve agenda made by Dominique Etchegoyhen, seconded by Paul White. Unanimous approval of the agenda. Motion approved.

**2. Introduction of the Board, Guests (action not taken)**

Board members and guests present in the meeting room were introduced, followed by board members, guests, and advisory panel members present on the streaming venue. No action was taken.

**3. Public Comment (action not 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 five (5) minutes for each person at the discretion of the Chair. No public comment made at this time.

**4. Approval of Minutes of the September 2021 meeting (for possible action)**

Motion to approve minutes of September 2021 minutes with correction to Dr. White's role as voting member as written made by Dominique Etchegoyhen, seconded by Paul White. Motion approved.

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

**From Chair:** Pleased to announce that the Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records has a new State Archivist (Cyndi Schein from UNLV) and Administrator Mike Strom.

**From Executive Secretary:** COGNA (Council on Geographic Names Authorities) will hold regional meetings, and Nevada is associated with the Pacific States. All state names authorities (board members) are welcome to attend these regional meetings. In addition Executive Secretary will be leading the COGNA organization as well. Annual COGNA conference will be in September in Maryland, Portland, Oregon in 2023, and Missouri in 2024.

Introduction of Assemblyman Howard Watts – Assembly District 15 in Las Vegas joining digitally, noted Nevada leading the way in dealing with managing offensive place names.

**6. Announcements from Board Members**

No announcements from Board Members were made.

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

Executive Secretary mentioned information forthcoming from Federal level (directives as a result of Secretarial Orders 3404 and 3405). Introduced Jennifer Runyon from the USBGN who discussed process and general ideas behind Secretarial Orders 3404 and 3405. Ms. Runyon asks NV board or any other party with questions and/or comments on these directives to contact the Task Force directly. The USBGN is not leading the efforts to replace Sq\* names across the landscape. Ms. Runyon outlined general process of naming process at the U.S. level and the interactions with States, and further explained how the Secretarial Orders came to exist under the direction of the new Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland.

S.O. 3404 is simply to address the Sq\* names on the landscape, and the USGS prepared a list of more than 660 names nationwide and the Task Force has been established which will work to remove the Sq\* names from the land, replacing with one of five names closest to the site in question. Example given that Sq\* peak might have Cottonwood Creek most close to it, and therefore the new name to replace the offensive name would be Cottonwood Peak.

A Federal register notice (public, counties, any interested parties invited to comment). Same time – a 90 day Tribal consultation period is available for comment. At end of these periods, comments will be

considered and the final list will be organized by the Task Force, submitted to the USBGN for a final vote, and the whole process may be over by Fall of 2022.

S.O 3405 will pertain to “all other offensive names” and will be enforced after the completion of S.O. 3404. Applications being taken at the Federal level to serve on this committee.

- Question asked regarding what happens to existing proposals – at this time it is unclear what will happen.
- Question asked about SO3405 addressing other offensive names on the landscape... generally offensive names are ethnic pejoratives, but what about commemorative names for people or events that are troubling for people. USBGN separate offensive words from offensive people. Does the board have the ability to search the landscape for offensive people? Offensive words (ethnic) are priority – and USBGN representative suggests to submit questions like this to the Task Force.
- Assemblyman Watts suggests NV stay the course of State legislation to work to continue the process already established that we can continue to engage in the process of outreach on the most appropriate names for these features.
- Question noting consultation with local Tribes is essential in this process, and the Task Force names, given that the Task Force is tasked with removing offensive names and closest names are a simple remedy – can we consider these Task Force names as placeholders until appropriate consultation can happen? USBGN representative suggests this will be possible.

USBGN notes that as of this date, 21 new proposals have come in to the USBGN for name suggestions to replace offensive names since SO3404 was established, 10 for Sq\* names and the rest for other offensive names.

Conversation ensued amongst board members as to how to manage the automatic replacements, and organize process for conducting outreach regarding these new names, possible publicizing an initiative to revisit all new names applied as a result of SO3404, in order to make the process clear and apply the time necessary to do effective outreach.

Comments that generic name on landscape as opposed to Sq\* names on the land are most important.

- Question as to whether 7.5' quad maps will be reprinted with new names? USBGN representative does not have knowledge as to whether map schedule will be amended to accommodate these changes or if they will be updated when next planned.

Additional Discussion:

New forms are being presented by Executive Secretary in hopes of streamlining process and making NSBGN more transparent. Draft forms submitted (asking agencies to report on the research they've done prior to this meeting on each site), and general flowchart on how process works.

Board member asked to include section on site research and checklist form for Tribal outreach done by NSBGN (add another section for tribal nations contacted). Question as to how will these be used. These forms will be used just for files and to create packet information for NSBGN meetings, reporting to State annually as now required by law, and to supplement submissions to USBGN.

Board member suggested finding out what resources are available in each agency, and form on checklist. UNR on board in hosting website, hosted out of UNR geography dept. Dean of the college and UNR provost supports hosting website, and will have resources that will help us. Redesigning website will allow us to make site ADA accessible, suggests site research and checklist where people could see where in the process a particular name nomination is in the process.

Exec Secretary details the processes NSBNG currently has and discussed growing our outreach and files which includes notifying local govt. agencies (13 counties of 17 in NV have offensive names), and

outreach was done in the past by phone, email, hard-copy letter to Tribes and County Commissions. How we do this moving forward might include in-person meetings, giving presentations at NIC, ITCN, County Commission meetings by Executive Secretary, Chair, or other board members, to present info publicly. Need to be more visible and more transparent. Asked for emails from any board members as to changes or suggested additions to these forms. Board member asked when the next annual report due. We do not currently know. State legislation on offensive names went into effect 10/1/21. Assemblyman Watts confirmed dates, and suggests that as long as a report is provided annually, timing might be up to us (by the end of the year).

Question as to whether there is a form or format NSBGN needs to follow – Assemblyman Watts said legislation asks for reports but no general format. Deputy Attorney General for NSBGN suggests report needs to include an update on board activities and go over it for board approval to submit then to State. Suggested commissioning Executive Secretary to compile report describing efforts by the board and have board approve it and submit to State thereafter.

Will review the discussed documents again at the next meeting. Motion made by Cynthia Laframboise to review the documents by the board and reconvene and discuss in next meeting attached and Paul and Dominique.

#### **8. Election of Chair (for possible action)**

Term of the current Chair (Cynthia Laframboise) is expiring. Executive Secretary thanked Ms. Laframboise for her two years of service to the NSBGN, noting that Ms. Laframboise took the role of Chair for this board in January of 2020, and then managed all challenges posed by COVID beginning shortly thereafter. Executive Secretary noted Cynthia's accomplishment of testifying for her accomplishments of helping secure the Nevada Indian Commission to the board. Dominique Etchegoyhen nominated Paul White as Chair, Dr. White accepted the nomination. Motion made to elect Dr. White as Chair, made by Dominique Etchegoyhen, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. No additional discussion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed. Dr. White took over meeting at this time. A five-minute break was held at this time (11:15am).

#### **9. Sq\* Peak Renaming (for possible action)**

Meeting reconvened at 11:20am. Dr. White as new Chair took over meeting at this time. NSBGN has received a submission to rename Sq\* Peak on public land managed by the BLM (Carson City District). Proponent is Dean Tonenna, reached out to Walker River Tribe nearest the feature. Walker River tribe proactive is maintaining names in their landscape, and supportive of seeking opportunity to replace derogatory names. Kwe'na'a is the native name for the golden eagle. Tribal council for Walker River Tribe voted unanimously to support this name and Tribal Chair submitted a formal letter of support for this action. Discussion ensued including noting letter of support of this name officially submitted by Walker River Tribe. Dominique Etchegoyhen noted this is exactly the process we need in order to move forward and commends Dean Tonenna for working so closely with the Tribe to accomplish this communication and resulting submission. This name was forwarded to USBGN (out of normal order of process in outreach) by Executive Secretary upon receipt earlier in the month in anticipation of Task Force action and wanting to ensure name is considered as an option for consideration if action takes place prior to next NSBGN meeting.

Motion to forward this item to a second hearing made by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Dominique Etchegoyhen. No additional discussion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

#### **10. Deacon Peak (for possible action)**

Due to COVID impacts and NSBGN not meeting since January, 2020, the NSBGN is re-hearing this application beginning with a 'first hearing.'

This is first(re) hearing for this site in Nye County. Proponent is present at the meeting – Mr. Larry Schmidt, and provided background on this feature. The site would be named to honor James Deacon,

now deceased but distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' Department of Biological Sciences. His leadership led to the protection of critical water resources in the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and Dr. Deacon was instrumental in gaining recognition for other unique desert fish species in Nevada. This is the highest point in the small range of hills directly north of Devil's Hole, where the native Pupfish live (affiliated with the proposal from September 2019 for Pupfish Peak). This site is in Nye County in the Ash Meadows national Wildlife Refuge, just east of Death Valley. Board member mentioned having met with project leader who oversees this refuge, and that they are in full support of honoree (Mr. Deacon), who is held in high regard for the work and research he did on pupfish. Conversation on this site ensued, noting a letter of support for naming this site received by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Two letters of support have been received for this nomination. USFWS represented in the meeting noted that the peak is on national wildlife refuge land and provided verbal testimony in support of this feature on behalf of the Refuge Manager at the wildlife refuge. Motion to forward this item to a second hearing made by Gabriel Judkins, seconded by Don Harper. No additional discussion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

#### **11. Gridley Peak (for possible action)**

Due to COVID impacts and NSBGN not meeting since January, 2020, the NSBGN is re-hearing this application beginning with a 'first hearing.'

This is the first (re)hearing for proposed naming of Gridley Peak in Lander County. Representatives of the Yomba Tribe including the Chairman were in attendance online. The NSBGN in receipt of a letter of opposition from the Yomba Shoshone Tribe for this nomination. Executive Secretary noted Nevada Historical society possesses an important artifact that pertains to Mr. Gridley's impact and importance in Nevada's history. Statements provided by Marissa Weaselboy on behalf of Tribal members including Chairperson in attendance state the Tribe is opposed due to being in ancestral homelands. Stated general feeling of controversial themes happening with regard to quick name changes, and want it on record that these places have traditional names, and know this particular site to have a Native name already. Also noted ITCN had not reached out to tribes on this subject. Executive Secretary noted ITCN representative was new to the board at the time this submission came in originally, and is absent at this meeting, and that the NSBGN hopes to grow the outreach from here. Question was asked by NSBGN Chair as to whether Native name is meant to be submitted for naming or just in opposition of this submission. Yomba representative said primarily in opposition of new names for places that have indigenous names already. Board member mentioned forwarding to a second meeting for more feedback. USFS representative stated USFS supports the Tribe (USFS administers the land this site is located on). Statement by board member that forwarding to a second hearing does not mean any of the NSBGN agrees with naming this site, it is for more time for research.

Motion to reject this naming of this site made by Dominique Etchegoyhen, seconded by Robert Francis.

Additional discussion by Advisory panel member who encouraged Yomba Tribe representatives to submit Native name proposal, and suggested going back to proponent for Gridley Peak to submit new proposal elsewhere. No further discussion. Motion carried with one objection, and no abstentions. Chair thanked Yomba Tribe for attending meeting and providing feedback.

#### **12. Select Tentative Meeting Place for May 2022 Meeting (for possible action)**

Tentative meeting place selected for next meeting at the Richard H. Bryan Building at 901 S. Stewart Street in Carson City, NV. Meeting will be (and needs to be) simultaneously streamed. Executive Secretary noted that the NSBGN traditionally meets on the second Tuesday of the months of January, May and September. May 10<sup>th</sup> of 2022 would be the second Tuesday for next meeting. Department of Lands and Conservation was thanked for hosting current meeting, discussion on potential meeting spots ensued; UNR was considered but parking is difficult and less of an issue in Carson City. Department of Lands and Conservation offered to host in the same building for the next meeting, but May 10<sup>th</sup> is not available, and will look for a streaming-capable room. Exact room and streaming site to be determined prior to next meeting. **Alternate meeting date was suggested for Wednesday May**

**11th, 2022 at 9:30am.** Motion for the meeting to occur on this date and time made by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Paul White. No additional discussion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

**13. 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 five (5) minutes for each person at the discretion of the Chair. Stacey Montooth from Nevada Indian Commission thanked the outgoing Chair Cynthia Laframboise for her service and wished Dr. White good luck in his new term, and thanked the Yomba Nation for attending, thanked the NSBGN for respect of naming situation and each other, and Nevada Indian Commission looks forward to being part of the outreach for these projects.

**14. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by Paul White. Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm.