

NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES January 9, 2018

The meeting began at 9:32am, at the Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library at 2175 Raggio Parkway, Reno NV, 89512.

Board Members Present:

Skip Canfield, Chair, Nevada Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
Christine Johnson, Executive Secretary – Nevada Historical Society (non-voting)
Linda Newman, University of Nevada, Reno – (voting alternate)
Cynthia Laframboise – Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records
Diane M. Lightwood – Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records (voting alternate)
Larry Schmidt, US Forest Service (alternate)
Catherine Magee, Nevada Historical Society – (voting alternate)
Don Harper, BLM
Dean Tonenna, BLM (alternate)
John Burgess, Nevada Dept. of Transportation
Jack Hursh, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
David Davis, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology (alternate)
Dan White, USFS (calling in)
Mike Boyles, NPS (calling in)
Tod Williams, NPS (calling in)

Absent:

Margaret (Peg) Rees, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Paul Starrs, University of Nevada, Reno – Department of Geography
Daryl Crawford, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

Members of Public/Guests:

Joshua Woodbury – Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Attorney General's Office
Ron Hess
Ron Moe
Jana Dunn
Mark Vollmer

1. Introductions and Approval of Agenda (for possible action)

Meeting called to order at 9:32am by Skip Canfield. Introductions made of attending Board members and guests. Motion to approve agenda made by Linda Newman, seconded by John Burgess. Unanimous approval of agenda. Motion approved.

2. Public Comment (action not taken)

Pursuant to Nevada Open Meeting law, the NBGN allows for public comment at the beginning and end of meetings. No comments offered.

3. Approval of Minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting (for possible action)

Motion to approve minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting as written made by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Jack Hursh. Unanimous approval of agenda. Motion approved.

4. Announcements, Chairman or Executive Secretary

From Chairman Skip Canfield: Thanks to the public for attending and general interest. The NSBGN values public support and input. Executive Secretary Christine Johnson, two announcements: upcoming COGNA meeting is in June in Tacoma, WA – check COGNA website for details if interested in attending.

5. Announcements from Board Members

No comments from Board Members at this time.

6. Protocol and Streamlining of NSBGN procedures update (for possible action)

From Chairman Skip Canfield: dispersal of meeting packet is on the state clearinghouse Website, and also is posted on the NSBGN Website (satisfies Nevada open meeting law requirement for information transparency). Executive Secretary will send email reminders to Board members when possible or necessary to remind of tasks or assignments before next Board meetings.

7. Smalls Peak (first hearing - for possible action)

NSBGN did not hear this item in September due to error in listing on agenda and at the advice of the Deputy Attorney General. NSBGN has received a lot of public feedback thus far spurred by media coverage on this proposal, while majority seems to be in favor of not changing the name, the last meeting Mr. Feemster representing the NAACP spoke in favor of changing name, and some additional public does support name change. State Library and Archives points out that when this feature was in fact named, the space was part of the Utah Territory (Nevada proper is not responsible for the original naming). There is also a Jefferson Davis Peak in Alpine County, California – question as to whether the peak in California is being addressed (it is). NPS position is determined by Regional Director, but the general and current position is that the naming of any feature for an individual must include a direct and relevant relationship to the feature in question. NSBGN questioning connection between Robert Smalls and Nevada. Advisory Board member statement: does not believe this feature qualifies for a name change, and Robert Smalls has no connection to this feature. Discussion of the history of the peak ensued. Question was raised as to whether proponent did in fact commit to accepting “Smalls Peak” in favor of “Robert Smalls Peak.” Executive Secretary stated that the information at hand is that the proposal is “Smalls Peak” but does not have the amended application and needs to confirm the application was in fact amended. Motion made by Jack Hursh and seconded by Cynthia Laframboise to table item to ask proponent/Federal board for certain that Smalls Peak is in fact the final name. Jack Hursh, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise to forward to second hearing. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

8. Ramsey Summit, Storey County (first hearing - for possible action)

This is the first hearing for Ramsey Summit in Storey County. Summit overlooking USA Parkway/SR439 just north of the Lyon County line. Mr. Hursh discussed history behind proposal, including history of the area, and the site is very close to the historical Ramsey mining district which produced gold and silver at the turn of the century (1900). Foundation of a mill still exists, historical name on summit would be most appropriate. This site is on BLM land. John Burgess requested more time on this due to potential issues with NDOT. Motion made by John Burgess to forward item to second hearing, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections and no abstentions. Motion passed.

9. Nugget Peak (first hearing - for possible action)

This is the first hearing for Nugget Peak in Pershing County. Mr. Hursh provided the history for this site – proponent has put forth another name for an unnamed high point in one of Nevada’s ranges, purpose (purposeful and helpful to the hiking community in Nevada). This application is for the high point in the Eugene Mountains. Nugget Peak name is suggested based on the lore of the gold nuggets extracted historically during placer mining in the area. Mr. Hess (Advisory Board) researched many old maps and discovered the location on the proposal has a VABM marker named “Eugene” on the marker, is on several maps (an NDOT map, a county map, and two USGS maps for example), called USGS and did research, the VABM names were assigned by the crews that installed them, and is a published

monument and must be named by USGS standards – is considered a third-order survey monument is a marker – crews had to name for something of significance in the immediate area. It was called Eugene, simply because it is in the Eugene Mountains. This site was called Eugene Peak in the 1880s. Does not agree to call it Nugget Peak, most of the mining activity in the area now is Tungsten operations today, not gold. VABM monument is not the high point in the range. High point is about 60 feet higher at 2km north. Suggestion that perhaps Eugene Peak would be more suitable. Questioning if we want to name this site or the actual high point. Chair asked who “Eugene” might be- Mr. Hess’s best deduction is that it is named for Eugene Thacker. Eugene Thacker’s father was well-known as a Wells Fargo agent and was a Humboldt County sheriff for some years, the Thacker ranch sits below the Eugene Mountains between Mills City and Eugene, but does not find the documentation for the naming, but Eugene would have been a few years old at the time that the naming shows up (correlates with history). Thacker ranch appears on 1942 15’ map. Discussion on redundant names (Eugene Peak, Eugene Mountains, etc). Proponent thought the benchmark was on the higher peak, suggests application needs to be modified to reflect highpoint in the range; further discussion by the Chair. Motion made with approval of proponent who is present to withdraw this application by Jack Hursh, seconded by Linda Newman. No additional discussion, unanimous approval of withdrawal, no objections and no abstentions. Motion passed.

10. Koipato Peak (first hearing - for possible action)

This is the first hearing for Koipato Peak in Pershing County. Board member with knowledge of Paiute language does not recognize this term/word, but a variant of this, Koipa is a term associated with the mountain sheep. Discussion that perhaps Koipato is an anglicized name/variation of the Native in West Humboldt Range (highpoint). Alvin McClane’s *Silent Cordilleras* book references Koipato for the West Humboldt Range reference and in the geology community, the term Koipato is used in various geology units, and is published in many geologic reports. Is an official variant in GNIS for the West Humboldt Range, thus the deduction to name the high point in the range the same (Koipato). Letter submitted by Jeff Kintop at the State Library and Archives mentions the Northern Paiute linguistic finder list done in 2012. Discussion by Dean Tonenna includes value in finding the appropriate and correct term for the mountain sheep term in the Native language, offered to reach out to tribes for input. Motion made by Cynthia Laframboise to forward to a second hearing, seconded by Linda Newman. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

11. Pony Express Hill (second hearing – for possible action)

This is the second hearing for this feature in Lander County. Executive Secretary revisited first hearing discussion on the questioning of the ‘loop’ element of this feature (versus the idea that the Pony Express was generally a direct route). Dan White contacted the District Ranger in December, but unsuccessful to this point – hoping to hear back soon. Discussion made as to needing more information in the form of feedback and final opinion on the route near this feature. Motion made by Linda Newman to continue this item until May meeting. Seconded by Jack Hursh. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

12. Dunn Butte (second hearing – for possible action)

This the second hearing for this feature in Humboldt County. Executive Secretary read into minutes a letter of support for Dunn Butte from the Washoe Tribe. Outreach was done to affiliated tribes, County Commissioners, and private land owner that holds land which runs up against this feature. No comment or other feedback received by the board with the exception of the letter from the Washoe Tribe in support. Feature is on BLM land and very near state boundary lines. Outreach done to BLM office in California – no response received. Advisory Board Member commented that personal knowledge and relationship with Mr. Dunn (cartographer) was such that he is worthy of the honor of the name, meets the requirements, and his state map is still in use today. Motion by Linda Newman to forward to the U.S. board with recommendation of approval for naming by the U.S. Board, seconded by John Burgess. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

13. Whitebark Peak, Humboldt County (third hearing – for possible action)

This is the third hearing for this feature, in Humboldt County. Previous questions on whether naming feature in Wilderness area was appropriate. Domestic Names Policy is such that the U.S. board will not approve names unless overriding need exists. BLM representative (alternate) present Dean Tonenna mentioned that this species is now a candidate for inclusion on the endangered species list and protection under the Endangered Species Act, and a BLM sensitive species. Typical policy holds that we do not label these features as one form of protection, in order to not call attention to it. Proponent present at meeting and supports withdrawal of this application and name for this feature. Motion for withdrawal made by Jack Hursh citing Wilderness Policy and Endangered Species Act, seconded by Linda Newman. No further discussion, unanimous approval, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed. Application is withdrawn and does not need to be forwarded to the U.S. Board.

14. Quinn Peak, Humboldt County (third hearing – for possible action)

This is the third hearing for this feature, in Humboldt County. This is a final review, of the high point in the Jackson mountains. Feature has been determined to be outside boundary of Wilderness area. Feature name is meant to be a colloquial version of “Queen” and would be in harmony with other feature names in the area (Quinn River Crossing, Quinn River Valley, King Lear Peak, etc.). This peak overlooks these features. There is also a Quinn quad and next to it is the King quad map (pre-1950s). Dan White asked about Dan Dobbins peak found prior to 1988. A man named Dan Dobbins died in 1978 in the Summit register, there is summitpost.com – Dan Dobbins was a peak climber, and the register reflects that someone wanted to name the peak for Dan Dobbins died in 1978 in an automobile accident. Friends of his that subsequently climbed the peak wrote “Dan Dobbins Peak” in the registry. Mr. Dobbins may never have had association with the area and it is certainly not an official name and seems to have to common usage. Motion made to forward to application U.S. board made by John Burgess seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

15. Select tentative meeting place and date for May, 2018 meeting (for possible action).

Tentative meeting place selected for next meeting at the Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library at 2175 Raggio Parkway, Reno NV, 89512, on Tuesday, May 8th at 9:30am. Motion made by Jack Hursh, seconded by Larry Schmidt. Unanimously approved, no objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

No further discussion, unanimous approval, no objections and no abstentions. Motion passed.

16. Public Comments

Pursuant to Nevada Open Meeting law, the NBGN allows for public comment at the beginning and end of our meetings. Dunn family thanks the NSBGN for the support of the name and the Washoe Tribe for their support. Discussion on challenges on exact high points in ranges was had.

17. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Skip Canfield to adjourn, seconded by Linda Newman. Unanimously approved, no objections, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:55am.