

NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Minutes

May 12, 2009

Chairman Linda Newman called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM at the Nevada Department of Transportation Conference Room, Carson City, Nevada.

Members present introduced themselves:

Linda Newman, University of Nevada, Reno, Emeritus
Jack Hursh, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
Daryl Crawford, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
David McMorrان, US Forest Service
Skip Canfield, Nevada Dept. of conservation & Natural Resources
Peg Rees, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Jeff Kintop, Nevada State Library and Archives
John Burgess, Nevada Dept. of Transportation
Maryann Boretta, Nevada Dept. of Transportation

No visitors present

Agenda Item 1: Minutes of the Sept. 9, 2008 meeting.

Chairman Newman noted the correct spelling of prior item under review: H-o-m-e-y not Holmy. Motion to accept was made and seconded by Daryl Crawford.

Agenda Item 2: Announcements by Chair and Executive Secretary.

Jack Hursh, Exec. Secretary asked if the minutes on the state Board webpage were satisfactory. Multiple positive acknowledgements.
Chair noted for the record that there was no January 2009 meeting as no names were submitted for Board consideration.
Thanked student for transcribing minutes from tape.
Jack Hursh circulated a list of members with request for any corrections.
Chairman Newman thanked Jack Hursh for all his work on the NV State Board web page including adding procedures and links to the National Board.
Jack Hursh asked if anyone objected to adding the list of members of the NV. Board. [no response]

Agenda Item 4: [no Item # 3 on agenda] Announcements from members or guests.
[none made]

Agenda Item 5: Election of Chair as Newman was retiring from UNR at end of June given budget crisis.

Newman noted that, with granting of emeritus status, she could remain on Board as the Tingley's [past Chair & Exec. Secretary] had done when retired as emeritus. However, she asked if anyone on the Board would like to be considered for the position [which might be of benefit to them professionally] which she would willingly surrender.

No one asked for consideration.

Jack Hursh asked if Newman would, therefore, be willing to continue on the Board and complete second year of term as chairman and expressed thanks for efforts. Others agreed. Newman agreed to continue in position and complete term as chair.

Newman asked about the possibility of meetings by conference call to help the Las Vegas attendees. Rees noted that she coordinated other meetings with the Board meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Report on application of name change: Pole Creek to Tom Stephani Creek.

Newman noted that this application came to the NV Board from the national U.S. Board on Geographic Names [BGN] which had already 'ruled' on the application. Newman felt it was helpful to understand the reasons for the BGN ruling: Newman read the request for the change and the response from the BGN to the Board which did not grant the application: the person has to be deceased for 5 years, noting 'never an exception.' The response also cited the need for support from the regional offices of the US Forest Service and the US BLM, not individuals with those agencies. These agencies have their own policies for naming. Also noted that they may submit a request with another name which meets the standard naming criteria and encouraged that it be a surname only to avoid long names on features.

Board member acknowledged confusion of similar creek names in that area, and, therefore, need for change.

Question arose about the creek being in a designated Wilderness area [which has strict rules on avoidance of naming].

Board members present asked about rules regarding Wilderness naming.

[maps brought into meeting to review location relative to Wilderness area.]

Noted that the creek crosses a state line; how does that affect naming by one of the 2 states? Also noted that it is not in a Wilderness area.

Crawford noted that it was local ranchers in the area who are making the recommendation.

Newman described a situation which the Arizona geographic names board faced a few years ago in a politically charged situation regarding the immediate naming a feature for a Native American who died at the beginning of the second Gulf War [ignoring the 5-year rule]. The state of Arizona made it official but it was not accepted by the Federal government for another 5 years.

NOTE: ***Principles, Policies and Procedures*** of the BGN

➤ http://geonames.usgs.gov/docs/pro_pol_pro.pdf

Policy III, sec. 1 regarding naming of features to commemorate people deceased less than 5 years

Policy IV: Wilderness Areas, Sec. 1 `Within wilderness areas...[the BGN] will not approve proposed names for unnamed features...unless overriding need exists...`

Agenda Item 7: Piazzo Peak.

Tabled for lack of documentation.

Agenda Item 8: Report on application of name change: Boulevard Harry Hills.

NDOT provided maps of area for review. 20-page history of association of person known as `Boulevard Harry` originally submitted through the BGN to the NV Board. Did not contain a formal nomination for naming so this is a matter of information until then. The BGN responded to `application.` Vague coordinates of hills to be named. Issue of long names discussed.

Agenda Item 9: Announcement on the COGNA [Council of Geographic Names Authorities] to be held in Charleston, SC, Sept. 2009.

Newman asked is anyone is interested in attending; all are welcome to attend although there is no direct support to NV Board members. Known to have very interesting and informative discussions of naming issues.

Agenda Item 10: Selection of meeting place for September 8, 2009.

Discussion of overlap with the COGNA meeting in Charleston – relevant if anyone attending. And immediately after Labor Day. Tentatively set for Sept. 8, 2009, normal date and time.

NOTE: no meeting was held given lack of nominated names or other pressing business before Board.

Agenda Item 11: Adjournment.

These minutes were condensed from actual tapes of meeting by Linda Newman, Chair, and approved at May 11, 2010 meeting of the NV Board.