

NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES May 16, 2017

The meeting began at 9:36am, 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)
Diane M. Lightwood – State Library & Archives (alternate)
Larry Schmidt, US Forest Service (alternate)
Paul Starrs, University of Nevada, Reno
Jack Hursh, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
John Burgess, Nevada Dept. of Transportation
David Davis, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology (alternate)
Robert (Bob) Stewart, US Bureau of Land Management (Retired)

Absent:

Cynthia Laframboise – State Library & Archives
Margaret (Peg) Rees, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Daryl Crawford, Inter-Tribal Council
Catherine Magee, Nevada Historical Society – voting alternate

Guests:

Connie Engeler – Guest
Ron Moe – Guest
Sue Wyman –Henney – Guest
Vic Henney – Guest
Dan White – US Forest Service, Intermountain Region Geographic Names Coordinator (call-in)

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

Meeting called to order at 9:36am by Skip Canfield. Introductions made of attending Board members and four guests. Motion to approve agenda made by Jack Hursh, seconded by Larry Schmidt. Unanimous approval of agenda. Motion approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from January 17, 2017 meeting (for possible action)

Motion to approve minutes from January 17, 2017 meeting made by Robert Stewart to approve minutes, seconded by John Burgess. One abstention, otherwise unanimous approval of the minutes. Motion approved.

3. Announcements, Chairman or Executive Secretary

Skip Canfield made an announcement regarding the NSBGN importance to Nevada, and appreciating guest attendance and welcoming as part of the process, and a second announcement regarding the news of the passage of Senate Bill 43, which adds the National Parks Service to the NSBGN as an official voting member, thanking former Chair Jeff Kintop in his efforts to see this bill through the process.

4. Announcements from Board Members

Jack Hursh was contacted by KNPB to film an episode of Wild Nevada, which included climbing McLane Peak, and episode dedicated to Alvin McLane.

5. Public Comment

Pursuant to Nevada Open Meeting law, the NBGN allows for public comment at the beginning and end of our meetings. No public comments were given at this time.

6. Update on COGNA Conference (for discussion only)

Christine Johnson gave an update on the annual Council of Geographic Names Conference held this year in Richmond, Virginia. Gave update on presentations given during conference and issues and information disseminated during conference, including discussions on how to better conversations and discussions with local tribes for input. L&D (Ellen D) was discussed in during the USBGN monthly meeting held during the conference, update provided. Mr. Stewart (NSBGN) mentioned at this time he was contacted by the US Board for comment on behalf of BLM, and stated that the BLM votes for whatever the public wants, and mentioned that the federal BLM rep has been difficult to communicate with to this point. Mr. Stewart stated that “the official attitude of the BLM is that if the public wants it and there is no other real reason to object, then it’s fine with the BLM.” Johnson notified board that next meeting of COGNA will be in Tacoma, Washington in 2018.

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

Template for bettering the letters for the outreach for the Native American group.

8. Engeler Peak, Humboldt County (first hearing – for possible action)

This is the first hearing for this feature. This feature is the high point of the Bilk Creek Range, in Humboldt County, unnamed on maps, with no apparent local usage. Jack Hursh explained that proponent had much difficulty locating our board, and information on how to name a feature (contacted a variety of sources, went to local office in Winnemucca of BLM who also didn't know – but helped do research and found Jack Hursh). Proponent (Connie Engeler) was in attendance and discussed reasoning behind wanting to name the peak for the family (immigrants from Switzerland) family had opportunity to acquire land in the area, began farming project. Proponent brought family scrapbook, with photos and documents unveiling the major efforts of the family over decades out in the area. Read letter from former Governor Grant Sawyer (1960s era) referencing trip where he visited the family ranch, stating among other things: “I've felt for some time that the true wealth of the State of Nevada lay in its land your accomplishments in the King's River valley provide tangible proof of this theory.” The proponent seeks to name the unnamed peak near the area where the family farm existed. Chair Skip Canfield noted the significance of the State connections with the proponent's story and family history. Dianne Lightwood moved to forward this item to a second hearing, seconded by Paul Starrs. No additional discussion, unanimous approval to forward to second hearing, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

9. Whitebark Peak, Humboldt County (first hearing – for possible action)

This is the first hearing for this feature. This feature is the high point in the Pine Forest range in Humboldt County, unnamed on maps, with no apparent local usage. Proponent (Ron Moe) was in attendance, introduced by Jack Hursh. Proponent feels significant peaks in major ranges should be named. This feature to be named for the white bark pine as a natural association – primary tree affiliated with the space in this range. Motion made by Bob Stewart, seconded by John Burgess. No additional discussion, unanimous approval to forward to second hearing, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

10. Quinn Peak, Humboldt County (first hearing – for possible action)

This is the first hearing for this feature. This feature is the high point in the Jackson Mountains in Humboldt County, unnamed on maps, with no apparent local usage. Proponent (Ron Moe) was in attendance, introduced by Jack Hursh. King Lear peak is at the southern end of the Jackson

Mountains, and the desire to pair “King” with “Queen” is the reasoning. “Quinn” is the colloquial morph of “Queen.” The Quinn River Valley is in the affiliated region. Question as to whether there is another Quinn Peak (research to be done by board). Motion made by Bob Stewart, seconded by Larry Schmidt. No additional discussion, unanimous approval to forward to second hearing, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

11. Wheat Peak, Churchill County (second hearing – for possible action)

This is the second hearing for this feature, in Churchill County, unnamed on maps, with no apparent local usage. This feature connects to item 12, insomuch as both are submitted by same proponent, and both features named for the women who worked together. This feature, Wheat Peak, to be named for Margaret Wheat, notable anthropologist from the University of Nevada, Reno – active in the area in the 1950s-1980s. The Bunejug Range where this feature is located gleaned its name from a mispronounced version of “junebug” by Margaret Wheat’s daughter in the 1960s (which has become the official name of the range in Nevada). Proponent wants to commemorate work of Margaret Wheat. Discussion ensued regarding concern for highpoint being named for anthropologist and the range ‘descending’ being named for the Native American woman she worked with during her studies.

Proponent has submitted more information on history of Margaret Wheat (in board packet). Motion to table this item for a third hearing, citing need for more feedback and research. Motion to table this item made by Jack Hursh. Additional motion made by Bob Stewart made to table items pending assignation of duties by Chair. Seconded by Paul Starrs. No additional discussion, unanimous approval to forward to third hearing, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

12. George Ridge, Churchill County (second hearing – for possible action)

This is the second hearing for this feature, in Churchill County, unnamed on maps, with no apparent local usage. This feature connects to item 11, insomuch as both are submitted by same proponent, and both features named for the women who worked together. This feature would be named for Wuzzie George, local Paiute woman and well-respected elder in their community. Discussion ensued regarding Native American thought put forward in last NSBGN meeting regarding naming this feature as being possibly offensive in that naming land for people who have passed on in their culture ties their spirits to the land. Outreach to the tribes resulted in the Walker River Paiute tribe responding in support of naming the feature in honor of Wuzzie George, which contradicts the ideas put forward by board member Daryl Crawford representing Nevada Intertribal Council and Dean Tonenna (Paiute) Native American ethnobotanist for the BLM who both supported putting a name to rest, once the person has passed away. BLM representative Bob Stewart mentioned that he spoke to Washoe tribe representative Daryl Cruz about this topic in passing, and Cruz also stated preference to lay names to rest once the person has passed on (similar cultural thought despite different tribe). Proponent mentioned in communication that he had support from the Fowler’s, professors emeritus from the University of Nevada, Reno Anthropology Department. Board has decided to forward to a third hearing, citing need for more feedback and research, including outreach to the Fowlers (who knew Margaret Wheat), outreach to the George family, and more feedback from the tribes if possible. Dr. Starrs discussed great concern to not supersede Native American wishes on this feature. Jack to contact proponent for more information. Christine to reach out to tribes further, and Dean Tonenna for more information on perspective on George name use. Motion to table this item made by Jack Hursh. Additional motion made by Bob Stewart made to table items. Seconded by Paul Starrs. No additional discussion, unanimous approval to forward to third hearing, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

13. Jack and Skip’s Adventure to McLane Peak (For Discussion Only)

Jack Hursh shared photo presentation regarding climb of McLane Peak, Nevada’s newest named peak by Jack Hursh and Skip Canfield.

14. Select tentative meeting place and date for September, 2017 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, September 12th at 9:30am. Motion made by Paul Starrs, seconded by Bob Stewart. Unanimously approved, no objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

15. Public Comments

Pursuant to Nevada Open Meeting law, the NBGN allows for public comment at the beginning and end of our meetings. Ron Moe spoke, with a friendly apology to Jack Hursh for originally opposing McLane Peak location, but after having climbed it and seeing the spectacular nature of the peak realized just how appropriate the name and location is.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Skip Canfield to adjourn, seconded by Diane Lightwood, seconded by Paul Starrs. Unanimously approved, no objections, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:07am.