

NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES Tuesday May 8, 2018

The meeting began at 9:33am, at the Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records - 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701 (A&B Training Rooms)

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, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada
Jeff Welter, Nevada Department of Transportation
Karl Yonkers, Nevada Department of Transportation – (voting alternate)
Jack Hursh, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
Mike Boyles, National Park Service, Lake Mead (calling in)
Anna San, National Park Service, Lake Mead (calling in)
Paul Starrs, University of Nevada, Reno – Department of Geography (calling in)
Dan White, U.S. Forest Service, Utah (calling in)

Absent:

John Burgess, Nevada Dept. of Transportation
Daryl Crawford, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
David Davis, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology (alternate)
Margaret (Peg) Rees, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Dean Tonenna, BLM (alternate)

Members of Public/Guests:

Ron Hess – NSBGN Advisory Panel
Ron Moe - Public
Carol Ostergren – U.S. Geological Survey
Joshua Woodbury – Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Attorney General's Office

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

Meeting called to order at 9:33am by Skip Canfield. Introductions made of attending Board members and guests. Motion to approve agenda made by Jack Hursh, seconded by Don Harper. Unanimous approval of agenda, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion approved.

2. 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 comments offered by the public at this time.

3. Approval of Minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting (for possible action)

Motion to approve minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting as written made by Catherine Magee, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. Unanimous approval of agenda. Motion approved.

4. Announcements, Chairman or Executive Secretary

From Chairman Skip Canfield: page 16 of the meeting packet – NSBGN had an inquiry by a Nevada Legislator as to naming a peak in the Spring Mountains near the Red Rock Conservation area after a man who was hiking in the area and was killed, asking to name a land feature in the man’s memory. Mr. Canfield explained the policies and the procedures do not permit a naming for anyone deceased less than five years. Just mentioning the inquiry here to point out the interesting kinds of questions our board receives from time to time. Executive Secretary mentioned Council of Geographic Names Authorities Conference is upcoming (week of June 18th) for anyone interested. Nevada will be represented at the conference by the Executive Secretary.

5. Announcements from Board Members

Mr. Harper (BLM) mentioned that he was notified by the U.S.BLM. representative that Engeler Peak in Nevada was passed (officially named) at the Federal level.

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

No comments or discussion made.

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

This is the first hearing for proposed naming of Wolfram Peak in Pershing County. Mr. Hursh introduced Mr. Moe (avid hiker in Nevada), the proponent. A number of high points in Nevada ranges are not named, and the Eugene Mountain Range is one of these. Originally, Mr. Moe had suggested “Nugget Peak” for the high point in this range, due to the gold nuggets found and the placer mining history. However, further research revealed that the history of the Eugene Mountains is more tied to the mining of tungsten. Wolfram is another name for Tungsten (W in the periodic table of elements), the proposal therefore is for Wolfram Peak. There is no local usage of this name in the area, this would be historical context related to the mining history. A comment was made as to the value of keeping historic names (e.g. “Eugene Peak” in the Eugene Mountains). Should perhaps keep the historic names where we can. Question to the board: If Wolfram Peak is put forward to the U.S. board and it comes out later that the peak was in fact referred to in the past as “Eugene Peak” – does the name get recorded as a variant? As other names are uncovered, we should submit to the U.S. Board documentation of variant/alternate names for the feature for historical and research purposes (don’t want to see the variants lost). Mr. Hursh suggests forwarding the variant name of Eugene Peak simultaneously. The name Eugene Peak does exist on a map (Humphries 1800s map), - the only known reference of name to this peak, and ever since has been called nothing. Humphries may have been referring to a secondary peak – where a control station is located. Control station referenced as the high point in the range, but later Alvin McLane’s book *Silent Cordilleras* refers to this feature, separate and apart from the survey monument, which was placed as many as 30 years after the Humphries map was made. Motion to forward this to a second hearing made by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Paul Starrs. Further discussion – would like to know what the national board thinks about variant names. Executive Secretary will solicit more information from the U.S. board. Mr. Woodbury pointed out NRS 327.150 board may not take final action at one or MORE meetings on an agenda item (the NSBGN can have more than two hearings on an agenda item). Mr. Hursh pointed out triangulation station is in fact on a different peak (20 feet different in elevation) than the proposed Wolfram Peak site, which would be the high point in the Eugene Range. Unanimous approval of motion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

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

This is the first hearing for proposed renaming of Jefferson “Jeff” Davis Peak to Smalls Peak in White Pine County. Various board members have received a variety of comments from the public. Vice-president NAACP Tri-State Conference of Branches and Nevada State Director Mr. Lonnie Feemster wrote a letter in support of renaming Jefferson Davis Peak, and mentioned subsequently via phone on May 7, 2018 to Skip Canfield stating once he received the packet for the meeting via email and read it,

that although he had written a letter in support of Smalls Peak, seeing that there are Native American names for the site also on the table, he also supports these names as well (he just does not support the current name of Jefferson Davis Peak). In depth discussion by board member Mr. Schmidt regarding the history of Jefferson Davis Peak, and which feature is actually being referred to (a small horn on the ridge of what currently leads up to Wheeler Peak). When the name was originally applied, it was on what is now known as Wheeler Peak, it is now a variant of Wheeler Peak. Sometime after the NPS was created, a separate peak was named "Jeff Davis Peak" – creating two Jefferson Davis Peaks, one a variant and the other on an independent feature (apart from Wheeler). Mr. Schmidt supports renaming it, due to the fact that it appears to be a variant in the first place (it is a confusing name). Name to replace the Jefferson Davis label should have nexus to Nevada and Nevada's history, and a Native American name that might exist should be considered. Regarding the name Smalls Peak in particular, there is no question Mr. Smalls clearly was a hero, from South Carolina, a sea captain; Nevada has no ocean, Mr. Smalls was never in Nevada, or took any action that affected Nevada. Per Mr. Hess: in the late 1980s, a GNIS update contracted through the Bureau, went through as many non-USGS sources and old USGS maps that they could, which seems to have developed the variety of names you see in the database today. This might be when the mistake was made. However, regarding the Jefferson Davis moniker and his relation to this State, the only thing he could find was besides being the Secretary of War for the United States (1853), in the 1840s he resigned from the Senate (actually 1851) and commanded a regiment in the Mexican/American War and was recorded as fighting valiantly at the siege of Monterey and the battle of Buena Vista, and he did have a tie to this area, as this was the war that brought this region into the union, but this is the only tie he could find. Further discussion by the board revealed thoughts that although Mr. Smalls is in fact recorded in history as being a noble person, there really is no connection to Nevada. Motion made by Cynthia Laframboise to not forward this item to a second hearing citing belief that renaming peaks should have a Nevada connection, seconded by Catherine Magee. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections and no abstentions. Motion passed.

9. Tots Arrh Peak (first hearing - for possible action)

This is the first hearing for proposed renaming of Jefferson "Jeff" Davis Peak to Tots Arrh Peak in White Pine County. Mr. Hursh provided the history for this site – brief research on the history of the presently called Jefferson Davis Peak and referring to Alvin McLane's book *Silent Cordilleras*, McLane discusses the Snake Range as a commemorative name related to the Shoshone tribe that inhabited Snake Valley near the entrance to Great Basin National Park, and the name Tots Arrh Mountains was the Shoshone name for the Snake Range, which means (general) High Snowy Peak. Because this is in fact a variant name for the Snake Range in the GNIS, Mr. Hursh felt this would be a good commemorative name to honor the Shoshone people of Nevada by replacing Jefferson Davis Peak with the Tots Arrh Peak name. No feedback has been given by tribes, county commissioners, or other groups regarding name replacement on J. Davis peak to this point on any name thus far, but additional outreach will be done as per policy. Phone call to the Executive Secretary on May 7, 2018 stated that there would be possibly two more Native American names submitted prior to the September 2018 meeting. Additional discussion is there are various versions of Tots Arrh Peak (spaces/two words being put forward – a two name proposal to rename a two name feature). Further discussion as to whether 'peak' is the right term, given the physical nature of the feature. Motion made by Cynthia Laframboise to forward to a second hearing, seconded by Karl Yonkers. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections and no abstentions. Motion passed.

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

This is the first hearing for proposed naming of Koipa Peak in Esmeralda County. Mr. Hursh introduced the proponent (Mr. Moe) for discussion on this feature. High point in Monte Cristo Range in Esmeralda County, this range has a well-known and established herd of Desert Bighorn Sheep (official State of Nevada animal), Koipa is the Paiute name for 'sheep' – name simply would mean 'sheep peak' using the native name "Koipa Peak" to honor the Native Americans of Nevada using this word. Proponent mentioned Nevada Dept. of Wildlife has taken the bighorn sheep from this area to reintroduce to other areas in Nevada, due to the size of the population in the Monte Cristo Range, confirming connection

and relevance to the subject (sheep). Discussion as to previous conversation and mentioning of this term (Koipa) at the last meeting by a board member fluent in the Paiute language, and this site falls within the established Northern Paiute territory, west of Tonopah. Motion made by Jack Hursh to forward to a second hearing, seconded by Paul Starrs. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

11. Koipato Peak (second hearing – for possible action)

This is the second hearing for proposed naming of Koipato Peak in Pershing County. Mr. Hursh introduced proponent (Mr. Moe) for discussion on this feature. This was the name previously suggested as a name for the high point in the West Humboldt Range. Proponent explained that the site was determined to be on private land, affiliated with the land allocated to the Central Pacific Railroad. Want to do outreach to Railroad Company to get feedback before moving forward. Discussion on possible confusion between this proposed name and Koipa Peak (item 10). Geologic maps have been published in the past using this term (Koipato), which was one of the reasons for suggesting the name for this feature, and Alvin McLane used the term Koipato as a variant for the West Humboldt Range. Motion made by Jack Hursh to table this item in order to do more outreach given that it is on private land, and possibly revisit the name (Koipato is a derivation for the name of mountain sheep, and this term does appear as a term used for the Desert Bighorn Sheep as well – which do also exist in the West Humboldt Range). Seconded by Karl Yonkers. Further discussion included the sheep existing in the area, but more research is needed in order to determine if this will move forward. Vote on motion, unanimous approval to table the item, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

12. Ramsey Summit (second hearing – for possible action)

This the second hearing for proposed naming of Ramsey Summit in Storey County. Mr. Hursh discussed (as a point of contact for the board) this feature, proponents are former Chairs of the NSBGN. Proposal is to name the summit in the Virginia Range near freeway that goes past the area known as USA Parkway – would be named Ramsey Summit because you can see the tailings piles of the historic mining district that was Ramsey. There is very much a historical context then for Ramsey Summit. Nevada Dept. of Transportation has no objection to this naming, and there may be a fiscal note (signage) associated with the naming; BLM also mentioned no objection. Motion by Don Harper to forward to the U.S. board with recommendation of approval for naming this feature, seconded by Karl Yonkers. Additional discussion included support of historical connection. Vote resulted in unanimous approval to forward to U.S. board, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

13. Pony Express Hill (third hearing – for possible action)

This the third hearing for proposed naming of Pony Express Hill in Lander County. Dr. Starrs discussed additional research he performed did not uncover any additional information, no other feedback received from county commission or native groups in support or opposition for this name. District ranger for the U.S. Forest Service responded that there is no opposition to the name, but relevance of name is questioned by the board. Site is near Pony Express Loop, highly unlikely this route was well used by Pony Express without intervening circumstances (most direct route between two places, where this loop is quite circuitous). Could be a commemorative name, but cannot directly associate this with a 'crucial leg' of the Pony Express. There is a mountain bike club in Austin, NV that has named a trail the "Pony Express Loop Trail." Additional discussion conveyed general feeling of weak connection and lack of nexus with regard to the relationship between the name and the historic event/space. Motion made by Paul Starrs to decline support for the naming of this feature citing lack of connection and relevance. Seconded by Dan White. No additional discussion, unanimous approval of the decline, which will be forwarded to the U.S. board with note of NSBGN non-support, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

14. Select tentative meeting place and date for September, 2018 meeting (for possible action).

Tentative meeting place selected for next meeting at the Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records - 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701, specific room(s) to be determined. Tentatively set for Tuesday, September 11th at 9:30am. Motion made by Jack Hursh to establish this location and time, seconded by Karl Yonkers. Unanimously approved, no objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

15. 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. Carol Ostergren from the U.S. Geological Survey was introduced as an attendee. Mr. Hess would like the board to develop conversations with the U.S. board in how to better deal with variant names that are discovered in research.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Jack Hursh to adjourn, seconded by Catherine Magee. Unanimously approved, no objections, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:59am.