

NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES

Tuesday September 11, 2018

The meeting began at 9:34am, at the Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records - 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701 (Upper Level Archives Administration 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
Catherine Magee, Nevada Historical Society – (voting alternate)
Don Harper, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada
Jeff Welter, Nevada Department of Transportation – (voting alternate)
Karl Yonkers, Nevada Department of Transportation
Jack Hursh, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
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:

Mike Boyles, National Park Service, Lake Mead (calling in)
Daryl Crawford, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
David Davis, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology (alternate)
Wanda Taylor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Larry Schmidt, US Forest Service (alternate)

Members of Public/Guests:

Anna Camp – Nevada State Museum
Robert Stewart – NSBGN Advisory Panel
Ron Hess – NSBGN Advisory Panel
Ron Moe - Public
Bryan Stockton – Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Attorney General's Office

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

Meeting called to order at 9:34am by Skip Canfield. Introductions made of attending Board members and guests.

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 May 8, 2018 meeting (for possible action)

“Jeff. Davis Peak” brought to the attention of the board that renaming “Jeff. Davis Peak” – not Jefferson Davis Peak (it is Jeff. Davis Peak in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) database).

Motion to approve minutes of the May 8th, 2018 meeting as written made by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Jack Hursh. Unanimous approval of agenda. Motion approved.

4. Election, position of Chair and Executive Secretary 2-year terms (For possible action)

Motion to nominate Skip Canfield made by Jack Hursh for the next 2-year term, seconded by Catherine Magee. Unanimous approval. Motion approved. Mr. Hursh and Ms. Laframboise volunteered, but due to time and funding restraints, and status of State Library (alternate appointment), cannot take this position on. Motion to nominate Christine Johnson made by Catherine Magee. Seconded by Don Harper. Unanimous approval. Motion approved.

5. Announcements, Chairman or Executive Secretary

From Executive Secretary: Announcement/update regarding U.S. Board status – will be voting on Nevada sites on 9/13/18. Discussion and overview on COGNA (Council of Geographic Names Authorities) Conference from June 19-23, 2018, and announcement of next conference meeting for 3/25-29, 2019 in Baton Rouge. Discussed the reorganization of the COGNA conference, which will include a certification (federal policy training) – this may allow more states' personnel to attend in the future. Also reviewed Policy X (federal policy for Tribal communication regarding naming sites on tribal lands and also quarterly review list and reorganization of 'outreach' by U.S. board). Question of trickle-down effect of this policy – should the Nevada board retain its current procedure which is the practice of doing outreach for feedback from governmental agencies and affiliated tribes for any proposed sites. Board discussion resulted in confirming unanimous desire to keep current outreach plan and open discussion between board and tribes, hoping to keep tribes communicating with board so as to have knowledge of any tribal actions (tribes sending directly to U.S. board). A local tribe has asked for more discussion to understand Policy X, board would like to facilitate training for both the board and the tribes moving forward. Mr. White mentioned having an active member of the BIA on the U.S. board is going to be very beneficial for this process moving forward. NSBGN wondering if the U.S. board can notify the state boards on tribal submissions (not just find them in the GNIS).

6. Announcements from Board Members

From Cynthia Laframboise: former Chair of the NSBGN Jeff Kintop is the process of retiring but had a medical situation and she is requesting signatures for a get-well card.

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

Ron Hess asking whether all variant names can be submitted at the time of name proposal application to the U.S. board in order to identify all variant names and to be included in the GNIS. Chair mentioned that as long as the agenda included the variant names in the naming process for public transparency, this can be part of the process. Executive Secretary responded that this question was put to the U.S. board at the COGNA conference, and the U.S. board is receptive to if not requesting all variant names be put forward at the time of the naming application. Process will be to have a first hearing, with the name proposed on the agenda during the first stage. If the name is forwarded to a second hearing, the name and any variants will be listed as such on the second hearing agenda. Question as to why variants need to be listed at all by Deputy Atty. General who also pointed out that the action for the agenda is only on the primary name being put forward. Chair confirmed action is only on name proposed, but including any/all variants with proposal is for public transparency and convenience at the federal level for inclusion in GNIS. The board noted that any/all variants need to have citations. Board members need to provide the variant names 21 days prior to the next meetings, and criteria established to determine authenticity.

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

This is the first hearing for proposed naming of Donkey Peak in Pershing County. Mr. Hursh introduced the proposal to name the high point in the Seven Troughs range in Pershing County. Proponent is Mr. Moe (avid hiker in Nevada), the proponent. A number of high points in Nevada ranges are not named, and this item is one of these. Reason/source for the name is the numerous wild burros in the region and on this range. Numerous burro names on NV landscape – but no GNIS entry for Donkeys in

Nevada. Proponent mentioned additional thought on naming the high points is to avoid future mining or landscape modification in the future (that tend to happen in unnamed spaces). Very appropriate name for the number of donkeys in the area. Motion to forward to a second hearing made by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Catherine Magee. Discussion included triangulation station on the site of Seven Troughs. Making distinction between triangulation station survey system and GNIS, claiming this peak can be named despite the triangulation point. There is a peak south of proposed Donkey Peak named Seven Troughs Peak. Unanimous approval of motion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

9. Doso Doyabi (first hearing - for possible action)

This is the first hearing for proposed renaming of Jefferson “Jeff” Davis Peak to Doso Doyabi in White Pine County. Executive Secretary discussed proposal, submitted by the Duckwater Tribe in eastern Nevada. Elders of the tribe gave the term Doso Doyabi from two elders, these elders’ mother was one of the only survivors of the Spring Valley massacre. He received the name, took it to the University of Utah’s Shoshone Language project for verification, which means “White Mountain.” Put forward with no descriptor (no ‘peak’ or ‘mountain’) due to inherent meaning of the term. Tribe as a whole is supporting this name. Board members mentioned this is a very positive action by the Duckwater tribe to put forward the name. Advisory board member mentioned name should be considered in the name of reconciliation not division. Jefferson Davis came to be well-associated with the Civil War, and renaming in the language of the people here before the Civil War is appropriate. Motion made by Jack Hursh to forward this item to a second hearing, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections and no abstentions. Motion passed.

10. Tots Arrh Peak (second hearing - for possible action)

This is the second hearing for proposed renaming of Jefferson “Jeff” Davis Peak to Tots Arrh Peak in White Pine County. Jack Hursh (proponent) put this name forward prior to Doso Doyabi being put forward. Wishes to respectfully withdraw Tots Arrh Peak. Motion made by Jack Hursh to withdraw the Tots Arrh Peak application from the agenda, seconded by Paul Starrs. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections and no abstentions. Motion passed.

11. Koipa Peak (second hearing - for possible action)

This is the second hearing for proposed naming of Koipa Peak in Pershing County. Mr. Hursh outlined the proposal for the unnamed peak in the Monte Cristo range. Proponent is seeking to apply the Paiute name for “bighorn” or mountain sheep” to honor the abundance and known population of Bighorn Sheep (Nevada State Animal) in this area in the language of the Paiute people of the area. Outreach to tribes and County Commissioners in the recent past has resulted in no response. Motion by Don Harper to push this item to a third hearing due to the extremely busy season for BLM and would like more time to get official feedback. Seconded by Jack Hursh. No additional discussion, unanimous approval. Motion passed.

12. Wolfram Peak (second hearing - for possible action)

This is the second hearing for proposed naming of Wolfram Peak in Pershing County. This the second hearing for proposed naming of an unnamed high point in the Eugene Mountains in Pershing County. Mr. Hursh introduced this feature, proponent offers this name to pay homage to the extensive history of tungsten mining in the Eugene Mountains (wolfram is another name for tungsten). Question of clarification by board member – to make sure the name is connected and understood as being related to the mineral (not a commemorative name for a person) – wolfram is the periodic element W for tungsten. Advisory panel member brought up that a map does exist that labels the map as Eugene Peak, prior publication by Alvin McLane also lists variants. Advisory panel member visited the area and asked local people in the area, got a variety of answers, and his opinion is it should be Eugene Peak or Eugene Mountain (peak would be more consistent with the 1880s map discovered). If Wolfram peak moves forward, board should ensure variants move forward to US board with application. There is concern that the triangulation station name and the peak are the same (they are not). Motion by Don Harper to forward to a third hearing for additional time for BLM review, more research, and add

a variant. Seconded by Catherine Magee. Additional discussion included if Wolfram goes forward if Eugene Peak can be agenized as part of the application. Unanimous approval, no objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

13. Select tentative meeting place and date for January, 2019 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, January 8th at 9:30am. Motion made by Jack Hursh to establish this location and time, seconded by Skip Canfield.

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. Mr. Stewart introduced a new book publication (Mark Twain among the Indians and other Indigenous People) on Mark Twain, wherein Mr. Stewart's proposal for Clemens Cove, and that the NSBGN tabling the proposed name was evasive and the author mentions the NSBGN can bring the name about again. More discussion on the book and Mr. Stewart's work in the past to name the cove.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Karl Yonkers. Unanimously approved, no objections, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:01am.