

# NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

## MINUTES

**Tuesday September 17, 2019**

The meeting began at 9:32am, at the Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records - 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701 (Board Room)

### **Board Members Present:**

Jack Hursh, Chair, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology  
Christine Johnson, Executive Secretary – Nevada Historical Society (non-voting)  
Craig Burkett, Sr. Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Attorney General's Office (non-voting)  
Larry Schmidt, US Forest Service, retired (voting - alternate)  
Dean Tonenna, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada (voting – alternate)  
Paul White, University of Nevada, Reno  
Karl Yonkers, Nevada Department of Transportation  
Cynthia Laframboise, Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records  
Dominique Etchegoyhen; Nevada Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources  
Linda Newman, University of Nevada, Reno, retired (voting alternate)  
Paul Starrs, University of Nevada, Reno – Department of Geography – on phone  
Wanda Taylor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Department of Geoscience – on phone  
Catherine Magee, Nevada Historical Society (voting alternate) – on phone

### **Absent:**

National Park Service  
Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada  
Jeff Welter, Nevada Department of Transportation (voting – alternate)  
Don Harper, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada  
Dan White, U.S. Forest Service, Utah

### **Members of Public/Advisory Panel:**

Marissa Weaselboy - Public, UNR Anthropology Student, Western Shoshone (Advisory)  
Don Zirbel, Public  
Bob Stewart, Public, NSBGN Advisory Panel  
Jeff Kintop, Public, NSBGN Advisory Panel

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

Meeting called to order at 9:32am by Jack Hursh. Introductions made of attending Board members and members of the public. Motion to approve agenda with correction to Pupfish Peak (Pupfish Peak is a second hearing, not a first hearing) made by Dominique Etchegoyhen, seconded by Wanda Taylor. Unanimous approval of the agenda. 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. Question on Pupfish Peak listing, and explanation made.

**3. Approval of Minutes of the May 14, 2019 meeting (for possible action)**

Motion to approve minutes of January 8, 2019 minutes as written made by Paul Starrs, seconded by Karl Yonkers. One abstention, otherwise unanimous approval of minutes. Motion approved.

**4. Announcements, Chairman or Executive Secretary**

**From Executive Secretary:** Attended COGNA conference in Baton Rouge in August, provided state report for Nevada and read other state reports into record who could not attend. Interesting to see varied nature of how state boards vary; Nevada complemented for efforts on bettering communications with tribes. Variety of talks and lectures at conference were quite interesting and beneficial and having opportunity to communicate in person with U.S. board members is extremely valuable. Secretary also discussed having appeared at Douglas County Commission meeting to explain what NSBGN does, and answer questions they had on recent name proposal (Turtle Gulch). Thanked Douglas County Commission for being one of four counties presently actively communicating with NSBGN.

**From Chair:** Thanked secretary for attending conference, and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

**5. Announcements from Board Members**

None at this time.

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

Executive Secretary commented on technology failure in the Nevada State system which prevented timely distribution of NSBGN materials, and looking for better way to distribute and post materials in a system that does not own the NSBGN, but has participants from different agencies with different technologies used. Additional guests arriving introduced (Jeff Kintop – former NSBGN Chair and present Nevada Advisory Panel member).

**7. Tucubits Peak (third hearing - for possible action)**

This is the third hearing for proposed naming of Tucubits Peak in Elko County. Chair recognizes feedback from Ms. Weaselboy. Recognition that Tucubits is anglicized spelling of what should be in the Shoshone language Dukubich. Previous name suggested to replace Tucubits should be Doya Dukubich. No official application to replace Tucubits received. Discussion ensued on alternative name suggestions for this site, but the only actual name on the table is in fact Tucubits Peak. NSBGN is reminded only the official application can be considered per policy and agenda. Further discussion on prior publication of Tucubits and its meaning of Wild Cat, and this feature is in the Snake Range, so perhaps a native name for snake could be applied at a later date. Secretary reminds that no feedback was received by tribes on the Tucubits Peak application, but Elko County Commissioners did reply and said their official stance was they had 'no opinion' on the matter. Motion made by Karl Yonkers to disapprove Tucubits Peak proposal, seconded by Larry Schmidt. No additional discussion, unanimous approval of motion. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

**8. Bighorn Peak (first hearing - for possible action)**

This is the first hearing for proposed naming of Bighorn Peak in Esmeralda County. This name is being proposed as a supplementary name to replace Koipa Peak, which was a prior proposal. This site falls on a boundary between Paiute and Shoshone traditional lands, and comment was made by Ms. Weaselboy that naming the site an anglicized name is offensive, and effort should be made to discover whether there is already a native name. Proponent spoke and mentioned Bighorn was proposed in an effort to compromise in order to not favor one culture or the other but would be nice to find a native name to represent the animal species in an agreed upon term. Motion made to disapprove Bighorn Peak and Koipa Peak for naming by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Dominique Etchegoyhen. No additional discussion, unanimous approval of motion. No objections, no abstentions. Motion passed.

**9. Pupfish Peak (second hearing – for possible action)**

This is the second hearing for proposed naming of Pupfish Peak in Nye County, and the high point in the Devils Hole Hills. Proponent wishes to name the peak in honor of the native species of fish known

as the Pupfish which lives in the waters below. Comment by Wanda Taylor that Fossil Peak in Nevada is in the south end of the Seamen Range in Lincoln county and also has no fossils at the top – only the bottom – so it is an example of another peak named for something that exists at the bottom of the feature. Larry Schmidt mentioned coordinates might be off, will confirm before sending to US board. Discussion on which maps to use to determine coordinates precisely. Bob Stewart mentioned that in the 1970s the Pupfish was in the news, describing that the mail sent to Governor O’Callahan at the time in support of saving the Pupfish exceeded all other mail subjects with the exception of wild horses, to the Governor at the time. Proponent mentioned the range is called Devils Hole Hills, and refers to Devils Hole, and what resides in Devils Hole is the Pupfish. Paul Starrs mentioned that the status of the Pupfish does remain in question, a number of peaks are named in various western states for species that no longer exist in the area, such as Grizzly Peak in California, Grizzly Bears have been gone from California since 1914. Pupfish Peak would be an appropriate reminder of our human obligation to be stewards of important landscape and geographical treasures within our state. No feedback from tribes or county commissioners on this application. Motion made to approve the application to name Pupfish Peak and forward to the U.S. board by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Paul Starrs. No additional discussion, no objections, and no abstentions, unanimous approval of motion. Motion passed.

#### **10. Gridley Peak (second hearing – for possible action)**

This is the second hearing for proposed naming of Gridley Peak in Lander County. Secretary reminded of actions of last meeting and history provided by proponent at that meeting behind this commemorative name application: Ruel Gridley was a grocer in Austin, Nevada and in 1864, he made a bet with a local doctor as to the winner of the upcoming local election. The loser was intended to carry a 50 pound sack of flour through the center of town. Gridley lost, and carried the sack through the town to great public display, and when he reached his store at the end of the route, he turned over the flour to the doctor, who gave it back, and they offered it for auction, to sell it back to anyone who wanted it, with the proceeds to go to the sanitary commission – the precursor to the Red Cross. They sold it many times back and forth and had earned approximately \$5000 in Austin. By the end of the war, Gridley was in St. Louis, and they had earned \$275,000 with the sack of flour (today’s money approximately \$7 million). He returned to Austin in failing health, lost his grocery store, and went to live with his daughter. In 1870 he passed away and was buried in a pauper’s grave. Later, the Grand Army of the Republic built a monument for him to honor his efforts in the Stockton (CA) cemetery. Proponent believes the peak should be named for this man in the area of Austin due to the origins of the effort and the significant and lasting impact the man had. Additionally, the sack of flour today resides in the Nevada Historical Society on display in the gallery, donated to the museum by Gridley’s daughter after he passed away. This peak is not a high point in its range but is a prominent point. No feedback was received from tribes on this name suggestion, nor from the county commissioners. Ms. Weaselboy mentioned this peak is in a traditional Shoshone space where her ancestors are from, and would like to bring this to her tribe to ask their opinions, and mentions that Gridley days are celebrated. Secretary said NSBGN would support more time for tribal input. Dean Tonenna made comment that BLM regularly does outreach to tribes as well, and in the absence of feedback the BLM does make greater efforts to solicit feedback. Motion made to forward to a third hearing made by Dominique Etchegoyhen, seconded by Karl Yonkers. No additional discussion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

#### **11. Turtle Gulch (second hearing – for possible action)**

This is the second hearing for proposed naming of Turtle Gulch in Douglas County. Proponent is present and provided an overview of the intention behind this proposed name. Gulch is near his property and features a prominent rock which resembles a turtle, thus the name. Proponent attended Douglas County Commission meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup> and mentioned how interested the Commissioners were as to the naming process and voiced their support for the naming of this feature. Commissioners asked proponent several questions, and after they voted in support of the name, stated the County Manager would forward a letter of support on their behalf to the NSBGN (not yet received). Proponent mentioned speaking with other local residents about this name and the process of naming and how interested people seem to be. Secretary added to conversation and reiterated County Commissioners support from the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Proponent also believes that naming this

place will help protect the area – there is often trash being dumped in the area and applying a name might increase stewardship. No further discussion. Motion made by Karl Yonkers to approve naming Turtle Gulch, and forward to the US board. Seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. NO additional discussion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

**12. Select Tentative Meeting Place for January 2020 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 14, 2019 at 9:30am time. Motion for the meeting to occur on this date and time made by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Larry Schmidt. Unanimously approved, no objections, no abstentions.

**13. 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. Ms. Weaselboy mentioned that an article by proponent for Doso Doyabi will appear in a forthcoming issue of the Nevada Historical Society's *Quarterly* journal and would like to emphasize to the board the need to communicate with the living community regarding names (as opposed to relying on historic record which can contain errors), and how the living community would like to see the name represented should take precedent. Mr. Zirbel mentioned still willing to lead tour through Turtle Gulch. Discussion by Dr. Paul White as to whether we can better outreach to tribes on proposed sites and seek information on names which might already exist. Secretary explained Policy X (federal policy) and mentioned several tribes have asked for more information from secretary on how to name places on tribal names, including proponent for Doso Doyabi. Also explained limitations on NSBGN board members – individual board members are not funded for transportation around state, and other limits on resources that exist make extended outreach above the present efforts difficult if not impossible. The Nevada Historical Society is willing to host a meeting to provide information to tribes; NSBGN members are worried tribes naming places on tribal lands and working directly with USBGN will restrict knowledge of new names applied to tribal lands which would limit cartographic efforts by different agencies in the state. Dr. White mentioned it behooves NSBGN to travel to tribes and gather information and is willing to work to that effort.

**14. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Paul Starrs, seconded by Wanda Taylor. Unanimously approved, no objections, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:43am.