

NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES September 8, 2015

The meeting began at 9:36am, Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library conference room, 2175 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV

Introductions of Members and Guests:

Board Members Present:

Jeff Kintop, Chair, Nevada State Library & Archives
Christine Johnson, Executive Secretary - Nevada Historical Society (non-voting).
David Davis, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
Jack Hursh, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
Larry Schmidt, US Forest Service – alternate
Robert (Bob) Stewart, US Bureau of Land Management, retired
Skip Canfield, Nevada Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
Paul Starrs, University of Nevada, Reno – by proxy
Linda Newman, University of Nevada, Reno, Emeritus – by proxy

Absent:

Margaret (Peg) Rees, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Daryl Crawford, Inter-Tribal Council
Jane Freeman, US Forest Service
John Burgess, Nevada Dept. of Transportation

Guests:

None

- 1. Welcome by Chair, Jeff Kintop, 9:36a.m. Introductions of Board Members.**
- 2. Approval of the Minutes of May 12, 2015 meeting.**

Mention of open sentence in section 9 of May minutes. Correction to be made immediately. Motion to accept corrected minutes made by Skip Canfield, seconded by Jack Hursh. Vote unanimous to approve.

3. Announcements (Chair or Exec. Secretary):

- Further explanation by Chair Jeff Kintop regarding communication with assemblywoman (Heidi Swank D-LV) from Las Vegas area who had a bill in legislation (AB410) to change the makeup on boards – we are trying to add the National Parks Service to the NBGN. The attempt to get this bill through was unsuccessful, but will try again next session, where a bill draft request will be made. A question was asked as to the construct of the NBGN, and Jack Hursh provided the printout of SB 285 which established the Board in March, 1985.
- To build on Jeff Kintop's discussion, Christine Johnson mentioned that it has been asked in the recent past whether the Board might add a student position to the board, wherein a Graduate Student from the Geography Department (or other departments?) might represent the University at a student level for board actions. General consensus of board members present reflects that positions added must go through legislation (see above discussion), in addition to the views that a

student has no direct obligation, nor vested interest, the potential for lack of commitment exists and no way to mandate participation. The University might offer extra credit for participation at Board meetings as students may attend as members of the public, and the board also wishes to voice the notion that they welcome student input during the meetings under “public comment.”

4. Announcements from Nevada Board members; comments from the public:

Bob Stewart announced he has an article being published in the fall edition of the Mark Twain journal – which will be featured as the lead article. The board congratulated him.

Jack Hursh climbed McLane Peak in June with a friend – described this treacherous and wonderful climb and has photos of the event. The board congratulated him, and hopefully awaits word on the official naming of this feature.

5. Question about Lake Tahoe State Park’s Interpretive trail sign (for possible action):

A Youtube video was played (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWVFV7UfNUM>) Entitled “Hike to Mark Twain’s Fairest Picture Vista Point” - wherein David Antonucci is depicted leading tours. The question of why the interpretive marker was placed within the State Park was asked, and two board members have attempted to contact the Park manager, but were unable to do so prior to today’s meeting. The board acknowledges no jurisdiction in this matter, however, the board noted previous concerns brought up by the Washoe Tribe regarding the naming of any feature at Lake Tahoe after Samuel Clemens/Mark Twain. Due to this fact, the Board at a previous meeting in 2014 chose not to pursue the naming of Sam Clemens Cove. The revelation that Nevada Division of State Parks placed an official interpretive sign at Tunnel Creek at the request of a private citizen with historical theories different than factual information supported by the Board is contrary to the spirit and intent of the Board’s previous actions. This inconsistency amongst State entities is a concern as a result of the placement of this interpretive sign that has the perception of being endorsed by the State of Nevada. Motion by Skip Canfield to draft a letter by the board to Eric Johnson, copied to Daryl Cruz, detailing the NBSN concern with the placement of a permanent sign at Tunnel Creek Road based on concerns raised by the Washoe Tribe regarding the association of Samuel Clemens/Mark Twain with the Lake Tahoe area. The letter should include the information contained in the written statement provided by Bob Stewart. David Davis seconded, and board unanimously voted in favor of this action. No opposition, no abstains.

6. Windous Butte, second hearing (for possible action):

This is the second hearing for this feature. As all letters were sent to affiliated tribes and the White Pine County Commission in May, 2015, and no response has been sent forth from any of the agencies, consent and support is implied (per verbiage printed in the letters). With consent implied, and no other opposition voiced, Bob Stewart motioned to approve the naming of Windous Butte, seconded by Jack Hursh. Vote of board unanimous in support of motion to name. None opposed, none abstained.

7. Update on 2016 COGNA conference (Executive Secretary):

C. Johnson displayed the COGNA website (<http://cogna50usa.org/>), and provided a mock schedule for what might be anticipated for the May COGNA conference in Reno in 2016. The conference will be held at the Peppermill in Reno, May 3-7, 2016. The board is in full support to provide whatever services are needed, and had many ideas to present, including changing the Saturday proposed tour to a wholly Nevada-themed tour (not going to Donner Memorial State Park). A committee was formed, led by Jack Hursh. There will be tour guides on the bus on Saturday. Linda and Christine will work on registration packets and giveaway bags. Many questions were asked which need to be forwarded to Mr. Wayne Furr of COGNA, and C. Johnson will relay answers as soon as received.

Subcommittees will communicate amongst themselves for the purposes of planning the trips and organizing registration bags and two other nightly (optional) tours for the conference.

8. Updates on Federal Board (NV) items

As mentioned previously, there are several names from the last two agendas for NBSGN waiting on final input from BLM at federal level. USBN has asked whether our BLM (on NV board) rep(s) can perhaps spur discussion with Federal BLM rep in order to expedite any of the naming issues on hold, and Bob Stewart said he has emailed, telephoned and left messages for the two people he has as contacts for that position at the Federal level, and has not heard back in any venue.

C. Johnson will contact Jennifer Runyon and relay this information and request any other contact information available in order that the Nevada board might continue to be of help in seeing these features through the process.

9. Select meeting place for September 8, 2015 meeting

The date of January 12, 2016 (9:30am-approximately 12:00pm) was decided on to be held at the Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library Conference Room, Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library (GBSSRL), 2175 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV.

10. Public Comments:

Additional communications regarding COGNA conference, suggestions for organization, tours, and questions to ask COGNA regarding Nevada Board's hosting responsibilities, etc. C. Johnson will submit questions to Mr. Wayne Furr of COGNA, and reply back to Board as soon as possible in order to continue planning tours, attendance, etc., at conference.

11. Meeting Adjourned at 10:45a.m.

Minutes prepared by Christine Johnson and subject to approval by the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names at next meeting.