

Missouri Board on Geographic Names
05-09 Meeting
Interpretive Center
James Kirkpatrick Building
Missouri Office of the Secretary of State
Jefferson City, MO
May 11th, 2009 Minutes

Attendees: Chris Barnett, Gary Claspill, Ken Dagel, John Fisher, David Kreighbaum, Mary Lyon, Gordon McCann, Jane Messenger, Lynn Morrow, Russ Mueller, Frank Nickell, Walter Schroeder, Jay Turner, Dwight Weaver, and Arnold Williams.

Guests: Missouri State Archivist, John Dougan

Also in attendance was Jeanne Martin (recorder), Administrative Secretary for the Local Records Division.

Absent: Ray Fox, Tony Holland, Gary Kremer, Darrell Pratte, and Henry Sweets.

Walter called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and gave a brief overview of the day's agenda.

Call for Proxies

Walter called for proxies. Jay Turner carried proxy for Ray Fox, Frank Nickell carried proxy for Henry Sweets, and Lynn Morrow carried proxy for Tony Holland.

Call for Additions to the Agenda

Walter called for additions to the agenda. Jane asked to add South Sherrill Creek under New/Revisited Business. Lynn took the opportunity to let members know that Claude Strauser has come out of retirement. Claude went back to work for the Corps of Engineers in New Orleans & asked Lynn to say Hi to everyone.

New Member

Jane let members know that Russ Mueller is retiring from the Department of Conservation and Mary Lyon will take his place on the Board. She asked Russ to introduce Mary. Mary has been with the Department of Conservation for nearly 20 years where she has been working with strategic planning for the department, and is now administering a database regarding what can be done with our lands. Mary said that is how she met Russ and they have been working on that plan together.

Walter asked board members to introduce themselves to Mary.

Minutes for November 2008

Walter requested corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes from November 2008. Jane took the opportunity to thank Lynn for getting the minutes online. Chris Barnett moved to approve the minutes as written. Jay Turner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New/Revisited Business – Johnston Mountain vs Edge Branch High Top

Jane let members know the US Board received a letter from Kenneth M. Lee in Annapolis in Iron County. Mr. Lee said he lives just south of the mountain and has known the mountain as Edge Branch High Top. Jane can't find an Edge Branch anywhere in the region. She said Jay Turner did some research on the name. Jay said there is a High Top but no Edge Branch. He said the name High Top is farther away than Johnston Mountain. Jane said Jenny Runyon asked the Missouri Board to do more research. Jane feels Mr. Lee is mixed up as to the location of the summit proposed to be named Johnston Mountain. She said the folks who own the land surrounding the summit like the proposed name Johnston Mountain and may have already put up a sign. Walter thinks Mr. Lee has an Annapolis address because the post office serves the area where Mr. Lee lives. MOBGN approved the proposed new name Johnston Mountain at their November 2008 meeting and it has been presented to the US Board for approval. Jane said Ken Fox wrote to Mr. Lee a couple of weeks ago for more information but hasn't received a reply. Ken wants to know exactly where the mountain is Mr. Lee is talking about and he wants to know if there's a stream bearing the name Edge Branch.

Jane asked members if they want to defer their decision concerning Johnston Mountain. Chris asked if we have to wait for the US Board to respond. Jane said no, but the US Board wants us to give them evidence regarding the Edge Branch High Top name. Walter asked if the proponents are in a hurry for the name change to Johnston Mountain. Jane said Mr. Townsend is in his 80's and this request was presented a couple of years ago. He would like to memorialize his family name. Jane said the US Board would want to know why we didn't research the new information from Mr. Lee, adding that it appears Mr. Lee isn't kin to Mr. Townsend. Walter said there's no reason to change our approval. But he's sure the US Board would want the new evidence researched. Jane mentioned that Jane, Ken Fox, and Jay cannot find the names Edge Branch High Top anywhere.

Chris Barnett went to the computer and pulled up Live Maps. Entering Mr. Lee's address he was able to find County Road 204 and members were able to identify the summit in question. Annapolis is farther away from the summit, but it is only the mailing address. Jane said the US Board would want us to review the information from Mr. Lee. Walter reminded members that one person doesn't prove local usage. Jay Turner asked if we can talk to the *Reynolds County Courier*. Jane said she can. Jay said he will give her the contact information. Jay asked Jane how long the current owners have been there. Jane said they have a Christmas tree farm on the land but there's no indication as to how long they've been there. Jane feels that the fact that they're happy with the Johnston Mountain name is strong. Jay said the property is not in the Mark Twain National Forest.

Walter asked members if we want to defer the matter to the November meeting. David Kreighbaum moved to defer the Johnston Mountain question to the November meeting. Chris

Barnett seconded the motion. Motion carried. Walter asked Jane to notify Jenny Runyon, and said to members that if anyone is tooling around in the area to stop and check it out.

Stutts/Stults – McCann /Morrow

Lynn let members know that Jane, then he, received an inquiry from a Stone County resident, Ray Jones, asking the Board to look into the Stutts/Stults name. Lynn said Local Records Archivist, Linda Myers, examined the county tax and deed records (1850s-1980s). The result was that *Stults* is the only surname recorded until a *Stutts* from Kansas purchased a lakeside lot in south Stone County in 1980; obviously, the field man recorded a misspelling. Gordon said he talked to some of the locals; their response was why care, it's easier to say Stutts, not Stults. Lynn said, as Walter suggested at the last meeting, that the field man misheard the word. Lynn concluded that there is no evidence that either Stutts or Stults was ever used for the placename.

Jane said field work would have been done before 1980. She said the field man very specifically put the cemetery as Stults and the town as Stutts. However, neither Stults nor Stutts is used among the locals; the name used is *Keystone* for the local subdivision, and on Keystone Baptist Church. Lynn said when he taught school just a few miles away the area was known as Keystone or Reed Springs Junction. Jane said we can't change a feature name, so Stults and Stutts will be variant names, Reed Springs Junction will be a variant, and *Keystone* should be the name of the populated place. [Jane has since had a lengthy telephone call with Mr. Jones and have concluded that the name currently in use is Reeds Springs Junction. There is one sign on the highway, but other signs in the populated place have "Keystone" written on them. Mr. Jones is going to do more research and then may submit a request to change the name.] Walter said the best example of an 'l' being left out of a proper name, when the 'l' follows a vowel, is DeKalb County; most often it's pronounced 'DeKab'.

South Sherrill Creek

Jane let members know the US Board wrote to Texas & Phelps counties regarding an opinion on the naming of South Sherrill Creek. Texas County had previously sent a letter to the MOBGN saying they won't accept any name changes. The US Board wanted Texas County to give an opinion more specifically on the South Sherrill Creek proposed name change, so Ken Fox wrote a letter to Texas County on behalf of the US BGN. Texas County responded that they see no reason why that tributary needs a name at all. There is evidence on US Soils maps and MODOT maps that the tributary was called Sherrill Creek. Jane said she and Jenny Runyon put it in GNIS and Texas County indicated that they would like the name removed. The US Board may or may not change the name to South Sherrill Creek, but it can't be removed from the database as the name has already appeared on published Federal and state maps. Chris said the name is in Federal and State publications.

Jane asked the Board to reaffirm that we want the name of the stream that flows through the nursery to be South Sherrill Creek. Ken Dagele asked if we talked to Texas County when we discussed the issue. Jane said yes, that was the letter they responded to refusing to accept any changes. The question was asked regarding the US Board making the decision to overrule our decision. Ken Fox said the US Board isn't trying to go over the state board's head; they just

would like an opinion from Texas County. Jane said the US Board does override state board decisions when they feel the state board has made a decision that doesn't follow US Board principles and policies. She feels the US Board felt that the request for an opinion would carry more weight coming from a federal agency, and perhaps they would get an opinion from Texas County. Chris observed that we have a mess for them to clean up with the counties. Jane said right. Chris said if the US Board decides not to go with South Sherrill Creek, there could be two streams in close proximity each with the name of Sherrill Creek. Walter asked for a motion. Chris moved to reaffirm our decision to recommend the change of the name of the southern Sherrill Creek to South Sherrill Creek. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously no abstentions.

Farewell to Russ Mueller

Jane said Russ has been with the Missouri Board since its formation. He'd had perfect attendance until the last meeting when he had to go to his aunt's funeral.

Phelps County Vote on Proposed Crow Creek and South Sherrill Creek

Ken Fox reported to members that Phelps County does approve the South Sherrill Creek name. Jane said we learned that from Jenny Runyon.

COGNA 2010 – Committees

Walter asked Jane for an overview of the conference. Jane said the 2010 COGNA will be October 5th through 9th at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield. The first official day of the conference is Wednesday, but people will be coming on Tuesday to see the MOBGN in action and for an opening reception on Tuesday evening, with a cash bar and finger foods.

She said COGNA doesn't want us to go into the red, so all costs must come from registration and any donations we can get. Jane mentioned that we can have our November 2010 meeting a month early, at the October COGNA meeting. She said there could be some good issues for us to discuss by then.

Jane said there are three things that have to happen at every COGNA meeting.

First, the State/Federal Roundtable always meets. Various issues are discussed at these roundtables and Jane gave a few examples, saying the session usually takes from 4 to 6 hours.

Second, the US Board Domestic Names Committee meets. This meeting usually takes a good 6 hours, and usually a name issue for the host state is discussed.

Third, the COGNA Business meeting, that usually takes an hour to an hour and a half. Jane said the conference will be Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and we have 16 hours plus already tied up with those three sessions. That allows us 8 hours for other sessions.

Jane said we need a theme, and mentioned wanting to discuss how manmade changes have influenced names in Southwest Missouri. She said we also need to discuss budget. She said everything has to be recouped via registration, tour fees, and donations. Chris said he didn't remember seeing vendors at previous meetings. Jane said they weren't vendors *per se*, but there was a vendor there who makes atlases. She said we could ask Bass Pro to have topo maps to show how sportsmen use them. Jane mentioned that COGNA usually has a bag for everyone to collect their conference stuff in. Also, as for transportation, University Plaza doesn't provide transportation from the airport for anyone but VIP's, so we need to make attendees aware that they will be making their own arrangements to get from the airport to University Plaza. And, we need to arrange for a bus for the toponymic tour. Jane said we have to think about communications, we have to have microphones, computers and projectors. Chris said University Plaza has microphones, and Jane said she can use computers and projectors from work as well as her personal ones.

Gordon asked how many attendees we expect. Jane said it depends on Federal and State budgets. She said in 2000 they had their highest registration and it has fallen off ever since. She feels we should plan on about 75 attendees. There was much discussion about possible attendance based on the location to Branson and the new airport. There was discussion regarding incorporating Branson shows into entertainment for the conference, versus letting attendees take in Branson before or after the conference. Walter said to assume people will take in Branson before or after. Gordon asked if anyone has spoken with the universities. Jane said no. Gordon said MSU has a major mapping department. Chris said they may be a good vendor.

Jane called for volunteers for the committees.

Budget Committee;

Chris Barnett, Chair
Wayne Furr, representing COGNA
David Kriegbaum
Gary Kremer

This committee needs to work with Wayne because he receives all of the funds coming in for registration, etc.

Program Committee;

Jane Messenger, Chair
Gordon McCann
Lynn Morrow
Gary Claspill

Jane feels the toponymic tour needs to be patterned along the same lines of the conference program theme if possible. This committee plans when the sessions will be, including the 8 hours MOBGN gets to plan, and this committee plans the breaks and lunches. Jane asked that the committee keep in mind that most attendees are not historians; they are into toponymy, which is the study of geographic names, and cartography.

Toponymic Tour & Transportation Committee;

Jane Messenger, Chair
Gordon McCann

Lynn Morrow
Arnold Williams

Jane thought about a tour beginning with the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Inspiration Tower, Table Rock Dam, lunch at Table Rock State Park with a lunch packed by University Plaza, then on to Dogwood Canyon. She said we probably can't do Dogwood Canyon because that would be more than an 8 hour day. Jane said Transportation refers to the toponymic tour only. Registration flyers will let people know they need to rent a car or take a taxi to University Plaza Hotel.

Registration & Communications Committee;

Chris Barnett, Chair
Henry Sweets
Frank Nickell
Jay Turner
Mary Lyon
David Kreighbaum – Student Volunteer Coordinator

Jane said Communication refers to public relations. She said this committee will handle pre-registration, pre-registration pay later, on-site registration, registration packets, the agenda, bags for information, tour tickets, etc. David felt student volunteers from the universities would make a big difference when it comes to handling registration issues on site and volunteered to coordinate that effort.

Food committee;

Jane Messenger, Chair
John Fisher
Bill Sneed (previous MOBGN member and current USGS liaison to AR has volunteered for a committee)

Jane said this committee has to work with University Plaza. University Plaza will make menu choices available for her and John to decide on by summer of 2010. She feels it could all be done from home.

Jane suggested the committee chairs talk with their members as soon as possible.

COGNA 2010 – Theme

Jane told members she wants a theme for the 2010 COGNA meeting before we leave today. Walter asked how the theme might be expressed through the speakers. Jane said that usually doesn't happen. It would be nice but it isn't necessary. Walter asked if the theme can be broad and understandable, like *Ozark Country*. Jane said yes it can. Walter asked if people will look at a meeting in Springfield as a meeting in the *Ozark Mountains*. Jane said the Ozark Mountains, as a range, are not in GNIS. She said there's no definition for Ozark Mountains to pinpoint a center. Jane asked for proposals suggesting 'Ozark Mountains: Hollers, Criks, & Balds'. Chris Barnett went to the computer, pulled up GNIS, and asked for Ozark Mountains. GNIS classifies it as a region; Jane said it should be classified as a range. Chris was asked to query on holler and see what comes up. A few things came up as a variant, and not in Missouri. Chris left GNIS and pulled up a blank page entering Ozark Mountain Country; Hills, Hollers, & Balds. After much

discussion it was changed to **Ozark Mountain Country: Hollers, Sinks, & Balds**. Walter requested a motion. David Kreighbaum moved to accept ‘Ozark Mountain Country: Hollers, Sinks, & Balds’ as the theme for the 2010 COGNA conference. Chris Barnett seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously no abstentions.

Reports – Senate Bill

Walter asked Lynn to report on the status of the Senate Bill. Lynn told members the bill is still alive and the legislative session doesn’t end until Friday. Lynn explained to new members that the Board doesn’t have a statutory home and no fiscal office & in previous meetings had expressed the desire to have one. He said MOBGN could apply for grant funding if MOBGN had a fiscal office.

Lynn said this is the fourth year a bill was presented to the Secretary of State’s policy office requesting that MOBGN be housed with the Secretary of State’s Office. Lynn testified at Senate and House legislative hearings regarding the bill. He said the draft bill began on a consent track, but quickly moved off consent to an amended Capitol Commission Bill; Lynn briefly explained the history behind the Capitol Commission Bill. Lynn said there is a proposal for a second amendment that would give DNR, Land Survey, statutory authority for establishing GIS standards; the current bill is being read in the House and is still alive. Chris Barnett asked, if the bill doesn’t pass, is it over? Lynn said not necessarily, as SOS would just pick up where we left off and begin again next session. He said the mention of Homeland Security in the bill is important to some legislators; Jane said there is a Homeland Security representative on the US Board.

Walter said if the bill passes there will be bylaw changes. He said in 2008 those of us seeking reappointment remember that that process took a lot of time. He said the board thought 3 year terms were too short and wanted longer terms. Jane said the board voted to do 5 year terms. Walter said it’s a moot subject until we find out the fate of the current bill. Lynn said if the bill passes, the Governor’s Office will not be involved in the reappointment of new board members. The Secretary of State will decide on appointments; Lynn estimated it would be 90 days for an appointment decision to be made. Walter said even if the bill doesn’t pass we’re still okay because the 3 year terms won’t expire until 2011. Chris asked if the appointment process will change. Lynn said yes, the current process will go away. The Board’s executive secretary would send a list of suggested appointees to the Secretary for deliberation. John Dougan said there will still be due diligence, but it won’t be like the long wait with the governor’s office.

Walter told members that if the bill passes Jane will tell Walter what bylaw changes are needed 60 days before the November meeting so MOBGN members will have time to review these proposed changes 60 days before voting as required by current bylaws. [The bill passed on the last day of session and has been sent to the governor’s office.]

Report – Missouri Digital Heritage Scanning Work

Lynn told members that he and John Dougan went to Chris Barnett’s office last fall to talk about partnering in a digital map project that would be beneficial to the Board’s research. After

discussion, Chris offered the 1890's Jackson County soil map for a test; it was brought to the Archives, scanned, and Chris deemed the product okay. Once the digitals are produced on the Archives planetary scanner, they can be given to Chris to post on the CARES website, where pdfs of the soil map reports reside, and Archives can link it to the MDH website (including the MOBGN page). Lynn said the maps are not all in the same format. Chris said that's what he's having problems with, deciding between folded and rolled maps. John Dougan said there's no problem if the map is folded because we can humidify the maps in the conservation lab and they will be flat. Chris said he would follow up with the Archives.

Chris talked about other maps that could be available, Missouri River maps and USGS maps. Jane said USGS is taking care of them; she thinks some are already done but she hasn't heard for sure. Jane asked how the maps are being made available. John Dougan said he thinks it's a national project. The soil maps should go to Chris because he will add geo-reference data. John said Content DM doesn't do well with USGS maps. We haven't put any up on our website yet. We just have the equipment to scan the maps and make the files available to partners.

Lynn said now that we have a MOBGN webpage we can direct people to where they need to go to see digital maps. John Dougan said a few collections are on our website, we just haven't told anyone. Chris said we can put links to the sites. John mentioned the Whipple Collection and the aerial maps for Greene County that are ready to go up. Lynn said Darrell Pratt has given the Archives permission to work with the St. Louis maps at the DNR, Land Survey, which are large format, some of which need conservation, but will be good planetary scanner work. Lynn reminded members that a year ago we talked about the equipment we were getting, and now it's here and staff are trained. John Dougan then went to the computer to show the online collection on MDH. He spoke about the Sanborn Insurance maps, the Whipple maps, and the Tri-State Mining maps. He let members know we get quite a few hits on that portion of the website and it's just the tip of the iceberg.

Jane asked Chris if he's going to make sure that the co-sponsored maps are geo referenced. Chris said yes. He said it didn't turn out as good as he wants, he got mixed results, but it's better than expected.

Reports – 2009 COGNA

Jane told members the 2009 COGNA meeting will be in Charleston, South Carolina. Jane and Chris will attend, and anyone else is welcome. Walter asked for a vote on a general resolution to reaffirm Chris as MOBGN voting member, with Jane as back up. Motion carried unanimously no abstentions.

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next MOBGN meeting is Tuesday, November 10th here in the Interpretive Center. Walter thanked Lynn for lunch and the meeting facilities. He thanked Jane for the sustenance she provided for our meeting. Jane let members know that any money donated to her for the food will go toward COGNA 2010 expenses. Walter encouraged committees to get to work. Jane

said there are only 2 meetings until the 2010 meeting. Everyone said “Bye” to Russ and best wishes in his retirement.