

NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES

Tuesday January 8, 2019

The meeting began at 9:40am, 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)
Larry Schmidt, US Forest Service, retired (voting - alternate)
Jack Hursh, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
Catherine Magee, Nevada Historical Society – (voting alternate)
Linda Newman, University of Nevada, Reno, retired – (voting alternate)
Cynthia Laframboise – Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records
Karl Yonkers, Nevada Department of Transportation
Wanda Taylor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (calling in)

Absent:

Don Harper, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada
Anna San, National Park Service, Lake Mead
Mike Boyles, National Park Service, Lake Mead
Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Dan White, U.S. Forest Service, Utah
Paul Starrs, University of Nevada, Reno – Department of Geography

Members of Public/Advisory Panel:

Jeff Kintop, Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records, retired
Bryan Stockton – Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Attorney General's Office
Ron Moe - Public
Marissa Weaselboy - Public, UNR Anthropology Student, Western Shoshone from Yomba, NV
Autumn Harry – Public, UNR Geography Student, Pyramid Lake Paiute tribal member
Brendan Abel – Public, TMCC Student and Reno/Sparks Indian Colony member

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

Meeting called to order at 9:40am by Skip Canfield. Introductions made of attending Board members and members of the public. Motion to approve agenda made by Linda Newman, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise.

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. Mr. Kintop mentioned in regard to published article regarding Jeff. Davis Peak renaming, that Nevada Assemblywoman Heidi Swank very interested in the NSBGN and what it does, and during the last session, Ms. Swank had inquired as to whether students could be added to the NSBGN. She still has interest in the board and during this legislative session we may see activity surrounding the NSBGN's operations. Mr. Canfield mentioned he monitors bills on planning, natural resources, and this board and will keep the NSBGN updated as to

any activity, and the legislative website allows any person interested to go on and track what they are interested in. No other comments offered by the public at this time.

3. Approval of Minutes of the September 11, 2018 meeting (for possible action)

Motion to approve minutes with minor (spelling) correction of the September 11th, 2018 meeting as written made by Jack Hursh, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. One abstention due to absence at prior meeting, otherwise unanimous approval of agenda. Motion approved.

4. Announcements, Chairman or Executive Secretary

From Executive Secretary: Certain board members from Federal agencies are missing, due to the Federal shutdown at the moment. Also impacted by the shutdown is the upcoming COGNA conference, the Council on Geographic Names Authorities annual meeting/training which is meant to be held in March in Louisiana. The U.S. Board members are essential to the point of the meeting, and the shutdown will likely impact funds/travel opportunities and therefore the conference was deferred until August 5-9, 2019 in the same location. The Intertribal Council representative has retired, and Executive Secretary has reached out to inform of Board seat that must be filled, and has not heard back as of yet. Regarding recent article in newspaper on Jeff. Davis Peak had a nice write-up on the process and the Duckwater Tribe nomination.

From Chair: Had incoming guests introduce themselves for the record. Mr. Canfield also mentioned that he is reaching his 30 years in public service, and is planning on retiring and will step down from his role as Chair, and wants NSBGN members to be thinking of who will step up to replace him.

5. Announcements from Board Members

From Linda Newman: She is voting today for Paul Starrs. From Karl Yonkers: New State highway maps and Nevada atlas is published, was delayed waiting for new Governor to be installed so publication is most correct. From Jack Hursh, Susan Tingley, former Executive Secretary of the NSBGN has passed away. Mrs. Tingley was a dedicated and long-serving member on the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names, extremely well-respected in the geographical and geological sciences realms, and a friend to all who knew her. She will be greatly missed.

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

Executive Secretary thanked Mr. Hursh for maintaining the NSBGN webpage via the University (UNR). Mr. Hursh mentioned he was approached by Mr. David von Seggern of the UNR Seismological lab, who has been researching (Baron) Alexander von Humboldt (Humboldt toponyms are present commonly on Nevada's landscape). John C. Fremont was inspired by (a student of) the writings of von Humboldt. Mr. von Seggern is looking for a declaration by the NSBGN honoring Baron von Humboldt – honoring the 250th anniversary of his birth coming in 2019. No comments on this topic were offered at this time. Mr. Hursh has posted a one-page synopsis on Humboldt on the NSBGN's website, as well as a PowerPoint presentation on Humboldt done by Mr. von Seggern. Ms. Newman suggested Mr. Hursh list a comment about the passing of Mrs. Tingley on the NSBGN website.

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

This is the first hearing for proposed naming of Tucubits Peak in Elko County. Mr. Hursh was asked for pronunciation of this name, which was further described by public guest Ms. Weaselboy (Shoshone tribe member and student in linguistic anthropology) as {du-cum-vitzch}. Mr. Hursh explained the present spelling has been perpetuated, and Mr. Kintop referenced the University of Utah's Shoshone Language Database, and four different pronunciations seem to be associated. This present spelling seems to have been in place since 1870. Mr. Hursh introduced the application, and the proponent who is present at the meeting (Mr. Moe – avid hiker and peak-bagger). Early research on this site reveals there is a triangulation station present with the name "Taber," early settlers with same name were in the area. The range this peak is in is the Snake Mountains, with variants of Wildcat Mountains and Tucubits Mountains; research shows "Tucubits" is Shoshone name for wild cat. Ms. Weaselboy (public guest) mentioned that in light of exact association with the wild cat, the pronunciation is likely closer to {du-cum-bitch}. Mr. Hursh mentioned he liked the idea of honoring the Shoshone with the use of this name

on the site. Mr. Schmidt noted that the name “Taber” is on a map, and is questioning that although USGS may not have it as an official name, it is in fact on maps; we need to question what to do with variants such as this. Mr. Hursh discussed the Tabor triangulation station – sites often adopt the triangulation station, but the Tucubits name is also recorded and referenced historically. Discussion on the topic ensued. Concern for ‘cluttering’ the map was voiced. Tabor and Taber families were both in Elko County, Tabor is associated with the creeks in the area, and Taber is associated with the benchmark. Board members will continue to research. Ms. Weaselboy mentioned a problem with having a ‘map too cluttered’ is that it is more of a political statement as opposed to true acknowledgement (of the Native people of the area). The referenced Canadian efforts to include traditional place names on maps, despite the length of the terms. She would be happy to offer assistance in the process. Ms. Harry mentioned support of the Shoshone members attending the meeting, and mentioned that we should coordinate and assure spelling of this term is correct. Variant terms further discussed, with intent of include Taber as a variant at time of final vote in May. Motion to forward to a second hearing made by Catherine Magee, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. Unanimous approval of motion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

8. Jackalope Bay (first hearing - for possible action)

This is the first hearing for proposed naming of Jackalope Bay in Pershing County. Mr. Hursh discussed conversation with Michael Branch, professor of English at the University of Nevada, author of various books set on the Nevada landscape. Proponent is also a hiker and outdoorsman, contacted Mr. Hursh saying he wanted to name a feature in Nevada for the jackalope, and wanted to associate it with Dry Lake in Pershing County. Suggested a bay on Dry Lake for this application. Executive Secretary mentioned finding reference to the jackalope myth origins dating to 13th century Persia, and later referenced in the 16th and 17th centuries; some evidence exists of a virus in wild rabbits existing that results in bone-like protrusions on or about the head, which could be the origin of the myth. The jackalope has come to be associated with folklore of various areas, including Wyoming, Nevada, Tennessee, etc. Jackalope is referenced on the Nevada Trivia website. Board members mentioned/reminded that there are many names on the Nevada landscape which evoke a sense of humor or legend. This falls under “Nevada Colloquial-esque,” and seems appropriately associated with Dry Lake. Motion to forward to a second hearing made by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Linda Newman. Unanimous approval of motion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

9. Donkey Peak (second hearing - for possible action)

This is the second hearing for proposed naming of Donkey Peak in Pershing County. Mr. Hursh introduced the application and the proponent who is present (Mr. Moe). This is the high point in the Seven Troughs range, and there are no “donkey” names in Nevada in the GNIS. There are several “burro” names, and there are a plethora of wild donkeys present in this area, residual from the mining era, on the Seven Troughs range. Proponent reiterated number of donkeys in the area, and feels appropriate to honor them. Mr. Schmidt pointed out the name on the map is “Seven Troughs” and is concerned that applying a new name confuses the map, that the triangulation station that exists supplies a name of sorts and should be considered as a variant at the time. Proponent mentioned there is a Seven Troughs Mountain in the same range. Need to be perhaps more clear on the applications where “is feature currently named” question appears. Chair mentioned past meetings’ conversation wherein the NSBGN is seeking all variant names of proposed sites at time of application to provide comprehensive view of the application. Question as to whether surveyors are informed as to names on places versus the triangulation station. Triangulation stations do not appear in GNIS that we know of – should they be submitted as variants is the question. Chair questions taking off “Seven Troughs” on the map in favor of Donkey Peak – does this affect the people in the area that may know this place as Seven Troughs? Would be interesting to discover how the USGS deals with this kind of problem. Concern for clutter versus common knowledge and usage. Motion made by Jack Hursh to table this application in favor of more research by proponent and board members. Seconded by Catherine Magee. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections and no abstentions. Motion passed.

10. Doso Doyabi (second hearing - for possible action)

This is the second 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. This site was originally suggested for renaming to Smalls Peak by a proponent who has subsequently withdrawn the application after learning of the Shoshone name application of Doso Doyabi. Doso Doyabi means White Mountain, a name known ‘time immemorial’ to the Shoshone in the area. Letter read into the meeting by Dr. Paul Starrs in absentia in favor of the renaming to Doso Doyabi, citing applying the ‘true name’ to the feature. Letter read into the meeting submitted by proponent in support of the original application, Warren Graham on behalf of the Duckwater Tribe, dated January 7, 2019. This letter summed up interviews with five Elders of the tribe, in a larger discussion from the proponent on the history of the name, and learning of the name originally from two elders whose mother was one of the only survivors of the Spring Valley massacre. No further discussion by board members, Chair asked for public comment. Ms. Weaselboy spoke in favor of the application, and noted the positive direction of this effort in acknowledging the Native people (and their knowledge) of the area, and was appreciative that the voices of the elders were read into the meeting. Mr. Abel also spoke in favor of the application, noting opposition to the present name of Jeff. Davis Peak on the maps, and is in favor of restoring the name Doso Doyabi to the mountain honoring the people that predate the establishment of Nevada. Ms. Harry also spoke in favor of the name change, honoring indigenous people of Nevada, hopes it encourages of the other tribes, leading in direction of reclaiming and renaming sacred spaces. Motion made by Jack Hursh to approve the application to rename the peak presently known as Jeff. Davis Peak to Doso Doyabi. Seconded by Karl Yonkers. No additional discussion, unanimous approval, no objections and no abstentions. Motion passed.

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

This item was deferred to a third meeting to allow for State-level BLM response. Due to present government shutdown, BLM is not present nor able to participate and this item is being deferred to a third hearing at the May, 2019 meeting. For the record, information read into the meeting included the proposed naming of Koipa Peak (in Esmeralda County), an 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. Discussion on possible variants and known native names on all sites was revisited. Motion by Cynthia Laframboise to table this item until the next meeting in May, seconded by Linda Newman. No additional discussion, unanimous approval. Motion passed.

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

This item was deferred to a third meeting to allow for State-level BLM response. Due to present government shutdown, BLM is not present nor able to participate and this item is being deferred to a third hearing at the May, 2019 meeting. For the record, this is the third hearing for proposed naming of Wolfram Peak in Pershing County, an unnamed high point in the Eugene Mountains. This name pays homage to the extensive history of tungsten mining in the Eugene Mountains (wolfram is another name for tungsten). Wolfram is the periodic element W for tungsten. Mr. Hursh mentioned having had a conversation with Joe and Susan Tingley – prior to her recent death (former NSBGN Chair and Executive Secretary) – and they were in support of the name Wolfram Peak with Eugene Peak offered as the variant name on the application. Motion by Catherine Magee to table this item until the next meeting in May, seconded by Larry Schmidt. No additional discussion, unanimous approval. Motion passed.

13. Select tentative meeting place and date for May, 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, May 14th at 9:30am.

14. 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. Schmidt acknowledged appreciation of Ms. Weaselboy and Ms. Harry's attendance and participation in the meeting, and suggested adding them as Advisory Panel members.

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Cynthia Laframboise, seconded by Catherine Magee. Unanimously approved, no objections, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:02am.