

NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES

May 11, 2010

The meeting began at 10:30 AM at the Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library, 2175 Raggio Parkway, Reno.

Board members and guests introduced themselves:

Board Members Present:

Robert [Bob] Stewart, US Bureau of Land Management, retired.
John Burgess, Nevada Department of Transportation
Michael Maher, Nevada Historical Society, Reno
Jeff Kintop, State Archivist, Nevada State Library & Archives
Jordan Hastings, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
Marianne Farretta, Cartographer, Nevada Dept. of Transportation
Peg Rees, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Daryl Crawford, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
David McMorran, US Forest Service
Skip Canfield, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Eric Moody, Nevada Historical Society, Reno
Jack Hursh, Executive Secretary of the NV Board and Cartographer, Nevada
Bureau of Mines & Geology
Linda Newman, Chair, University of Nevada, Reno, Emeritus

Guests:

Guy Rocha, Nevada State Archivist, retired
David Antonucci, resident, Tahoma, CA [Lake Tahoe]

Agenda

Item 1: Minutes, May, 2009

Amendment made by Peg Rees to correct spelling of her name and a typo.
Kintop motioned to accept with second by John Burgess; Minutes accepted.
In the future minutes will not be posted verbatim but rather summarized and the summary approved by the Board.

Item 2: Announcements:

For the record, there was no meeting September 2009 or January 2010.
No follow-up on previous item, Blvd. Harry Hills.
No further announcements from Chair or Executive Secretary.

Item 3: Board Announcements: None

Item 4: Change of Waking Spring to Watkins Spring, White Pine County, Black Horse Mining District. First Hearing.

Originated with email inquiry in Aug 2009 from Mr. Ed Weisbrot to NV Board which Linda Newman, Chair and Jack Hursh, Exec. Secretary answered directing Mr. Weisbrot to the web site for information and forms to submit recommendation.

Listed on Quarterly Review List # 403.

Documentation was received by the US Board in Oct. 2009 and forwarded from US Board to NV Board by email.

Any reference to **US Board is referring to the **US Board on Geographic Names**, final authority of names in the US. US Board acknowledged Mr. Weisbrot.

The US Board also copied to the US BLM member on the US Board.

No Watkins Spring now in GNIS.

Thanked Marianne Farretta, NV Department of Transportation for providing maps for sites proposed on agenda today.

Hursh: letter was sent from NV Board in March 2010 to White Pine County Commissioner for comment; no response at this date.

Crawford: will check with Inter-tribal Council.

Stewart: will check with NV BLM office.

Item 5: Sam Clemens Cove, Washoe County [Lake Tahoe]. First Hearing.

Submitted by NV Board member Bob Stewart.

Documentation emailed to NV Board.

Stewart: presented background to proposal based initially on a timber claim map in which Clemens was involved and a trip to Tahoe from Carson City to stake the claim. Also presented a copy of relevant portion of Clemens' letter of 1861 to his sister noting naming of cove for himself. Noted Clemens mention of Lake Tahoe in *Roughing It* which stretches the events for the sake of narrative but provides sufficient clues to the path taken and cove in which they camped having taken a small boat around to the cove from Glenbrook where there was an existing mill. Detailed maps of the exact area do not exist for that period. Names of creeks altered quickly and not sufficiently noted so difficult to be exact as to location. There is no other documentation calling for a cove to be named for Clemens except his own letter to his sister.

Mr. Stewart believes something should be named for Clemens and this location is justified and adequately proven.

Second opinion presented by Mr. David Antonucci, resident of Tahoma, CA [Lake Tahoe] and civil/environmental engineer.

Began researching the connection between Sam Clemens and Lake Tahoe several years ago and presented a paper in 2005.

Questioned newspaper articles which have recently appeared about naming the cove – as though the decision was already made.

Addressed a *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* article and questioned conclusions – was 2 trips not one as stated in article. [Total of 3 articles on topic

have been printed in *Quarterly*] Questioned Clemens' penchant for exaggeration and *Roughing It*, written 10 years later. Mr. Antonucci considers it 'creative non-fiction.' Questions assumptions about possible trails involved and therefore, where Clemens was at Lake Tahoe when making a timber claim. Believes Clemens was on Tahoe side, roughly NW corner, not on NE corner of Lake.

Guy Rocha, Guest and retired Nevada State Archivist addressed the Board: The location of the only saw mill of the time [1861] was on the NE quarter of the Lake [at Glenbrook] and it's part in the vague documentation of the route Clemens and group took to Lake Tahoe and relevancy to locating a timber claim – and hence where Clemens' group was at Lake Tahoe. Agrees that there were 2 trips taken by Clemens but the cove naming incident stems from the first which is mentioned in Clemens' letters citing a cabin [which is historically documented]. Clemens may likely not have known exactly where he was but likely would have known that he was in California [requiring a claim to be registered in Auburn] or Nevada Territory, which required a claim posted in Carson City but Clemens did know the road/trail he took to the Lake [Kings Canyon]. The boundary line of CA/NV had not yet been surveyed.

Considerable discussion of the two positions and their proponents and the three experts present. Issue of credibility, exactness of historical documentation and need for careful consideration of proposal by NV Board. Exec. Secretary Hursh has sent a letter to Washoe County Commissioners requesting input.

Item 6: Proposal to adjust names of 3 springs in Mineral County which are said to be misnamed/labeled – out of order as they appear on a topographic map of area. Springs: Summit, Buck Brush, Abraham, and Water Tank Springs. First Hearing.

Submitted by local resident Steve Pellegrini to the US Board and documentation includes photos of springs and a BLM marker. Listed in the US Board Quarterly Review List # 403.

Mr. Pellegrini is not suggesting new names, just correct placement of names already on topographic maps.

Not on US Forest Service land. US Fish & Wildlife declined to comment as not in their jurisdiction.

Independent verification by field trip suggested.

Kintop: Consideration of renaming causing further problems, such as with search & rescue who may be using maps in print. Distance between the springs is relevant.

Item 7: Requests for information. Reported by Jack Hursh, Exec. Secretary:

- A. Origin of Donnelly Peak, Humboldt County. US Board cites name after early settler.
- B. Mt. Rose – origin of name. Several theories including: First, for Jacob H. Rose, 1852 pioneer at Franktown and second, named for wife [Rose] of

Augustus Moore who settled in area in 1850. Earliest printed mention is an 1865 Washoe [City] Times newspaper article, describing people climbing the mountain.

Item 8: Potential considerations: reported by Chair Newman

- A. Proposal to name [or rename] a prominent feature for former President Ronald Regan. Information received from US Board on controversial activity in other states to name a feature. Read portion of letter from Lou Yost, Executive Secretary, US Board. Mention of *Procedures, Policies and Principles* regarding commemorative naming and changes of existing names. Request for information regarding naming rules and a possible Nevada location came to US Board and passed on to the NV Board.
- B. Possible request to change name of Exploration Peak, Clark County, to Fossil Mountain. Preliminary Proposal to US Board and forwarded to NV Board lacked documentation justifying proposal. Additional documentation was requested by US Board but nothing received at this time.
- C. Reported on meeting of Newman & Hursh with Storey County development officials regarding desire for a highway sign on I-80 for a 'McCarran' town site at Storey County business park, USA Parkway exit, for clarification given confusion with McCarran Blvd. Newman and Hursh explained that this was not appropriate for NV Board; referred them to NV Dept. of Highways.

Item 9: Election for Chair and Executive Secretary of NV Board.

Chair and Exec. Secretary have completed their 2-year terms. Nominations were requested prior to meeting but none received. Requested again. No response.

Stewart nominated Newman and Hursh for Chair & Executive Secretary respectively. Seconded by Jordan Hastings.

Vote: all in favor, no objections or abstentions.

Newman and Hursh thanked for leadership and work on NV Board.

Item 10: Location for September 14, 2010 meeting

Possible meeting site at the [historic] Thunderbird Lodge, Lake Tahoe, from which the proposed Sam Clemens Cove is visible. Jeff Kintop will contact the Lodge and report back to Board. Earlier meeting time suggested allowing for tours of Lodge.

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Again thanked Marianne Farretta, Cartographer, NV Department of Transportation for supplying custom maps of areas discussed at meeting.

Item 11: Adjournment.

Motion made & seconded. Peg Rees and Jordan Hastings

Adjourned at approximately 1:00.

These minutes were condensed by Linda Newman, Chair, from transcription of tapes of meeting and her notes, and approved by the Nevada Board.

