

NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES Tuesday May 14, 2019

The meeting began at 9:33am, at the Nevada State Library, Archives, and Public Records - 100 N. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701 (Board Room)

Board Members Present:

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

Absent:

Anna San, National Park Service, Lake Mead
Mike Boyles, National Park Service, Lake Mead
Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Wanda Taylor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas – Department of Geoscience

Members of Public/Advisory Panel:

Sam Macaluso, Public
Steve Glotfelty, Public
Cheryll Glotfelty, Public
Don Zirbel, Public
Marissa Weaselboy - Public, UNR Anthropology Student, Western Shoshone (Advisory)

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

Meeting called to order at 9:32am by Skip Canfield. Introductions made of attending Board members and members of the public. Motion to approve agenda made by Don Harper, seconded by Jack Hursh. 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. No comments offered by the public at this time.

3. Approval of Minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting (for possible action)

Motion to approve minutes of January 8, 2019 minutes as written made by Karl Yonkers, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. Unanimous approval of minutes. Motion approved.

4. Announcements, Chairman or Executive Secretary

From Executive Secretary: Question of whether NSBGN should maintain a social media presence raised, and general discussion revealed no resources on NSBGN for anyone to maintain consistently, and no budget to maintain. Update on Doso Doyabi is that it is at the USBGN and they will be hearing this agenda item in the near future (waiting on NPS opinion).

From Chair: nothing at this time.

5. Announcements from Board Members

From Cynthia Laframboise: Nevada state Library and Archives is hosting a book talk immediately after this meeting.

6. NSBGN announcement commemorating 250th birthday of Baron Alexander von Humboldt

A citizen (David von Seggern) contacted Jack Hursh a few months ago looking to commemorate the 250th birthday of Humboldt, for which several features (and one county) in Nevada are named, as Humboldt was one of John C. Fremont's heroes. As Fremont traveled Nevada during his expeditions, he named several features in his honor. Humboldt is considered by many to be the father of American Geography. The Nevada Board on Geographic names officially acknowledges and publicly notes the 250th birthday of Baron Alexander von Humboldt.

7. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair

Current chair Mr. Canfield is stepping down due to retirement and thanked the NSBGN for allowing him to lead the board. Entertained nomination for chair. Jack Hursh nominated for chair by Catherine Magee. Mr. Hursh accepted the nomination with unanimous approval by NSBGN board members. Mr. Hursh officially took over running the meeting. Mr. Hursh entertained nomination of the Vice Chair. Karl Yonkers was nominated by Paul Starrs as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. Mr. Yonkers accepted the Vice-Chair position with otherwise unanimous approval by NSBGN board members (one abstention from Mr. Yonkers himself).

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

Executive Secretary commented past-Chair Skip Canfield's structure for the meeting packets is both useful and efficient and should be maintained moving forward and we are open to comments on how to make any communications and processes better. Packets will henceforth be posted only on the Nevada Board on Geographic Names site (which is graciously hosted by the University's Bureau of Mines and Geology). One question of where Vice-Chair position came from – Mr. Stockton (previous Deputy Attorney General representative) discovered in NSBGN by-laws, and suggested implementation, thus the election of the position this meeting.

9. Jackalope Bay (second hearing – for possible action)

This is the second hearing for proposed naming of Jackalope Bay in Pershing County. Mr. Hursh discussed conversation with Michael Branch, author and professor of English at the University of Nevada, who wishes to name a feature in Nevada for the mythical jackalope. Dr. Branch is an author of various books that romanticize the Nevada landscape and use a lot of humor, thus the choice of focus. Mr. Hursh feels the name fits - whimsical names are often found in Nevada place names. One of the chapters in the proponent's book is focused on Dry Lake, and the idea that a 'bay' on Dry Lake named for the Jackalope seems oddly fitting. Two members of the public (Cheryll and Steve Glotfelty) spoke in favor of the name, citing the proponents as a humorist, his induction into the Nevada Writer's Hall of Fame (Silver Pen Award), and mentioned the proponent's notable research efforts, and his current work being focused on the jackalope. Mentioned the genetic mutation in rabbits that can result in 'horn like' protuberances, and that fun names fit Nevada as a fun place – this name seems a 'constellation of humor.' Executive Secretary received a letter from Pershing County commissioners, stating their full

opposition to the application, and also stated that the commissioners “realize that no matter the opinion of the commission, that the bay will be named.” Mr. Canfield mentioned that in the past that any opposition by county representatives has been valued and the NSBGN has taken heed of their opinions and acted accordingly. Executive Secretary noted having made contact with the Pershing County Commissioners as a result of the letter received and made clear the NSBGN seeks their input in order to do our best job; if the county commissioners (elected officials representing their public) oppose the name, of course this will be considered when the board is acting. Despite the NSBGN approval or disapproval of any given name, the Executive Secretary reminded everyone that all applications are forwarded to the USBGN. The NSBGN is only advisory to the USBGN. Given that Pershing County has voiced opposition, the NSBGN must use this information at this time to make a decision. Dr. Judkins asked whether item can be delayed to another meeting in favor of soliciting more specific information or explanation for objection by the county. Motion to forward to a third hearing made by Gabriel Judkins to push this item to a third hearing, seconded by Skip Canfield. Unanimous approval of motion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

10. Tucubits Peak (second hearing - for possible action)

This is the second hearing for proposed naming of Tucubits Peak in Elko County. Proponent is sick and unable to attend meeting, however is noted by Mr. Hursh as being passionate about naming highpoints of ranges in Nevada. This is the highpoint in the Snake Mountains (which also has a variant name of ‘wildcat mountains.’ Triangulation station of Taber in on the peak. Benchmarks do not dictate name of mountain (although they sometimes match). Variant names listed in McLane’s book *Silent Cordilleras* include Tucubits Mountain (said to mean “wildcat”). Mr. Hursh requested Ms. Weaselboy present at the meeting discuss more on the Native American linguistic interpretation, wherein she described the more specific term for wildcat in the area and proposed the name Tucubits on the application be changed to Dukubich to more closely represent phonetic and linguistic accuracy with regard to the Shoshone language. Mr. Hursh says this will not require a new proposal, just an adoption of the new spelling (amend application to reflect new spelling). Further discussion on meaning of term; Shoshone language reflects “Doya Dukubich” – is perhaps more accurate. Dukubich means “cat” – the addition of Doya to the name Dukubich further describes the ‘wildcat’ meaning intended in the original understanding of what Tucubits meant and coordinates better with the variant names of the region referencing the wild mountain cat of the area. Elko County Commissioners supplied a letter stating that their official opinion on this matter is that they have no opinion. BLM requests third hearing since it is on BLM land. Motion to forward to a third hearing for Doya Dukubich Peak made by Catherine Magee, seconded by Karl Yonkers. No additional discussion, unanimous approval of motion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

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

This is the third hearing for proposed naming of Koipa Peak in Esmeralda County. The proposed name (root word) of Koipa is associated with the Bighorn Sheep in the Paiute language. This is the highpoint in the Monte Cristo range, (northwest of Tonopah) and has the triangulation station of “Cristo.” Monte Cristo range is known to have an abundance of Bighorn Sheep (Nevada State Animal) in this area. Mr. Hursh attended a Nevada Bighorn conference and discussed this proposal with this organization, and they were quite excited about the name. BLM feedback received mentioned they received negative feedback on this name, as it is a Paiute name in Shoshone traditional lands. Advisory member Ms. Weaselboy noted the site is very close to Tonopah and Gabbs, and the Shoshone word for the mountain sheep of the area is “washepi.” Mr. Tonenna noted that the area is a space of transition between the two native groups. Suggestion of forwarding to the US board with this new information from the BLM as simply feedback. Motion to table this item until the next meeting in favor of speaking to proponent to change name to Washepi Peak, seconded by Paul Starrs. No additional discussion, unanimous approval of motion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

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

This item is the third hearing for the proposed naming of Wolfram Peak in Pershing County, an unnamed high point in the Eugene Mountains. This item was deferred to a third meeting to allow for State-level BLM response. This is the third hearing for this item for the highpoint in the Eugene Mountains, Wolfram is the Latin term for tungsten, a lot of tungsten mining in the Eugene Mountains for the WWII effort. The variant name of Eugene Peak will be forwarded with this application to the US board. NSBGN received an email from Advisory Panel member Ron Hess, citing concern for variant names, and mentions Eugene Peak has been listed as the high point in the Eugene Mountains, citing USGS maps, McLane's book *Silent Cordilleras*, etc. Despite various evidence that this peak has been referred to as "Eugene Peak" in the past, it does not appear in GNIS as officially named. Therefore the name being proposed is valid. BLM outreach reveals no objection to the naming of this site. The mountain range is called Eugene Mountains, statement made that Wolfram offers diversity (and less confusion) as opposed to retaining Eugene Peak (and there is not an application for Eugene Peak). Motion made to forward to US board with NSBGN support made by Skip Canfield, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. No additional discussion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

13. Pupfish Peak (first hearing – for possible action)

This is the first hearing for proposed naming of Pupfish Peak in Nye County. Local history of the area – near Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge has hot springs, and a few indigenous species of pupfish exist in this area. This peak towers over this area where the pupfish live. Question of naming a peak for a fish (lake or bay might be better). Would be hard to find a body of water large enough to name a feature like a bay (where pupfish are located). Motion made to forward to a second hearing made by Skip Canfield, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. No additional discussion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

14. Bluebelly Peak (first hearing – for possible action)

This is the first hearing for proposed naming of Bluebelly Peak in Churchill County. There is no cairn, Sandsprings Range Cairn seems redundant, proposed to commemorate the native lizard in the area, the Western Fence Lizard (colloquially referred to as the Bluebelly). Question with regard to the term being used for "yankee" and British colonists prior to 1700. Others know the term bluebelly as a lizard. May incite different connotation than the lizard to some. Additional discussion revealed a possible Paiute name for this lizard. Motion made to table this item made by Catherine Magee in favor of possible Paiute name for this lizard as a better naming option, seconded by Skip Canfield. No additional discussion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

15. Gridley Peak (first hearing – for possible action)

This is the first hearing for proposed naming of Gridley Peak in Lander County. The proponent is present and provided an overview of the intention behind this commemorative name: Ruel Gridley had significant contribution to Nevada and the Nation. He 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. Gridley knew Sam Clemens, who suggested that Gridley bring the flour to Virginia City and Gold Hill and Silver City, and they raised another \$11,000, and then it went to Sacramento, and San Francisco, and eventually back to the east coast. 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. Motion made to forward to a second hearing

made by Karl Yonkers, seconded by Catherine Magee. No additional discussion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

16. Turtle Gulch (first hearing – for possible action)

This is the first hearing for proposed naming of Turtle Gulch in Douglas County. Proponent is present and provided an overview of the intention behind this proposed name: provided photos and supplemental materials and letters of support from local residents for the naming of the feature. The proposed name for the feature is Turtle Gulch, which is a 2000-foot gulch in the foothills of the Pine Nut mountains in Douglas county, just north of Topaz Lake. A rock at the entrance to the gulch resembles a turtle gulch, and locals refer to the rock as Turtle Rock, as result, proponent seeks to name the gulch the for the rock shape, thus Turtle Gulch. Discussion made as to whether to include the term “rock” in the title (Turtle Rock Gulch) . Larry Schmidt mentioned there is a Turtle Rock Park in Alpine County, not that far away, and for emergency purposes this could confuse people. And a turtle rock used to exist (but is no longer) somewhere off Highway 89 in the past, also could confuse. Including ‘rock’ might confuse the spaces. The gulch is the prominent feature which frames the rock, and the name Turtle Gulch seems most appropriate per the proponent. Additional discussion on whether it should be tortoise and not turtle, but desert tortoise not indigenous to that area. A lot of wildlife inhabits the gulch and uses the gulch area for migration and other movement. It has been used for an area to train raptors, and more. Proponent feels the space needs a name as a result of all of the reasons mentioned here. Motion made to forward to a second hearing made by Don Harper, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. No additional discussion, no objections, and no abstentions. Motion passed.

17. Select Tentative Meeting Place for September 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, September 10, 2019 at 9:30am time. Motion for the meeting to occur on this date and time made by Karl Yonkers, seconded by Cynthia Laframboise. Unanimously approved, no objections, no abstentions.

18. 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. Zirbel discussed appreciating this process, and mentioned other local people are interested in the naming process as well. Question as to whether variant names of a feature are sent to the US board at the time of application – answer is yes, if NSBGN is aware of any variants at the time the application is sent to the US board, NSBGN will supply variant names. Mr. Hursh thanked Mr. Burkett for his attendance at the meeting.

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Skip Canfield, seconded by Karl Yonkers. Unanimously approved, no objections, no abstentions. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:20am.