

South Dakota Board on Geographic Names Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2012
Billy Mills Hall – Pine Ridge, SD

Members Present: J.R. LaPlante, Chairman
 Jay Vogt
 Joe Nadenicek
 June Hansen

Absent with prior notice: Jim Hagen

State Employees present: Michelle Faw – DTR

The meeting had originally been scheduled for December 4th, but was rescheduled to December 5th in order to accommodate the Governor’s budget address.

Chairman LaPlante called the meeting to order at 1:37 mst and roll call was taken. Changes were made to the October 9th minutes to reflect that the Shannon county meeting was being held to discuss the Shannon County features. Motion to approve the October 9 minutes with changes was made by Vogt and seconded by Nadenicek. All voted aye and motion carried.

The Board discussed the Negro Creek name change. There were public comments on the proposed change. The comments were about the board itself and did not show true opposition to the name. No alternatives were provided by the public. Vogt moved that Howes Creek be sent to the US Board on Geographic names as the suggested name change. Hansen seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

The Board discussed what kind of public comments would have changed the decision of Howes as the proposed name. The Board concluded that strong opposition to the name or a suitable alternative that met the requirements better would have led to reconsideration.

Nadenicek was selected to compose the letter to the US Board, including a submission sheet, maps, and recent meeting minutes. Nadenicek will also clarify that the Negro Creek under deliberation is not in Ziebach County. The Negro Creek on the US list is listed as being in Ziebach. There was further discussion about location of the creek and how it should be clarified to the US board. The Board reviewed documents from the US Board website concerning geographic features to be renamed.

In other business, the Board discussed changes to public involvement plan. The Board concluded that 45 days is too long for the second comment period and proposed that 30 would be sufficient. 30 days will allow for biweekly newspapers to reach all their readers. Vogt moved to make changes to the Public Involvement Plan and Nadenicek seconded. All voted aye and motion carried. Sections 2c, 2e, 3a, and 4c of the involvement plan will be changed to reflect a 30 day comment period.

The Board decided to review the remaining features and develop an action plan. The plan lists the features to be named in the following order-

Shannon County- Little Squaw Humper Creek, Little Squaw Humper Table, Squaw Humper Creek, Squaw Humper Dam, and Squaw Humper Table.

Custer, Lawrence, and Pennington Counties- Negro Canyon, Negro Wool Ridge, Negro Gulch, Negro Hill, and Negro Creek

Marshall and Moody Counties- Squaw Lake and Squaw Creek

Haakon, Meade, and Jackson Counties- Negro Creek, Big Negro Draw, Little Negro Creek, Squaw Butte School, and Negro Creek School.

Hansen voted to approve the new plan and Vogt seconded. All voted aye and motion carried.

The Board then discussed how to proceed with Public Involvement, and where the next meeting should take place. The Board proposed having meetings earlier in the comment period, and to open public comment period on February 1st. The Board, also, emphasized the need to provide notification and welcome input. Since all of the features are in Shannon County, the Oglala Sioux Tribe must be adequately notified and we must seek their involvement. Specific notice should be sent to the THPOs, district chairs, and council representatives and anyone else that would help improve the amount of input received. Notice should also be sent to the radio station.

The Board discussed the action plan for Shannon County features beginning with an open comment period on Feb 1, followed with public meeting on OST at a place and time to be determined somewhere in North West corner. The Badlands Visitor’s Center or Kyle were suggested as potential meeting places. The meeting will be held around March 15th on Pine Ridge.

The Board discussed whether the features should retain their joint naming. The Board concluded it should follow whatever the public wants. Hansen voted to accept the action plan and Vogt seconded. All voted aye and motion carried.

Chairman LaPlante asked for any comments from the public present at the meeting and there were none.

With no other business to come before the board, Vogt made a motion the meeting adjourn and Nadenicek seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. mst.

Submitted by:

Michelle Faw, Secretary

Approved by:

J.R. LaPlante, Chairman