

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 29, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. CDT
Sioux Falls City Library –200 N. Dakota Ave, Sioux Falls, SD

The meeting was called to order by Chairman LaPlante @ 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present:

Chairman JR LaPlante – Department of Tribal Relations
June Hansen – Dept. of Transportation
Jay Vogt – State Historical Society
Joe Nadenicek – Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources
Eileen Bertsch- Dept. of Tourism

Others in Attendance:

David Reiss- Department of Tribal Relations recording
Danielle Ferguson- Argus Leader
Lois Hansen- Brandon, SD
Ralph Hansen- Brandon, SD

LaPlante requested a discussion on revisions to minutes taken from 5.15.2014 Board meeting. No revisions were noted. Motion made by Nadenicek to approve May meeting minutes, Bertsch seconded. All members voted aye, motion carried.

Public Comment for Unnamed Creek near Dell Rapids in Minnehaha County:

LaPlante requested a review of comments received by the Board for the unnamed creek near Dell Rapids. J. Hansen noted a submission for the name “Manning Creek” by Maxwell Johnson of Brookings and also noted a submission for the name “Annie Anderson Creek” by Lois Hansen of Brandon (present). LaPlante opened the floor for comment.

L. Hansen explained that she did not have further comment beyond the evidence she submitted to the Board and reviewed Annie Anderson’s ties and history at the unnamed creek. L. Hansen did state that she gained an interest in the creek and its name from experiences with her father and noted on Anderson’s son’s tombstone the phrase “Gone but not forgotten.”

J. Hansen asked L. Hansen if she felt there is any basis in naming the feature “Manning Creek” alternatively. L. Hansen explained that John R. Manning was a legislator in the State’s first legislature and that the dedication is in his remembrance. Bertsch also noted that documents provided to the board note Manning was a local postmaster and owned land along the unnamed creek. Nadenicek stated that federal law allows dedicative naming for features provided that the individual being honored be deceased for at least 5 years. Both names being considered are dedicative names satisfying this requirement. J. Hansen explained that township and city support for the suggested name “Annie Anderson” is important to consider, noting no such municipal support for the suggested name “Manning.”

LaPlante requested a motion for naming the unnamed creek. J. Hansen moved to proceed with naming the creek “Annie Anderson Creek,” Bertsch seconded. All members voted aye, motion carried.

LaPlante noted that a 30 day comment period will occur for the name “Annie Anderson Creek” following the meeting and that after such time the SDBGN can meet to finalize the name and send a letter noting its support for the name to the US Board on Geographic Names.

Unnamed Island by Dell Rapids in Big Sioux River:

J. Hansen explained that the name “Quarry Island” was suggested by Brian Davis for the unnamed island near Dell Rapids. J. Hansen stated that during the 45 day public comment period for the feature, two submissions were received by the Board electronically to name the feature “Dells Island.” J. Hansen conducted a review of her query of similarly named features for this process. No public commenters were present before the Board and no municipalities commented on the suggested names.

LaPlante suggested the Board take action on this feature and requested a motion for action. No members offered a motion. Hansen moved to send a letter to the Dell Rapids City Council and Minnehaha County Commission to request comment for the suggested names. No seconds were made. Vogt motioned that comment be reopened for 30 days to the City of Dell Rapids, Minnehaha County Commission and local township to allow municipality comment on suggested names. J. Hansen seconded. All members voted aye, motion carried. J. Hansen will draft letters to the Minnehaha County Commission, City of Dell Rapids and local township inviting comment on naming the unnamed island.

Unnamed Campbell County Creek:

Vogt explained that Pierre resident Jim Pollock suggested an unnamed creek in Campbell County be name “Searl Creek” after a family with local ties to the feature. Nadenicek indicated his preference that no action be taken by the Board at the meeting and encourage Pollock to get support from Campbell County and governing organizations in the area prior to Board consideration.

Squaw Humper Dam of Shannon County:

Chairman LaPlante requested a discussion of Squaw Humper Dam. Discussion occurred about actions the Board has taken related to Squaw Humper Dam noting unsuccessful Board efforts to contact the Oglala Sioux Tribe Historic Preservation Officer. Nadenicek noted the offensive nature of the name and suggested traveling to Shannon County to discuss the name directly with the land owner. Vogt offered to call the Oglala Sioux Tribe Historic Preservation Officer (OST THPO) and discuss the offensively named feature. The group agreed that Vogt will call OST THPO to discuss the Board’s desire to change the name of Squaw Humper Dam in Shannon County.

Review Name Change Form:

LaPlante requested a discussion of the Propose Name or Name Change Form. J. Hansen noted that the form is not yet completed and will be available for the next meeting.

US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) Action Update:

Secretary LaPlante requested an update on the actions taken by the USBGN on name changes suggested by the SDBGN. Hansen stated that all SDBGN name changes have been submitted to the federal board but no action has been taken to date. Hansen explained the USBGN may be waiting for responses from regional tribes outside of South Dakota as required by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Hansen noted that the SDBGN did not contact all the NAGPRA region tribes during the process, just SD area tribes.

Correspondence to USBGN explaining Board's position on renaming municipalities:

LaPlante requested an update on the correspondence to the USBGN regarding the Board's position on naming cities and State subdivisions of government. Vogt and J. Hansen discussed the referendum vote in Shannon County to rename the county as "Oglala Lakota County" and noted State law requires a citizen vote to rename units of government. LaPlante reaffirmed the Board's position that renaming municipalities is outside the Board's legislated authority.

Other Business:

LaPlante discussed his resignation from the SDBGN and suggested moving forward with J. Hansen as the Board Chair. The Board agreed to proceed as such. Members discussed notifying the USBGN about the Board's leadership change. Reiss will draft a letter to USBGN as notification to the change in Board leadership. J. Hansen led a discussion to set the next Board meeting date, noting her schedule and indicating that the next meeting will need to be set after she returns from leave. Board members agreed, noting the next meeting time would be sometime in September and will be set when more scheduling information is known.

Nadenicek moved to adjourn. Bertsch seconded. All voted aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Recorded by David Reiss.