

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:00 P.M. CDT
Sioux Falls Library - Meeting Room A
200 N Dakota, Sioux Falls South Dakota**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman LaPlante @ 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with the following board members present:

**Chairman J.R. LaPlante - Chairman – SD Department of Tribal Relations
June Hansen – DOT
Jay Vogt – SHS
Joe Nadenicek – DENR
Eileen Bertsch – Dept. of Tourism**

Others in attendance:

**Kenny Anderson, Jr. – Sioux Falls Councilman
Betty Ann Gross – Sioux Falls
Jim David – Sioux Falls City Council Staff
Maxwell Johnson – Brookings
Joseph Bryant – Sturgis
Denise D. Tucker – Sioux Falls
Jerome Yellow – Sioux Falls
Paul E. Dystart, Sr. – Tea
David Montgomery – Argus Leader – Sioux Falls
Dean Lanier – Sioux Falls
Marsha L. Ware – Sioux Falls
Porter Williams – SD African American Museum
Qadir Aware – Ethnic Community Center – Sioux Falls
Bob Kolbe – Sioux Falls
Bob Harris – Sioux Falls
Carol Postulka – DOT – Recording**

Jay Vogt made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2013 meeting. Eileen Bertsch seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion carried.

Discussion involving proposed names for the Squaw Creek feature in Moody County brought the following results:

Elders of the Santee tribe have suggested Santee Creek or Dakota language version Isanti . Previously the following names had been proposed: Clare Creek, Native Woman Creek,

Eastman Creek and Bend in the River Creek. Following testimony from Bob Kolbe who spoke about the background of all cultures who have made the state of South Dakota strong, Jay Vogt made a motion to approve Isanti Creek for the feature in Moody County. Joe Nadenicek seconded the motion and all voted aye. The board will allow 30 more days for comment on the Moody County feature with the end of November being the target date for final approval. At the December 2013 meeting, final determination will be made.

Testimony and comments were made by many of the attendees involving their thoughts and views relative to changing the features that include the word 'negro'. All of the testimony involved historical perspectives and recognition of a culture that has over many years contributed to the diversity of not only individual communities, but the overall contributions made by negro individuals and their families. Of special interest is the historical value as well as the integrity evoked by the many negro settlers who made their home in South Dakota. After considerable public comment the general consensus was that the term 'negro' is not considered offensive. Following the testimony, Joe Nadenick made a motion to prepare a draft for the legislature that will remove the term 'negro' from the offensive name list but leave the term 'squaw' on the listing for future changes. Eileen Bertsch seconded the motion and all voted aye with the motion passing unanimously. Of special note, several of the individuals who participated in the public comment forum expressed interest in coming to Pierre to testify at the 2014 Legislative Session. Individuals will be notified when the appropriate time is announced.

Jay Vogt made a motion to withdraw the previously suggested name in Meade County for Negro Creek. June Hansen seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

In other business a letter from James Pollock of Pierre that suggested naming a currently unnamed creek in South Dakota 'Searl Creek' Mr. Pollock provided documentation to support his request. The board by general consent agreed to defer action on this request and the requests from the US Board on Geographic Names to review a proposed new name for the town of Marty and a name for creek in Minnehaha County until after the board has finished working on the names listed in the legislation. After considerable comment, Jay Vogt made a motion to include in the draft legislation clarification on the board's authority regarding requests to name or rename geographic features not listed in the original legislation. June Hansen seconded the motion with all voting aye. Motion carried.

With no other business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by
Carol Postulka

