

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 31st 2015 – 1:30 p.m. CDT
Commission Room-Becker Hansen Building, 700 E. Broadway Ave, Pierre SD

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Hansen at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present:

Chairwoman June Hansen – Dept. of Transportation
Vice Chairman Jay Vogt – State Historical Society
Joe Nadenicek – Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources
Eileen Bertsch- Dept. of Tourism
Steve Emery- Dept. of Tribal Relations

Others in Attendance:

David Reiss, Dept. of Tribal Relations recording
James Nord, Associated Press

Chair Hansen opened by requesting an addition to the meeting agenda, section e. media clarification of dates & times under discussion on Public Involvement Process of Harney Peak. By general consent the agenda was amended as requested.

Chair Hansen requested a discussion on minutes taken from 12.22.2014 Board meeting. Motion made by Bertsch to approve December meeting minutes, Vogt seconded. All members voted aye, 12.22.2014 meeting minutes approved.

Update on contacts regarding Squaw Humper Dam: Vogt gave an update on contact for Squaw Humper Dam of Oglala Lakota (formerly Shannon) County. Vogt noted Dennis Yellow Thunder, Oglala Sioux Tribe historic preservation officer, will contact landowner Mr. Wilson to plead the case to change the name of the dam.

Update from US Board on Geographic Names on proposed feature names: Chair Hansen stated the USBGN has approved the name change for Dells Island in Minnehaha County and a press release will be issued to notify the public of the new name for the island. The Searl Creek feature is still pending due to the fact the USBGN is seeking concurrence from North Dakota. The Oglala Lakota (formerly Shannon) County features are still pending awaiting input from Federal agencies.

Review of Board website updates: Discussion was held about updating the main webpage to clarify the functions of the board. Hansen stated that all public comments regarding the Harney Peak feature will be posted on the website on an on-going basis.

Legislative update: Nadenicek explained that the Oglala Lakota County joint resolution passed the legislative process, the Governor will sign the resolution on April 1st, 2015 and the name will go into effect 30 days after signature. Nadenicek also noted several bills passed the legislative process regarding renaming of counties and political subdivisions of State government making it easier to resolve a vote of the public. Nadenicek stated that a bill was introduced during the 2015

legislative session pertaining to email exchanges of State board members and adherence to open meeting laws. The bill did not pass. Emery explained the SDBGN's budget passed and is unchanged from FY 2015.

New Boards and Commissions portal: Reiss provided an update of the Boards and Commission website developed by the Governor's Office, explaining that it is live and the SDBGN's information and documents are updated and current. Reiss is updating documents and information as they are made available.

Discussion on Public Involvement Process-Harney Peak:

a. Plan for Public Meetings- Hansen noted that all locations have been set and are as posted on the public comment announcement for Harney Peak. The plan for the public meetings was discussed. The board will convene a meeting on April 28, 2015 in Martin and continue its meeting until May 7, 2015 at the various locations and times as posted and announced to the public. The board plans to record these meetings to assist in maintaining an accurate record of public comment. The board will need additional staff to assist with the meeting. Hansen will make arrangements for additional staffing.

b. Travel Plans- The board discussed travel arrangements for the board and accommodations needs.

c. Dissemination of written comments-Hansen reviewed the dissemination process and highlighted them being posted to the website.

d. Additional Contacts to Notify- The board reviewed the distribution list for public comments to see if there were any additional individuals or entities that were not on the list. Discussion was held and some additional names were added.

e. Media Clarification of Date & Times- Discussion was held about clarifications needed regarding dates and times for public meetings on the Harney Peak feature. Hansen noted a correction to a Lakota Country Times article is necessary explaining the public comment meeting dates and times were incorrectly published. Reiss will write a correction letter to the newspaper. Reiss will also contact Myron Pourier with Black Elk Development who provided the interview to Lakota Country Times and will explain the correct dates and times of the public comment meetings to Mr. Pourier. Discussion was also held about media stories that had inaccurate information. The board decided by general consent to send out a public service announcement (PSA) to explain the board process and also the board's role in the process. The PSA information will be included with the press release about the upcoming board meeting locations, dates and times. The board also decided by general consent to develop an information brochure about the SDBGN to distribute at public meetings and also be posted on the website. Hansen will take the lead in developing the brochure. Discussion was also held about frequently asked questions of the board and the board decided by general consent to develop a fact sheet to address those frequently asked questions that can be distributed at the board meetings. General discussion was held about addressing questions from the public and also ensuring that the meetings stay focused on receiving public comment.

Request for DOT for letter of support for Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway tunnels: Hansen reviewed the development, assigning of names and public involvement process the tunnel naming

workgroup used and noted that the naming workgroup requested the SDBGN provide a letter of support. Hansen stated that the Transportation Commission has the authority to assign the names to the tunnel on State roadways. Hansen explained the SDBGN letter supports their public involvement process and does not speak to their names. It was moved by Vogt and seconded by Bertsch to approve the letter of support be issued from the board to the Transportation Commission regarding naming of the tunnels. There was discussion. The motion passed.

Public comment on agenda items or non-agenda items: None requested or received.

Other business: None requested or received.

Hansen explained the next Board meeting will convene on April 28th at 5PM in Martin, SD at the Library/Community Room and that meeting will continue through April 29th, May 5th & 6th and conclude on May 7th in Pierre.

Chair Hansen asked for a motion to adjourn. Vogt motioned to adjourn, Bertsch seconded. All members voted aye, meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Recorded by David Reiss.