

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 28, April 29, May 5, May 6, & May 7, 2015

April 28th, 2015-Community Room, Martin, SD

Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 5PM MDT.

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

Board Secretary:

David Reiss- Dept. of Tribal Relations-recording

Chair Hansen requested a motion to approve the minutes from the March 31, 2015 meeting. Motion made by Bertsch to approve March meeting minutes, Emery seconded. Motion passed and the minutes were approved with no corrections.

Chair Hansen delivered opening remarks on the purpose of public comment meeting and provided attendees guidelines for spoken comment, and then requested public comment on proposed name change of Harney Peak in Pennington County. Twenty-seven (27) members of the public signed in and voiced comments for and against the geographic name change proposal for Harney Peak.

After no further public comment was presented, Chair Hansen recessed the meeting to reconvene on April 29th, 2015 at 10AM MDT at the Pine Room of the Custer County Annex, Custer SD. Meeting recessed at 7:35PM MDT.

April 29th, 2015- Pine Room, Custer County Annex, Custer, SD

Chair Hansen reconvened the meeting at 10AM MDT on April 29th, 2015 at the Pine Room in the Custer County Annex, Custer SD. All Board members present.

Chair Hansen delivered opening remarks on the purpose of public comment meeting and provided attendees guidelines for spoken comment, and then re-opened public comment on proposed name change of Harney Peak in Pennington County. Thirty-two (32) members of the public signed in and voiced comments for and against the geographic name change proposal for Harney Peak.

After no further public comment was presented, Chair Hansen recessed the meeting at 12:15PM to reconvene on April 29th, 2015 at 5PM MDT at the ballroom of the Adoba Eco Hotel, Rapid City, SD.

April 29th, 2015- Ballroom, Adoba Eco Hotel, Rapid City, SD

Chair Hansen reconvened the meeting at 5PM MDT on April 29th, 2015 at the Ballroom in the Adoba Eco Hotel, Rapid City, SD. All Board members present.

Chair Hansen delivered opening remarks on the purpose of public comment meeting and provided attendees guidelines for spoken comment, and then re-opened public comment on proposed name change of Harney Peak in Pennington County. Eighty-three (83) members of the public signed in and voiced comments for and against the geographic name change proposal for Harney Peak.

After no further public comment was presented, Chair Hansen recessed the meeting at 8:26PM to reconvene on May 5th, 2015 at 5PM CDT at the Royal Room of the Royal River Casino, Flandreau, SD.

May 5th, 2015- Royal Room, Royal River Casino, Flandreau, SD

Chair Hansen reconvened the meeting at 5PM CDT on May 5th, 2015 at the Royal Room in the Royal River Casino, Flandreau, SD. All Board members present.

Chair Hansen delivered opening remarks on the purpose of public comment meeting and provided attendees guidelines for spoken comment, and then re-opened public comment on proposed name change of Harney Peak in Pennington County. Eight (8) members of the public signed in and voiced comments for and against the geographic name change proposal for Harney Peak.

After no further public comment was presented, Chair Hansen recessed the meeting at 7:00PM to reconvene on May 6th, 2015 at 5PM CDT at the Cultural Heritage Center, Pierre, SD.

May 6th, 2015- Cultural Heritage Center, Pierre, SD

Chair Hansen reconvened the meeting at 5PM CDT on May 6th, 2015 at the Cultural Heritage Center, Pierre, SD. All Board members present.

Chair Hansen delivered opening remarks on the purpose of public comment meeting and provided attendees guidelines for spoken comment, and then re-opened public comment on proposed name change of Harney Peak in Pennington County. Seven (7) members of the public signed in and voiced comments for and against the geographic name change proposal for Harney Peak.

After no further public comment was presented, Chair Hansen recessed the meeting at 7:00PM to reconvene on May 7th, 2015 at 1:30PM CDT at the Commission Room at the Becker-Hansen Building, 700 E. Broadway, Pierre, SD.

May 7th, 2015- Commission Room, Becker-Hansen Building, Pierre, SD

Chair Hansen reconvened the meeting at 1:30PM CDT on May 7th, 2015 at the Commission Room of the Becker-Hansen Building, Pierre, SD. All Board members present.

Update on contacts regarding Squaw Humper Dam in Oglala Lakota County: No new update on progress since the 3.31.2015 meeting.

Update from US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) on proposed feature names: Chair Hansen stated that Jennifer Runyon from the USBGN informed her that the Oglala Lakota (formerly Shannon) County features are still pending input from Federal agencies. Chair Hansen also explained that the USBGN has not considered the suggested name Searl Creek for the Campbell County feature because there has been no comment for the North Dakota geographic name authority.

Review of Board website updates: Discussion was held about updating the main webpage and additions of public comments received on the current Harney Peak name consideration.

Boards and Commissions portal: Chair Hansen asked Reiss if an update is necessary for each meeting for the Boards and Commissions portal, Reiss explained that unless directed otherwise he will update the portal regularly and regular portal updates to the Board are not necessary.

Additional public comment on renaming Harney Peak: Jim Ackerman of Pierre, SD provided testimony supporting changing the name of Harney Peak but did not suggest an alternative name.

Board comment on Harney Peak name change proposal: Each member provided comment on the process the SDBGN executed in its public comment collection and discussed merits of changing the name of Harney Peak based upon public comment received. Members noted that there is not clear consensus from the public to change the name of the feature or not to change the name; public comments have been very emotional and the majority of comments received at public testimony meetings were in favor of the name change. Members highlighted that there is not clear consensus from the public on what to rename Harney Peak should the name be changed but Chair Hansen recommended to the board that separate votes on the request could be taken. By general consent the board agreed to separate the votes.

Emery moved to change the name of Harney Peak, Bertsch seconded. Discussion was held that highlighted that a large majority of public comment received has been in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak. The motion passed.

Emery inquired if an alternative name suggested to the USBGN can be suggested in both English and Lakota with one spelling listed in parenthesis, Chair Hansen explained she checked with the USBGN and such a name format would be considered. Chair Hansen also noted that the USBGN would allow the suggested name "Black Elk Peak" to be considered even though the mountain is located within the Black Elk Wilderness but that other considerations with that name would exist for the USBGN.

Vogt moved to not rename Harney Peak after an individual, Nadenicek seconded. Discussion was held that initially there was strong support for the name "Black Elk Peak" but as the public comment process went on more comments were received opposed to naming the peak after an individual and many favored the traditional Lakota name. The motion passed.

Emery moved to suggest renaming the feature the traditional Lakota name for the mountain "Hinhan Kaga" (Making of Owls). Vogt seconded for discussion purposes. Discussion was held that the public comment at the meetings reiterated support for the traditional Lakota name; questions were discussed regarding the wishes of other Tribes who have ties to the Black Hills; the comments about this action "rewriting history" were discussed and noted this would be honoring history. Motion passed.

Public comment on agenda items or non-agenda items: Ackerman commended the SDBGN for its work and decision making in the Harney Peak process.

Other business: Vogt asked for clarification on what the SDBGN has decided, Chair Hansen explained the Board will provide notice that the Board has preliminarily voted to suggest a name change for Harney Peak and a 30 day comment period will be conducted on release of the notice. Chair Hansen stated her intent to have a notice and press release put out by May 15th or as soon as possible.

Hansen stated the next Board meeting will convene on June 29th in Pierre, SD at the Commission Room in the Becker-Hansen Building, 700 E. Broadway Ave.

Chair Hansen asked for a motion to adjourn. Vogt motioned to adjourn, Bertsch seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Recorded by David Reiss.