

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, November 19, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. CDT  
Pollock Community Building–916 F Ave, Pollock, SD

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairwoman Hansen @ 7:02 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Board Members Present:

Vice Chair June Hansen – Dept. of Transportation  
Jay Vogt – State Historical Society  
Joe Nadenicek – Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources  
Eileen Bertsch- Dept. of Tourism

Board Members Excused:

Steve Emery- Dept. of Tribal Relations

Others in Attendance:

David Reiss, Dept. of Tribal Relations recording  
Jim Pollock, Pierre  
Dale Meyer, Pollock  
Alvin Fjeldheim, Campbell County Commissioner  
Waynette Geigle, Pollock Prairie Pioneer

Board members provided introductions to public attendees.

Vice Chair Hansen requested a discussion on revisions to minutes taken from 9.25.2014 Board meeting. Bertsch suggested amendments to draft minutes. Motion made by Bertsch to approve September meeting minutes as amended, Vogt seconded. All members voted aye, motion carried.

Discussion on proposed name “Dells” Island near Dell Rapids in Minnehaha County on the Big Sioux River:

Vice Chair Hansen requested discussion and a motion on an additional public response received on the unnamed island in Minnehaha County, noting a single response supporting the name “Dells Island” for the feature. Motion made by Vogt to approve the name “Dells Island” for the unnamed feature, Bertsch seconded. All members voted aye, motion carried to approve the name “Dells Island” to be submitted to the US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) for federal approval and official designation. Nadenicek will draft a letter to the USBGN notifying of the Board’s decision.

Unnamed Creek near Pollock in Campbell County:

Vice Chair Hansen opened public discussion on the unnamed creek in Campbell County near Pollock. Jim Pollock provided testimony supporting the suggested name “Searl Creek,” noting discrepancies in the name and his request for the considered name to be spelled “Searl.” Additionally, Pollock noted public comment received by the Board supporting the name “Searl

Creek” including the City of Pollock, Campbell County Commissioners, Spring Valley Cemetery Association, Pollock Visitor/Interpretive Center, family comments, and from landowners where the creek is situated.

Meyer explained that the City of Pollock explained the importance of the Board meeting in Pollock and noting the historic nature of the event. Meyer explained that the Pollock Town Board produced a resolution in support of the name “Searl Creek” and that the resolution was passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Hansen asked for Board comment on the unnamed creek and nominated names. All Members present thanked Mr. Pollock for his extensive research and work at gathering written public comment supporting the name “Searl Creek,” including county and city resolutions. Members highlighted that local support for a proposed name is considered favorable in the consideration process of the Board. Hansen noted her research for similar names in the region via the federal GNIS system and explained that no other features with the name “Searl Creek” are found in South Dakota or the region.

Hansen asked for a motion on the unnamed creek in Campbell County. Motion made by Vogt to recommend the name “Searl Creek” for the unnamed creek in Campbell County, Nadenicek seconded. All members voted aye, motion carried for the name “Searl Creek” to beginning the 30 day comment period as the recommended name for the feature in Campbell County.

Squaw Humper Dam of Shannon County:

Vice Chair Hansen requested an update on progress related to Squaw Humper Dam. Vogt indicated that Michael Catches Enemy is no longer the Oglala Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and no contact has been received from the tribe regarding Squaw Humper Dam.

US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) Action Update:

Vice Chair Hansen provided an update on USBGN actions, noting that Annie Andersen Creek of Minnehaha County has formally been approved by the USBGN. Hansen discussed issues with approved names submitted by the Board to the USBGN for several features that have not yet been dealt with by the USBGN. No notification on the status of the names has been sent to SDBGN by the US board. Hansen will inquire about the status of those suggested names. Hansen also explained that she will create a press release notifying the public of acceptance by the USBGN of the feature names Isanti Creek and Annie Andersen Creek.

Briefing on Board administrative duties:

Reiss discussed Board administrative functions, notifying members that he will conduct administrative and recording duties of the Board moving forward. Reiss will be listed as the contact for the Board on materials produced by the Board and will work with Hansen on documents and mailings. Kerry Westover at Department of Tribal Relations will continue to handle pay vouchers for Board members but will no longer be listed as the Board’s contact. Bertsch indicated that the Department of Tourism will handle upkeep of the Board’s website moving forward.

Discussion on SDBGN website upkeep:

Bertsch requested discussion about the Board website and her desire to have education materials explaining the Board's naming process and rules as well as public involvement process posted. Members discussed the idea and agreed that the Board's rules and processes will be posted to the site. Hansen will create an outline of the Board's processes and naming rules and will forward those materials when finalized to the Department of Tourism so that an additional page on the SDBGN website can be created for educational materials. The proposed timeline for development of the materials and posting the information on an additional page for the website is tentatively set for winter 2015.

#### Election of Board Chair:

Hansen asked members to table election of the Board chairperson until new Member Emery is able to be present at the proposed December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Nadenicek voiced his desire to bring a vote for the Secretary of the Department of Tribal Relations to be elected chair at the current meeting. Hansen explained that she did not feel comfortable voting for Secretary Emery as the chair without him being present and able to voice his opinion on the matter. Hansen asked Reiss for comment on the topic, Reiss requested that the Board table the matter and discuss the issue at the December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Motion made by Vogt to table the election of chairperson for the Board, Bertsch seconded. All members voted aye, motion tabled until a later date.

Hansen asked for any additional discussion from the Board. Members of the Board thanked attendees for their hospitality and input at the meeting in Pollock.

Bertsch moved to adjourn. Vogt seconded. All members voted aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Recorded by David Reiss.