

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, December 22, 2014 – 3:00 p.m. CDT  
Commission Room-Becker Hansen Building, 700 E. Broadway Ave, Pierre SD

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Hansen @ 3:00 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  
Jim Pollock, Pierre

Vice Chair Hansen requested a discussion on minutes taken from 11.19.2014 Board meeting. Motion made by Vogt to approve November meeting minutes, Bertsch seconded. All members voted aye, motion carried.

Proposed name “Searl Creek” for unnamed creek near Pollock in Campbell County:

Vice Chair Hansen asked members for any additional input on the proposed name “Searl Creek” for the unnamed creek located in Campbell County. Vogt thanked Mr. Pollock for his time and effort in gathering documentation and public comment in favor of his proposed name for the creek, noting that the comments received were favorable for the name “Searl Creek.” Vogt moved to recommend the name “Searl Creek” for consideration to the US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) for the unnamed creek located near the city of Pollock in Campbell County, Emery seconded. All members voted aye, motion adopted.

Nadenicek will draft a notification letter to the USBGN of the Board’s decision to recommend the name Searl Creek for the geographic feature located in Campbell County; Reiss will mail with supporting documentation.

Squaw Humber Dam of Shannon County:

Vice Chair Hansen asked if there was any update on progress related the proposed name change for Squaw Humber Dam. Vogt indicated that a new Tribal Historic Preservation Officer has been appointed at the Oglala Sioux Tribe and he will reach out to the OST THPO on the issue.

US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) Action Update:

Vice Chair Hansen provided an update on USBGN actions, noting that the renaming proposal for Harney Peak has been added to their action list and that inclusion warrants the Board to begin its public involvement process for the proposed name “Black Elk Peak” as submitted by Mr. Basil

Brave Heart. Vice Chair Hansen noted the lack of USBGN decision on several features in Shannon County and that their holdup is now explained as a lack of comment from the US Forrest Service. Vice Chair Hansen explained that one of the features is located on lands within the US Forrest Service's jurisdiction and the USBGN will hold on considering the recommended names for all the features as the USBGN wishes to consider them as a whole.

Renaming Process for Shannon County to Oglala Lakota County:

Vogt inquired about the process ongoing for renaming Shannon County to Oglala Lakota County. Members discussed the process the Governor and Legislature must undertake to rename Shannon County to Oglala Lakota County in consideration of the successful vote held in November in Shannon County. SDBGN has no role in this process. Any inquiries regarding the process should be referred to the Governor's office.

Process for requests for public comments received by the Board:

Vice Chair Hansen discussed a request received by the Board for all the public comment received to rename Harney Peak as "Black Elk Peak" and noted the Board had not yet taken up the issue. Hansen explained her consultation with the Attorney General's office and with Nadenicek about providing comments received by the Board on a subject which has not been taken up by the Board. Nadenicek discussed the State's open records law, noting that comments received by the State are presumptive open records with limited exception. Nadenicek offered his opinion that public comments received by the Board are intended by commenters to be received as open records. Nadenicek did note that exceptions to his recommendation can be made if comments received are of vulgar nature or put members of the public at risk or liability. Vice Chair Hansen noted that the Board can request fees for copies of public records. Nadenicek and Hansen noted their respective departments' policies on fees for requests of public records and their reluctance to charge a fee for copies of public records. Members discussed posting public comments received by the Board to the Board's website, noting that requestors of records can be referred to the website to obtain records. Reiss will work with Ann DeVany at Dept. of Tourism to post public comments received for geographic features being considered by the Board. Reiss will mail public comments received by the Board to the requestor.

Developments for the Board Website:

Vice Chair Hansen brought discussion on advances for the Board website and discussed the revised digital version of the Board's Propose New Name or Name Change of Geographic Feature Form.

Legislative Monitoring:

Vice Chair Hansen requested discussion on legislative monitoring during the 2015 Legislative session. Nadenicek noted that no bills are expected to be brought concerning the Board at this time. Vice Chair Hansen discussed the Board's budget and highlighted that the Board's budget is allocated under the Department of Tribal Relations budgeting process. Vice Chair Hansen noted that the budget will be utilized next year through various travel and per diem associated with the public involvement process and should be retained in full. Nadenicek will monitor legislation and inform the board if any legislation affecting the board is proposed.

#### Input and Upkeep of State Boards & Commissions Website:

Reiss discussed with Board members the new State Boards & Commissions website which will be made public on December 29<sup>th</sup> and that he will input and maintain the Board's page on the site.

#### Proposed Public Involvement Process for Submission to Rename of Harney Peak:

Vice Chair Hansen discussed the draft of the public involvement process provided for proposed renaming of Harney Peak. Vice Chair Hansen indicated the Board can include more tribes than included in the document, noting those included are from the NAGPRA list. Vice Chair Hansen asked Emery to review the list and include any others that may have an interest in the geographic feature; Emery confirmed. Vice Chair Hansen discussed her reasoning for having public comment meetings in the four proposed locations of Custer, Martin, Pierre and Rapid City and her desire to have meetings local to the tribes and the geographic feature. Nadenicek noted his desire and reasoning to have an additional meeting held in Flandreau to allow eastern South Dakota tribes a chance to comment; other Board members confirmed. Vogt asked that a Board member send out a meeting invite to block off proposed meeting dates on their calendars. Vice Chair Hansen affirmed she would do so.

#### Election of Board Chair:

Vice Chair Hansen asked for comment from members on the election of a Board chairperson. Nadenicek asked Emery if he would accept the nomination for the chair position. Emery indicated that he would not at this time as he is new to his position as cabinet secretary and that Reiss contributes a great deal of the time for the Board currently. Vogt nominated Hansen for the position of Chair of the Board, Emery seconded. All members voted aye, motion carried. Chairwoman Hansen asked for comment and nominations for the position of vice chair. Emery nominated Vogt as Vice Chair of the Board, Bertsch seconded. All members voted aye, motion carried.

Chairwoman Hansen asked for any other comment. Reiss inquired about a general inquiry to the Board from a member of the public offering a name to be considered for a geographic feature without indicating a specific feature to be named. Chairwoman Hansen noted that she responded to the inquiry asking for a specific feature to be considered from the individual providing the name. No response has been received and the submission will be retained by the Board. Chairwoman Hansen indicated the next Board meeting will be held March 31<sup>st</sup> in Pierre.

Chairwoman Hansen asked for a motion to adjourn. Emery motioned to adjourn, Nadenicek seconded. All members voted aye, meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Recorded by David Reiss.