

# **Missouri Board on Geographic Names**

**May 16, 2024**

**James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center**

**600 W. Main St.**

**Jefferson City, MO 65101**

**Voting Members Present:** Chair Designee John Dougan, Vice Chair Chris Barnett, Carey Bridges, Bryan Chinn, John Fisher, Debra Greene (joined later), Melanie Hans, Alicia Struckhoff and Steve Vance. Participating virtually were Scott Faenger, Alan Foreman and Henry Sweets.

**Voting Members Absent:** Brett Chloupek, Gary Kremer and David Nail.

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Secretary Brian Rogers.

Chair Designee John Dougan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He then thanked everyone for participating and called roll, asking members to introduce themselves for new member Carey Bridges.

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 16, 2023**

John Dougan presented draft minutes from the MOBGN's Nov. 16, 2023, meeting. Vice Chair Chris Barnett moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Melanie Hans. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

## **COGNA Report, presented by Chris Barnett**

Chris Barnett explained that the 2024 COGNA conference is officially scheduled for Sept. 16-19, 2024, in Columbia, with all but the toponymic session occurring at The State Historical Society's Center for Missouri Studies. Attendees can now register for the full conference on the COGNA website for \$260. Though there is no block of hotel rooms available, Barnett suggested attendees book rooms at the Broadway or Tiger hotels.

COGNA Executive Secretary Christine Johnson has provided a draft conference agenda, but, unfortunately, it is not yet available on the website.

Following a COGNA business meeting on the morning of September 16<sup>th</sup>, conference organizers are interested in featuring a Mark Twain-related session, followed by a memorial for former MOBGN Secretary Jane Messenger and a session on Missouri's railroads. In the evening, there will be a reception featuring hors d'oeuvre, bar and a yet to-be-determined keynote speaker.

Barnett indicated that Henry Sweets might be asked to put together the Twain session, to which Sweets was agreeable. John Fisher then stated that he would be willing to put together a session on railroad town names in southeast Missouri.

Debra Greene joined the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

Barnett asked the board if there is anything specific the board would like to contribute to Jane Messenger's memorial. Dougan responded that she was against having a feature named after her, but that it would be appropriate to place her MOBGN cookbook on the board website. Brian Rogers indicated he would pursue the page update.

Moving on to September 17<sup>th</sup>, Barnett indicated that the conference organizers are interested in having someone speak on Missouri's derogatory feature names. Dr. Greene indicated that she has been thinking about putting together such a talk and will let Rogers know soon by the end of June 2024 if she is willing to do so for the conference.

For the afternoon of September 17<sup>th</sup>, the organizers are looking for someone to speak about Missouri's historic trails. Dougan indicated he knows of several individuals that could likely fill the spot. Carey Bridges stated that if a talk on Missouri's rail/trails would be appropriate, she would be happy to contact David Kelly, Director of Missouri State Parks. Dougan replied that Dir. Kelly or one of his staff would be a great fit and asked her to please reach out.

Barnett then turned his attention to the conference's toponymic session, indicating that it will begin at 8 a.m. on the morning of Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. The first stop will be Rock Bridge State Park, followed by a stop in Jefferson City to tour the Missouri State Capitol and, if time remains, Adrian's Island. Next is the Winston Churchill Museum in Fulton, where attendees will also be treated to lunch. Afterwards, the group will head to Rocheport, if time is available, before the last stop in Arrow Rock. The bus will return to Columbia around 5 p.m.

More conference details will be sent out to the full board once the agenda is finalized.

### **Board Appointments**

Brian Rogers explained that University of Central Missouri history professor Jon Taylor has agreed to fill the citizen appointee seat left vacant after Lynn Morrow resigned last fall. He then stated that he will be in touch with John Fisher and Henry Sweet, who's terms are expiring in November, about continuing on the board.

John Dougan asked John Fisher to reach out to Frank Nickell about continuing on the board as a citizen appointee.

### **Continued Waugh Creek Proposal Discussion**

Chris Barnett summarized the proposal, stating that Waugh Creek is a new memorial name for an unnamed 4.2-mile-long tributary of the North Fork Pomme de Terre River in Webster County. The stream runs along the edge of property owned by the proponent and, at its closest, approximately one mile from property owned by her ancestors, Lee Ellison Waugh and William Waugh. The honorees had no direct association with the stream, though the proponent notes the family did live in the area. Eleven Waugh family members are buried in a cemetery 2.7 miles north of the stream's source.

Brian Rogers explained that ambiguity remains about the feature's location, but Jenny Runyon with USGS continues to reach out to the proponent for more information, so far unsuccessfully. He then stated that a letter was sent to the Webster County Commission last July seeking input, but no response was forthcoming.

John Dougan stated that the proposal will remain active for the time being as more information is sought.

### **Wears Creek Update**

John Dougan reminded the board that journalist and historian Bob Priddy had identified several variant names for Jefferson City's Wears Creek, the stream flowing into the Missouri River just south of the Missouri State Capitol. Rogers then displayed a list of current variant names for the stream found in GNIS provided by Scott Faenger. It already identifies all variant names provided by Mr. Priddy, so no further board action is necessary.

### **Upcoming Proposals Discussion**

John Dougan indicated that a Heeb Creek proposal has also been received, but that it came in inside the six-week period before this meeting and therefore – per the MOBGN's bylaws – cannot be considered until the next meeting in November. The feature, located in Scott County, is currently listed as "Hindman Creek" on federal maps, but "Heeb Creek" has long been in local usage. The name bears no prejudiced connotation, instead honoring a family that has long been in the area. He then indicated that Brian Rogers would soon send out the related materials.

Chris Barnett explained that the name is not part of the Ramsey Files, so it may require significant board research. John Fisher indicated he would reach out to several people in Chaffee, the closest community to the feature, for additional information.

Scott Faenger stated that the stream is just listed as a "dry brook" on the Missouri State Lands Survey map of Chaffee, but that the community does have a "Hindman" addition through which it flows.

Dougan then indicated that at past meetings, the board has discussed a potential Adrian's Island proposal. Though a proponent has not been officially identified, former board member Walter Schroeder's name has come up. Barnett indicated he would reach out to him about the possibility.

### **Next Meeting Discussion**

Brian Rogers explained that the board's next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024. Though there will be a virtual component, in-person attendance is encouraged.

## **Adjournment**

Melanie Hans moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Chris Barnett. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.