

# **Missouri Board on Geographic Names**

**November 16, 2023**

**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, Scott Faenger, John Fisher, Debra Greene, Melanie Hans, David Nail, Alicia Struckhoff and Steve Vance. Participating virtually were Brett Chloupek and Alan Foreman.

**Voting Members Absent:** Carey Bridges, Bryan Chinn, Gary Kremer, Lynn Morrow, Frank Nickell and Henry Sweets.

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Secretary Brian Rogers. Participating virtually were Tony Spicci and a Northwest Missouri State University geography class taught by Brett Chloupek.

Chair Designee John Dougan called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He then thanked everyone for participating and called roll.

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2023**

John Dougan presented draft minutes from the MOBGN's meeting on May 18, 2023. Vice Chair Chris Barnett moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by David Nail. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

## **COGNA 2023 Report**

Chris Barnett explained that the 2023 COGNA conference was held September 12 – 16 in Portland, Oregon. The Oregon Historical Society held a welcoming event the first evening, then Wednesday through Friday activities were held at the Native American Student and Community Center on the Portland State University campus. Much of the subject matter dealt with Native place name issues. The toponymic session took attendees along the Columbia River gorge, stopping at several Native American history sites.

## **Board Appointments**

Brian Rogers explained that Chris Barnett, Brett Chloupek and Debra Greene were all reappointed to three-year citizen member terms on the MOBGN in early November 2023. He then stated that there are now three citizen appointee vacancies because Lynn Morrow has officially stepped down.

John Dougan said that he would reach out to University of Central Missouri professor of history Jon Taylor about filling one of the positions.

Alicia Struckhoff mentioned Jennifer Haack-Gaynor, a GIS specialist with the National Park Service at the Wilson's Creek Battlefield, as a potential candidate. Rogers indicated he would provide Struckhoff with materials to present Haack-Gaynor about the MOBGN and its role.

Dougan asked the board to pass along the names of any other potential new citizen members to Brian Rogers.

### **COGNA 2024 Discussion**

Chris Barnett explained that the conference planning committee has confirmed that the conference will take place in Columbia the week of September 16<sup>th</sup> (exact dates still TBD) with most activities occurring at the Center for Missouri Studies. COGNA Executive Secretary Christine Johnson is working to provide the State Historical Society with the needed proof of insurance.

Barnett stated that there has been some interest from past conference attendees in visiting a cave as part of the toponymic session, so he would like to see a stop at Rock Bridge State Park as a part of the 2024 offering. Other possible stops include the Missouri State Capitol, the National Churchill Museum and historic Arrow Rock.

### **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.

Barnett asked for a motion to open discussion of the Waugh Creek proposal. So moved by Brett Chloupek. Motion seconded by Melanie Hans. Discussion opened.

Scott Faenger indicated that he looked through old GLO surveys of the area and was able to locate the feature without any conflicting names.

Barnett then stated he looked at historical plat maps and was able to find area parcels owned by members of the Waugh family, but they were in the Niangua River watershed and not that of the Pomme de Terre River. Jenny Runyon with the US BGN was unable to clarify how close of a geographic association is necessary.

Brian Rogers stated that a comment request letter was sent to the Webster County Presiding Commission in July 2023, but no response was forthcoming indicating there is no official opinion from the county.

Barnett then added that he identified a business named “The Barn at Walnut Creek” on Google Maps that is located 1.5 miles east of the identified stream’s mouth. Nearby too is the Hosmer Dairy Farm Historic District, which is also identified as “Walnut Spring Farm” and may lend its name to another of the small streams visible on the proposal map.

Barnett stated that with the other farm names in the area, he has concerns additional names for the stream might exist and have been used, at least historically. Steve Vance added that roads in the vicinity are already named after other families.

The board agreed more information from the proponent is needed before a decision can be made. Rogers stated he would speak with Jenny Runyon about reaching out to the proponent.

John Dougan asked for a motion to table the proposal. So moved by Chris Barnett. Motion seconded by Debra Greene. All in favor. None opposed. Proposal tabled until next meeting.

### **Frisco Creek Proposal Discussion**

Chris Barnett again summarized the proposal, stating that Frisco Creek is a proposed new name for a 1.12-mile-long tributary of Burgher Branch in the Phelps County community of Rolla. The proposal was submitted by a Rolla city employee. The stream has its head at Frisco Lake, which was built by the now-defunct St. Louis-San Francisco Railway (commonly known as the “Frisco”) as a dependable water source for refilling its steam locomotive tenders during stops in Rolla. The city acquired a Frisco locomotive engine in 1955 and it is now on display at the public Schuman Park next to the lake.

After the proposal was submitted, additional research found that the Rolla Public Works Department already identifies the stream as “Frisco Branch” in its watershed mapping projects, but the proponent feels “Creek” is more appropriate when compared to other area stream names.

Barnett asked for a motion to consider the Frisco Creek proposal for recommendation to the US BGN. So moved by Debra Greene. Motion seconded by Scott Faenger. Discussion opened.

David Nail presented an elevation model, then topographic maps of the area produced in 1912 and 1951. Both maps show Frisco Lake, though it was unnamed in 1912. He added that there are still remnants of the water tower mentioned in the proposal, bolstering the claim that the Frisco Railway had at some point had a significant presence in the city. Nail then stated that the families of both he and his wife were both employed by the Frisco Railway out of St. Louis. He concluded with the latest USGS topographic map of the area showing the lake and stream in question.

Steve Vance asked if the city’s Public Works Department might have maps of the area showing the underground portion of the stream’s flow. Barnett replied that they likely do and reiterated that they already refer to stream in question as “Frisco Branch.”

Barnett then suggested that if “Frisco Creek” is approved, “Frisco Branch” could be passed along to the US BGN as a variant name. Because “Frisco Lake” is on USGS maps, it should also be brought to the attention of GNIS staff because it is not currently a part of the National Hydrography Dataset.

Brian Rogers indicated he had received a letter from the Rolla city planner indicating he had no preference about whether the stream in question should be named “Creek” or “Branch.”

John Dougan called for a vote on whether to recommend the “Frisco Creek” proposal for approval by the US BGN. All in favor. None opposed. Proposal recommended to the US BGN.

### **Sycamore Creek Proposal Discussion**

Chris Barnett explained that “Sycamore Creek” is a proposed new name for an unnamed, 2.3-mile-long tributary of Clear Creek near New Florence in Montgomery County. The proponent reports living and farming property through which the stream flows for nearly 60 years, and that the banks are lined with “beautiful sycamore trees [that are] beneficial to many species.” Barnett then stated that GNIS now lists 22 Missouri features that include “Sycamore,” though none are in Montgomery County and the closest is 62 miles away.

Barnett asked for a motion to consider Sycamore Creek proposal for recommendation to the US BGN. So moved by Scott Faenger. Motion seconded by Brett Chloupek. Discussion opened.

Barnett stated that he looked at old plat maps of the area, but was unable to find anything about the stream in question. Scott Faenger replied that he had located the unnamed stream on an 1852 GLO map in which the cartographers noted it crossing two section boundaries. Faenger also located the stream on several MoDOT surveys from the early 1990s, and he noted that it was still unnamed at that time.

John Dougan called for a vote on whether to recommend the “Sycamore Creek” proposal for approval by the US BGN. All in favor. None opposed. Proposal recommended to US BGN.

### **GNIS Addition Update**

John Dougan indicated that a member of his Local Records Program staff had recently identified a small historic Jasper County community called Dubuque through a court deposition, along with a variant name – “Budgetown” – both of which are not in GNIS. Chris Barnett added that when this was brought to his attention, he believed GNIS staff could only update natural feature names, not locations, as they fall under the purview of the Census Bureau. To confirm he emailed Jenny Runyon with the USGS, who responded that GNIS staff can record unincorporated communities and historic town names, but that only GNIS Manager Maria McCormack has the discretion to add names

to GNIS. She also said that the US BGN retains the authority to vote on the names of present-day unincorporated communities.

Barnett then indicated that the map showing Dubuque's location and the deposition mentioning "Budgetown" should both be sent to McCormack for her consideration and that no further action is needed at this time.

### **Next Meeting Update**

Brian Rogers stated that the board's next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2024. Though there will be a virtual component, in-person attendance is encouraged.

### **Adjournment**

Chris Barnett moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by John Fisher. All in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.