

California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

Department of Conservation

801 K Street, 12th Floor

Sacramento, California

1. Call to Order—9:35am

Attendance-- *Members:* Morrison; Wanish; Meyer; Veisze; Chambers
Advisors: Trumbly; Hawkins; Steber; Wheaton; Ostregen
Guest: Fraser (Minutes); Runyon (BGN, by phone); Harris
(Resources Agency)

2. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of July 18, 2012

The 7/18/12 Minutes were approved electronically and vocally by the committee.

3. Announcements

Wanish announced that she will be retiring from the California Department of Conservation and stepping down from the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names. The committee congratulated and thanked Wanish for her long-standing service.

Veisze reported on Wayne Furr's email on the COGNA conference, to be held on April 30, 2013. Wanish announced plans to attend the conference. Veisze and Trumbly commented on the importance of state of Minnesota in changing derogatory place names.

Veisze reported on correspondence with CACGN webmaster Jim Spero, of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). Cal Fire, current host of the CACGN website, is reviewing the current web-hosting arrangement. Discussion followed by members about possible alternatives if the current arrangement were to change.

The roster was circulated to update email addresses.

4. Consideration of Names Proposals on Pending Review Lists

Review List 407

Region III (Meyer)

Fossil Point

Meyer discussed the primary issues related to the Fossil Point name proposal, a case deferred at the 7/18/2012 CACGN meeting until further comment could be made by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The proponent sought to change an incorrect usage of a commonly used geographic name, Fossil Point, so that it reflected the historic application of the name. Fossil Point currently denotes a geographic place that is about one mile from another geographic place that historically was called Fossil Point. At some point in the latter half of the 20th century an error was made in the creation of a map, applying the name Fossil Point to the wrong geographic place. The error had been repeated on subsequent maps, and the erroneous application eventually entered local use.

Meyer presented agency opinions. A discussion ensued over the opposition opinions given by NOAA, the Port San Luis Harbor District Board of Commissioners (PSLHDBC), and the United States Coast Guard (USCG). Wheaton, representing the NOAA opposition, also characterized the opposition opinion of the PSLHDBC, based on conversations he had with their representative, Steve McGrath. Letters representing these views were provided by Meyer. Meyer and Wheaton provided information on the current name usage and its geophysical association with a COLREGS demarcation line, a formal boundary that appears on federal navigation charts. Wheaton provided background information on the purpose of the COLREGS demarcation line and spoke on the difficulty of updating formal charts to reflect any name change associated with the boundary.

Veisze and Trumbly led a discussion on how CACGN could possibly recommend action to preserve the historical usage of Fossil Point, short of recommending name change. Breakout conversations occurred on the value of historical accuracy in the public record as Veisze contacted Runyon. Runyon confirmed that the “historical parenthetical” was not intended for capturing an error of the type that occurred in the usage of Fossil Point, but suggested considering the “historical notes” capacity within the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) to capture the historical change in name and identify within the public record the original usage. Further discussion ensued on the GNIS capacity for supplemental information, including the coordinates of the original Fossil Point.

Meyer motioned to recommend disapproval of the Fossil Point name proposal. Veisze seconded the motion. The committee unanimously voted to recommend disapproval of the name proposal. Yea: 5, No: 0.

Review List 410

Region V (Chambers)

Jacumba Hot Springs

Chambers described the committee's decision to defer a recommendation on the Jacumba Hot Springs name proposal at the 1/18/2013 CACGN meeting, citing the need for further information. Chambers discussed historical research demonstrating consistent usage of Jacumba Hot Springs on historical documents and provided local public opinion on continued common use of the proposed name. Veisze asked specific questions about a sub-division map, and follow-up questions by the committee led Chambers to discuss the use of Jacumba Hot Springs as a variant name within the GNIS. Chambers continued with further documentation demonstrating historic usage of the proposed name and provided correspondence in support of the proposed name by several entities, most importantly that of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. Chambers provided the U.S. Board on Geographic Names policy on commercial names (XI, Section II) and the committee agreed the proposed name could be made within the constraints of that policy.

Chambers motioned to recommend approval of the name change. Veisze seconded the motion. Wheaton recommended citing BGN Policy XI, Section II in the recommendation. The committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the name change. Yea: 5, No: 0.

Review List 411

Region II (Wanish)

Gold Star Peak

Wanish provided background information on the evolving name proposal for an unnamed peak in Lake Tahoe National Forest, Placer County. Wanish detailed how an original proposal had been intended to commemorate Lake Tahoe soldiers involved with recent American military conflicts. An amended proposal, based on discussions between the committee, BGN, and the office of U.S. Representative Tom McClintock, reduced the commemorative aspect of the proposal in choosing a name, Gold Star Peak, with association to the Gold Star mothers' organization and the Gold Star pin, a traditional mourning symbol to indicate the loss of a family member in military service. Wanish led a discussion on the history of the organization and detailed its relevance to American military conflicts. Wanish provided information that demonstrated support for the proposed by U.S. Representative Tom McClintock and the Placer County Board of Supervisors.

Wanish moved to recommend approval of the name proposal. Veisze seconded the motion. The committee unanimously voted to recommend approval of the name proposal. Yea: 5, No: 0.

Review List 411

Region V (Chambers)

Buwalda Ridge

Chambers provided information on the life and work of geologist John Buwalda. Buwalda's early work dealt with the area under consideration and Chambers provided information that the proposed name was in common usage among those in the geological field. Chambers described the potential public safety benefits associated with naming the place, discussing law enforcement's frequent response to the location. Chambers provided supporting letters from the county supervisor representing the area, and the Bureau of Reclamation unambiguous support of the proposed name.

Chambers motioned to recommend approval of the name proposal. Veisze seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the name proposal. Yea: 5, No: 0.

Review List 411

Region V (Chambers)

Sherwood Forest

Chambers provided a supporting letter from U.S. Representative Brad Sherman, the congressman representing the area under consideration, and further cited broad political support of the name proposal, including that of the City of Los Angeles. Trumbly questioned whether CACGN was the appropriate body to recommend approval. Veisze reached Runyon by telephone, posing the issue of purview to the BGN representative. Runyon stated that BGN did have authority based upon the unincorporated status of the place. Trumbly led a discussion on the definition of administrative meaning as it applies to BGN policy and the potential repercussions of assumptive purview. Runyon suggested the deferral option could be discussed.

Chambers motioned to recommend approval. Wanish seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the name proposal. Yea: 5, No: 0.

Review List 412

Region II (Wanish)

Hidden Falls Creek

Wanish provided contextual information on the name change proposal—consideration of changing Coon Creek in Placer County to Hidden Falls Creek—detailing the very established historical and current usage of Coon Creek. Wanish commented on the proponent, noted the absence of institutional or political comment, and described the many non-derogatory uses of Coon Creek associated with the surname Coon and the trapping of raccoons. Wanish discussed the still prominent usage of Coon Creek in names of local organizations and businesses.

Wanish motioned to recommend disapproval of the name change. Veisze seconded the motion.

Discussion on derogatory usage ensued. Harris suggested further census data could be researched to identify any ethnic associations with the historic name usage. The committee discussed the value of settlement data and its importance in establishing naming conventions in the nineteenth century.

Wanish described contemporary usages of the proposed name and noted that further vetting of the name should be considered.

Wanish chose to defer recommendation.

5. Current Items and Activities of Interest

Veisze reported on the passage of the Mount Andrea Lawrence Act. Discussion ensued on the legislative alternative to the BGN/Committee process. Photographs of the signing and the site were circulated.

6. Time and Place of Next Meeting

CACGN will meet on 7/24/13 at the Department of Conservation, 801 K Street, 12th floor, Sacramento, California. 9:30 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 P.M.
