

Oregon Geographic Names Board
Minutes of Summer Meeting
June 15, 2019
Douglas County Museum
Roseburg, Oregon

President Bruce Fisher called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. A total of 21 board members were present and the quorum for voting purposes was satisfied.

OGNB board members in attendance: Bruce Fisher (President), Champ Vaughan (Vice-President), Kerry Tymchuk (Executive Secretary), Bob Melbo, Cynthia Gardiner, Charlie Koucher, Steve Wilson, Jim Meacham, Paul Levesque, Mike McArthur, Jeff LaLande, Malissa Minthorn Winks, Liz Lorenzen, Chet Orloff, Mary McArthur, John Terry, Gwen Carr, Sharon Nesbit, Timothy Nitz, Guy Randles, and Linda Roach.

OGNB advisors in attendance: Frank Lahm (BLM), Scott Nebeker (OPRD), and Maxine Kline (USFS).

Guests in attendance were Pete Ferrero of Springfield, Steve Morgan of Springfield, Annette Mills of Corvallis, David Eckert of Corvallis, LK Morris of Springfield, Bob Burgan of Portland, and Michael Winks of Umatilla Reservation.

1. Welcome/Introductions: President Fisher welcomed all attendees and thanked the Douglas County Historical Society for use of facilities at the Douglas County Museum. All attendees introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of Past Board Meeting: The minutes of the September 8, 2018, board meeting held in Bend were approved as published.

3. New Name Proposals for Unnamed Features:

A. Three competing name proposals: **Westview Island, Bridgehead Island, and Honk Island**, Lane County. The proponent for Bridgehead Island was not present. Peter Ferrero, proponent for Westview Island, and LK Morris, the proponent for Honk Island, gave their presentations in support of their proposals. There is no known name in local usage for the island. No preference was received from the Lane County Commissioners, the landowner (Division of State Lands), and the Lane County Historical Society. No response was received from the tribes. The Board voted unanimously to defer action on the proposals pending a second request for a name preference from the landowner, the Division of State Lands.

B. Ten creeks in the vicinity of Marys Peak in the Oregon Coast Range:

Benton County

Ahngeengeen Creek

Ahnhoots Creek

Ahntkwahkwah Creek

Ahshahyum Creek

Ahmoolint Creek

Ahsney Creek

Pa'wint Creek (also in Lincoln County)

Lo wa' ha yu Creek

Wusi'n Creek

Yaqo'n Creek (also in Lincoln County)

Lincoln County

Pa'wint Creek (also in Benton County)

Yaqo'n Creek (also in Benton County)

B. (Continued) Mr. David Eckert represented the proponent, Marys Peak Alliance, and gave a presentation in support of the ten creek names. Mr. Eckert was complimented for the quality and thoroughness of the documentation submitted and the presentation. The proponent made a special effort to coordinate with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians to obtain authentic and acceptable proposed names in Native American languages. Support for the proposed names was received from private landowners, local government and state government landowners, U.S. Forest Service, BLM, Benton County Commissioners, Benton County Historical Society, and Lincoln County Historical Society. Still awaiting a response from the Lincoln County Commissioners. The motion to approve all ten names, subject to receipt of comments from the Lincoln County Commissioners, was passed, 21 yea, 0 nay, and 0 abstentions.

C. South Harney Lake Hot Springs, Harney County: The proponent of the proposed name, Hank Johnson (USGS Hydrologist) was not in attendance. The feature is located within the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. There is some question regarding whether the feature is a single spring or a cluster of springs. Some Board members expressed concern that the name “Harney” is overused for geographic features and administrative areas in Oregon. Also, some objection was raised about the name “Harney” which would commemorate Major General William S. Harney, who at one time served in the Oregon Territory and in earlier years was responsible for the mistreatment of captured prisoners in Mexico and the massacre of Native Americans in the Nebraska Territory. Although no comments were received from the tribes, the Board voted unanimously to defer action on the proposal pending a determination regarding the proper application of the generic term “spring” or “springs” and to again contact the tribes, particularly the Burns Paiute Tribe, to determine if a competing name proposal in a Native American language would be more appropriate.

D. Springfield Butte, Lane County: The proponent, Steve Morgan, gave a presentation in support of the proposed name. There is some evidence that the names “Springfield Butte” and “Quarry Butte” were in limited local usage, and there are some vague references to such names as “Briggs Butte” and “Old Baldy.” The butte is outside the city limits of Springfield and has been used in the past as a quarry site for rock and gravel. The landowner, Knife River Corporation, and the Lane County Commissioners support the proposed name. The City of Springfield has no preference for the proposed name, and no responses were received from the tribes or the Lane County Historical Society. The motion to approve the proposed name was passed, 18 yea, 3 nay, and 0 abstentions.

4. Name Replacement Proposals:

Nestucca Bobb Creek, Tillamook County (Proposed replacement name for Squaw Creek – ID-1150257): The proponent, David Lewis of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde was not in attendance. This proposal would eliminate a name generally considered to be derogatory and replace it with a commemorative name honoring Nestucca Bobb (deceased prior to 1900), a chief of the Nestucca Tribe of Tillamook Indians of Nestucca Bay. The creek is a tributary of the Little Nestucca River and is located partly on federal land within the Siuslaw National Forest and partly on private land. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Tillamook County Commissioners, the Tillamook County Historical Society, and the Siuslaw National Forest support the proposed replacement name. No objections have been received from private landowners. The motion to approve the proposed replacement name was passed, 21 yea, 0 nay, and 0 abstentions.

5. Report of the Executive Director of the Oregon Historical Society and Executive Secretary of the Oregon Geographic Names Board: Kerry Tymchuk announced (1) the offering of an OGNB board member appointment to Mary Oberst of Portland, former Oregon First Lady; (2) the offering of the facilities at the Oregon Historical Society for the 2020 COGNA Conference; (3) the Experience Oregon and The Beatles exhibits at the Oregon Historical Society, (4) and welcomed the newest board member, Gwen Carr of Salem; and (5) the OGNB dinner this evening (June 15) at the Historic Parrott House in Roseburg is courtesy of the Oregon Historical Society.

6. Other Business:

A. President Fisher gave an update of the current naming efforts of features within the Newberry Volcano National Monument. The 25 name proposals recommended for approval by the OGNB in September 2018 have been approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names and the issue involving the generic term “Butte” was resolved in OGNB’s favor. He also reported that a batch of 20 additional new proposed names for features within the national monument and in Native American languages is being negotiated between the proponent, Dr. Julie Donnelly-Nolan of the USGS, and the tribes.

B. The Board voted unanimously to nominate Bruce Fisher for President and Champ Vaughan for Vice-President and to reelect them to two-year terms commencing December 7, 2019.

C. President Fisher and Maxine Kline of the Forest Service will attend the 2019 COGNA Conference in August in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. President Fisher also confirmed that the OGNB would host the 2020 COGNA Conference at the Oregon Historical Society from 23 to 27 June 2020. A toponymic tour by bus is also being planned, and he will continue to coordinate conference planning with committee volunteers. The U.S. Board and the OGNB will both hold their own board meetings during the conference.

7. Announcements:

A. Board member Jarold Ramsey of Madras has retired from the Board due to health issues.

B. The dinner at the Historic Parrott House commences this evening (June 15) at 6:30 PM.

C. President Fisher passed out information for the Sunday (June 16) toponymic tour.

The board meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Champ Vaughan, Vice-President