

**Oregon Geographic Names Board
Minutes of June 27, 2015 Meeting
Newport, Oregon**

Board President Phil Cogswell called the meeting to order at 1:35p.m.

President Cogswell welcomed OGNB members and guests to the meeting.

The following members were present: Stuart Allan, Bruce Fisher, Cynthia Gardiner, Paul Levesque, Liz Lorenzen, Mary McArthur, Michael McArthur, James Meacham, Robert Melbo, Malissa Minthorn Winks, Timothy Nitz, Chet Orloff, Guy Randles, Lina Roach, William Robbins, Richard Spray, John Terry, Kerry Tymchuk, Champ Vaughan, Steve Wilson.

The following OGNB advisors were present: Byron Clayton, Mark Flannery, Robert Harmon., Corey Plank and Meredith Carine.

President Cogswell called upon Interim Committee Chair Fisher to report on Interim Committee recommendations.

Lamprey Creek: Chair Fisher summarized the proposal to name a previously unnamed creek in Benton County “Lamprey Creek.” Proponents Dave Eckert and Jeremy Monroe both spoke in favor of the proposal. Mr. Eckert explained that lamprey can be found in the creek, and that Oregon State University, which operates one of the country’s premiere lamprey research programs, owns a good share of the land where the creek is located. Chair Fisher stated that the proposal had the support of Benton County. He also stated that the background material prepared by Mr. Eckert and Mr. Monroe was outstanding.

Mr. Orloff moved and Mr. Nitz seconded that the proposal be forwarded to the United States Board of Geographic Names with a recommendation for approval. The motion was approved by a vote of 21-0.

Little Joe Creek: Chair Fisher summarized the proposal to name a previously unnamed creek in Clackamas County “Little Joe Creek.” Mitch Williams, the owner of the property on which the creek is located, spoke in favor of the proposal. Mr. Williams explained that the name had been in local use since at least the 1960s and showed a photograph of a carved wooden sign with that name which he had found up the creek many years ago. It was also noted that a recreation area trail information sign mentions the creek by that name. It is not known to whom the proposed name refers to.

Mr. Tymchuk moved and Mr. Wilson seconded that the proposal be forwarded to the United States Board of Geographic Names with a recommendation for approval. The motion was approved by a vote of 21-0.

Three Sisters Creek: Chair Fisher summarized the proposal to name a previously unnamed creek in Clackamas County “Three Sisters Creek.” Proponent Wilma McNulty spoke in favor of the proposal . She explained the name “Three Sisters” refers to Mary, Henriette, and Helen Carman, members of a pioneer Clackamas County family. Much of the creek is located on land originally owned by the Carman family. Mrs. McNulty stated that the creek needs a name so that people can identify it with the region’s history and habitat.

Mr. Orloff moved and Mr. Randall seconded that the proposal be forwarded to the United States Board of Geographic Names with a recommendation for approval. The motion was approved by a vote of 21-0.

Waterdog Pond/Pond Lily Pond/Taylor Spring/Cason Hill/Damsel Pond/Sawbill Pond/Elver Creek: Chair Fisher summarized a proposal to attach names to seven geographic features in Clackamas County. Mr. O’Brien, the proponent of the proposal, was not present at the meeting. Numerous board members had a number of questions about the proposal, including whether or not the features were large enough to be named, and whether other local property owners were supportive.

Mr. Robbins moved and Mr. Orloff seconded that the proposal be returned to Mr. O’Brien, and that President Cogswell summarize the questions and concerns of the board so that more complete information might be obtained. The motion was approved by a vote of 20-0, with one abstention.

CTUIR-Nez Perce: President Cogswell reported that the USGNB has asked the OGNB for advice on how to resolve differences in spelling between place names submitted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation those of and the Nez Perce Tribe for a variety of features in Northeast Oregon.

Members Winks and Nitz both expressed concern that the USGNB had not provided the names submitted by the Nez Perce to the CTUIR. It was also mentioned that some Nez Perce proposals appeared to be the same as the CTUIR except for a generic feature descriptor in the Nez Perce language being added, while some of the other Nez Perce alternatives might be the result of English translation of the CTUIR proposal being retranslated into Nez Perce. After much discussion, President Cogswell said that he sensed that there was a consensus for him to inform the USGNB that:

- (1) It formally forward the Nez Perce recommendations to the CTUIR for their comments,
- (2) OGNB withhold recommending one alternative over another until the CTUIR has had a chance to comment.
- (3) USBGN maintain its preference for English generics. (The Board was reminded that the original CTUIR proposals also had the indigenous language generic but CTUIR agreed, at OGNB suggestion, to change to the English generic in accord with the USBGN preference.

(4) Inquiry be made as to the degree that one or another of alternatives has been used historically by the proponent.

Board Executive Secretary Tymchuk reported that President Cogswell had appointed him to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee, which will recommend OGNB officers for 2016-2017. Vice-President Levesque will also serve on the committee.

Secretary Tymchuk also announced that the terms of eight board members expire at the end of 2015. He will be contacting those members to see if they are interested in reappointment.

President Cogswell adjourned the meeting at 4:25.