

**Oregon Geographic Names Board
Minutes of Board Meeting of December 4, 2021
Hatfield Room
Oregon Historical Society
Portland, Oregon**

President Bruce Fisher called the meeting to order at 1:00p.m, and offered an Indigenous Nation land acknowledgement.

The following OGNB Members were present in the Hatfield Room: OGNB President Bruce Fisher, OGNB Vice President Champ Vaughan, OGNB Executive Secretary Kerry Tymchuk, Mary McArthur, Mary Oberst, Doug Decker, Sharon Nesbit, Jeff LaLande, Mike McArthur, Linda Roach

Members of the public present were Mike Meyer and Nicole Meyer

The following OGNB Members were present virtually: Liz Lorenzen, Malissa Minthor-Winks, Bob Hart, Charles Kocher, Mark Flannery, Steve Wilson, Gwen Carr, Paul Levesque, Guy Randles, Jim Meacham, Robert Melbo

OGNB Advisors attending via zoom were: Timothy Nitz, Meredith Carine, Frank Lahm, Corey Plank, Joseph Reyes, Bob Harmon, and Jennifer Runyon

Members of the public present virtually were Susan Meyer, Andrew Meyer, Irving Meyer, Andrew Emlen, Anna Jesse

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Ms. McArthur moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2020 OGNB meeting. Mr. McArthur seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

Interim Committee Report

Mr. Vaughan reported that the agenda items for today's meeting were recommendations moved forward by the Interim Committee in their meeting of June 21, 2021.

New Name Proposals

Knotts Bluff: President Fisher summarized the proposal for naming a previously unnamed feature in Jackson County as "Knotts Bluff." There is a question over whether or not the feature is on private property, and, if so, whether the property owner has been given an opportunity to comment on the proposal. Ms. McArthur moved and Mr. Randles seconded a motion to table action on the proposal until the private property question is resolved. The motion passed without objection.

Otto Creek: President Fisher summarized a proposal for naming a previously unnamed feature in Washington County as "Otto Creek." Mike Meyer, one of the proponents of the proposal,

discussed the reason behind naming the creek for his great grandfather, Otto Meyer, a pioneer of the Tigard area. The proposal is supported by the Tualitan River Keepers and the Tigard Historical Society. No comment was received from the local Indigenous Tribe. Mr. Randles moved and Ms. Roach seconded a motion to forward the proposal to the USGNB with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed without objection.

Ms. Minthorn, President Fisher, Mr. Decker and other members discussed the need for the OGNB to not rely upon the U.S. National Geographic Board to notify Tribes of proposals. It was agreed that the matter would be further discussed by the Interim Committee.

Pronghorn Hot Springs: Vice President Vaughan summarized a proposal for naming a previously unnamed feature in Malheur County as “Pronghorn Hot Springs.” A previous proposal to name the feature “South Harney Lake Hot Springs” was withdrawn by the original proponent, Hank Johnson. All proper notifications had been given, and the proposal is supported by Malheur County and the Malheur Wildlife Refuge. Ms. Nesbit moved and Mr. Levesque seconded a motion to forward the proposal to the USGNB with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed without objection.

Roberts Mountain Pass: President Fisher summarized a proposal for naming a previously unnamed feature in Douglas County as “Roberts Mountain Pass.” All proper notifications had been given, and the proposal is supported by Douglas County and the Oregon Department of Transportation. Mr. Tymchuk moved and Ms. Oberst seconded a motion to forward the proposal to the USGNB with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed without objection.

Fern Creek: President Fisher summarized proposal to name a previously unnamed feature in Washington County as “Fern Creek.” Proponent Anna Jesse spoke of the history and reasons of her proposal. All proper notifications have been given. Mr. Randles moved and Ms. McArthur seconded a motion to forward the proposal to the USGNB with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed without objection.

Albertson Creek: President Fisher summarized a proposal to name a previously unnamed feature in Washington County as “Albertson Creek.” The original proponent of the proposal has not any subsequent contact with the OGNB and has sold the land where the feature is located. Mr. Decker moved and Mr. Meacham seconded a motion to forward the proposal to the USGNB with an unfavorable recommendation. The motion passed without objection.

Lark Island: Proponent Andrew Emlen summarized a proposal to name a previously unnamed feature in Clatsop County as “Lark Island.” The name proposal arises from the number of larks who have made the island their home. All proper notifications have been given. The proposal is supported by the Clatsop County Commission and the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. Mr. LaLande moved and Mr. Tymchuk seconded a motion to forward the proposal to the USGNB with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed without objection.

Origin Creek: Mr. Decker summarized a proposal to name a previously unnamed feature in Tillamook County as “Origin Creek.” Mr. Decker shared photographs of the feature, and explained that the name derives from the fact that the creek is on land where the Tillamook Fire of 1933 originated. Mr. Levesque moved and Mr. Melbo seconded a motion to forward the proposal to the USGNB with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed without objection. Mr. Decker, as the proponent of the proposal, abstained.

Lawanda Hill: President Fisher reported that this proposal was forwarded to us by the USGNB, who had received it from the proponent, Gavin McKay. President Fisher detailed his many efforts to contact Mr. McKay to obtain further details on his proposal. Mr. McKay has not responded to any of those efforts. Ms. McArthur moved and Mr. LaLande seconded a motion to forward the proposal to the USGNB with an unfavorable recommendation. The motion passed without objection.

Replacement Name Proposals

S-Name to Takelma Creek: Mr. Fisher summarized a proposal to rename a S-Name feature in Josephine County as Takelma Creek. The Takelma are a Native American people who originally lived in the Rogue Valley. There was discussion on the fact that there has been a disagreement whether the proper spelling should be “Takelma” or “Takilma.” Mary McArthur reported that the Oregon Geographic Names Book states that both spellings have been used, but that Takelma has been accepted as the preferred spelling. Ms. Nesbit moved and Mr. LaLande seconded a motion to forward the proposal to the USGNB with a favorable recommendation. Mr. Kocher was the only member to vote against the motion.

S-Name to Dumont Butte: Mr. Fisher summarized a proposal to rename a S-Name feature in Douglas County as “Dumont Butte.” The proposal is supported by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. Another proposal to rename the feature as “Ford Mountain” has been withdrawn. There is also a proposal to rename the feature as “Sacagawea Peak.” Ms. Minthorn moved and Ms. Oberst seconded a motion to forward the Dumont Butte proposal to the USGNB with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed without objection.

Chinaman Hat to Bath Hat: President Fisher summarized a proposal to rename a feature in Wasco County as “Bath Hat.” The feature in question is located on BLM land. There was discussion among Mr. Randles, Mr. Wilson, and others whether “Bath Hat” was an appropriate name. It was reported that the proponent of the proposal also is amenable to a different name. Mr. Tymchuk moved and Mr. McArthur seconded a motion to table the proposal until the next OGNB meeting. The motion passed without objection.

Old Business: Ms. Carr had to depart the meeting, but reported that the Oregon Black Pioneers is working on a proposal to replace six derogatory named features with names that honor local Black pioneers. The proposal will be presented to the next meeting of the OGNB Interim Committee.

Idiot Creek to Kindness Creek: Mr. Fisher summarized a proposal to rename a feature in Tillamook County from “Idiot Creek” to “Kindness Creek.” After discussion, Ms. Nesbit moved and Mr. LaLande seconded a motion to forward to the proposal to the USGNB with an unfavorable recommendation. The motion passed without objection.

S_name Creek to Taytay Creek: Mr. Fisher summarized a proposal to rename a feature in Umatilla and Grant Counties as “Taytay Creek.” (Pronounced “tie-tie.”). Ms. Minthorn reported that the proposal will be resubmitted at the next OGNB meeting.

Mr. Fisher urged the board to be aware of any remaining offensive names of Oregon geographic features and to bring them to the attention of the OGNB.

Nomination and Election of Officers:

Mr. Vaughan, serving as Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported the Committee’s recommendation that Bruce Fisher be nominated to serve until December 2023 as President of the OGNB, and that Doug Decker be nominated to serve until December 2023 as Vice President of the OGNB. Mr. McArthur moved and Ms. McArthur seconded a motion to accept this recommendation. The motion passed without objection.

Mr. Tymchuk and others expressed their appreciation for the 27 years of service given to the OGNB by Mr. Vaughan, who will be retiring from the board at the end of 2021.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

A brief discussion was held on the date and location of the next OGNB meeting. It was agreed that President Fisher, Vice President Decker, and Executive Secretary Tymchuk will meet in the near future and provide some options for the date and location of the next meeting, with a preference for June or July of 2022.

Report from Jennifer Runyon: Jennifer Runyon of the United States Geological Service reported on the effort of the USGS to rename some 660 S-named features across the United States, and discussed two recent orders from the Secretary of the Interior regarding new procedures for eliminating derogatory geographic names.

Oregon Geographic Names Book: Ms. McArthur reported on plans for the 8th edition of *Oregon Geographic Names*. Current plan is for the new edition to come out on 2023—the 95th anniversary of the 1st edition.

Adjournment: Mr. Fisher adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.