

**U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Domestic Names Committee**

Seven Hundred and Seventh Meeting
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., Room 7000B
March 12, 2009 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Eric Berman	Department of Homeland Security (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
Robert Bewley	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Chick Fagan	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Bonnie Gallahan	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard)
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey) (Chairman; not voting)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Meredith Westington	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

Lou Yost, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee

Staff

Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Steven Gardner, National Geographic Society

Dr. Aleh Kopach, Minsk University

Michael Shelton, National Park Service

1. Opening

The meeting opened at 9:30 a.m. The Executive Secretary welcomed Dr. Kopach, who is visiting the U.S. as a Fulbright scholar. Dr. Kopach has an interest in the linguistics of placenames, and is spending four months at Eastern Washington University. The members, deputy members, and staff introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of the 706th Meeting

The minutes of the 706th meeting, held February 20th, 2009, were reviewed. In the second sentence of the second paragraph of Item 3.6, the word “is” was corrected to “are.” The minutes were then approved.

3. Communications and Reports

3.1 Chairman's Report (Kanalley)

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) will meet May 5-12, 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Executive Secretary and Chair of the BGN are expected to participate.

Rick Pearsall, formerly of the U.S. Geological Survey and now at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), has requested to make a presentation at the next full BGN meeting on the replacement of the defunct FIPS 10-4 Country codes with an ISO standard.

Kanalley thanked the Special Communications Committee for their efforts to prepare for and staff the BGN booth and the BGN panel at the ESRI-Federal User Conference. Several new contacts were made and all agreed the effort was worthwhile.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

The Tiger Team report on the possible formation of a Senior Steering Group to review the Foreign Names Committee's procedures is now complete but has not yet been released. It is presumed the report will be made available in time for a discussion at the full BGN meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st.

3.3 Communications Committee Report (Westington)

During the first week of March, Westington and Yost attended NOAA's Coastal Geotools Conference in Myrtle Beach. They presented a poster outlining the history of the BGN and its responsibilities. The poster also demonstrated the importance of standardization of official names and the confusion that can result if non-official names are published. The presentation was well received and several new contacts were made.

The aforementioned poster will also be made available for the upcoming National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) Stewardship Conference (mid-April in Denver), and for the U.S. Forest Service-Bureau of Land Management Geospatial '09 Conference, to be held in Utah in late April.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

Yost reiterated the success of the BGN's presence at the Coastal Geotools Conference and noted that two attendees expressed a specific interest, one in the geographic names of Puerto Rico, and the other in the maintenance of Oregon names data.

The Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) Annual Conference will take place in Charleston, South Carolina, September 8-12.

The BGN has received a telephone inquiry regarding the possible naming of a geographic feature in honor of the individuals who served as submariners during World War II. The proponent has not yet identified a specific location or name, but since several of the

intended honorees are still living, the staff asked the Committee whether a name such as Submariners Cove might be in violation of the Commemorative Names Policy. A similar question has arisen because the BGN has received a proposal for Scout Key, to recognize a place frequented by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. After a discussion of the intent of the policy, it was agreed that as long as the name does not mention specific individuals by name, it is not considered strictly “commemorative.”

A question has arisen regarding the correct spelling of the name of the community of La Salle, Illinois. The two-word form was made official by the BGN in 1910, and thus that spelling applies to the populated place. However, the community is legally incorporated as LaSalle, and that form is applied to both the township and county. Yost reminded the Committee that it has retained its purview over the names of unincorporated communities and asked whether the members wish to vote on cases which involve incorporated communities that are also BGN decisions. The Committee responded that the staff should have the authority to resolve these. The staff will update the record in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) to reflect the incorporated name and mark it as a 2009 BGN decision.

Yost recently made a presentation on the BGN and GNIS to representatives of the USGS Science Information and Library Services (formerly Earth Science Information Center).

3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

Runyon welcomed Dr. Kopach to the meeting and noted that he had spent the previous day at the USGS Geographic Names Office, where he had an opportunity to learn about the BGN’s domestic names program and make use of the resources in the placenames library. Dr. Kopach’s dissertation focused on the development of geographic names over time and within a specific locality. During his visit to Reston, he was also able to meet with Randy Flynn and Peter Viechnicki of the BGN’s Foreign Names Committee. This led to a useful discussion of names standardization and the importance of ongoing and future dialogue between the BGN and the Belarusian toponymic community.

Review List 400 has been released, comprising 142 new name proposals. Of these, 73 are from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Omaha District, in an effort to apply new names to unnamed streams and lakes in the Omaha area.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost)

The USGS Geographic Names Office continues actively to encourage and participate in data compilation and stewardship efforts throughout the nation.

3.7 Review of Tribal Consultation Letter (Yost/Runyon)

As was reported last month, the DNC staff has prepared an updated file of Tribal contacts, which will be used to notify each Tribal authority of the availability of the online Quarterly Review List. Prior to the February meeting, the DNC members were given the opportunity via email to review the letter that will be sent to the Tribes. Several edits were incorporated, but it was agreed that further discussion was needed, particularly regarding

how to process proposals for features wholly or partially on lands of Federally-recognized Tribes.

Fagan reported that, after obtaining advice from the Department's Office of the Solicitor, he had further revised the draft letter. A copy was distributed for the members' review. Fagan cited Executive Order 13175's requirements to consult with Tribes and to relate to them on a government-to-government basis, and suggested the BGN should defer to a Tribe when the geographic feature is on lands that are under Tribal jurisdiction. He has had difficulty, however, determining the appropriate wording to characterize the type of jurisdiction that would warrant deference. He believes Tribal authorities should be encouraged to develop their own policies and guidelines, and to submit locally-used names for inclusion in GNIS. The Committee also discussed the need to acquire accurate boundaries of the Tribal lands that would be affected; Fournier indicated the Census Bureau could provide assistance with this effort. After determining that additional research is needed, the issue was deferred to the April meeting.

4. Docket Review (Runyon)

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal. For new names approved at this meeting, the newly-assigned GNIS Feature ID (FID) has been noted following the name.

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Change Murphy Creek (FID 1570038) to Wingra Creek, Wisconsin (Review List 399)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name change.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

The Committee elected to consider the following two proposals separately.

Change Upper Salt Fork Drainage Ditch (FID 420173) to Upper Salt Fork, Illinois (Review List 397)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this change, citing a lack of a compelling reason to change a name in long-standing published use, as well as the divided local opinions on the issue.

Vote: 7 in favor
6 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in support of the State Names Authority.

Change Saline Branch Drainage Ditch (FID 417889) to West Salt Fork, Illinois (Review List 397)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this change, citing a lack of a compelling reason to change a name in long-standing published use, as well as the divided local opinions on the issue.

Vote: 8 in favor
5 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in support of the State Names Authority.

Change Coon Creek (FID 1518048) to Howard Creek or McComb Creek, change Coon Lake (FID 1518050) to Howard Lake or McComb Lake, Washington (Lake Chelan National Recreation Area/Stephen Mather Wilderness) (Review Lists 393, 397)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve any of the proposed changes, citing a belief that the origin of the existing names was not applied offensively and that there is no compelling reason to change names in long-standing published use.

Vote: 11 in favor
2 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in the belief that the existing names could be construed to be offensive, and in support of the National Park Service the names McComb Creek and McComb Lake should be approved.

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Waugaman Mountain, Alaska (Review List 400) (FID 2544496)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Coxtown Run, Pennsylvania (Review List 396) (FID 2544498)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Spring Mountain (FID 1526422) to Ira Spring Mountain, Washington (Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest/Glacier Peak Wilderness) (Review List 400)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this change, citing a lack of a compelling reason to change a name in long-standing use, and the fact that a trail has been named in honor of Ira Spring.

Vote: 7 in favor
6 against
0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in support of the State Names Authority and the U.S. Forest Service.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change Swatara Creek (FID 1189149) (BGN 1932) to Swatara River, Pennsylvania (Review List 397)

A vote on this proposal was deferred after one member requested a more detailed map of the stream.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Mount Vernon Lake, Michigan (Review List 397) (FID 2544497)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

5. Location and Time of Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will be held April 9th, 2009, at the Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., at 9:30 a.m., Room 7000B.

(signed) *Louis A. Yost*

Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED
(signed) *Curtis Loy*

Curtis Loy, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
March 2009

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Change Murphy Creek (FID 1570038) to Wingra Creek, Wisconsin
(Review List 399)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=43.05583&p_longi=-89.3776188&fid=1570038

This proposal is to change the name of Murphy Creek in the City of Madison to Wingra Creek to recognize the name reported to be in local use. It was submitted by the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council (WGNC) on behalf of a local group called Friends of Wingra Creek. The stream was labeled Wingra Creek on Greeley's map of 1854, but since 1904 all Federal maps have named it Murphy Creek. The 1904 USGS topographic map showed only the lower two-thirds of the present-day stream, labeling it Murphy Creek. The upper portion is depicted only as an unnamed marshy area. A recent Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) report notes that channelization of Murphy Creek ("commonly called Wingra Creek") began in 1905.

The 1905 Laws of Wisconsin referred to the stream as Wingra Creek. Fred Cassidy's *Place Names of Dane County* (1947, revised 1968) includes entries for both names; for Murphy's Creek, it states, "A more recent alternate name for *Wingra Cr.*, particularly the lower part. The name appears first in 1904 (USGS, "Murphy Cr."); but it may be connected with J. Murphy, who owned land before 1873 in the nearby NW quarter of sec. 36." The entry for Wingra Creek reads, "[Named] because it carried the off-flow from L. Wingra (and therefore this name is applied today chiefly to the upper part of the creek, whereas the alternate name, *Murphy's Cr.*, is applied chiefly to the lower part.)" A local neighborhood history reports that in 1919, "A dam on Murphy Creek reduces the size of Lake Wingra."

A 2001 USGS factsheet referred to a stream gaging station on Murphy (Wingra) Creek. In 2003, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation described efforts to repair the Wingra Creek Bridge. In 2004, the City of Madison initiated efforts for urban renewal as part of the Wingra Creek Master Plan, and numerous newspaper articles refer to renovation and improvements along the Wingra Creek corridor. Also, in 2004, however, a map of Dane County's electrical system labeled the stream Murphy Creek. In 2005, the Dane County Office of Lakes and Watersheds organized the "Wingra Creek Clean Up." A series of photographs of Lake Wingra and Lake Monona, posted online by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, include the notation, "The lakes are connected by Wingra Creek, also called Murphy Creek." The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, in a 2007 watershed assessment report, labeled the stream Wingra Creek. The Environmental Protection Agency's listings of impaired waters, published during the period 2002 to 2006, named the stream Wingra Creek. The Park Street Cultural Tour described fishing in Wingra Creek. Wingra Creek Parkway runs alongside a portion of the stream.

An article in the *Wisconsin State Journal* in April 2008 referred to fish spawning along Murphy Creek. Wisconsin DNR Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System reports published between 2006 and 2008 label the stream Murphy Creek.

The proponent also believes the change is necessary to avoid confusion with another stream named Murphys Creek in the Town of Dunn, just 8 km (5 mi) south of the stream in question and also within Dane County. The Dane County Land Information Office and the Lakes and Watersheds Division support the proposal to restore the name Wingra Creek. The Madison City Engineer's Office and the Town of Madison also recommend approval of the proposed change, as does the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa, the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake) of the Minnesota Chippewa, the Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Leech Lake Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Mille Lacs Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, the Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, the Sac & Fox Nation, the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota, the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Only the Bois Forte Band and the Red Cliff Band responded, both asking that the BGN issue a decision without their input. The lack of response from the other Tribes is presumed to imply a lack of an opinion.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change Upper Salt Fork Drainage Ditch (FID 420173) to Upper Salt Fork;
change Saline Branch Drainage Ditch (FID 417889) to West Salt Fork, Illinois
(Review List 397)

Mouth:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.1525&p_longi=-88.03194

Source:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.37211&p_longi=-88.16328

Mouth:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.11719&p_longi=-88.05189

Source:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.26636&p_longi=-88.17421

These proposals are to change officially the names of Upper Salt Fork Drainage Ditch and Saline Branch Drainage Ditch to Upper Salt Fork and West Salt Fork, respectively. The two individuals who submitted the change, one of whom is Chief Emeritus of the Illinois State Geological Survey and the other a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at University

of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, believe the existing names should be changed because they are “cumbersome and complex” and because “they fail to relate to the parent stream, the Salt Fork.” In the case of the Upper Salt Fork Drainage Ditch, they also note that usage over the years has been “consistently inconsistent,” ranging from Salt Fork of the Vermilion River on USGS topographic maps published in 1924, to simply Salt Fork on USGS maps from the period 1932 to 1951; and Upper Salt Fork Drainage Ditch from 1957 on. Another USGS map, published in 1984, labeled the feature Upper Salt Fork, as proposed.

The name Saline Branch Drainage Ditch has also appeared on USGS maps since 1957. The proponents believe the name “Saline” causes people to question the salinity and therefore the safety of the water for both recreational and drinking purposes. Prior to 1957, USGS maps labeled the feature simply West Branch, while even earlier ones, dated 1906 and 1918, labeled it Salt Fork. The 1876 *Atlas of the State of Illinois* (Warner and Beers) applied the name Branch of Salt Fork. A Domestic Geographic Name Report, completed by the USGS Mapping Center in 1970 but never submitted to the BGN, noted that local usage was inconsistent, with some referring to it as Saline Branch Drainage Ditch and others using the variant name West Branch Salt Fork. The fieldman did note that the preference was for Saline Branch Drainage Ditch as that was the name used by the USGS Water Resources Division, the Champaign-Urbana Sanitary District, the Urbana City Planning Commission, the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, and others. He also described the feature as “a perennial stream.” USGS maps published in the mid-1980s labeled the feature as both Saline Branch and Saline Branch Ditch. None of these changes on Federal maps appear to have come before the BGN for review.

A search of the Internet indicates the name Upper Salt Fork Drainage Ditch is used by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Sierra Club Prairie Club, and it was also published in a 2001 Riparian Wildlife Habitat report. The Environmental Protection Agency refers to the feature as the Upper Salt Fork River. The Prairie Rivers Network, in an editorial in the Champaign News Gazette, discussed “the Upper Salt Fork River drainage controversy.”

Regarding the second feature, a search of the Internet shows that the predominant usage today is for Saline Branch Drainage Ditch, ranging from the U.S. Attorney’s Office/Central District of Illinois, to a U.S. Forest Service Riparian Wildlife Habitat Evaluation (2001), a Nationwide Urban Runoff Project (1984), and the City of Urbana Planning and Economic Development Division. The majority of these refer to the recent settlement of a case against a local power plant that had discharged wastewater into the local sewer system, killing 100,000 fish in the Saline Branch Drainage Ditch. One online report by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency refers to the feature as Saline Branch Salt Fork. According to the proponents, the proposed name West Salt Fork is short and precise, it retains the original intent of the historical name, and it eliminates much of the confusion surrounding the current name.

The proponents also object to the use of the term Drainage Ditch, which typically refers to a canal, whereas the features in question are “natural streams that for the most part follow the initial stream courses except for minor straightening in places.” They add “the current names...fail to recognize their multi-use purposes (in addition to drainage), e.g. fishing, swimming, boating, water quality improvement, wildlife habitat, etc.” Finally, they add

that “the public perception of a “Drainage Ditch” is different from that of a stream. The former is not an attractive or pleasing term. The [proposed name] also follow the initial intent in the early naming of the streams.”

Letters of support for the proposed changes were received from six local residents. In addition, the City of Urbana, the Board of Directors of the Prairie River Network, the Chief of the Illinois State Geological Survey, the Urbana Park District, the USGS Office of Surface Water in Urbana, the Interim Chief of the Illinois Natural History Survey, and a professor at the University of Illinois Extension Office endorse the proposal.

Letters objecting to the changes were submitted by the Illinois Association of Drainage Districts, the Champaign County Farm Bureau, and eight local residents. In addition, representatives of two of the area’s drainage commissions submitted lengthy arguments against the changes, noting that the proposal stems from ongoing attempts by the Prairie Rivers Network, an environmental group, to prevent maintenance of the features by the local Drainage Districts. One noted, “The applicants are not farmers or landowners who depend upon the Upper Salt Fork Drainage Ditch to be able to raise corn and soybeans for a living. They are offended by the name “ditch” because it is neither poetic nor idyllic.” Further, “Land titles for many thousands of deeds and land documents...refer to these waterways by the current names for a long time... The proposed changes will add confusion and misunderstanding.”

The proponents of the change suggest “there is widespread support for deleting “drainage ditch” from the names of each stream. “Except for the Farm Bureau, the Drainage Districts and related agricultural interests, the comments we have heard have been preponderantly in favor of changing the names.” Assigning the proposed names would “end decades of haphazard naming”; further, “these streams were never called drainage ditches before drainage districts were established,” and “Rivers and streams should not carry the name of any single-purpose political entity like a drainage district. Geographic features should have geographic names.” Finally, “If you call it a ditch, it will be treated like a ditch.” They also indicated that if the preference is to retain the reference to “Saline” in the second proposal, they would be willing to amend the proposed name to “Saline Branch.”

The Champaign County Board of Commissioners responded that they do not believe this is a county issue and declined to offer a recommendation for or against the proposals. The City of Champaign has no objection, but would defer to the county and drainage district commissioners. The Illinois State Geographic Names Authority recommends approval of the proposed changes.

A copy of these proposals was forwarded to the following Federally-recognized Tribes: the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Delaware Nation, the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, Huron Potawatomi, Inc., the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, and the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation. A copy was also sent to the State-recognized Wea Indian Tribe of Indiana. The only response was from the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, expressing support for the proposal.

Change Coon Creek (FID 1518048) to Howard Creek or McComb Creek,
Change Coon Lake (FID 1518050) to Howard Lake or McComb Lake, Washington
(Lake Chelan National Recreation Area/Stephen Mather Wilderness)
(Review Lists 393, 397)

Stream:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=48.3790216&p_longi=-120.8073261&fid=1518048

Lake:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=48.3884653&p_longi=-120.8323269&fid=1518050

These proposals were submitted in an effort to change the names of Coon Creek and Coon Lake, both located in Chelan County and within the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area/Stephen Mather Wilderness, one of the units of the North Cascades National Park. Coon Lake is approximately 15 acres in size, while Coon Creek is 4.8 km (3 mi) long.

The first proposal, to change the name Coon Lake, was submitted by a resident of Seattle who believes the term has become an ethnic slur and so it would be appropriate to change the lake's name to more accurately honor the person for whom it was named. The current name has appeared on Federal maps since at least 1962 and was also on the 1966 Chelan County highway map. It also was listed in the *Geographic Dictionary of Washington* (Landes, 1917) and in Ernest Wolcott's *Lakes of Washington* (vol. II; 1964). It also is mentioned at various National Park Service websites, including one that states, "Coon Lake is the [Stehekin] valley's birding mecca." The proponent's research suggests the lake was named for Wilson Howard, a black prospector who lived in a cabin in the area.

After the change to Howard Lake was approved by the Washington Board on Geographic Names, it was suggested that it would be logical if the names of the lake and stream were consistent and the proponent agreed. A second proposal was initiated to change Coon Creek to Howard Creek. The name Coon Creek has appeared on Federal maps since at least 1978.

The management of the National Recreation Area was asked to comment on the proposals for Howard Creek and Howard Lake. They were able to confirm that two black prospectors did live in the area around 1900 and that Wilson Howard did reside in the Stehekin Valley; however, there is apparently no definitive evidence that the lake and stream were named for him. The Park's preference is to retain the existing names ("they are in common use by local residents, hikers, and backpackers"), but concedes that if they must be changed, new names honoring William McComb would be preferable and counter-proposals for McComb Creek and McComb Lake were initiated. The chief of the Park's Cultural Resources Branch provided an extensive history of the area, including evidence that McComb had been a member of the crew that cleared the first Stehekin Wagon Road on the Stehekin River in 1891. He built two cabins on the north end of Company Creek Road. While McComb apparently left the valley by 1917, his cabin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places." The Park's research also stated the following: "The name Coon Lake is also included in a newspaper article entitled, "A Trip to Horseshoe Basin," dated July 15, 1904. This article also provides an alternative historic meaning for the word "Coon" when it states, "The writer has seen the mines; eaten the trout, both lake and stream... and has tramped and toiled; waded streams and 'cooned' cross them; all in the pursuit of what might be termed sightseeing. In this context, the term "coon" is apparently a way to cross a stream (water) by walking on a log like a raccoon walks across logs." The Park also learned

that an 1892 article published in *The Chelan Leader* referred to the lake as Vroman's Lake, because a miner named Dan Vroman had staked a claim in the area.

The proponent expressed frustration that the NPS proposals were submitted after the State Board had already considered and approved the change to Howard Lake. He also reaffirmed his belief that there was a direct association between Wilson Howard and the features in question.

The Chelan County Commissioners are in support of the changes to Howard Creek and Howard Lake, as are the Chelan County Sheriff's Office (Search and Rescue), the North Cascades Conservation Council, a representative of the Eastern Washington State Historical Society, and seven private citizens. One supporting letter stated, "I have never seen raccoons in Stehekin nor heard of any being seen anywhere near the lake. Whether or not the name of the lake originated as a racial slur, the name fails to describe the lake properly. A name honoring a pioneering resident would be far more appropriate." The State Board also recommends approval of the change to Howard Creek and Howard Lake.

Letters of opposition were submitted to the State Board by the Lake Chelan Historical Society, and six private citizens. The Historical Society suggests the proposal is "an attempt to be politically correct, trying thereby to change the history of the area." A subsequent letter addressed to the BGN by a local resident also expresses opposition to any name change; he reports that according to a volume entitled "*The Stehekin We Remember*," the lake was named by the first forest ranger in the valley, adding "It is very possible it was named for his brothers-in-law, early day prospectors whose last name was Coon." Another letter, addressed to Congressman Doc Hastings by a 30-year area resident and Park concessionaire, objects to the proposal, noting that "in talking to many hundreds of our guests who have visited this lake, I have never heard an objection [to the name]. No one has thought that the lake is inappropriately named."

A copy of the proposals was forwarded to the Stillaguamish Tribe, the Tulalip Tribes of Washington, the Upper Skagit Tribe, the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; no responses were received which is presume to indicate a lack of an opinion.

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Waugaman Mountain, Alaska
(Review List 400)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=63.967222&p_longi=-147.536944

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Waugaman Mountain to a 2,048 m (6,720 ft) summit in the Alaska Range, approximately 65 miles south of Fairbanks. It was forwarded by the Alaska Historical Commission, which serves as the State Names Authority, on behalf of a resident of Fairbanks. The proponent wishes to honor her father, William Waugaman (1915-2003) by naming a summit close to where he lived, hunted, and fished for many years, working as a master guide and owner of Wood River Guides and Outfitters. A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Waugaman moved to Alaska in 1940, where he worked in highway construction. Following service in World War II, he became the general manager for Usibelli Coal Mine, and from 1967 to 1968, he served a one-year term as an

Alaska State Senator. He was also active in the local and State chambers of commerce, the Alaska Miners Association, and the Fish and Game Board, as well as many other civic organizations. He also helped establish the Interior Wildlife Association.

The proposal for Waugaman Mountain included letters of support from the Chair of the Alaska Board of Game; a biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game/Division of Wildlife Conservation; the Publisher Emeritus of the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*; and from six close friends of Mr. Waugaman. An additional letter endorsing the proposal was signed by State Senator Gary Wilken, and State Representatives Jay Ramras and Mike Kelly. A petition with 97 signatures in support of the name was also received. The State Names Authority did not receive any response from Denali Borough, Doyon, Ltd., or the Mountaineering Club of Alaska. The State recommends approval of the proposal.

Coxtown Run, Pennsylvania
(Review List 396)

Mouth:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.52533&p_longi=-79.92747

Source:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.52147&p_longi=-79.91188

The new name Coxtown Run is proposed for a 1.6 km (1 mi) long stream in Allegheny County. The stream heads just inside the Borough of Fox Chapel before flowing west and west-northwest through James O'Hara Park in O'Hara Township to enter Little Pine Creek. The proponent, a member of the O'Hara Township History Book Research Committee, suggests the name would be an appropriate way to remember the long-forgotten community of Coxtown that once existed in the area.

The planned community of Coxtown was one of the many projects undertaken in the 1930s by Father James Renshaw Cox (1886-1950), who hoped to provide housing for the victims of the Great Depression. A graduate of Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, he was ordained in 1911 and during World War I served as a chaplain in France. During the Depression, he organized a food-relief program and helped the homeless and unemployed find shelter. In a report he presented to the State Unemployment Committee in 1930, Father Cox suggested that self-supporting farm communities should be established under the supervision of the State with help and advice from agricultural experts at State College. In 1932, 36 acres were set aside for the creation of Coxtown, and over the next few years homes were built, along with a community hall and a swimming pool. Up to 300 people eventually came to live in the community. Although the project proved to be unsuccessful, due to increasing taxes, building code violations (many of the homes had been built by the unemployed themselves), and sanitation laws, Father Cox was long remembered as Pittsburgh's "Pastor of the Poor." Also in 1932, he led a march of 25,000 unemployed Pennsylvanians to Washington, D.C., hoping to prompt Congress to establish a public works program.

The O'Hara Township Council and the Borough of Fox Chapel Council both passed resolutions in support of the proposal for Coxtown Run. The Allegheny County Commissioners were asked on two occasions to consider the request but no response was received. The Pennsylvania Board on Geographic Names has no objection to the proposal.

A copy was forwarded to the following Federally-recognized Tribe: the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Cayuga Nation of New York, the Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Delaware Nation, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, the Hannahville Indian Community, Huron Potawatomi, Inc., the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, the Oneida Indian Nation, the Onondaga Indian Nation, the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians of Minnesota, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan, the Seneca Nation of New York, the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians of New York, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota, the Tuscarora Nation of New York, and the Wyandotte Nation. Of these, responses were received from the Keweenaw Bay Community, the Oneida Nation, and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, all including they had no opinion on the issue, while the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation and the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe said they had no objection. The lack of response from the other Tribes is presumed to imply a lack of an opinion.

Change Spring Mountain (FID 1526422) to Ira Spring Mountain, Washington
(Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest/Glacier Peak Wilderness)
(Review List 400)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=48.1109427&p_longi=-121.3509433&fid=1526422

The proposal is to change officially the name of Spring Mountain to Ira Spring Mountain, in an effort to recognize the contributions of Ira Spring (1918-2003), noted author and hiker. The summit is located in Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, along boundary of Glacier Peak Wilderness. Although the name Spring Mountain has been applied to USGS topographic maps since 1966, there is no definitive information to explain the origin of the name. It has been suggested the name refers to the presence of springs in the area.

The proposal to rename the summit to Ira Spring Mountain was submitted by the Washington Board on Geographic Names on behalf of a resident of Seattle, whose company published many of Ira Spring's books on the Pacific Northwest. Spring is remembered "as probably the Northwest's best-known outdoor photographer and hiking-guidebook author." In 1966, he co-authored *100 Hikes in Western Washington*, and went on to co-author 64 hiking and outdoor books. According to one online biography, "He made several trips to Washington D.C. to lobby for trail funding, written hundreds of letters, served on planning committees, and given numerous speeches in an attempt to raise awareness of the need for trails and problems associated with their maintenance and funding. He was a co-founder in 1973 of the Washington Trails Association, which now has 5,500 members. He has received national and regional awards for his conservation efforts." As a leader of the Washington Trails Association from its inception in 1970, Spring became president of the organization in 1995. He mentored some of America's best-known climbers, and in 1992, received the President Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award. Approximately 50 miles to the south, in

neighboring King County and also within the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is Ira Spring Trail; this trail was named by the U.S. Forest Service in 2007.

Letters of support for changing the name of Spring Mountain to Ira Spring Mountain were received from seven U.S. Forest Service employees, 11 friends and colleagues of Spring, a representative of a local book publishing company, and the Spring Family Trail Fund. The Snohomish County Historical Society has no objection to the proposal. One letter from an area resident expressed some concern over the renaming, noting that there is already a Sauk name for the summit (Dawh-ugh-e-quod or Duwh-a-gwod, meaning “erosion on the creek, slides into creek”); she suggests the name Spring Mountain may have been applied because of some unique characteristics of the local climate that cause snows to melt earlier than in surrounding areas, thus resulting in spring-like weather. The Washington Board on Geographic Names forwarded the proposal to the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe but no response was received. The State Board and the U.S. Forest Service recommend approval of the proposed change to Ira Spring Mountain.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change Swatara Creek (FID 1189149) (BGN 1932) to Swatara River, Pennsylvania
(Review List 397)

Mouth:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.18537&p_longi=-76.7324

Source:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.68413&p_longi=-76.36479

This proposal is to change officially the name of Swatara Creek, a name made official by the BGN in 1932, to Swatara River. This 97 km (60 mi) long stream heads on Broad Mountain in Schuylkill County before flowing generally in a southwesterly direction through Lebanon County and Dauphin County to enter the Susquehanna River at Middletown. The watershed of Swatara Creek covers an area of approximately 570 square miles, within 46 municipalities and four counties. “Swatara” is an Indian word that is reported to mean “Where we feed on eels.” The name Swatara Creek has appeared on Federal maps since at least 1908, and was mentioned in various publications as early as 1794 (*The Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania 1682-1801*) and also in 1846 (*History and Topography of Dauphin, Cumberland, Franklin, Bedford, Adams and Perry Counties*; Rupp).

The proponent of the change represents the Swatara Creek Watershed Association; she believes that because of the size and significance of the feature, it should more accurately be named a River. According to a recent newspaper article on the proposed renaming, “The Swatara Creek may have missed out on being named River of the Year for the state, a recognition that could bring more money for improvements along the waterway. It’s very important. It is a river.” In 1999, the Environmental Protection Agency designated the Swatara Creek Watershed in Lebanon County as its newest green community, thus recognizing the Watershed Association’s efforts to “work cooperatively with State agencies to address acid mine drainage problems, restore streambanks, and monitor water quality.” There are five USGS streamflow gaging stations on Swatara Creek. A search of the Internet yields a few references to the stream as Swatara River, ranging from a historical account of settlement in Schuylkill County in 1755, to a report on internal navigation in the U.S. published in 1830, and a summary of legal decisions rendered in the U.S. prior to

1869. Henry Gannett's 1905 volume *The Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States* referred to the stream as The Great Swatara River.

A copy of this proposal was forwarded to the governments of 41 local municipalities. Letters of support were received from the Lebanon County Commissioners, Lebanon County Conservation District, the Berks County Conservation District, the North Londonderry Township Board of Supervisors, the Palmyra Borough Council, the Swatara Township [Dauphin County] Board of Supervisors, the Pine Grove Township Board of Supervisors, the Borough of Jonestown Council, the City of Lebanon, and South Lebanon Township. State Senator Mike Folmer and Representative Mauree Gingrich expressed support for the proposal, as did the a representative of the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs/Pennsylvania National Guard at Fort Indiantown Gap.

Letters objecting to the change were submitted by Derry Township, South Hanover Township ("If it ain't broke, don't fix it. We will not benefit anything from the change and somebody will have to spend a lot of money to change a lot of maps"), Lower Swatara Township, North Annville Township ("the costs associated with changing the name on signs, maps, and other documents"), Swatara Township [Lebanon County] ("because of longtime local use for Swatara Creek and perceived adverse effect on local businesses"), and the Middletown Borough Council. The BGN staff also received a telephone call from a local resident who is opposed to the change, adding "the proponent is being self serving." One other letter of objection was received from a local resident.

The Borough of Royalton Council said it had no objection to the change, while the West Hanover Board of Supervisors and North Lebanon Township responded that they had no opinion. The Pennsylvania Board on Geographic Names has no objection to the proposed change.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Mount Vernon Lake, Michigan (Review List 397)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=42.78023&p_longi=-83.08667

The new name Mount Vernon Lake is proposed for a five-acre lake in Washington Township in western Macomb County. The proponent suggests the name is appropriate, as the lake lies alongside Mount Vernon Road. Approximately 4 km (2.5 mi) to the south is the small community of Mount Vernon, as well as Mount Vernon United Methodist Church and a small stream named Mount Vernon Drain. The proponent reports that his four neighbors, who also own property adjoining the lake, all support the proposal. The Washington Township Supervisors submitted a letter of support for the proposal, while the Macomb County Board of Commissioners did not respond to two requests for input. The Michigan State Geographic Names Authority also has not responded to three letters; the final request indicated that a lack of response would imply a lack of objection.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Huron Potawatomi, Inc., the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Ottawa

Tribe of Oklahoma, the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, the White Earth Reservation, and the Wyandotte Nation. Of these, only the Keweenaw Bay Community responded, stating they had no opinion on the issue. The lack of response from the other Tribes is presumed to also imply a lack of an opinion.