

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
 Seven Hundred and Forty-Third Meeting  
 Department of the Interior, Room 7000B  
 July 12, 2012 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Doug Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office (Chairman) (not voting)
Bruce Johnson	Library of Congress
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Sean Killen	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard)
Curt Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
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

Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey (by teleconference)  
 Jane Messenger, U.S. Geological Survey (by teleconference)  
 Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey  
 Greg Winters, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Cadet Mike Zwiefel, U.S. Military Academy  
 Alma Ripps, National Park Service  
 Stephanie Rosa, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

1. Opening

The meeting opened at 9:38 a.m. The Chair announced he would not be voting, except in the case of a tie. Members and guests introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of the 742<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

The Minutes of the 742<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Domestic Names Committee, held June 14, 2012, were approved as submitted.

### 3. Reports

#### 3.1 BGN Chairman (Logan)

An email vote recently took place for two Advisory Committee on Undersea Features proposals. Both names were approved. It was noted that voting by email is somewhat cumbersome and that the Executive Committee might wish to address the issue in the BGN's by-laws.

Logan attended the annual meeting between the BGN and the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, held at the Royal Geographical Society in London from 25-29 June. General principles of toponymic standardization were discussed, with emphasis on Romanization of Arabic and Persian languages. A total of 70 papers were presented, with Logan presenting one on the proposed revisions to the *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* (PPP) document and another prepared by Kanalley on the draft interim Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names. The PCGN requested a paper on American Library Association standardization tables for the next BGN-PCGN meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for October 2013 in Washington DC.

The next meeting of the BGN is scheduled for July 17 at 1:30 p.m. at the Department of the Interior.

The regular August meeting of the DNC will not take place in lieu of the off-site meeting scheduled for August 20-22 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. The meeting will open with the usual monthly reports and a docket, after which an in-depth review of the *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* will take place. The members were reminded that if they have any outstanding PPP issues that need to be addressed to give them to Logan. He and Runyon will meet at USGS in the next week to finalize the meeting agenda.

Johnson noted that a meeting of the Cherokee Tribal Council is to be held on July 13, at which the Library of Congress Romanization table for the Cherokee language is to be endorsed.

#### 3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Yost)

Yost reminded the committee that the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) will hold its next five-year conference in New York City from July 31 to August 8. Members and staff should contact Leo Dillon as soon as possible to arrange for UN clearance.

#### 3.3 Communications Committee Report (Westington)

The Communications Committee did not meet during the reporting period.

Fournier announced that as a result of his participation at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meetings, he accepted an offer to contribute a chapter on government gazetteers and name authorities for a book that is to be a part of the Indiana University Press Spatial Humanities series.

### 3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

The DNC staff recently received an inquiry from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea regarding the June 2012 decision by the DNC to approve the name Mount Chosin Few. The Embassy questioned the spelling that was approved, to which they were informed that the DNC would likely only reconsider the issue if the original proponent requested it do so.

Yost also reported receiving a letter from Gregg Smith of Grant County, Oregon regarding the ongoing issue of "squaw" name changes. The letter will be shared with the DNC members for their review.

As has been previously reported, the DNC has received two proposals to apply a new name to an unnamed barrier island in Brevard County, Florida. Yost announced that a third proposal has been received, to apply the name Coacoochee Island. Once again, letters have been sent to the county and the seven jurisdictions on the island, seeking their input. Yost reminded the DNC of the timing of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in Florida (in 2013) and suggested that an action be considered to forestall the submission of last-minute proposals. A motion was made and seconded, then withdrawn. It was decided that this issue would be continued for further discussion at the off-site meeting in August.

Fournier also questioned the policy whereby the DNC will accept proposals submitted by foreign nationals. It was agreed that this issue should also be addressed at the August meeting.

### 3.5 Staff Report (Runyon/Winters)

Winters reported on the progress of a new proposal that has been received to name four small islands in the Potomac River. This is a counter-proposal to four names that were submitted previously. Both sets of proposals have been considered by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Federal agencies involved, and the names are pending before the State names authority.

### 3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost)

Yost reported that planned changes to the process whereby administrative features are collected and maintained by the USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) would be presented to the DNC for its consideration, likely in September. Mark DeMulder, DOI member to the BGN and chief of the NGP, has requested that if other Federal agencies need certain types of administrative features to be maintained, that these should be communicated at the time of the presentation. Several members reaffirmed that having one centralized repository for geographic names for Federal use avoids a duplication of effort and eliminates confusion.

### 3.7 Special Committee on Native Names and Tribal Consultation (Kanalley)

Kanalley reminded the members that the Special Committee would meet later in the day. The approved interim draft of Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names was presented to the Department of

the Interior's Office of the Solicitor for Indian Affairs for comment. Several changes were recommended, including the method for determining Tribal lands.

#### 4. Docket

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 **Buffalo Peak** (FID 1138882) to **Buffalo Rock**, Oregon (Willamette National Forest) (Review List 410)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:           10 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

Change **Meadows Road Number 1 Lake** (FID 2652009) to **Artillery Lake**, **Calvary Lake**, and change **Meadows Road Lake Number 2** (2652010) to **Stryker Lake**, Alaska (Fort Wainwright) (Review List 410) (FID 2729345)

A motion was made and seconded to consider these three proposals as a group.

Vote:           10 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to approve the two changes and the one new name.

Vote:           10 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

### **II. Disagreement on Docketed Names**

Change **Fivemile Creek** (FID 151770) to **Five Mile Creek**, Alabama (Review List 391)

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove this change, citing longstanding usage of the current form of the name and the negative recommendation of the State Names Authority.

Vote:           6 in favor  
                  5 against  
                  0 abstention

The vote was 5-5 so the Chairman voted to break the tie.

**The Rose of Our Lady Pond**, Connecticut (Review List 408)

A motion was made to disapprove the name, citing the negative recommendation of the State Names Authority. There was no second so the motion was withdrawn. A motion was then made and seconded to defer a decision, with a request that the proponent be asked if she would be willing to shorten the name.

Vote:           10 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  0 abstentions

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

**Zahniser Woods**, Pennsylvania (Review List 407)

A motion was made and seconded to disapprove this new name, citing a belief that the extent of the feature was not clearly defined and that the name could be construed to honor a living person.

Vote:           5 in favor  
                  4 against  
                  1 abstention

After further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to reconsider the decision and to continue to review the proposal.

Vote:           8 in favor  
                  0 against  
                  2 abstentions

A motion was then made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote:           5 in favor  
                  4 against  
                  1 abstention

**IV. Revised Decisions - none**

**V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties - none**

5. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV.

(signed) Louis A. Yost

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Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) Tony Gilbert

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Tony Gilbert, Chairman  
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE  
DOCKET  
July 2012**

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

Change **Buffalo Peak** (FID 1138882) to **Buffalo Rock**, Oregon  
(Willamette National Forest)  
(Review List 410)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p\\_lat=43.8945675&p\\_longi=-122.2864313&fid=1138882](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=43.8945675&p_longi=-122.2864313&fid=1138882)

This proposal is to change the name of Buffalo Peak, located in the Willamette National Forest in Lane County, to Buffalo Rock, in order to establish a generic term that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) believes is more appropriate, and to recognize local use. The feature in question is a roughly rectangular-shaped 18-acre intrusive basaltic rock outcropping, which according to the proponent, acquired its name because, “From certain vantage points its shape and texture is reminiscent of a reclining buffalo, as the upper edge is rounded and has irregularities suggesting an American bison’s head, shoulder hump, mane, and haunch.”

The proposed name Buffalo Rock is listed in GNIS as a variant of the official name, Buffalo Peak, having been compiled from a 1990 Forest Service visitors’ map. The proposed name is also found on USFS maps dating from 1964 to 1990 and in a local forest dispatch guide. Buffalo Peak has appeared on U.S. Geological Survey maps since 1923, as well as USFS maps since 1990.

The proponent states, “Apparently it has been long-time convention in this locality to name large volcanic outcrops “Rocks,” regardless of their orientation on the landscape. He adds, “Within a 20 mile radius of the Oakridge/Westfir, Oregon community you can find (in addition to Buffalo Rock) Deception Rock, Krueger Rock [sic], Baby Rock, Montieth Rock, Young’s Rock [sic], Steeple Rock, Dome Rock, Little Dome Rock, Lighthouse Rock, and Verdun Rock. The latter four Rocks are high points on long, high ridges; all the others occur generally on mid slopes. In general, it seems nonsensical to call an outcrop feature a “peak” when there is higher terrain immediately above the feature.”

The Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) recommends approval of the name change. The OGNB contacted the Lane County government and the Lane County Historical Society, but no responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The OGNB also forwarded the proposal to the Oregon Indian Legislative Commission on Indian Services, which in turn shared it with all tribes with an interest in Oregon. Only the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon responded, noting they have “no issues with the proposed name change.”

There are nine features in Oregon with “Buffalo” in their names, however none are located in Lane County and only the feature in question is classified as a summit.

Change **Meadows Road Number 1 Lake** (FID 2652009) to **Artillery Lake**, Alaska

(Fort Wainwright)

(Review List 410)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p\\_lat=63.8705556&p\\_longi=-145.8169444&fid=2652009](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=63.8705556&p_longi=-145.8169444&fid=2652009)

This is the first of three proposals submitted by the Directorate of Public Works at Fort Wainwright, a U.S. Army base, to apply names to three lakes in the Donnelly Training Area. The proponent submitted the proposals as new names, and all were approved as such by the Alaska State Names Authority. However, two of the three features already have names in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). GNIS lists the feature proposed as Artillery Lake as Meadows Road Number 1 Lake. This name was added to GNIS in 2010, having been collected from a list of lakes compiled by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG).

The proposed name Artillery Lake would recognize the Army artillery units that utilize Donnelly Training Area and are located on Fort Wainwright. Although the ADFG is the source for the current name, they support the proposed change.

As part of its research, the Alaska Historical Commission (AHC), which serves as the State Names Authority, contacted Doyon, Ltd. and the Native Village of Tanacross Village Council, both of which are Federally recognized, for their opinions. Neither group responded, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The City of Delta Junction has no objection to the proposal, while the Delta Junction Chamber of Commerce has no opinion. One local resident also expressed support for the name. The State Names Authority recommends approval, as does the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

GNIS lists no other geographic features in Alaska with the word “Artillery” in its name.

**Cavalry Lake**, Alaska

(Fort Wainwright)

(Review List 410)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=63.866392&p\\_longi=-145.81276](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=63.866392&p_longi=-145.81276)

This is the second of the three proposals submitted by Directorate of Public Works at Fort Wainwright to apply new names to lakes in the Donnelly Training Area. Unlike proposed Artillery Lake (q.v.) and Stryker Lake (q.v.), this lake is not listed in GNIS. The proposed name Cavalry Lake would recognize the presence of cavalry units at Fort Wainwright which also utilize the training area. The proponent requests that the lake be named so it may be referenced in brochures and fishing guides for the public.

The proposed name is supported by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while the City of Delta Junction has no objection. Doyon, Ltd. and the Native Village of Tanacross Village Council

did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Delta Junction Chamber of Commerce has no opinion. The State Names Authority recommends approval, as does the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. GNIS lists no other features in Alaska with the word “Cavalry” in their name.

Change **Meadows Road Number 2 Lake** (FID 2652010) to **Stryker Lake**, Alaska  
(Fort Wainwright)  
(Review List 410)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p\\_lat=63.87&p\\_longi=-145.8136111&fid=2652010](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=63.87&p_longi=-145.8136111&fid=2652010)

This is the third proposal submitted by the Directorate of Public Works at Fort Wainwright. This 5.2-acre lake, proposed to be named **Stryker Lake**, is already listed in GNIS as **Meadows Road Number 2 Lake**. As in the proposal for **Artillery Lake** (q.v.), the current name was collected from a listing of lakes compiled by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG).

The name “Stryker” originates from U.S. Army units that utilize the eight-wheeled Armored Fighting Vehicle named “Stryker”. Fort Wainwright is home to the 1/25<sup>th</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

The AFDG supports the proposed name, while the City of Delta Junction has no objection. Doyon, Ltd. and the Native Village of Tanacross Village Council did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Delta Junction Chamber of Commerce has no opinion. The State Names Authority recommends approval, as does the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. GNIS lists no other features in Alaska with the word “Stryker” in their name.

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change **Fivemile Creek** (FID 151770) to **Five Mile Creek**, Alabama  
(Review List 391)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p\\_lat=33.6606611&p\\_longi=-87.0105526&fid=151770](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=33.6606611&p_longi=-87.0105526&fid=151770)

This proposal is to change the name of **Fivemile Creek** in Jefferson County to **Five Mile Creek** to recognize current and historical usage. The stream in question is 43 miles long and is located north of Birmingham.

According to one report, even though the actual stream is much longer than five miles, the stream’s name “refers to the distance from a pioneer-era crossing in Center Point.” A resident of Center Point who was interviewed for an oral history project about the creek measured the distance from the Ruhama School to a spring at Spring Lake, and found the distance to be exactly five miles.

The one-word form of the name has appeared on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1906; however, the proponent reports it should be spelled “Five Mile” as that is the form in widespread present-day and historical use. The proponent represents the Five Mile Creek

Greenway Partnership, a community-based preservation group dedicated to restoring and improving the quality of the stream. She provided a list of numerous historical sources that used the name Five Mile Creek throughout the 19th century, ranging from Henry Tanner's 1823 map of Alabama and Georgia to the Engineers of the U.S. Army map (1896) and John Miller's map of Jefferson County (1897). The 1882 General Land Office map and an 1891 map by the Geological Survey of Alabama also recognized the two-word form.

Other evidence of more recent usage of the name Five Mile Creek includes the website of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (2003); a 2004 press release from the office of Senator Shelby; the Environmental Protection Agency's "Adopt a Watershed" program; the Five Mile Creek Action Committee's reports; the Alabama Rivers Alliance; a report by the Birmingham Historical Society from 1981; and a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers information study from 1971. Others include the Freshwater Land Trust, the Southeastern Water Trails Forum, a local canoe club, In 2004, the Black Warrior-Cahaba Rivers Land Trust signed "a Memorandum of Agreement with six municipalities—Birmingham, Center Point, Tarrant, Fultondale, Brookside, Graysville—and other organizations to establish a greenway and parks system along the Five Mile Creek stream." In May 2012, the City of Tarrant hosted a Five Mile Creek Festival, during which a new park was dedicated along the stream. 5 Mile Creek Road [sic] runs for a short distance alongside the stream.

USGS continues to use the one-word form, as do the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the Alabama Environmental Management Commission (2003); the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (2005); the Alabama Department of Transportation; and the Birmingham Regional Redevelopment Task Force. Several organizations use both names interchangeably and some even abbreviate it "5 Mile Creek." A 1935 novel entitled *Black Earth*, by Thomas Rowan, referred to the stream as Five-Mile Creek. The Historic American Buildings Survey described a historic coal mine as "north of Five Mile Creek Bridge" and a bridge as "spanning Five Mile Creek E of Main St."

The Jefferson County Commission approved the proposal, but the Alabama State Names Authority does not support it, stating, "We recommend retaining the current BGN and USGS topographic map usage of 'Fivemile Creek.' It should be noted that 'Five Mile Creek' is an accepted variant (and we have no objection to this informal usage).... As outlined in the case summary, 'Five Mile Creek' is of historic usage, and the selection of 'Fivemile Creek' for use on the USGS topographic maps was presumably intentional." As part of its research, the State Names Authority The governments of the City of Hoover, the City of Birmingham, and the City of Vestavia Hills were asked for comments but did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the Alabama Department of Transportation have no objection to the proposed change, while the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources and Alabama Department of Fisheries oppose it, wishing to retain the current one-word form.

The National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service were asked for an opinion, but gave no official recommendation as the stream is not located on Federal lands. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) both have no opinion, although the FWS did express

some concern since the proposed name would be inconsistent with Sixmile Creek in the one-word form. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama, which is Federally recognized, was asked to comment but did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

In addition to the stream in question, there is a second stream in Jefferson County which is also named Fivemile Creek. It is located just to the southwest of Birmingham, and is a tributary of Valley Creek. At their closest, the two streams are 16 miles apart.

**The Rose of Our Lady Pond**, Connecticut  
(Review List 408)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=41.5475481&p\\_longi=-72.0577061](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=41.5475481&p_longi=-72.0577061)

This proposal is to apply the new name The Rose of Our Lady Pond to a 0.1-acre lake located on private property owned by the proponent. According to the proponent, the pond was restored in 2004 to be used as a retention area for flooding. She reports that the previous owners informed her that the original pond became a swamp after a hurricane in 1938.

The proposed name was chosen because the City of Norwich is often known as “the Rose of New England,” and the proponent also intends to have an area for peace and prayer. She adds, “Our nation’s greatest Marian Shrine is located in Washington, DC and dedicated to the Patroness of the US – the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Our Lady of the Guadalupe in Mexico is known as the Queen of the Americas. Dedications to our Lady is [sic] a very common practice.”

The Connecticut State Names Authority (SNA) contacted the Town of Norwich government, which supports the proposal. The Town Historian was unable to locate the pond on any historic maps of the area, and did not find evidence of any existing name. As such, he recommends honoring the owner’s request in naming the pond. However, the SNA recommends disapproval, citing BGN Policy IX: *Long Names*, and noting, “There was general discussion about the consideration of such a long name and the potential mapping implications of a long name for a small. Due to the size of the pond, the Board felt that the length of the name as proposed was excessive. There was general agreement that the Board recommends a shorter name be assigned to the pond, especially with consideration to cartographic issues.”

The SNA also contacted the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut and the Mohegan Indian Tribe of Connecticut, both of which are Federally recognized. The Mohegan Tribe responded as having no opinion, and no response was received from the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, which is presumed to indicate no opinion.

According to GNIS and internet searches, there are no churches with the name “Our Lady” or “Rose” in the Town of Norwich.

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

#### Zahniser Woods, Pennsylvania

(Review List 407)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=41.2665174&p\\_longi=-80.4687810](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=41.2665174&p_longi=-80.4687810)

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Zahniser Woods to an approximately 15-acre area of oak and maple trees located on the north side of the Shenango River in western Mercer County. The woods straddle the boundary between the City of Hermitage and South Pymatuning Township. The name would honor Dale C. Zahniser (1908-1996), who purchased the property in 1942 and lived there from 1945 until his death.

The proponent, whose last name is also Zahniser, states, “Mr. Zahniser was a farmer and typewriter repairman who was also active in his church. He dropped out of high school in 10th grade to work his dad’s farm so his brothers could attend college.”

This proposal was docketed in April 2012, but was deferred pending a request for additional research by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The original proposal comprised woods of approximately 20 acres, extending partially into the USACE-managed Mahaney Recreation Area. However, the proponent amended the proposal to exclude this area, which decreased the proposed area to approximately 15 acres. Following the amendment, USACE stated it has no opinion on the proposal as the feature does not include USACE lands. However, one USACE employee observed that while a portion of the property was purchased for the construction of the dam, “there are homeowners and landowners within the proposed area other than the Zahnisers.”

The Manager for the City of Hermitage and the Supervisor of South Pymatuning Township both support the proposal. The Mercer County Commissioners responded that they have no opinion. The Pennsylvania State Names Authority has no objection. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no Federally recognized tribes with an interest in Mercer County.

### IV. Revised Decisions - none

### V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties - none