

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**

Seven Hundred and Forty-Seventh Meeting

Department of the Interior, Room 7000A

November 8, 2012 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Jon Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Lee Fleming	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Monique Fordham	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
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)
Patrick Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Joseph Marinucci	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Doug 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

Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Greg Winters, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Kathryn Crane, NOAA

Paul Holeva, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mark Webb, Grant County (Oregon) Court

Lauren Weinhold, NOAA

1. Opening

The meeting opened at 9:34 a.m. The Chair announced he would not be voting, except in the case of a tie.

2. Minutes of the 746th Meeting

The Minutes of the 746th meeting of the Domestic Names Committee, held October 11, 2012, were not ready for distribution prior to the meeting. The committee agreed to review the minutes and provide comments to staff in the next few days.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Logan)

The full BGN met on October 23rd and discussed the issue of commemorative naming by the advisory committees on Antarctic and undersea features. Following a further review of the material provided by the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names, the proposed name Tuttle Point was approved.

A review of the bylaws, which were last revised in 2007, is currently underway. The BGN Executive Committee will meet on November 20th to discuss whether a further revision is needed. Once they are approved by the BGN, the bylaws will be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for concurrence.

Logan reported that he hopes to begin his preparation of an annual report to the Secretary of the Interior shortly.

The next quarterly meeting of the full BGN will take place at the Library of Congress on January 15th, 2013.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Yost)

No report.

3.3 Communications Committee Report (Westington)

The Communications Committee did not meet during the previous month. Caldwell reported on the ongoing concerns regarding third-party software promulgating unofficial names.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

Yost informed the Committee that he met with Mark DeMulder regarding the policy recently implemented by the USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) regarding the maintenance of administrative features in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). DeMulder is preparing a response to the Committee to address its concerns with the policy. The letter is expected to ask individual agencies to identify which features they require to be maintained in GNIS. There is also an increased emphasis within the NGP on volunteered geographic information, although it is necessary to prioritize which data will be collected. The Committee continues to emphasize the need to be able to query GNIS for variant names. One member questioned the procedures by which non-recorded administrative names are added to GNIS, and whether such names could be used on Federal products. It was reiterated that any name on a Federal product must be in GNIS. Yost reported that an implementation plan is being developed. It was suggested that this issue should be considered as a topic for discussion at the next Council of Geographic Names Authorities conference.

3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

The BGN has received four additional proposals from Grant County, Oregon, to change the names of features that contain the word "squaw." Runyon reported that a representative of the Grant County Court was in attendance at the meeting and would be addressing the issue under item 3.9.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

No report.

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

Kanalley reported that the Special Committee would be meeting following the DNC meeting to discuss which authoritative sources would be used to determine tribal lands and how this would be reflected in Policy X.

Fordham reported that there is still no update on the status of the tribal consultation list that the Department of the Interior was asked to develop in response to the newly approved DOI Tribal Consultation policy.

3.8 Update on Revision of Principles, Policies, and Procedures (Logan)

The latest revisions to Appendices D and E were distributed and Logan provided an overview of the proposed changes. Comments were received and incorporated into the latest draft. There are still 16 issues pending in the PPP document (including the aforementioned appendices), so Logan will meet with the DNC staff in the near future to address those.

Johnson reminded the Committee that he had recently distributed a proposed Roman character set. He has received some feedback. The Committee needs to decide whether the information should be incorporated into the PPP or provided as a separate document at the BGN website.

3.9 Oregon “Squaw” Name Changes (Runyon/Webb)

Runyon provided a status report on the “squaw” name changes in Oregon and noted that several counterproposals have been received in response to the existing proposals that were submitted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). To date, 13 such proposals have been received, for 15 “squaw” names in Grant County. She then reintroduced Mark Webb, Grant County Judge, who spoke previously to the Committee at its April meeting.

Webb thanked the Committee for once again allowing him to address the members with Grant County’s concerns. He indicated that he was unaware that the counterproposals would be forwarded to the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB), although he is also aware that State input is an integral part of the BGN’s review process. His primary concern is the belief that the OGNB’s efforts are motivated solely by a misunderstanding of the Oregon Statute that stipulated only that names should be changed on State and local, not Federal, lands, and only that native names should be considered. He also noted that the legislation did not provide guidance as to how replacement names should be solicited. The Grant County Court is concerned that the counterproposals will be “dismissed” by the OGNB just as they did the few proposals for non-native names previously submitted by the County. He contends that the names suggested by residents of the county have merit. In closing, he urged the Committee to evaluate the names on their merits and asked that they consider the difference in interpretation of the legislative intent.

Several of the members thanked Judge Webb for attending the meeting to share his concerns, noting that his presentation helped clarify some of the issues that are still pending. Yost reminded the Committee that State legislation is not binding on the Federal Government and that in accordance with the BGN’s policies anyone who considers a name to be offensive may propose a change. In response, Webb noted that the OGNB will be compelled to comply with the legislation, which necessarily will influence its decisions. Kanalley also noted that the State legislation was initially passed in 2001, with further revisions in 2003, but that it had languished for almost a decade until the CTUIR submitted the name change proposals. Runyon reported that the OGNB had met on November 3rd and agreed to consider the counterproposals. Given the need to re-contact all interested parties, it is unlikely that the OGNB will have its recommendation to the Committee until next summer.

Other members assured Judge Webb that the Committee will evaluate all proposals fairly and equitably, and will make an informed decision, but also that there is an increased emphasis on the recognition of native cultures. Some also noted that it could be argued that the native names are “contrived” but also that the names proposed by the county are also “contrived.”

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 **Wabee Lake** (FID 445445) to **Waubee Lake**, Indiana (Review list 409)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 10 in favor
4 against
1 abstention

The negative votes cited a lack of a compelling reason to change the name, particularly one that has long been applied to a Coast and Geodetic Survey marker.

II. Disagreement on Docket Names

Bristol Creek, North Carolina (Review List 406)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing a lack of local and State support and concerns that the name was proposed for commercial reasons.

Vote: 13 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The member voting against the motion expressed a belief that the name was simply associative.

Change **Mill Branch** (FID 2703264) to **Hippie Creek**, North Carolina (Review List 407)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name change, citing a lack of local and State support.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to affirm the name **Mill Branch** as a 2012 decision.

Vote: 14 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

Coacoochee Island, Florida (Patrick Air Force Base) (Review List 411)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing a lack of local consensus on the proposed names and a lack of evidence that there was any direct association between Chief Coacoochee and the island.

Vote: 15 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Ponce de Leon Island, Florida (Patrick Air Force Base) (Review List 410)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing a lack of local consensus on the proposed names.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
3 abstentions

Ais Island, Florida (Patrick Air Force Base) (Review List 409)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name, citing a lack of local consensus on the proposed names.

Vote: 8 in favor
7 against
0 abstentions

A member voting against the motion cited the appropriateness of the name, suggesting it would be a suitable way to acknowledge the Ais Indians who once inhabited the area.

As a result of the three negative votes, the barrier island remains officially unnamed.

One member left the meeting.

Change **Negrohead Mountain** (FID 1406907) to **Tl'oo Hanshyah Mountain**, Alaska (Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Arctic National Wildlife Refuge) (Review List 410)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
1 abstentions

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties - none

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Bamboo Island, New York (Review List 409)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision on the proposal, citing the need to solicit input from the Shinnecock Tribe. Although the tribe was not listed in the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database at the time the case brief was written and as such was not contacted, it was noted that the tribe recently achieved Federal recognition and so as a courtesy it would be appropriate to consult them.

Vote: 13 in favor
2 against
0 abstentions

Note: this proposal was erroneously listed under Category I on the docket, and as such there were 15 voting members present at the time of the vote.

At this point, another member left the meeting.

Glen Run, Pennsylvania (Review List 411) (FID 2742358)

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

Vote: 13 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Another member left the meeting.

5. Other Business

A motion was made and seconded to approve Appendix D and Appendix E of the PPP, with a few amendments, including a revision to the definition of “transcribe.”

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Shelton and Gilbert offered to conduct an editorial review of the entire PPP document prior to its submission to the Secretary of the Interior.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held December 13, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior.

(signed) Louis A. Yost

Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED
(signed) Tony Gilbert

Tony Gilbert, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee

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

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

Change **Wabee Lake** (FID 445335) to **Waubee Lake**, Indiana
(Review List 409)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=41.3895528&p_longi=-85.8306219&fid=445335

This proposal is to change the name of Wabee Lake, a 187-acre lake in Kosciusko County, to Waubee Lake. The existing name has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1952, having been collected and verified during field investigation in 1949. The 1952 map also showed the Wabee triangulation station, a survey benchmark located and identified by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (USC&GS). A sign on nearby State Route 15 also uses the name Wabee Lake.

According to the proponent, the lake has been known locally as Waubee Lake “for more than 70 years,” although it is occasionally referred to as Milford Lake, presumably in reference to the nearby community of Milford. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources both refer to Waubee Lake in water quality assessment reports, and at least one USGS aquatic species report also uses the spelling “Waubee.” The Kosciusko County Visitors’ Bureau, the Waubee Lake Association, and a Christian camp that has been on the lake since 1925 also use the proposed spelling. The proponent further states, “Some of the older folks that have grown up here [state] that there was a Pottawatomie [sic] camp on the East side of the lake.... I am sure that the word Waubee comes from the Indian language as there are many names that begin with Wau-be. These name[s] appear in treaties that were signed between the tribes and the states.” Several web sites indicate that “wau-be” translates to “white.” The National Geodetic Survey confirmed in 1997 that the USC&GS benchmark was still extant and stamped “WABEE 1947.” The NGS report did not provide any information regarding the origin of the name.

The Kosciusko County Commissioners and Director of the Kosciusko County Historical Society were asked for a recommendation, but did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, and the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, all of which are federally recognized, were also asked to comment. None responded, which is also presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The Indiana State Names Authority has no opinion on the proposal.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Bristol Creek, North Carolina (Review List 406)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=35.7721608&p_longi=-78.6906481
Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=35.7792114&p_longi=-78.6860776

This proposal is to apply the new name Bristol Creek to a 0.6-mile-long stream that flows into an unnamed tributary of Walnut Creek in Wake County, just inside the corporate boundary of the City of Raleigh.

The proposal was submitted by the project manager for a local realty company which recently completed construction of a new apartment complex close to the stream. The complex is named Bristol Creek Apartments. After confirming with the Wake County Environmental Services that the stream is unnamed, it was suggested that Bristol Creek would be an appropriate name for the stream.

The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names (NCBGN) contacted the government of the City of Raleigh and the Wake County Commissioners, but neither had an opinion on the proposal. The NCBGN does not support the proposal, stating, “[We] followed the USBGN/GNIS principle of denying proposed changes [sic] linked with commercial developments in the naming of natural features. The NCBGN also based its recommendation on the Board’s decision to deny a 2010 request (Moody Lake in Mecklenburg County) that linked the rationale to the name of a commercial development.” According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Wake County.

Change **Mill Branch** (FID 2703264) to **Hippie Creek**, North Carolina (Review List 407)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=36.4802778&p_longi=-81.4766667&fid=2703264

This proposal is to change the name of Mill Branch, a 1.8-mile-long tributary of the North Fork New River in Ashe County, to Hippie Creek. The proponent, an artist and self-proclaimed hippie, wishes to name the stream to reflect her way of life. When asked about the proposed name she responded, “The stream brought me to my knees when I saw it. I’m a hippie.”

The Ashe County Commissioners do not support the proposal, noting that they had contacted other local property owners who agreed that the locally used name has long been Mill Branch (this name was not recorded previously in GNIS but was added after the County provided published evidence to support local use of the name; as such, the proposal was processed as a name change rather than a new name for an unnamed feature). The North Carolina Board on Geographic Names also opposes the proposal, citing the lack of local support and the usage of an existing name for the feature. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Ashe County.

There are no other geographic features in North Carolina known to contain the word “Hippie” in their names. Only one record in GNIS has “Hippie” in its name, a populated place in Texas named Hippie Ridge.

Ponce de Leon Island vs. **Ais Island** vs. **Coacoochee Island**, Florida (Patrick Air Force Base) (Review Lists 409, 410, 411)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=28.1307333&p_longi=-80.5833435

These three names have been proposed in an effort to apply a name to a 37-mile-long unnamed barrier island in Brevard County. The name Ponce de Leon Island would honor Spanish explorer Don Juan Ponce de Leon

(c.1460-1521), who led the first European expedition to Florida and reportedly landed at the barrier island in 1513. The name Ais Island would honor the Ais Indians who inhabited the coast of Florida until the 1700s. The name Coacoochee Island would honor Seminole chief Coacoochee (c.1812-1857).

The initiative for naming the island Ponce de Leon Island began in February 2011. The proponent sought support from the government of Brevard County and numerous municipal governments located both on and off the barrier island. Several of the governments passed resolutions in support of the name, although at that time no formal proposal had yet been made to the BGN.

In response to reports that the Ponce de Leon Island would be proposed, a proposal for Ais Island was submitted to the BGN in October 2011. Over the next couple of months, several of the local municipalities rescinded their support for Ponce de Leon Island, although they did not specifically object to the proposal nor endorse any other name. The BGN received a formal proposal for Ponce de Leon Island in January 2012. The application included letters of support from Florida State Senator Darren Soto, the Florida Hispanic Achievers Grant Council, the Florida Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, United Third Bridge, Inc., and Illinois State Senator William Delgado. A Certificate of Support from the Secretary of Santervas de Camopos (Valladolid) of Spain, reportedly the birthplace of Ponce de Leon, was included with the proposal. The proponent also forwarded resolutions of support from the City of Cocoa and the City of Rockledge. The City of Cocoa and the City of Rockledge are not located on the barrier island.

BGN staff then contacted each of the municipal governments asking them to clarify their position, and to make each aware of both proposals. In May 2012, a proposal for Coacoochee Island was received from The Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal People, a group that is not federally recognized. The governments located on the barrier island were again contacted for their recommendation on the three proposals.

Of the municipalities on the island, City of Melbourne and Town of Melbourne Beach recommend the proposed name Ponce de Leon Island. The Director of the Museum of Old Town, located in Melbourne Beach, also recommends Ponce de Leon Island.

The municipalities of Brevard County, City of Cape Canaveral, Town of Indialantic, City of Indian Harbour Beach, City of Cocoa Beach, and City of Satellite Beach, along with the Brevard County Historical Society, recommended that the island be left unnamed.

The Seminole Tribe of Oklahoma and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, both of which are federally recognized, were contacted for a recommendation on the three names. The Seminole Tribe of Oklahoma supports Coacoochee Island, while the Seminole Tribe of Florida supports Ais Island.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission have no opinion on the three proposals. The Department of Defense, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, and the Florida State Board on Geographic Names also have no opinion.

The United Confederation of Taino People, the International Indian Treaty Council, the American Indian Association of Florida, the Director of the Geneva County Historical Society/Museum, and the Guabancex-Wind and Rain Society do not favor the Ponce de Leon Island proposal but did not indicate a preference for any other name.

The Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples and the Pan-American Indian Association favor the proposal for Ais Island.

Over 160 public comments were received regarding the proposals: two support the Ponce de Leon Island proposal, 11 recommend leaving the island unnamed, 80 support Ais Island, 76 oppose Ponce de Leon Island but indicated no preference, and one supports Coacoochee Island.

Change Negrohead Mountain (FID 1406907) to Ti'oo Hanshyah Mountain, Alaska
(Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge/Arctic National Wildlife Refuge)
(Review List 410)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=66.775&p_longi=-142.5452778&fid=1406907

This 2,803-foot summit is located in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area and straddles the boundary between the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The proponent reports that an early name for the feature included the pejorative form of Negro, although no published evidence to support that has been found. In the mid-1950s the name was first applied to USGS topographic maps as Negrohead Mountain. This proposal is to change the name to Ti'oo Hanshyah Mountain to recognize the longstanding locally used indigenous name. The word “Ti'oo Khanshyah” is of Lower Tanana Gwich'in origin and is reported to mean “grass tussocks.”

The Alaska Historical Commission (AHC), which serves as the State Names Authority, solicited comments from the Chalkytsik Tribal Village Council, the Chalkytsik Native Corporation, the City of Fort Yukon, the Canyon Village Traditional Council, the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments, the Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation, all of which are federally recognized. The AHC also contacted the Alaska Native Language Center, the African American Historical Society of Alaska, and Black Coalition, Incorporated. No response was received from these organizations, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. Doyon, Ltd. responded that they had no objection to the change. The Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government (formally Native Village of Fort Yukon) endorses the change, as does the AHC. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service endorses a change to the existing name but has expressed a preference that the descriptive parenthetical “(Tussocks)” be added. The AHC disagrees with the proposed amendment.

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties – none

IV. Revised Decisions – none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Bamboo Island, New York
(Review List 409)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.650055&p_longi=-73.341615

This proposal is to apply the new name Bamboo Island to an eight-acre unnamed island located in the Great South Bay of Suffolk County. According to the proponent, the island was created by channel dredging, and rises about 4 feet above high tide. The island is a popular destination for boaters and campers. Tall bamboo plants cover about a third of an acre on the island, with much of the edge of the island covered in tall trees and brush. The proponent describes the rest of the island as “mostly clear.”

The Suffolk County Executive, the Supervisor of the Town of Babylon, and the Director of the New York Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation were all contacted for recommendations on the new name, but none responded, which is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion. The New York State Committee on Geographic Names has no objection. The U.S. Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have no objection, while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has no opinion. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in

Suffolk County. According to GNIS, there are no other geographic features in New York known to contain the word “Bamboo” in their names.

Glen Run, Pennsylvania
(Review List 411)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.489&p_longi=-75.66465

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.46897&p_longi=-75.66182

This proposal is to make official the name Glen Run for a 1.5-mile-long tributary of Little Lehigh Creek in Longswamp Township in Berks County. The name was approved by a resolution of the Longswamp Township Board of Supervisors in 1994, but only recently brought to the attention of the BGN by a cartographer with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation who noted that the name is not listed in the Geographic Names Information System. According to the township resolution, the name was suggested by several residents of the township and was intended to be included in the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program.

The Longswamp Township Supervisors have affirmed their support for the name, while the Berks County Commissioners responded that they would defer to the township on the matter. The township clerk determined that the name refers to the valley, or glen, through which the stream flows and is not commemorative. The Pennsylvania Board on Geographic Names has no objection to the proposal. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Berks County.

There are nine other features in Berks County with the word “Glen” in their names; none are streams and the closest is approximately 12 miles away. There is one stream in Pennsylvania already named Glen Run; it is in neighboring Chester County, 40 miles from the stream in question.