

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Seven Hundred and Thirty Fifth Meeting
Department of the Interior, Room 7000B
November 10, 2011 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office (Chairman-Elect)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard) (Chairman)
Patrick Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land 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

1. Opening (Logan)

The meeting opened at 9:40 a.m.

2. Minutes of the 734th Meeting

The Minutes of the 734th meeting of the Domestic Names Committee, held October 27, 2011, were not ready for distribution, so the staff will provide a copy by email, with a request that the Committee review them and provide comments by email.

3. Rotation of Chair (Yost)

Logan thanked the Committee and staff for their support during the past year of his chairmanship. Yost then announced that Tony Gilbert, member from the Government Printing Office, would assume the position of Chairman effective immediately. Gilbert thanked Logan for his dedication and service to the Committee, particularly his efforts and diligence toward completing the revision of the Principles, Policies, and Procedures document. He asked Logan if he would be willing to continue the effort, to which Logan responded he would. The new Vice Chair of the Committee is Mark DeMulder, representing the Department of the Interior. Yost reminded the Committee that Logan is the new Chair of the full BGN, while Doug Caldwell (Department of Defense/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) will assume the role of BGN Vice Chair.

Gilbert noted that he had recently uncovered a copy of a 1994 BGN Romanization guide, which illustrates the fact that the issue has been of interest to the BGN for many years.

4. Communications and Reports

Due to the short period between the last DNC meeting and this one, there were no routine reports at this meeting. In addition, there was no docket.

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

The Special Committee met in late September at the Department of the Interior and continued its review of the draft Native Names Policy. The Committee is very close to completing its review, and in order to present a draft copy to the DNC at its December meeting, Kanalley requested one additional meeting before then. She offered the afternoon of Tuesday, November 29th at the Forest Service building in Rosslyn, and will email the members to confirm their availability, either in person or via WebEx.

The Committee continues to wait for the final version of the Department of the Interior Consultation Policy, and therefore can only develop a draft policy of its own. Once complete, the policy will be presented to the newly-appointed Tribal Governance Officer (TGO) for review, comment, and guidance regarding tribal consultation.

The Committee is in agreement that native names in Alaska are covered by Policy X, and that Hawaiian names will be addressed outside the policy. It was clear from the presentation on tribal consultation that was given at the recent Council on Geographic Names Authorities conference that there is a lack of understanding and some confusion regarding the BGN's approach to the issue.

4.2 Reports for the Good of the Order (Yost)

The BGN reappointment letters for the 2011-13 term have left the Department of the Interior and should be at the respective departments and agencies for signature. Kanalley announced that the Department of Agriculture will likely have a new member for the upcoming term.

5. Review of Council of Geographic Names Authorities Annual Meeting (Yost/Logan)

Those members who attended the COGNA annual conference agreed it was a successful meeting. The program focused on issues related to native names, with several presentations on Alaskan, Hawaiian, and South African names. The DNC meeting was well received, as were the DNC presentations on the status of the *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* and the Special Committee on Native Names and Tribal Consultation. These led to interesting interaction, both during the sessions and offline, with various conference attendees. Following the DNC meeting, the attendees were given the opportunity to analyze the DNC's decisions which led to a discussion of the Wilderness Policy.

6. Principles, Policies, and Procedures (PPP) Review (Logan)

The proposed edits to Policies VIII: Variant Names and IX: Long Names were presented for review and comment. After considerable discussion and a number of revisions, the policies were approved by the Committee. Logan will distribute a revised version to those committee

members who are not in attendance. Policies XI: Protected Names and XII: Commercial Names will be presented for review at the December meeting.

7. Other Business

Questions have been raised regarding what constitutes a variant name, most notably when previously non-recorded and presumably “created” names are offered as a “compromise” to a proposed name. It was agreed that the DNC needs to address the issue, so it will be on the agenda for the December meeting.

8. Closing

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held December 8th, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the Main Interior Building, Washington, D.C. in Room 7000B.

(signed) Louis A. Yost

Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED
(signed) Tony Gilbert

Tony Gilbert, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee