U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Seven Hundred and Fifty-second Meeting
Department of the Interior, Room 7000B
May 9, 2013 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Eric Berman	Department of Homeland Security (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
Douglas 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)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest 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)
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park 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
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

1. Opening

The meeting opened at 9:35 a.m. The Chair announced he would not be voting, except in the case of a tie.

2. Minutes of the 751st Meeting

The Minutes of the 751st meeting of the Domestic Names Committee, held April 11, 2013, were approved with one typographical correction.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Logan)

On April 29th, Logan provided the DNC's written response to USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) Director Mark DeMulder regarding the NGP Data Lifecycle Management Plan (DLCMP). He distributed a copy of the letter to the members. Yost reported that a response from DeMulder is being drafted.

The BGN held its quarterly meeting on April 16th at NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring. The next meeting is scheduled for July 16th at the Census Bureau in Suitland.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

Reappointment letters for the next two-year term (Oct. 1, 2013 – Sept. 30, 2015) have been prepared and are under review by the USGS before being transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior.

The BGN's revised bylaws were recently submitted to and reviewed by the NGP. Yost provided the NGP's editorial comments to the BGN Executive Committee. It has been determined that the bylaws will not require review by the USGS Office of the Director, and may be transmitted directly from the BGN Chair to the Secretary of the Interior.

BGN and GNIS staff have received a number of requests for GNIS Feature IDs, a requirement of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant submission process. This is the fourth year of the program.

An article was published recently in *The Charlotte Observer* regarding the ongoing Negro Head Creek/Salem Creek controversy. Despite the BGN's approval in 1985 of a proposal to change the name of the stream in Union County to Salem Creek, older topographic maps (printed in the 1970s and not revised until 2010) continue to show the former name. The name also continues to appear at several USGS and EPA web sites and on local and State products. As a result, a North Carolina State Legislator has introduced a bill asking that the BGN change the name. An explanation of the process and the BGN's responsibilities regarding geographic naming was provided to the legislator's staff. As a result of the media and legislative interest, a briefing paper is being prepared for the Secretary of the Interior. Yost noted that this provides an opportunity for the Secretary to be made aware of the ongoing issues regarding the use of official names on Federal products.

BGN staff member Greg Winters has announced his resignation from the Geographic Names Office, effective in early June. Yost suggested it may be possible to detail someone into the position.

3.3 Communications Committee (Westington)

The Special Committee met in April for the first time in four years. Lengthy discussions focused on several action items, including a new BGN factsheet authored by Caldwell; the BGN web site and logo; potential outreach activities; and ways to promote the BGN despite budgetary and resource constraints. Westington thanked Fournier for providing a list of upcoming geographic and geospatial meetings at which the BGN might promote its mission. Changing the location of future DNC meetings to other member agencies was also discussed.

The next meeting of the Special Committee is scheduled to take place the morning of the next BGN quarterly meeting, at the Census Bureau on July 16th.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

Yost thanked the DNC members for responding to the request for input on the DLCMP and reported that their feedback had been incorporated into the response sent to DeMulder. NGP is now reviewing the list of feature classes to determine which agencies could provide and maintain the data. As an example, the various Federal land management agencies would maintain campgrounds on their property; however, campgrounds on non-federal lands would no longer be maintained.

The BGN has received a significant number of proposals from geography students at the College of DuPage (Illinois). The proposals are the result of a class project that asked the students to review the BGN's policies and locate an unnamed geographic feature that the student believed should be named. Some of the

proposals were well-researched, with correct geographic coordinates and a valid justification for the name, while others have required additional investigation. The DNC members expressed concern that given limited BGN staff resources, the project will prove challenging to process. It was suggested that if the class wished to conduct a similar project in the future, the students could nominate several names, then have the class vote (through a "mock BGN"), resulting in just one proposal being submitted to the BGN. Several members commented that the class project might prove to be an educational opportunity for others, and might be of interest to the Association of American Geographers.

The Annual Conference of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) was held in Minneapolis during the previous week. Because of the Federal sequester and travel restrictions, it was the first conference since 1977 that did not include a DNC meeting, typically held in conjunction with the conference. Kanalley was the sole BGN member in attendance. She provided a summary of the conference. Despite the absence of the BGN, its staff, and the USGS liaisons, the hosts put together an excellent program and many toponymic issues were discussed. The U.S. Forest Service had several representatives, many of whom participated in a panel discussion regarding the handling of geographic names issues in their regions and how they interact with State Names Authorities. During the State/Federal Roundtable, it was mentioned that more interaction between BGN voting members and COGNA was desired, and so Kanalley asked the members to review their agency's partnership opportunities with COGNA. Plans are underway for COGNA 2014 in Austin, Texas. It is expected that the conference will provide a greater focus on training and workshops.

3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

NOAA and the Louisiana Geographic Names Board have been working together to identify bays and islands in the Gulf of Mexico that no longer exist, as a result of coastal erosion and hurricane activity. These features are being made historical in GNIS. This effort was highlighted as a good relationship between the BGN, its member agencies, and a State Names Authority.

The proponent for Phoenix Cove, a new name for an unnamed bay in Massachusetts, was not able to garner local or State board support for his proposal, and so he has withdrawn the proposal.

Gilbert reported receipt of several emails from Mr. Gregg Smith of Oregon related to the ongoing "squaw" name changes, and noted that he has replied.

Reporting on behalf of Jon Campbell, Runyon announced that on May 9th, *Time* magazine is publishing an in-depth article announcing the release by Google of a large collection of USGS Landsat data. The data is being made available in a time-lapse format covering the period from 1984 to the present.

Media attention regarding the South Dakota "negro" and "squaw" name changes is continuing.

In April, Runyon gave a presentation on the BGN and GNIS to the Fairfax Genealogical Society that was well-attended.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

Hawaii GNIS data revision was expected to be complete by the end of the week. The USTopo program is experiencing issues rendering some diacritics. New Jersey data was expected to be completed shortly, followed by Florida, Washington, and Montana.

GNIS staff conducted a meeting with the Census Bureau regarding vector data derivation problems. The issue of erroneous counties appearing in GNIS records classified as "civil" seems to have been resolved but other issues remain.

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

Kanalley reported that a briefing paper on Interim Policy X was undergoing review.

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 **Negro Pond** (FID 1458689) to **Mud Pond**, Vermont (Review List 413)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision on this name change, citing concerns that the proposed name would violate the Duplicate Names Policy and lead to confusion.

Vote: 7 in favor
3 against
0 abstentions

The vote against the motion cited a belief that there was not a sufficient reason to defer a decision. The staff was instructed to contact the State Names Authority to discuss the DNC's concerns.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Emerald Lake, Alaska (Review List 413) (FID 2747216)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Langenbaum Lake** (FID 437619) to **Langenbahn Lake**, Indiana (Review List 411)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Rio Run Creek, Missouri (Review List 412) (FID 2747267)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 8 in favor

2 against
0 abstentions

The votes against the motion were made in deference to the State Names Authority, which did not recommend approval of the name due to the use of three generic terms.

Change **North Beach** (populated place) (FID 1342688) to **Corpus Christi Beach**, Texas (Review List 410)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this change, citing the lack of local and State Names Authority support.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Soap Lake** (FID 1508485) to **Lake Smokiam**, Washington (Review List 404)

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

Vote: 9 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

Wayback Brook, Washington (Review List 406) (FID 2747217)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 8 in favor
1 against
1 abstention

The negative vote was cast in the belief that the name could be considered commercial.

Kanawaha County, West Virginia Names (Review List 410)

A motion was made and seconded to consider the names as a group. The motion passed 10-0-0. A motion was then made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the docket and proceed to a vote. The motion passed 10-0-0.

A motion was made and seconded not to approve **Angel Fork**,**Big Bend** ,**Browns Creek**, **Coal River**, **Chestnut Point**, **Dry Ridge**, **Falls Creek**, **Gore**, **Indian Head**, **Smith Creek**, and **Thomas Branch**, citing the lack of county and State Names Authority support.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

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

Change **Little Matterhorn Peak** (FID 1435876) to **The Pfeifferhorn**, Utah (Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests/Lone Peak Wilderness) (Review List 410)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions – none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Heroes Lake, Michigan (Review List 410) (FID 2747256)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

City of Wentzville, Missouri Names (Review List 412)
A motion was made and seconded to consider the names as a group. The motion passed 10-0-0. A motion was then made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the docket and proceed to a vote. The motion passed 10-0-0.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the names **Crossroads Creek**, **Fountains Creek**, **Great Oaks Creek**, **Legion Creek**, **Lower Peine Creek**, **Peine Ridge Creek**, **Progress Creek**, and **Wilderness Creek**. (FIDs 2747261, 2747263, 2747264, 2747265, 2747266, 2747270, 2747271, 2747272)

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Platinum Falls, Oregon (Review List 412) (FID 2747257)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 10 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

5. Other Business

Shelton wished to express, both personally and on behalf of the DNC, appreciation for Winters' fine work over the years. The DNC thereupon gave Winters a warm round of applause.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held June 13, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior, Room 7000B.

(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
May 2013

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

Change **Negro Pond** (FID 1458689) to **Mud Pond**, Vermont
(Review List 413)
http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=44.7492006&p_longi=72.0242635&fid=1458689

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Pond, a 17-acre lake in the Town of Westmore in Orleans County, to Mud Pond. The lake was labeled Nigger Lake on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps between 1919 and 1951. Later maps did not apply any name to the feature, until the new USTopo map was published in 2010; on this map, the name Negro Pond was shown. This is the name listed currently in GNIS.

The proposal to change the name from Negro Pond was initiated after the BGN staff received an inquiry from a representative of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI). This individual had been asked by a local resident to determine the lake's official name because she had submitted a proposal to the State to change the name several years ago and yet it still appeared as Negro Pond on Federal maps.

After further research, it was determined that in 1994 the Vermont Legislature had passed a bill to name the lake Taylor Lake. All references in the bill referred to the lake only as "Unknown Pond" (presumably because it was unnamed on existing maps). Several years later, the BGN staff received a copy of the bill from the Vermont State Names Authority, along with a notice that the State supported the name Taylor Pond. BGN staff requested additional information, specifically who had initiated the proposal, who "Taylor" was, and whether the local municipalities had been consulted. The State responded that in 2003 the Legislature had passed a second bill that voided the 1994 decision, apparently at the request of the property owners. The Legislature did not designate a new name for the lake. This was the last communication on the matter until the recent inquiry from the VCGI.

Subsequent research conducted by the Westmore Town Historian uncovered an 1800 survey map of Westmore, on which the lake was named Mud Pond. The current property owners also knew the lake as Mud Pond and suggested that that name should be made official. The State Names Authority (SNA) concurs with this recommendation and supports the proposed change. The SNA reports also that a notice was sent to the Town of Westmore Selectmen regarding the matter, and no objection was received.

GNIS lists 28 other lakes in Vermont named Mud Pond. Ten are in Orleans County, with the closest within four miles. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Orleans County.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Emerald Lake, Alaska
(Review List 413)
http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=61.6022222222222&p_longi=-149.481944444444

This 35-acre lake, located just outside the corporate boundary of the City of Wasilla, is proposed to be named Emerald Lake. According to the proponent, "The name Emerald for the lake comes from the name of the division-Emerald Hills, but it is more than that. Just think about Emeralds, they are a precious gem, expensive and beautiful with an intense green color. Emerald is also a color that can be described as a vibrant shade of green as seen in the seas and mountains. Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle and Seattle is known as the Emerald City. Emerald is a name that is held in high esteem and evokes rich and strong feelings." A letter of support from a former resident mentions "We swam, fished, and played along the 'emerald' shore."

The proponent submitted three letters of support for the name, as well as one in opposition. The local newspaper published an article about the lake naming issue and received several responses. Three residents suggested another name. One stated "We were told by the Mommsen's [sic] the lake has always been known as 'Mommsen Lake.'" Two others stated the name should be Robinette Lake. A representative of Mat-Su Health Services, which owns a facility on the shore of the lake, stated, "If the lake were to be named, we would oppose the lake [to] be named Emerald Lake and support the name to be Robinnette [sic] Lake after the original homesteaders of the land encompassing the lake, or Mommsen Lake after the family that owned the land for so long and donated the land to the Agency."

The Alaska State Geographic Names Board contacted Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the City of Wasilla, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc., an Alaska Native Corporation. The Borough passed a resolution stating, "Whereas, over the years the lake has been referred to by locals by different names, but has had no recognizable official name …notification of the proposed name and a request for comments was mailed to residents surrounding the lake and it was published in the Frontiersman Newspaper …. [the Borough] recommends approval of the proposed name Emerald Lake." The City of Wasilla and Cook Inlet Region, Inc., did not respond to a request for comments, which the State Board presumes to indicate a lack of an objection to the name.

The State Board allowed six months for other names to be submitted but did not receive any other proposals. According to the State Board's meeting minutes, its members noted "the proposal was not for a commemorative name, and the names suggested by several of the people who commented on the proposal were commemorative. Members said they [would] act on the proposal before them." The State Board recommends approval of Emerald Lake.

Change **Langenbaum Lake** (FID 437619) to **Langenbahn Lake**, Indiana
(Review List 411)
http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=41.172568&p_longi=-86.482188&fid=437619

This 42-acre lake, currently named Langenbaum Lake, is located along the boundary between Starke County and Pulaski County. According to the proponent, it was named for her grandfather, Peter Langenbahn (1816-1881), who emigrated from Bavaria, Germany, settled on the shores of the lake around 1870, and farmed approximately 120 acres. The original house and land were located near the lake. Both *McCormick's Guide to Starke County or a Past and Present View of Our Territory* (1902) and Ball's *Northwestern Indiana From 1800 to 1900 or a View of Our Region Through the Nineteenth Century* (1916)

indicate the lake's name was Lake Langenbahn, while noting that it was formerly known as Lake Rothermel.

The Starke County government responded that it had no opinion on the proposed change, but did note that the county historian and county genealogist had found that the preponderance of evidence indicated the correct spelling was Langenbahn.

The Pulaski County Commission responded that it did not support the proposal, but did not provide any reason. When the BGN staff asked for clarification, the county did not respond. The North Bend Township and Township of Tippecanoe did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Indiana State Names Authority has no objection to the change.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, the Hannahville Indian Community, the Forest County Potawatomi Community, and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Oklahoma, all of which are federally recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Rio Run Creek, Missouri
(Review List 412)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8323090183&p_longi=-90.8479402712
Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8271271196&p_longi=-90.8411596468

This is the first of nine names submitted by the Missouri Board on Geographic Names (MOBGN) on behalf of the City of Wentzville, which sponsored a "Name-that-stream" contest to apply names to unnamed streams in the community. The city hopes that establishing official names will "encourage conservation." The other eight names are listed under Category V, as new names agreed to by all interested parties. This is the only name on the list that the MOBGN does not support (a ninth proposal was deferred by the MOBGN pending a need for further clarification).

This 0.6-mile-long stream is proposed to be named Rio Run Creek because of its proximity to Mexico Road. The St. Charles County government has no objection to the name. However, the MOBGN does not support it because the name is comprised of three generic terms. The Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, which is federally recognized, was asked to comment on the proposal. The tribe did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Change **North Beach** (populated place) (FID 1342688) to **Corpus Christi Beach**, Texas
(Review List 410)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=27.8211373&p_longi=-97.3902699&fid=1342688

This proposal is to change the name of the unincorporated community of North Beach to Corpus Christi Beach, in order to reflect the name that the proponent claims is in predominant local usage. The proponent manages a vacation cottage rental business in the community and claims the existing name is confusing to visitors; she also believes a name change would help local businesses market their location. Finally, she notes that the name Corpus Christi Beach was approved in 1959 by a resolution of the City of Corpus Christi. In 2012, the City Council approved the Corpus Christi Beach Master Plan.

The community is located within the City of Corpus Christi in Nueces County. It sits on a peninsula connected to the rest of the city by the Harbor Bridge and to mainland to the north by the Nueces Bay Causeway. The beach itself is already named Corpus Christi Beach and is listed as such in GNIS. State highway signs on roads leading to the area point to Corpus Christi Beach. Vacation web sites refer to "Corpus Christi Beach hotels." The name of the beach is not in dispute.

The Handbook of Texas, a publication of the Texas State Historical Association, notes that in the early twentieth century the community was known as Rincon or Rincon Point, although it also was "sometimes referred to as North Beach." The community was first labeled on USGS topographic maps in 1951 as North Beach, the name found to be in local use at the time. NOAA charts showed the feature but did not apply a name until 1991, after which it has been labeled North Beach.

The city's 1959 resolution stated "The residents thereof are now desirous of changing the name of such area. The portion of the City of Corpus Christi, Texas, lying north of the ship channel of the Port of Corpus Christi and encompassing all of Brooklyn Addition and the Beach Hotel Addition and the same is hereby officially known as 'Corpus Christi Beach.'"

In 2007, the Corpus Christi Beach Association recommended to the City Manager that the name of Corpus Christi Beach (the community) "be changed back to its original name North Beach." After several years of marketing studies, the City abandoned the effort due to the high cost of new signage, new maps, and other updates. The proponent cites the results as evidence that the name Corpus Christi Beach is the name preferred by the city. It seems the city was unaware at the time of the 1959 resolution.

In 2009, the City Council approved a resolution (submitted by the same individual as this proposal) proclaiming that the name Corpus Christi Beachwalk would be applied "to the promenade and sidewalks and adjacent areas along Corpus Christi Beach."

The proponent of the change to Corpus Christi Beach contacted the BGN to question the continued use by the Federal Government of the name North Beach despite the city's approval and usage of Corpus Christi Beach. As she noted, "The old locals that like to call it North Beach are not the ones we are marketing to." She was informed that the official name for Federal use is North Beach and that subsequent phone calls to the city government had confirmed that.

In response to the BGN staff's inquiries, the City passed a resolution in July 2012 rescinding the 1959 action and reinstating the name North Beach.

When asked to comment on the proposal, the Nueces County government responded that it supported the change to Corpus Christi Beach but did not elaborate further. However, the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors' Bureau, the Watershore and Beach Advisory Committee, Lexington Museum on the Bay, the Texas State Aquarium, and the Corpus Christi Beach Association do not support the proposed change. All recommend that the name North Beach be retained. The Texas State Names Authority also recommends disapproval of the proposal.

The U.S. Coast Guard has no objection to the proposed change. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA both responded that they have no opinion. The U.S. Postal Service noted that they have found no compelling reason to add Corpus Christi Beach as an alternative mailing address but would do so if the city requested it. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Nueces County.

Change **Soap Lake** (FID 1508485) to **Lake Smokiam**, Washington
(Review List 404)
http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=47.4048627&p_longi=-119.4986471&fid=1508485

This proposal is to change the name of Soap Lake, a lake in Grant County, to Lake Smokiam. One of the two proponents (who passed away in February 2013) was one of the region's foremost writers on tribal history; his proposal states "The indigenous people named the lake about eleven or twelve thousand years [ago]. The name was changed by Euro-Americans coming to the Soap Lake area before the beginning of the 1900s. This act would be the repatriation of the lake's name to the Indians." He reports that he has worked closely with the area's tribal people for many years and that many of them support efforts to restore the native name.

According to one Soap Lake web site, "Nestled beneath majestic basalt cliffs and rim rock slopes at the southern end of the lower Grand Coulee in Eastern Washington is a tiny inland sea noted for its mineral rich water and creamy black mud. At the turn of the last century, Soap Lake was one of the most well-known mineral spas in the country. Before the development of sulfa drugs and penicillin, Soap Lake and spas at Saratoga Springs, New York, White Sulfur, West Virginia and Hot Springs, Arkansas were Meccas for the treatment of disease, illness and injury." The Wikipedia page for Soap Lake describes it as a "meromictic lake"; that is, "one that has layers of water that do not intermix." Further, "The lake gets its name from the naturally occurring foam that gives its water a soapy appearance and because the lake's mineral-rich waters have a slick, soapy feel. Soap Lake's mineral-rich waters have long been thought to have medicinal value. In fact, it is said that rival Indian tribes would call a truce when they came to Soap Lake to relax and heal themselves and their animals. This is verified by recorded history and the number of Indian artifacts found in the area over the years."

Robert Hitchman, in his book *Place Names of Washington* (1985) states, "Claims that it contains 21 chemicals and is useful for medicinal purposes are strengthened by the Indian name, which meant "witch doctor." A previous name, *Sanitarium Lake*, was given because a number of these establishments were sprinkled along the shores."

The name Soap Lake has appeared on Federal maps since at least 1924, and is on the Grant County highway map and in various Washington placename books dating back to 1917. The proposal is limited to the name of the lake; the proponent did not ask that Little Soap Lake nor any other associated features be renamed.

The City of Soap Lake City Council and the Grant County Board of Commissioners do not support the proposed change. At its meeting, the Washington Committee on Geographic Names (WCGN) heard testimony from representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, all of which are federally recognized, and all of which support the proposal. They all confirmed that "Smokiam" was the traditional name used for the lake. However, citing local opposition and the lack of community support, the WCGN recommends disapproval.

Wayback Brook, Washington
(Review List 406)
Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=47.7876824&p_longi=-122.0507187
Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=47.7888888&p_longi=-122.0491666

This proposal is to apply the new name Wayback Brook to an unnamed 300-foot-long stream in Snohomish County. The stream lies entirely on the proponent's property and flows southwest into Echo Lake.

The proponent's application was submitted initially to the BGN and stated, "It starts way back in the higher ground above the lake." The proposal included an attachment that reads, "It has been an outstanding year for the Wayback Society. I think that we will not only soon constitute the majority of the drivers world wide [sic], but will be given preferable insurance rates, be granted pardons for speeding, and be assigned our own lane on busy freeways. The newest chapter in Australia completes the 'Waybacks On Every Continent' goal. (Yes, there is a [sic] Antarctica member.) I have started the book, which will be a series of essays on waybacking and if anyone wants to contribute material based on their experience on the road, it would be welcomed."

In later materials submitted directly to the Washington Committee on Geographic Names (WCGN), the proponent stated "The major inlet of water flowing into Echo Lake begins way back in the hills south of the lake, and this accumulation coalesces into a previously unnamed brook or stream at Echo Lake Road, where it then flows about 300 feet down to the lake. I believe this combination of the two words, 'Wayback,' is unique to other geographic feature names, and because it is descriptive of an aspect of the source water for Echo Lake, my family and friends, many of my neighbors, and I have proposed the name Wayback Brook for the lovely stream. Calling attention to this geographic feature by giving it this name has not only resulted in an increased sense of community in the neighborhood, but also may raise our awareness of the importance of maintaining the cleanliness of our lake water. The title 'Wayback Brook' can help make us more cognizant of the water flowing into the lake and thus the need to keep it flowing clear and free of debris. Those of us residing in this area, and others, sometimes think that we live way back in the 'sticks' - but here we not only greet each other when walking, but we pick up the trash along the roads, the ditches, and at the public lake access nearby. This designation will help us retain this mindset, continue this action, and apply it to the lake's source water as well."

The WGNC received 45 comments in support of the proposal, and two comments in opposition. The Snohomish County Council, the Washington Department of Natural Resources-North West Region, the Washington State Historical Society, and the Snohomish County Historic Preservation Commission all responded to the WGNC that they had no objection to the proposed name. The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe of Washington, the Snoqualmie Tribe, the Swinomish Indians of the Swinomish Reservation, and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe of Washington, all of which are federally recognized, were contacted for a recommendation. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The WCGN recommends approval of the proposal.

Kanawaha County, West Virginia Names

(Review List 410)

The following eleven names are proposed to be made official for small populated areas in Kanawha County. The proponent reports that the names have been in local use, some for as many as two hundred years. He cites county property records as evidence that the residents refer to these areas by these names. In most instances, the names apply already to collocated physical features (such as streams and valleys) and the proponent states that over time the names have also come to refer to the local community. However, the Kanawha County Commission and the West Virginia State Names Authority (SNA) do not support the proposals, citing a belief that the names are not in use and are not needed. The Addressing Coordinator for Metro 911 of Kanawha County responded that in most cases, the name in question refers simply to the road that passes through the community, or that if asked, the residents would describe their location as within Saint Albans or Tornado, the two larger nearby communities. Four local residents also submitted comments opposing the names. Three additional proposals from this proponent are pending review by the SNA. According to the NAGRPA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Kanawha County.

Angel Fork

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.34035&p_longi=-81.87956

The proponent reports that the small unincorporated community has been known as Angel Fork for 75 years, and that the name refers to a family that settled in the region (the 1930 Federal Census of Kanawha County lists several individuals with the surname Angel, including some in the nearby community of Saint Albans). The community lies along the banks of Angel Fork, a tributary of Browns Creek. Angel Fork Road runs through the community. The proponent cites the Kanawha County public records deed book as a source for the proposed name. No other evidence has been found to support local usage, although Henry Gannett's *Gazetteer of Virginia and West Virginia* (1904) does list Angel as a post village in Kanawha County. It is not known if this refers to the community in question or to the community of Brouland, which is nine miles to the southeast, and which lists Angel as a variant name.

Big Bend

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.35275&p_longi=-81.83615

The name Big Bend is proposed to be made official for a small community located along a large bend in the Coal River. The proponent claims the adjacent Big Bend Golf Course and a nearby subdivision both take their names from this feature. No reference to a subdivision has been found, although a populated place named River Bend appeared on the 1978 Kanawha County highway map on the downstream arm of the bend of the river.

Browns Creek

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.36623&p_longi=-81.89476

The name Browns Creek is proposed to be made official for a small community located along the banks of Browns Creek. The proponent claims the community is one of the oldest in the area. The name appeared on the 1923 Kanawha County map, while Browns Creek Road and Browns Creek Church of God are both in the community.

Coal River

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.31983&p_longi=-81.84838

The name Coal River is proposed to be made official for a small unincorporated community located along the west bank of the Coal River. According to the proponent, "People settled along the Coal River beginning in the 1700s, but the few who survived Indian attacks didn't stay. This changed around 1800, when settlers established a permanent presence along the river." He further states, "Those from the Upper Falls to the Lincoln County line refer to their place of residence as Coal River." He claims the name has been used locally for over 200 years and that the submission of this proposal is at the request of local residents. Research suggests the name of the stream was originally spelled "Cole," in honor of Lewis Cole, an eighteenth century soldier from the area, but by the late 1700s it had evolved to "Coal" in recognition of the large deposits of bituminous coal found along its course.

A query of GNIS for West Virginia found ten features using the term "Coal River" as part of their names, of which six are in Kanawha County: the aforementioned stream and two of its tributaries, two bridges, and a building.

Chestnut Point

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.36076&p_longi=-81.84821

According to the proponent, the name Chestnut Point has been in local use for this small unincorporated community for at least three decades. As evidence of the name, he referred to an action in 1990 by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia against the Chestnut Point Property Owners Association, Inc.

Dry Ridge

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.34667&p_longi=-81.8075

The name Dry Ridge is proposed to be made official for a small unincorporated community that lies atop a ridge named Dry Ridge. As evidence of local usage, the proponent cites the Kanawha County public records deed book. There is one mention of Dry Ridge at a genealogical web site, but it is unclear if it refers to the ridge or the populated place. There are five ridges in West Virginia, two of which are in Kanawha County, named Dry Ridge.

Falls Creek

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.33009&p_longi=-81.86504

The name Falls Creek is proposed to be made official for a small and sparsely populated community located along the banks of Falls Creek. One genealogical site mentions a birth at Falls Creek in Kanawha County, and Falls Creek Road runs through the area. The USGS Charleston 1:125,000-scale map published in 1899 labels Falls Creek School that is no longer in existence.

Gore

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.32771&p_longi=-81.84292

This proposal is to make official the name Gore for a small unincorporated community located near the east bank of Coal River. According to the proponent, the name has been in local use for 60 years. The only online evidence for the name is found at the proponent's website (Upper Falls Community Association). There are no other features in Kanawha County named Gore, although it does appear to have been a common surname in the area.

Indian Head

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.36286&p_longi=-81.86321

The name Indian Head is proposed to be made official for an unincorporated community that lies along the southern banks of the Coal River just downstream from its confluence with Browns Creek. The proponent reports that the name is listed in the Kanawha County public records map book dated 1977. Three roads in the community are named Sitting Bull Drive, Geronimo Drive, and Indian Trail. Online real estate listings also refer to the community of Indian Head.

Smith Creek

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.33829&p_longi=-81.81628

This proposal is to make official the name Smith Creek for a small unincorporated community located along the banks of Smith Creek. The proponent reports that the community was "connected to the main body of the Upper Falls [Census Designated Place; now the Tornado Census Designated Place] by the first public-works bridge in the CDP, in the 1850s. Today, Smith Creek is along the daily commute of close to half of the residents of the CDP, who work in the Charleston Metropolitan Area." He further cites the Kanawha County public records deed book as evidence of local usage. Genealogical web sites mention

births in Smith Creek in Kanawha County. *West Virginia Place Names: Their Origin and Meaning* (Kenny, 1945) states that the stream was "named in memory of Joseph Smith, the first settler upon its banks…."

Thomas Branch

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.33212&p_longi=-81.8345

This proposal is make official the name Thomas Branch for a small unincorporated community. The proponent reports that the name originated from that of the stream along which it is located, and has also requested that the name of Martin Creek (stream) be changed to Thomas Branch. The latter proposal is still pending review by the West Virginia State Names Authority.

The proponent states the name Thomas Branch has been in use for at least twenty years and that it is found in the Kanawha County Public Records Map Book. The origin of the name "Thomas" is not known. The proponent has asked that the following statement be included in the case brief: "Thomas Branch is the most economically challenged neighborhood in the Upper Falls [now Tornado] Census Designated Place. After the West Virginia Department of Transportation erected the highway sign reading Thomas Hollow [sic], the neighborhood began to be derisively called 'Thomas Squalor.' Residents requested that we [Upper Falls Community Association] propose the name Thomas Branch that is found on the map cited in our applications for both the populated place and stream features." The road that follows the course of the stream is named Thomas Hollow Road. The valley does not have an official name.

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

Change **Little Matterhorn Peak** (FID 1435876) to **The Pfeifferhorn**, Utah
(Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests/Lone Peak Wilderness)
(Review List 410)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=40.5335613&p_longi=-111.7060385&fid=1435876

This proposal is to change the name of Little Matterhorn Peak to The Pfeifferhorn to recognize the name that is reported to be in widespread use. The summit in question has an elevation of 11,329 feet and straddles the boundary between Utah County and Salt Lake County, and on the boundary of the Uinta National Forest and the Wasatch National Forest; the entire area is also within the Lone Peak Wilderness and administered as the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Although the name Little Matterhorn Peak has been published on Federal maps since 1998, the proponent, who serves as the geographic names coordinator for U.S. Forest Service Region 4, reports that the name in local use has long been The Pfeifferhorn.

The proposed name honors Charles "Chick" Pfeiffer, who owned a shoe shop in Salt Lake City, and was a founding member of the Wasatch Mountain Club. He served as club president in 1938. Mr. Pfeiffer led hikes and ski trips to the peak and surrounding area in the 1930s. The Wasatch Mountain Club began referring to the peak as The Pfeifferhorn following Mr. Pfeiffer's death in 1939. According to the proponent, the name change would eliminate confusion for search and rescue personnel who are already familiar with the name The Pfeifferhorn rather than Little Matterhorn Peak. The change would also eliminate confusion for everyday recreationists and Forest Service personnel, as The Pfeifferhorn is the name that appears in climbing, hiking, and skiing websites, guides, and magazines. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest visitor map already labels the summit Little Matterhorn Peak (Pfeifferhorn). Pfeifferhorn is listed as a variant name in the GNIS entry.

There is a street in the neighboring community of Alpine named Pfeifferhorn Drive, and a Salt Lake City brewing company produces Pfiefferhorn Lager, both named in reference to the summit.

The Utah County and Salt Lake County governments were contacted for a recommendation but did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Utah Avalanche Center and Avalanche Forecast Center support the proposed change. The Utah Geographic Names Committee recommends approval, as does the U.S. Forest Service. The Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, which is federally recognized, was contacted for a recommendation but did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

V. Revised Decisions - none

VI. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Heroes Lake, Michigan
(Review List 410)
http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=42.227754&p_longi=-85.752112

This 9.5-acre lake in Texas Township in Kalamazoo County is proposed to be named Heroes Lake as "a fitting tribute to our nation's veterans and current service members." The proponent, whose property extends to the shore of the unnamed lake, says there is a local convention of giving local bodies of water short descriptive names and he feels that Heroes Lake would be appropriate as there are no other features in Michigan with the word "Heroes" in their names.

The Township of Texas government supports the proposal. The Kalamazoo County government did not respond to a request for input, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Michigan State Names Authority recommends approval. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, all of which are federally recognized. The Pokagon Band responded in support of the proposal. No other responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

City of Wentzville, Missouri Names
(Review List 412)

Nine new names are proposed for unnamed streams in the City of Wentzville in Saint Charles County. In the summer of 2012, the City held a stream-naming contest. The contest was conducted as part of the Dry Branch Watershed Clear Stormwater and Green Parks project, and was funded in part by the Environmental Protection Agency through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources under the Clean Water Act. The contest was intended to increase awareness of water quality. According to the proponent, "The submitted names were judged by a diverse committee which based its decisions on four criteria: 1) the ability of the name to reflect the stream's character (location, plants, animals, form, history, geography, etc.); 2) the name's distinctiveness; 3) outreach/education potential; and 4) the submitted name followed the Principles, Policies, and Procedures of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The organizers discouraged commemorative and long names."

All nine names have been approved by the City of Wentzville, while the Saint Charles County government has no objection. The Missouri Board on Geographic Names recommends approval of the following eight names, but does not support Rio Run Creek (q.v.). The Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, which is federally recognized, was contacted for a recommendation but did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Crossroads Creek

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8540688737&p_longi=-90.8645377806
Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8105425089&p_longi=-90.8710072687

This 4.5-mile-long stream is proposed to be named Crossroads Creek to reflect the fact that Wentzville is known as "Crossroads of the Nation."

Fountains Creek

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8183170261&p_longi=-90.9118626764
Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8129836315&p_longi=-90.9201667956

This 0.6-mile-long stream is proposed to be named in association with the Fountains of Bear Creek subdivision.

Great Oaks Creek

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8385769401&p_longi=-90.8792255571
Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8247784251&p_longi=-90.8725093058

This 1.2-mile-long stream is proposed to be named for the many stands of native oak species in the area.

Legion Creek

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8259569612&p_longi=-90.8521888903
Source:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8140202473&p_longi=-90.8432195833

This 1-mile-long stream is proposed to be named in association with American Legion Post 323 and the Legion's ballfield property.

Lower Peine Creek

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8237419659&p_longi=-90.8906195810
Source:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8282220361&p_longi=-90.9009622

This 0.6-mile-long stream is proposed to be named in reference to its location near Peine Road.

Peine Ridge Creek

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8307962772&p_longi=-90.8835814646
Source:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8384599439&p_longi=-90.8932803324

This 0.6-mile-long stream is proposed to be named in association with nearby Peine Road and Peine Ridge Elementary School.

Progress Creek

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8178927934&p_longi=-90.8570436886
Source:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8221078403&p_longi=-90.8560620001

This 0.3-mile-long stream is proposed to be named in association with Progress Park.

Wilderness Creek

Mouth:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8257480023&p_longi=-90.8864997080
Source:http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.8115373600&p_longi=-90.8831523111

This 1.1-mile-long stream is proposed to be named in association with an area that is characterized locally as wilderness.

Platinum Falls, Oregon
(Review List 412)
http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=43.55539&p_longi=-123.84843

This approximately 100-foot-high waterfall is located in a remote area within Elliott State Forest in Douglas County. The name Platinum Falls was chosen as a descriptive name relative to Golden Falls and Silver Falls, which are located 6.2 miles and 6.3 miles, respectively, southwest of the falls in question. These two falls lie within a different drainage basin, and are located in Golden and Silver Falls State Park in Coos County.

The proponent states that some sources (not provided) refer to the falls as either Baker Falls or Bickford Falls; these names refer to two local streams which in turn were named for early property owners. The State Forestry Department confirmed that it has no name for these falls in its files. The name Platinum Falls was published by the proponent in his 1998 local history volume entitled *Loon Lake and Ash Valley Revisited*. He notes that he has "had feedback from many readers of the book without a single complaint regarding the choice of name."

The Douglas County Commission and Douglas County Historical Society support the proposal. As part of its research, the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) forwarded the proposal to the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, which in turn shared it with all tribes having an interest in the State. Only the Grande Ronde Tribe responded, noting that they have no objection to the name. No response was received from the remaining tribes, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The OGNB recommends approval of the proposal.