

South Dakota Board on Geographic Names

Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2013

Prairie Wind Casino

Pine Ridge, South Dakota

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Vice-Chairman Nadenicek, who noted Chairman LaPlante was in transit and should be present shortly. Roll call was taken.

Members Present

Chairman J.R. LaPlante – DTR (1:20 pm)

June Hansen – DOT

Jay Vogt – SHS

Joe Nadenicek – DENR

Eileen Bertsch – For SD Dept. of Tourism (nominated – non-voting for this meeting)

Others in attendance

Tonia Ecoffey – OST/DOT

Joyce Whiting – OST/HPO

Sara Buckman – OST NRRA/BBRD

(Sign-In Attached as Exhibit 1)

2. Review and approval of minutes from December 5, 2012 meeting. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. (Gavel tendered by Vice-Chair Nadenicek to Chairman LaPlante) Background discussion of proposed names for Shannon County features – Squaw Humper Creek, Little Squaw Humper Creek, Squaw Humper Dam, Squaw Humper Table and Little Squaw Humper Table.

Vogt noted that like schools, a dam was a man-made structure and was not a geographic feature under the USBGN standards. Hansen note that while that was true, Squaw Humper Dam appears as an active feature in the federal gazetteer maintained by the United State Board on Geographic Names (USBGN - and not simply as a historical note, as in the case of some schools). Also, the name is included in the state law on this issue codified at SDCL Chapter 1-19C. Therefore, the consensus was the South Dakota

Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) ought to proceed with providing a replacement name. Hansen presented a poster-board map displaying the features at issue (reduced size copy attached as Exhibit 2).

Chairman LaPlante opened the meeting to public discussion on the issue of finding appropriate name changes for these offensively named features.

Ms. Joyce Whiting presented replacement names provided by Wilmer Mesteth, THPO, for the features in question on the form provided by the SDBGN. His submission explained that the creeks and related features were noted by Lakota people for their high value as deer hunting grounds. Therefore he recommended the Lakota name for deer hunting ground – Tahc'a Okune Wakpa, would be a most appropriate replacement name for Squaw Humber Creek. The names changes for the related feature recommended are Tahc'a Okute Wakpa C'ikla for Little Squaw Humber Creek, Tahc'a Okute Mni Onaktke, for Squaw Humber Dam, Tahc'a Oknute Aglehan, for Squaw Humber Table, and Tahc'a Oknute Aglehan Cikala for Little Squaw Humber Table. (SDBGN form submitted is attached as Exhibit 3).

These replacement names were received favorably by the SDBGN – Chairman LaPlante noted that the flaw identified by the USBGN in South Dakota's earlier attempts to rename these features, was that the names did not come from the local level or involve local input. These names come from the grass-roots local level and ought to be favorably received by the USBGN. He also noted his appreciation for these local efforts to preserve the Lakota language and its long history and proud traditions. He indicated to Ms. Whiting that it would be helpful as we work with the USBGN and others in this process if Mr. Mesteth could provide a narrative paragraph describing the background and reason for this proposed name change for each of the features at issue.

The SDBGN unanimously approved taking the next step in the SDBGN name approval process – to inform the public and interested parties that these appropriate names have been favorably received by the SDBGN and a thirty day notice will be sent to the press and interested parties noting the intention of the SDBGN to submit these names to the USBGN. Hansen will work with DOT/DTR staff to prepare appropriate notices, press releases and mailings.

4. Other Business. Chairman LaPlante noted that the letter and supporting materials with the SDBGN's recommendation that Negro Creek in Meade/Zeibach County be changed to Howe's Creek, has been sent to the USBGN, pursuant to the decisions and directives of the SDBGN at our last meeting on December 12, 2012.

The group reviewed the SD Attorney General's Guide to Conducting Public Meetings in South Dakota (<http://atg.sd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=37WWjgBso3c%3d&tabid=324&mid=811>), and noted a sensitivity to complying with the provisions of our state open meetings law (SDCL Chapter 1- 25), especially noting that while E-Mail may be a good means of disseminating information to the SDBGN, care should be taken that discussions and official decisions should only be conducted on the record in open meetings.

Hansen moved that the SDBGN continue with the process directed in SDCL 1-16C-6, and give notice that the SDBGN was soliciting appropriate name changes for the features in Custer County – said notice to be provided to the press and interested parties pursuant to the public involvement process of the SDBGN no later than April 15, 2013. Said motion was unanimously approved. Hansen will work with DOT/DTR staff to prepare appropriate documents and notices.

5. Next Meeting – The Next meeting will be in Pierre South Dakota at the offices of the South Dakota Department of Transportation – Commission Meeting Room – Becker-Hanson Building, 700 E. Broadway Ave., Pierre, South Dakota on June 4, 2013 at 1:00 pm CDT. Two agenda items will be final approval of the name changes for the Shannon County features and review of submissions received in response to the call for suitable replacement names for the Custer County features.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

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Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Joe Nadenicek

DENR Representative

Vice Chair acting as Secretary