

U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
Seven Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Meeting
Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room
January 13, 2011 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Lee Fleming	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard) (Chairman) (not voting)
Curt Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Meredith Westington	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Thomas Yee	Library of Congress

Ex-Officio

Lou Yost, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee

Staff

Jennifer Runyon, U. S. Geological Survey
Gregory Winters, U. S. Geological Survey

Guests

Dr. Soojin Park, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea

1. Opening

The meeting opened at 9:30 a.m. Logan announced that he will serve as DNC Chairman for the remainder of the 2009-2011 term.

Logan welcomed Thomas Yee as the new deputy member from the Library of Congress. He also welcomed Dr. Soojin Park, a visitor to the meeting, from Kyung Hee University in Seoul.

2. Minutes of the 724th Meeting

The minutes of the 724th meeting, held December 9th, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Logan for Hébert)

The full Board on Geographic Names will hold its next quarterly meeting on Tuesday, January 18th, at 1:30 p.m. at the Library of Congress.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Yost)

A delegation from the Afghan Board on Geographic Names (BGN-A) will be visiting Washington, D.C. in April. The visitors will work closely with the staff of the Foreign Names Committee, as a continuation of the ongoing support that the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) has been providing to the BGN-A members and staff in Kabul for many months already. It has been suggested that during their visit the delegation might be interested in attending a DNC meeting. The DNC members expressed a willingness to host the delegation but are concerned about the logistics, such as how the meeting will be translated and how much advance preparation is required. It might be possible to translate some of the meeting material in advance. It was also suggested that the meeting could possibly be held at the State Department, possibly on the same day as the full BGN meeting. Further discussion will take place at next week's full BGN meeting.

It was announced that there would be no meeting of the DNC's Subcommittee on Tribal Consultation following the DNC meeting.

3.3 Special Committee on Communications (Westington)

The Special Committee on Communications has not met since the last DNC meeting. The BGN will not have a booth at the upcoming ESRI Federal User Conference but brochures will be made available for distribution at the USGS, NGA, and FEMA booths.

3.4 Executive Secretary (Yost)

Yost reported that due to another commitment he will be unable to attend the February DNC meeting and asked whether it could be rescheduled to one week later. The members indicated this would be acceptable so the meeting will take place Thursday, February 17th.

In addition to the U.S. States and Territories, the DNC also provides staff support to the BGN's Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN). A new ACAN online proposal form, akin to the one now used for domestic names, is being developed and is expected to be available for public use shortly.

3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

Until a few years ago, the DNC staff prepared a monthly Action List, which was distributed with the monthly minutes. This list indicated which proposals had been voted on at that meeting and which were deferred. After the DNC lost its administrative staff, this function was discontinued. The current staff is investigating the possibility of reenacting the Action List and provided a prototype for the members' review. The intention is to have the list show which cases are pending, and also for the online Review List to indicate for each case which contacts have been made and which organizations still need to provide input. The members were asked to provide feedback on the new function, which the staff hopes to have online shortly.

Bob Malcolm, geographic names program coordinator for the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region and an advisor to the Colorado Board on Geographic Names, has accepted

a new position with the Bureau of Land Management in Denver. He has indicated he will continue to be involved with geographic names.

At the December meeting, the DNC discussed its previous decision (June 2010) to make the names of reservoirs “administrative” and therefore no longer under its purview. After receiving several new proposals for reservoir names, the staff questioned whether this practice is reasonable, and at the last meeting some examples were cited and reviewed. It was noted also that it would not be equitable or practical to differentiate between newly constructed features (that the owner/administrator could name at will) versus existing ones that would require DNC approval in order to be renamed. This led to further discussion at this meeting, after which a motion was made and seconded to reinstate the former policy; that is the names of reservoirs (as well as canals and ditches) are under BGN purview.

Vote: 8 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Those cases that have been pending will be placed on the next Quarterly Review List and the staff’s customary research will begin.

Logan asked that the ongoing revision of the DNC’s *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* be added to next month’s agenda for continued discussion.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost)

As has been reported previously, the U.S. Geological Survey will be hosting a National Map Users Conference in Denver, May 10-13, 2011. DNC members are encouraged to submit abstracts on how their agencies are using geographic names data. The Department of the Interior member has invited the DNC to hold its May meeting at the conference. Several members indicated they were interested and would seek travel authorization from their agencies.

Fournier noted that the Bureau of the Census plans to release next week a revised and updated version of its American FactFinder website. The FactFinder is described as “the Census Bureau’s online tool for accessing a wide variety of population, economic, geographic, and housing information about the United States.” One of the site’s new functions will allow users to conduct queries using the GNIS Feature ID, which in 2008 was established as an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard.

4. Docket Review (Runyon)

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 - none

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Brier Hill, New Hampshire (Review List 395)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision, citing a need for more clarification regarding the Town's position; that is, the Town of Haverhill expressed support for the proposal but noted that the spelling should be "Briar" rather than "Brier." The staff was instructed to ask the Town if this should be considered a formal counter-proposal. One member also requested additional information on the establishment of the entity called Brier Hill Trust LLC.

Vote: 7 in favor
 1 against
 0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in the belief that there was enough information on the proposal to proceed with a vote.

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

Hutcheson Ridge, Virginia (Review List 403) (FID 2663298)

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

Vote: 8 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Alder Pond, Alaska (Review List 405) (FID 2663296)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 8 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Baltic Island, Maine (Review List 404) (FID 2663297)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 8 in favor
 0 against

0 abstentions

6. Closing

Location and Time of Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will take place Thursday, February 17th, 2011, at the Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., at 9:30 a.m., room to be determined.

(signed) *Louis A. Yost*

Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) *William G. Logan*

William G. Logan, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
January 2011

I. **Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties** - none

II. **Disagreement on Docketed Names**

Brier Hill, New Hampshire
(Review List 395)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=44.11916&p_longi=-71.97291

This proposal is to make official the name Brier Hill for a 1,228-foot summit in the Town of Haverhill. The proponent, a resident of nearby Bath, reports that the name is in local use and that there was at one time a school in the area named Brier Hill School (the GNIS entry previously spelled it “Briar” but this has proven to be an error so the entry has been corrected. The school was labeled on the 1929 edition of the USGS 1:62,500-scale topographic map as Brier Hill School). The proponent notes also that the summit serves as a prominent local landmark and the surrounding land is used frequently for hunting and hiking.

Although research has not yielded any references to a name for the summit, the road that crosses it is named Brier Hill Road (or Briar Hill Road on some maps). The National Register of Historic Places includes a listing for the historic Daniel Carr House “on Brier Hill Road.” However, several local businesses list their address as Briar Hill Road, and a 2005 press release by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation announced the commencement of a road project in the vicinity of Briar Hill Road.

When asked to comment on the proposal, the Town of Haverhill Board of Selectmen responded that it supports the proposal, but “spelled “Briar” please.” The proponent was advised of the Town’s preference but believes “brier” is the correct historical spelling. He cites the volume *Historical Notes of Bath 1765-1965*, which mentions Brier Hill, as well as Brier Hill Trust LLC, which was established by his family some years ago. The Bath Historical Society concurs with the spelling Brier Hill. The Town did not respond further to the proponent’s rebuttal. In addition to the Historical Society, the Grafton County Commission has no objection to the proposal for Brier Hill. The New Hampshire State Names Authority recommends approval of this proposal. According to the NAGRPA Native American Consultation Database, there are no Federally-recognized Tribes with an interest in Grafton County.

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

Hutcheson Ridge, Virginia

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.944248&p_longi=-79.431067

This 3,070-foot high, 1.2 mile-long ridge is located on the north side of Goshen Pass, and at the southern end of Little North Mountain in Rockbridge County. The proposed name Hutcheson Ridge is intended to honor Dr. Robert S. Hutcheson, Jr. (1919-2003), a native of Lexington, Virginia. After serving as a physician in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Dr. Hutcheson

had a distinguished medical career in Roanoke. He was president of the Roanoke Medical Society and the Virginia Medical Society. According to the proponent, the Hutcheson family has had a long association with Lexington and Rockbridge County, and every summer since 1941 they have spent time at the cabins they own in the Goshen Pass area. The Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors recommends approval of the name Hutcheson Ridge, and several area residents also wrote letters in support of the new name. After confirming that the ridge is not named on any available sources, the Virginia State Names Board recommends approval of the name. According to the NAGRPA Native American Consultation Database, there are no Federally-recognized Tribes with an interest in Rockbridge County.

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Alder Pond, Alaska
(Review List 405)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=61.3070125&p_longi=-150.004921

The new name Alder Pond is proposed for a 21-acre lake in the Elmendorf Moraine area of Matanuska-Susitna Borough. It was submitted by the Alaska Geographic Names Board on behalf of the individual who owns all the property surrounding the lake. She reports that the name Alder Pond refers to the alder trees that grow around the lake, and that the name would serve as a useful reference for pilots who frequently fly small planes over the area. She noted also that development is increasing in the area and so additional place names are needed. After receiving no comments from the Cook Inlet Region, Inc., Knikatu, Inc., or the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Department, which is presumed to indicate no objection, the Alaska State Board voted to recommend approval of this name.

Baltic Island, Maine
(Review List 404)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=45.037626&p_longi=-67.50515

This proposal is to make official the name Baltic Island for a 10-acre island located at the southern end of Barrows Lake in the Town of Alexander in Washington County. The proponents live close to the north end of the lake and after purchasing the island in 1969, they learned it had no official name. A recent inquiry to the Town Clerk confirmed this. The proponents report that the proposed name recognizes their heritage from the Baltic region of northern Europe (he is from Lithuania, she is from Latvia). They claim the name is now used by the local community and has appeared in various newspaper articles. An online search yielded one reference, from the Maine Legislative Record for 2000-2002, in which the Town of Alexander is commended for celebrating Millennial Day (September 15, 2001) by creating a time capsule which “will be sealed for viewing by future generations in the History Dome on Baltic Island at Barrows Lake.”

The Town of Alexander Board of Selectmen recommends approval of this name. The Washington County Commissioners endorse the Town’s position. The Maine State Names Authority is also in support. A copy of the proposal was sent to the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.