

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Commission Room-Becker Hansen Building, 700 E. Broadway Ave, Pierre SD

Board Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. (CDT)

Board Members Present:

Chair June Hansen – Dept. of Transportation

Vice Chair Jay Vogt – State Historical Society

David Flute, Secretary, Dept. of Tribal Relations (via Conference Call)

Cole Irwin – Dept. of Tourism

Patrick Snyder – Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources

Board Secretary:

Vacant Position

Board Members Not Present:

None

Others Present:

Nicole Schneider – Dept. of Tribal Relations

Bob Mercer – KELO-TV (via Conference Call)

#1 – Roll Call

Due to a lack of board secretary, Board Chair Hansen asked Vice Chair Vogt to assist in taking minutes. Hansen will draft the minutes for this meeting.

Board Chair Hansen called the roll. There were four members present. Secretary Flute joined by conference call after roll was called.

#2 – August 27, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the August 27, 2019 Board meeting. There were no additions or corrections. Vogt moved approval of the minutes. Irwin seconded. The motion passed unanimously of the members present. The minutes were approved as written.

#3 Informational Item: USBGN Decision on Name Change Request

Name Change Request to change the name of Larvie Lake to Hidden Lake was forwarded from USBGN to the SDBGN. The SDBGN returned with no input or recommendation because it is renaming an existing feature that does not have a name deemed insulting or offensive by the S.D. State Legislature.

US Board on Geographic Names voted in September 2019 to not approve the requested name change of Larvie Lake to Hidden Lake based on the USBGN's Commercial Names Policy.

#4 Legislative Update

Board Chair Hansen update the board on Senate Bill #62 and that all the changes the board requested were approved. She thanked Bill Nevin (DOT), Secretary Darin Bergquist (DOT), Senator Lee Schoenbeck and Representative Mary Duvall for their efforts in getting the legislation passed.

The SDBGN proposed two changes to state law in the 2020 legislative session. The first was to remove the position of "Secretary of Tribal Relations" from the board membership as a requirement. The change allows the Secretary of the Department of Tribal Relations to serve or appoint representation the same as the other four agencies.

The second change was to clarify the board's role and responsibilities in naming unnamed features and give the SDBGN the authority to recommend names to the USBGN for unnamed features.

Both changes were effective on July 1, 2020.

#5 Formal Action on Minnehaha and Spink County Unnamed Features

Board Chair Hansen explained the public involvement process on the proposed name "Turtle Creek" for the unnamed tributary in Minnehaha County.

Vogt moved that the SDBGN recommend the name "Turtle Creek" for the unnamed feature in Minnehaha County. Irwin seconded. Discussion was held regarding the extensive documentation and support for the name. It appears the name is widely used by local residents. There was also discussion that there are other Turtle Creeks in South Dakota but none close to Hartford, SD. Roll Call Vote was taken. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of the board.

Chairman Hansen explained the public involvement process on the proposed name "Iron River" for the unnamed tributary in Spink County.

Vogt moved that the SDBGN recommend the name “Iron River” for the unnamed feature in Spink County. Irwin seconded. Discussion was held that there may be some additional letters of support coming. There was discussion about the name and iron deposits in the area. There was also discussion about whether the USBGN may not view this tributary as a “river”. Board members were not sure how the USBGN would view it. Roll call vote was taken. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of the board.

Board Chair Hansen explained the process moving forward. She will draft separate letters for each feature to the USBGN stating the board’s recommendation and include the following documents: feature reference map; request to name feature and supporting documentation; June 15, 2019 notice to interested parties; list of interested parties solicited; August 30, 2019 supplemental notice to interested parties and draft minutes from the July 7, 2020 board meeting.

#6 Public Involvement Process for Hughes County Unnamed Feature

Board Chair Hansen discussed the public involvement process for this unnamed creek in Hughes County. The proposed name is Crone Creek. The proposed timeline for the public involvement process is as follows:

- a. 45-day comment period to solicit input on proposed name for feature (announce August 1)
- b. Notification to individuals/groups on contact list for feature (August 1)
- c. Deadline for comment period – September 15, 2020
- d. Schedule Public Meeting/Board Meeting in Pierre (after September 15, 2020)
- e. 30-day comment period on proposed name for feature (October 2020)
- f. Notification to individuals/groups on contact lists for feature (October 2020)
- g. Deadline for comment period (November 2020)
- h. Board Meeting for Final Vote on Recommendation to USBGN (November 2020)

By general consent the board agreed to this timeline for the Hughes County unnamed feature.

#7 – Informational Item – Public Involvement Process

Board Chair Hansen asked for any additions or corrections to the updated Public Involvement Process. The document was updated based on the changes enacted during the 2020 legislative session. It will be posted on the Boards and Commissions website.

#8 -- Public Comment on agenda items or non-agenda items

No public comment provided.

#9 -- Other Business

Secretary Flute notified the board that Alli Moran (Board Secretary/Staffer) had resigned. His plan is for Nicole Schneider to take over the position. Board Chair Hansen will meet with Nicole to discuss her responsibilities.

No other business came before the board.

#10 – Next Board Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2020 from 11:30am – 1:30pm (CDT) for the purpose of taking public comment on the name for the unnamed feature in Hughes County. The meeting will be held at the Becker-Hansen building in the Commission Room and will have conference call access. The date/time is subject to change.

Irwin moved to adjourn. Snyder seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

June D. Hansen, Board Chair
Acting Secretary