



Council of Geographic Names Authorities

Portland, 2023

## COGNA – State Report

State: South Dakota

Name/Title of Person submitting report:

June Hansen, Board Chair of SD Board on Geographic Names

Board History &amp; Structure:

Established in 2009 by SD Legislature to rename features with Squaw & Negro & expanded tohandle requests to name unnamed features. In 2014 Negro was removed as offensive at the request of the African American SD Citizens so those remaining features were not renamed. Board consists ofrepresentatives from 5 state agencies (Tribal Relations, Agriculture & Natural Resources, State Historical Society, Tourism & Transportation

Include:

- Legislatively mandated? ☒ YES NO
- How often does your board meet: At least once a year or more often as needed
- Number of board members: Five Members
- Structure of board (agencies represented?): Dept. of Tribal Relations, Dept. of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Office of State Historical Society, Dept. of Tourism & Dept. of Transportation
- Does your State request to manage name proposals prior to submission to BGN? ☒ YES NO

Do you have or anticipate any changes to your board or its processes in the future? YES ☒ NO

If so, how: \_\_\_\_\_

Current issues/recent decisions? No current or pending decisions.It's important to note in question regarding where I circled "yes" in red. We can only deal with unnamed features. Any name proposal for an unnamed feature the SDBGN requests to manage.The SDBGN can only act on renaming a feature if the State Legislature has deemed the term "offensive or insulting". Right now the only term in law is "Squaw". All other requests to rename a feature are automatically referred to the USBGN.

Please return to Christine Johnson before 9/10/23 and [ckjohnson@cogna50usa.org](mailto:ckjohnson@cogna50usa.org) . All State Reports will be read at COGNA conference for educational purposes (whether SNA representatives are present or not).



Council of Geographic Names Authorities

Portland, 2023

Is anyone from your state attending COGNA (in person or virtually) in MD this year?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Do you anticipate attending COGNA in Missouri either in person or virtually (presently set for Sept 2024)?

☒ YES

☐ NO

Do you have any final thoughts/questions that could be shared or included here in the State Round Table discussion session during the conference?

SDBGN has a very established public involvement process to ensure the public has ample opportunity to comment on any proposed name.

---

---

---

---

Please return to Christine Johnson before 9/10/23 and [ckjohnson@cogna50usa.org](mailto:ckjohnson@cogna50usa.org) . All State Reports will be read at COGNA conference for educational purposes (whether SNA representatives are present or not).