

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. (CDT)  
Becker-Hansen Building, 700 E. Broadway Avenue, Pierre SD

**Board Members present:**

June Hansen (Chair) – Department of Transportation  
Jay Vogt (Vice-chair) – State Historical Society  
Secretary Dave Flute – Department of Tribal Relations  
Brian Gustafson – Department of Environment & Natural Resources  
Cole Irwin – Department of Tourism

**Others present:**

Kari Kroll – Department of Transportation – taking minutes  
David Reiss – Central 50 Enhancement District  
Alli Moran – SD Department of Tribal Relations

Chair June Hansen called the South Dakota Board of Geographic Names (the “Board”) meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. CDT. Hansen opened the meeting requesting a roll call of members present. Kroll conducted a roll call of members, all members attending, and a quorum was achieved.

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The minutes from March 29, 2018 were read for approval. Vogt moved for approval of the meeting minutes for March 29, 2018 meeting, Gustafson seconded. All members voted aye by voice vote. The motion carried.

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**Squaw Humber Dam Update:**

Jay Vogt updated the Board the outcome of the Squaw Humber Dam re-name process. The Oglala Sioux Tribal Council changed the name to Tahc’a Okute Mni Onaktake through Ordinance 18-23 at a special session on August 16, 2018. The matter is now closed, and the name is changed.

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### **Turtle Creek Request in Minnehaha County:**

June Hansen presented the request for the naming of an unnamed tributary that runs through Hartford. The request came from Craig Wagner who is the Public Works Superintendent from the City of Hartford. It was shared that the name is unofficially called Turtle Creek by the locals and a park, ballfield, and housing development have been named in the honor of the unofficial title. The City of Hartford has done their do diligence to collect local support and proof to support their request. Hansen shared the battle they will face with the US Board of Geographical Names (“USBGN”) not approving duplicate names within a state. The next step is to hold a public meeting in or near Hartford this summer.

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### **Iron River Request in Spink County:**

June Hansen presented the request for the naming of an unnamed tributary of the James River between Dolan and Cornwall Township. It was shared that the sponsors of this request will need more public input and research about naming its choice of name. Hansen shared in a handout that there are currently not an *Iron River* in the state but many other *Iron* features (creek, bridges, cemetery, etc.) in the state. Vogt suggested they may want to reconsider the name based on the number of *Iron* feature already named as the USBGN is not prone to approving duplicating names within a state. The next step is to hold a public meeting in the requested feature’s area this summer. They will check with the sponsors for suggestions of the best location.

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Hansen reviewed the involvement process and plan for requests received on the Minnehaha and Spink County features.

- I. Send out request for public input on the features as established in public involvement process plan (45-day comment period)
  - a. Issue May 15, 2019
  - b. Deadline June 30, 2019
- II. Schedule Board Meeting in Hartford & Doland area for public comment on the proposed names & to vote on recommending proposed name to SD State Legislature for approval to move forward with recommendation to USBGN
- III. Issue notice to public of proposed name recommendation (30-day comment period)
  - a. Issue July 20, 2019
  - b. Deadline August 20, 2019
- IV. Board Meeting in late August to discuss plan to proceed to state legislature

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David Reiss, previously of the Department of Tribal Relations, reported on the 2018 Council of Geographic Name Authorities (“COGNA”) Conference. He said the South Dakota report was “nothing to report.” He said the conference is well worth the time. The attendee gets an in-depth process of how the Federal board works.

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Hansen opened the floor to a discussion on who to send to the 2019 COGNA Conference that will be held August 5 – 9 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Each Board member had a conflict with the dates. It was decided that a staffer, to be named later, from the Department of Tribal Relations would most likely be the person representing South Dakota. More discussion to come.

COGNA Conference registration must be submitted by July 12, 2019

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**Status on deleted SDBGN Website:**

Cole Irwin shared that the website is technically up but will be coming down in the next couple of weeks. June Hansen shared that the information has been moved to the State’s Boards & Commission webpage.

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**Staff person for the Board:**

Alli Moran introduced herself as the new Senior Analyst for the Department of Tribal Relations. She will be taking over the secretary of the board duties moving forward.

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Hansen opened the floor to public comment. No public Comment was provided.

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Upcoming Board meeting plan: it is planned for July 2019. It will be determined by the date that information is put out the public. They will be in Hartford for public input on proposed name for Minnehaha County feature. It is yet to be determined the best location for public input on proposed name for Spink County feature.

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With no other business for the Board, Hansen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vogt moved to adjourn, Flute seconded. All members voted aye by voice vote. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m. CDT.