

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 14, 2019
5:30 PM (CDT)

Olsen Pheasant Phun Lodge, 18526 398th Ave. – Hitchcock, SD

Chairwoman Hansen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. The secretary called the roll.

Board Members Present:

Chairwoman June Hansen – Department of Transportation
Vice Chairman Jay Vogt – State Historical Society

Board Members Not Present:

Secretary Dave Flute – Department of Tribal Relations
Brian Gustafson – Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Cole Irwin – Department of Tourism

Others Present:

Alli Moran – Department of Tribal Relations – Board Staffer/Secretary
Dave Olsen
Annette Olsen
Amy Crane

Due to a lack of quorum, the meeting was recessed at 5:35pm to reconvene in Hartford, SD at 6:00 p.m. (CDT) at the Hartford Fire Station.

Thursday, August 15, 2019
6:00 PM (CDT)

Hartford Fire Station, 305 W. South Street – Hartford, SD

Chairwoman Hansen reconvened the meeting at 6:00 PM (CDT). The secretary called the roll.

Board Members Present:

Chairwoman June Hansen – Department of Transportation
Vice Chairman Jay Vogt – State Historical Society
Cole Irwin – Department of Tourism

Board Members Not Present:

Secretary Dave Flute – Department of Tribal Relations
Brian Gustafson – Department of Environment & Natural Resources

Others Present:

Alli Moran – Department of Tribal Relations – Board Staffer/Secretary

Craig Wagner – City of Hartford
Teresa Sidel – City of Hartford

Quorum was established.

The minutes from May 8, 2019 were read for approval. Vogt moved for approval of the meeting minutes for May 8, 2019 meeting, Irwin seconded. All members voted aye by voice vote. The motion carried.

Public Comment on Spink County Unnamed Tributary:

The Spink County Feature received one comment from the Spink County Historical Society. It suggested the names “Pheasant Creek” and “Arrowhead Creek” but did not formally submit a request to name the tributary either name.

Vogt recapped the general comments and questions received from the constituents who were present at the meeting in Hitchcock. The board members present remained after the meeting was recessed to listen to the members of the public present. All present supported the name “Iron River” for the unnamed tributary of the James River. The constituents discussed the rocks turning red due to high levels of iron deposits. The comments included:

- Dave Olsen gave reasoning as to the name. There was a need to name the unnamed tributary. “Iron River” made the most sense.
- Amy Crane added that there was once a huge deposit of granite rocks within the area due to the glaciers from long ago. Within the granite there were iron pits.
- Dave Olsen discussed that the unnamed tributary is part of the East James Aquifer. The rocks are red with iron because of the iron deposits.
- Dave Olsen indicated he has visited with the local township officers and has gained their support with no opposition to the naming of the unnamed tributary.
- Dave Olsen to email Chairwoman Hansen or Alli Moran the additional photos of the iron deposits and notes on proposed unnamed tributary name change.

Hansen explained that she also explained the process to the constituents present and shared ideas what has been helpful in getting the USBGN to approve name recommendations.

By general consent the SDBGN agreed to remove agenda items number 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Public Comment on the Unnamed Creek in Minnehaha County:

The SDBGN received one public comment for the unnamed creek in Minnehaha County and the rationale to support the name change to "Turtle Creek."

Hansen conveyed that proponents provided very detailed supporting documentation for the name change.

Public Comment:

- Craig Wagner recapped his report to the SDBGN and discussed that everyone in town calls the creek "Turtle Creek" and assume that is the name regardless of it being a tributary to Skunk Creek.
- Hansen discussed with the constituents that USBGN guidance indicated that there may be a problem with naming the creek "Turtle Creek" due to the number of Turtle Creeks in South Dakota. Based on conversations she had with US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) staff, it appears that duplicate name issues aren't the problems she once anticipated.
- Craig Wagner asked if there are any other documentation needed? Board members responded, that there was no other documentation needed in their opinion.
- Craig Wagner discussed his process of gathering more information and support to supplement the Minnehaha County Turtle Creek request. Chairwoman Hansen suggested: Craig to obtain a resolution of support from the Minnehaha County Commission, as the USBGN highly considers additional local support.

Hansen discussed the process moving forward. The SDBGN will conduct another 30-day comment period. Decisions of the next steps will be decided at the August 27th Board Meeting.

Hansen invited the Hartford constituents to the next SDBGN Board Meeting at 1:30 PM (CDT) August 27th via conference call or online live stream.

There was no other public comment on agenda or non-agenda items.

There was no other business to come before the board.

Irwin moved to adjourn, Vogt seconded. All members voted aye, meeting adjourned at 6:27p.m.

Recorded by Alli Moran, Board Secretary