
Minutes

Washington State Committee on Geographic Names

October 23, 2015
Natural Resources Building
Olympia, Washington

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

David Bergvall - Chair
Mike Iyall - Tribal Representative
Mary Schaff – State Librarian Representative
Dr. Allyson Brooks – State Historic Preservation Director
Putnam Barber - Public Member

STAFF PRESENT

Caleb Maki

AUDIENCE MEMBERS PRESENT

R. B. Crittenden – Cooper Creek
Janice Crittenden – Cooper Creek
Barbara Reid – Vancouver Notch
Linda Fortune – Vancouver Notch
Skip Dreps – Vancouver Notch
Todd Mathews – Vancouver Notch
Rob Shaner – Shaner Creek
Melissa Goldmann – Sq’emenen Bay

1 Washington State Committee on Geographic Names
2 October 23, 2015
3 10:00am to 4:00pm
4 Department of Natural Resources – Room 172
5 1111 Washington St SE - Olympia WA 98504
6

7 Agenda
8

9
10 **A. CALL TO ORDER**

11
12 **B. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

13
14 **C. NAMES FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**

15
16 **Grays Harbor County**

17 Wildcat Pond – New Name – **APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE**
18

19 **Jefferson County**

20 Cooper Creek – New Name – **APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE**
21

22 **Pierce County**

23 Vancouver Notch – New Name – **APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE**
24

25 **D. NAMES FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION**

26
27 **San Juan County**

28 Hix Bay – Spelling Clarification – **APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**

29 Sq'ememen Bay – Name Change – **APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**
30

31 **Thurston County**

32 Shaner Creek – New Name – **APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**
33

34 **E. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

35
36 **F. ADJOURNMENT**

1 **CALL TO ORDER**

2 The David Bergvall called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. All of the Committee members
3 introduced themselves.

4
5 **SAFETY REVIEW**

6 Mr. Maki gave a safety overview and instructions on evacuating the building in case of an
7 emergency.

8
9 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

10 Chair David Bergvall called for approval of the minutes for the May 15, 2015 Committee on
11 Geographic Names Meeting.

12
13 **MOITION:** Mike Iyall moved to approve the minutes.

14
15 **SECOND:** Putnam Barber seconded the motion.

16
17 **ACTION:** The motion was unanimously approved.

18
19 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR WILDCAT POND**

20 None

21
22 **WILDCAT POND: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

23 After an overview from staff, Putnam Barber asked staff about the other names that were
24 considered by the school. According to the application, the other name that came is a close
25 second was "Seahawk Slough". Staff informed the Committee that no other features were
26 named Wildcat Pond in Washington.

27
28 Dr. Brooks stated that she thought it was great that the school kids decided to come up with a
29 name for the feature. Mary Schaff asked if the feature was located near the school. The feature
30 is located 0.25 miles to the West, across Highway 8.

31
32 **MOTION:** Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Wildcat Pond.

33
34 **SECOND:** Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

35
36 **ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously to send Wildcat Pond to the Board on
37 Geographic Names with the Committee's recommendation to approve.

38
39 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR COOPER CREEK**

40 After an overview by staff, the proponent Bruce Crittenden addressed the Committee. Mr.
41 Crittenden introduced his wife Janice, and thanked the Committee for being invited to another
42 meeting.

43
44 Mr. Crittenden said that since the last meeting he was contacted by one of his neighbors Dick
45 Osborne, whose wife Sally is the Great-Granddaughter of Mary Cooper. Mr. Osborne had
46 published several books about his and his wife's family, and sent copies to Mr. Crittenden. The

1 books included family photographs and maps of the area, including the location of the Cooper
2 homestead. Mr. Crittenden said that anyone was free to read them today, but he would not be
3 submitting them as materials to his proposal, out of respect for the Cooper and Osborne families.
4 Mary Schaff said that the State Library was always interested in early Puget Sound families, and
5 suggested donating a copy.

6
7 Mr. Crittenden said that while he was originally aware of Andy Cooper, it turns out that many
8 other Cooper descendants still live in the area. Andy Cooper built Andy Cooper Road and his
9 family built other roads in the area such as Watson Road, Shine Road, and Teal Lake Road. Mr.
10 Crittenden also found out that the Cooper family had a large home north of the Cooper
11 homestead, on Port Ludlow Bay. Mr. Crittenden stated that he wanted to thank Dick Osborne
12 for coming forward and sharing the Cooper family history with him and the Committee.

13
14 Mr. Crittenden ended by saying that he wanted to thank the Committee for taking the proposed
15 name under consideration, and felt that the Cooper family deserved to be honored for their
16 contribution to the area. The Cooper family was the first family to settle the area, all the way
17 south to the town of Shine.

18
19 Mike Iyall suggested to Mr. Crittenden that he contact the Government Land Office to get a copy
20 of maps showing original homesteads. Mary Schaff said that many of the GLO maps have been
21 digitized and are available online for free.

22
23 **COOPER CREEK: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

24 During Committee discussion, Mary Schaff thanked Mr. and Mrs. Crittenden for their submitted
25 materials stating that she always appreciates a well-researched proposal.

26
27 MOTION: Putnam Barber moved to approve the name Cooper Creek.

28
29 SECOND: Mike Iyall seconded the motion.

30
31 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Cooper Creek to the Board on
32 Geographic Names with the Committee's recommendation to approve.

33
34 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR VANCOUVER NOTCH**

35 After an overview by staff, the proponent Barbara Reid addressed the Committee. Mrs. Reid
36 introduced Todd Mathews from the Tacoma Daily Index who contacted the land owner and
37 arrange a visit to the feature. Mrs. Reid went over the pictures she had recently sent in to the
38 Committee showing various views of the feature. David Bergvall asked Mrs. Reid if there would
39 be confusion to another nearby notch formed by a more prominent peak. Mrs. Reid did not
40 believe so, but said that she always wanted to get someone to fly her up there in a helicopter to
41 get a better view.

42
43 **VANCOUVER NOTCH: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

44 Mary Schaff asked Mrs. Reid if Captain Vancouver observed the feature from Commencement
45 Bay. Mrs. Reid said that Vancouver was anchored on the Discovery at Restoration Point when
46 he noticed the feature, describing it as a “conspicuous and abrupt division” in the southern

1 foothills of Mt. Rainier. Mrs. Reid said that you can see this feature from many locations in the
2 Puget Sound area.

3
4 David Bergvall said that at last meeting there was discussion as to adding an “s” to the name to
5 be Vancouvers Notch. Mrs. Reid said that she wanted to use the original proposed name.

6
7 Mary Schaff asked staff where the actual location on a map would be when naming a notch or
8 gap. Staff stated that the Geographic Names Information System database uses the center of the
9 notch on the ground as the coordinate for the feature.

10
11 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Vancouver Notch.

12
13 SECOND: Mary Schaff seconded the motion.

14
15 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Vancouver Notch to the Board on
16 Geographic Names with the Committee's recommendation to approve.

17
18 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR HIX BAY**

19 None

20
21 **HIX BAY: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

22 After an overview by staff, Mary Schaff asked how long the family name has been misspelled on
23 maps. According to the proponent, Hix Bay has appeared on maps for over 100 years with the
24 misspelling.

25
26 David Bergvall said that it appears to be well documented that the family name was spelled Hix.
27 Staff said that according to the proponents, there were no families by the last name of “Hicks” in
28 the area historically. Both David Bergvall and Mary Schaff said that they hoped to see local
29 support for the name as it moves forward, and suggested contacting the local historical societies.

30
31 MOTION: Putnam Barber moved to approve the name Hix Bay for Final Consideration.

32
33 SECOND: Mike Iyall seconded the motion.

34
35 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Hix Bay for Final Consideration.

36
37 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SQ’EMENEN BAY**

38 After an overview by staff, Melissa Goldmann addressed the Committee. Mrs. Goldmann said
39 that she is a third generation property owner on Shaw Island, and she is against the renaming of
40 the bay. Mrs. Goldmann said that she fully appreciates the reasons why the name change was
41 proposed, and while the historical meaning of the term “Squaw” might be open to debate,
42 currently it is viewed as a derogatory term. Mrs. Goldmann said that she believes we can change
43 that, saying that when her kids ask her what the term means, she tells them that it is term for a
44 woman and it is an honorable thing to be a woman. Mrs. Goldmann said that the proposal
45 warrants discussion, but wanted to go on record as being opposed to the proposed name.

1 **SQ'EMENEN BAY: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

2 Mike Iyall stated that the term is objectionable and that it is a shame that we are using the term,
3 regardless of whether history changes the meaning to be acceptable. Mr. Iyall said that he knows
4 of no one in the Native community that uses the term, and that it has become derisive and
5 objectionable.

6
7 David Bergvall asked staff if the Lummi Nation had been contacted. Staff said that this proposal
8 was up for Initial Consideration and staff does not reach out to interested parties at this stage.
9 Staff did say that if accepted for Final Consideration, the Lummi Nation and other Tribal
10 governments would be solicited for their opinions.

11
12 Mary Schaff said that she would be curious to know where the name Squaw Bay and Squaw Bay
13 Road came from, hoping to find out if there was an actual Native-American person in the area at
14 one time. Mrs. Schaff said that it would be more appropriate to change the name to honor the
15 person living there, even though she believes using the Native-American name for the island is
16 more appropriate than a random name. Mrs. Schaff said that while she appreciates the proposal,
17 she felt that the proponent might get more support by working with the community.

18
19 Dr. Allyson Brooks said that she would be happy to see the proposal go forward, and hopes to
20 see what input from the community is submitted to the Committee. Dr. Brooks said that she has
21 no problem getting rid of the name "Squaw", and if the name offends people we need to respect
22 that. Dr. Brooks said that this is the only proposed name in front of the Committee right now,
23 and felt that the Committee should move the proposal along and see what the community
24 response is, and particularly if the Lummi Nation supports this proposed name.

25
26 Putnam Barber said that he does find it odd to name a relatively small feature after the Native-
27 American name for the whole island. Mr. Barber said that the Lummi term for the feature itself
28 would be more appropriate, but agrees that the term "Squaw" applied to a feature is offensive.

29
30 David Bergvall asked staff what would happen if the Committee approves this proposal, and a
31 counter proposal emerges. Staff said that the Committee has deferred proposals in the past
32 where this happened, allowing the counter proposal to catch up in the process.

33
34 Mike Iyall suggested that the proponent do the research to see who homesteaded the area, and to
35 gather more community support.

36
37 MOTION: Dr. Allyson Brooks moved to approve the name Sq'emenen Bay for Final
38 Consideration.

39
40 SECOND: Mike Iyall seconded the motion.

41
42 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Sq'emenen Bay for Final
43 Consideration.

44
45 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SHANER CREEK**

46 After an overview from staff, the proponent Rob Shaner told the Committee that while he did not

1 want to speak, he was available to answer any questions.

2

3 **SHANER CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

4 David Bergvall asked if the cleanup of the creek was in partner with the Thurston County
5 Conservation District. Rob Shaner said that his father took it upon himself to clean up the
6 garbage in the creek because he loved the creek and the Black River that it flowed into.

7

8 Mr. Bergvall asked staff if the feature was large enough to appear on maps, and staff showed the
9 location on the USGS Quadrangle map.

10

11 Mary Schaff said that she believes that as part of the process to preserve a feature and ask for
12 funding to clean it up, an official name is often required. Staff said that past proposals have
13 come before the Committee for that very reason.

14

15 MOTION: Dr. Allyson Brooks moved to approve the name Shaner Creek for Final
16 Consideration.

17

18 SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.

19

20 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Shaner Creek for Final
21 Consideration.

22

23 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

24 David Bergvall said that he has asked staff to begin the process of officially adopting policies
25 and procedures for the Committee. The language in the RCW directs the Committee to create
26 and publish its process for geographic naming in Washington State.

27

28 Mike Iyall said that it is important to adopt official procedures, as relying on memory alone is
29 not sufficient for a Board or Committee. Mary Schaff said that it is important and should be
30 done, and inquired into the process.

31

32 Staff said that they are working with Dept. of Natural Resources staff that is trained in the
33 creation and adoption of rules. Mrs. Schaff suggested getting a copy of similar Committees rules
34 as a guideline. Staff said that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names has Policies and Procedures,
35 and the Committee will try to follow those as much as possible.

36

37 **ADJOURNMENT**

38 The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 AM.