WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF

Natural Resources

Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

Board on Geographic Names

House Bill 1084: re-establishes the Board on Geographic Names (BGN) as a function of the Board of Natural Resources (BNR)

Board on Geographic Names Responsibilities

- Establish the official name and spelling for geographic features within the state except when a name is specified by law
- Assign names to geographic features in the state for which no generally accepted name has been in use
- Cooperate with county commissions, state departments, agencies, the state legislature, and the US Board on Geographic Names
- Serve as the liaison with the United States Board on Geographic Names
- Periodically issue a list of names approved by the board
- Establish policies to carry out the purpose of this board and sub-committee

Board on Geographic Names

- The BGN is to establish the Committee on Geographic Names (CGN). This committee shall assist the board in its duties.

Board on Geographic Names
Composition of the Committee Members

- Commissioner of Public Lands (or representative)
- State Librarian (or the librarian's designee)
- Director of the Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (or the director's designee)
- A representative of the WA state tribes, to be appointed by the Commissioner of Public Lands from nominations made by WA's recognized tribal governments. The tribal representative shall serve a three-year term.
- Three members of the public to be appointed by the Commissioner of Public Lands. Initially one member of the public will serve a three-year term, one will serve a two-year term, and one will serve a one-year term and subsequently serve three-year terms.

Board on Geographic Names

Commissioner's appointments to the Committee:

- Commissioner's representative as Chair of the Committee: Cullen Stephenson, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

- Tribal Representative appointed by the Commissioner:
  - Leonard Forsman, Chairman of the Suquamish Tribe

- Public Representatives appointed by the Commissioner:
  - Dr. Grant Smith
  - Putnam Barber
  - Dean Foster

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QUESTIONS?

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