
Minutes

Washington State Committee on Geographic Names

April 26, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sara Palmer – Chair

Mary Schaff – WA State Library Representative

Mike Iyall – Tribal Representative

Dean Foster - Public Member

Dr. Grant Smith – Public Member

Putnam Barber – Public Member

STAFF PRESENT

Caleb Maki

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Patrick Beehler

Kenny Ocker

Jennifer Runyon

Linda Storm

Ryan McPhee

Jason Griffith

Rand Schenck

Mark Bozanich

Mark Bozanich

Bonnie Blessing

Chuck Holland

Chuck Holland

Ken Carrasco

Matthew O'Donnell

Paul Soderman

Richard Edwards

Richard Edwards

Austin Smith

Janet Welch

Alex Levine

1 **Washington State Committee on Geographic Names**

2 **April 26, 2022**

3 **10:00am**

4 **Online Meeting**

5 **Agenda**

6

7 **A. CALL TO ORDER**

8

9 **B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

10

11 **C. NAMED DEFERRED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**

12

13 **Snohomish County**

14 Holland Marsh – New Name - APPROVED

15

16 **D. NAMES FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**

17

18 **San Juan County**

19 Basket Island – New Name - APPROVED

20 Cayou Channel – Name Change - APPROVED

21

22 **Thurston County**

23 Chaenn Hill – Spelling Clarification - APPROVED

24

25 **E. NAMES DEFERRED FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION**

26

27 **Whatcom County**

28 Kloke Peak – New Name – APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION

29

30 **F. NAMES FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION**

31

32 **Jefferson County**

33 Kilisut Passage – New Name – APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION

34

35 **Mason County**

36 Kirkson Creek – New Name – DEFFERED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

37

38 **Okanogan County**

39 Black Canyon Ridge – Name Change – DEFFERED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

40 Rizeor Lake – New Name – APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION

41

42 **Skamania County**

43 Laura Creek – New Name - DENIED

44

45 **Thurston County**

46 Tiger Lily Mountain – New Name – APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION

47

48 **G. ADJOURNMENT**

49

1 **CALL TO ORDER**

2 The Chair of the Committee Sara Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:01am. All of the
3 Committee members introduced themselves.

4
5

6 **US DEPT OF THE INTERIOR SO 3404 UPDATE**

7 Chair Sara Palmer gave an update to the Committee members on the progress of the US Dept. of
8 Interior’s replacement of any geographic name containing the word “squaw”. Sara said that
9 following the Committee’s special meeting, a letter was sent to the DOI with the Committee’s
10 concerns.

11
12 Sara also informed the Committee that following the special meeting, she heard that several WA
13 Tribe’s might submit replacement names for the features identified by SO 3404.

14
15 Mary Schaff asked if there had been any update on Squaw Island in Clark County that might not
16 even exist anymore, at least according to local citizens at the last meeting. Staff of the Committee
17 said that they will be working with the US Board to see how to handle a feature that no longer
18 exists, but is in the US BGN’s names database.

19
20

21 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR HOLLAND MARSH**

22 Chuck Holland, the proponent for Holland Marsh, addressed the Committee. Chuck said that
23 following the last Committee meeting where Chuck was asked to gather public support for his
24 proposal, he was able to get several citizens and organizations to submit letters of support. Chuck
25 also said that a local newspaper reporter had contacted him about the feature as well. Chuck
26 thanked the Committee for their consideration today.

27
28

28 **HOLLAND MARSH: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

29 Mike Iyall said that the Committee should respect the local community support and that he
30 supports this proposal.

31
32

32 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Holland Marsh.

33
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34 SECOND: Dr. Grant Smith seconded the motion.

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36

36 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Holland Marsh to the Board on
37 Geographic Names with the Committee’s recommendation to approve.

38
39

39 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR BASKET ISLAND**

40 Alex Levine, the proponent for Basket Island, thanked the Committee for their time and hoped that
41 they have received the additional materials he provided. Alex also said that he has heard local
42 residents say that they support the name, and Alex submitted another photo to better show the
43 “handle” of the basket, which is a bent tree.

44
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1 **BASKET ISLAND: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

2 Mary Schaff said that she was originally hesitant to support this proposal due to the feature's small
3 size, but hearing that NOAA was in support, she can now support the proposal. Dean Foster said
4 that he supports this proposal, but is still concerned about naming features that disappear with the
5 tide.

6
7 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved to approve the name Basket Island.

8
9 SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.

10
11 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Basket Island to the Board on
12 Geographic Names with the Committee's recommendation to approve.

13
14 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CAYOU CHANNEL**

15 Ken Carrasco the proponent for Cayou Channel, thanked the Committee and said that he is
16 basically here to answer questions. Ken said that he spoke with several media outlets regarding
17 the proposal and is aware of several articles that have appeared recently.

18
19 Ken said that he started this process because he lives on Harney Channel and thanks to a chance
20 encounter with someone regarding Oregon Trail history, he learned about General Harney's
21 background. When Ken spoke with the local community, Henry Cayou's name kept coming up,
22 and thought this would be a fitting name for his proposal.

23
24 Paul Soderman addressed the Committee next. Paul thanked the Committee for their consideration
25 of this proposal. Paul said that he is the last known descendant of General Harney, and was
26 involved with changing another feature with General Harney's name. Paul said that his family
27 supports this proposal.

28
29 Paul then publicly thanked Ken Carrasco for his work on this proposal.

30
31 **CAYOU CHANNEL: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

32 After hearing public comment, Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Cayou Channel.

33
34 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Cayou Channel.

35
36 SECOND: Dr. Grant Smith seconded the motion.

37
38 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Cayou Channel to the Board on
39 Geographic Names with the Committee's recommendation to approve.

40
41 Following the vote, Chair Sara Palmer thanked the proponent and the public who supported this
42 proposal.

43
44
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46

1 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CHAENN HILL**

2 None

3

4 **CHAENN HILL: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

5 Putnam Barber said the he likes the idea of using the correct, if unusual name, for the feature as
6 opposed to the obvious spelling error. Dean Foster said the he agrees with Putnam.

7

8 MOTION: Dean Foster moved to approve the name Chaenn Hill.

9

10 SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.

11

12 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Chaenn Hill to the Board on Geographic
13 Names with the Committee’s recommendation to approve.

14

15 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR KLOKE PEAK**

16 Jason Griffith, the proponent for Kloke Peak, addressed the Committee. Jason said that he is here
17 today to answer any questions the Committee members may have, and feels that his proposal does
18 a good job of conveying the impact Dallas Kloke had on the climbing community and his
19 attachment to this feature that is unnamed.

20

21 Jason said that following the last Committee meeting, he tried to contact the Nooksack and Lummi
22 Nation, but did not receive a response.

23

24 **KLOKE PEAK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

25 Putnam Barber asked the proponent to identify the peak from a photo submitted to the Committee.
26 Jason Griffith showed the photo and also explained the route Dallas Kloke used to climb the peak.

27

28 Mike Iyall asked if Jason was aware of any other feature named after Dallas Kloke, and he was
29 not. Mary Schaff said that she likes the uniqueness of the name and supports this proposal.

30

31 MOTION: Mary Schaff moved to approve the name Kloke Peak.

32

33 SECOND: Mike Iyall seconded the motion.

34

35 ACTION: Before the Committee vote, Chair Sara Palmer said that she is still hesitant to support
36 this proposal fully before hearing from WA Tribes. Dr. Grant Smith said that he does not usually
37 support commemorative names, but in this case he supports the proposal. The motion was
38 approved unanimously to approve Kloke Peak for Final Consideration.

39

40 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR KILISUT PASSAGE**

41 Janet Welch, the proponent for Kilisut Passage, addressed the Committee. Janet said that this
42 passage was opened two years ago and she got an application to name the feature a year ago.

43

44 Out of respect of wanting to defer to the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe to give them the opportunity
45 to propose a name for this feature, Janet waited 18 months before submitting a proposal. Janet
46 said that her use of “kilisut” is a descriptive name for Kilisut Harbor, and Kilisut Harbor was

1 named during the Wilkes expedition and was a Chinook term that meant “protected waters”.

2

3 Janet said that her choice of “passage” was a more direct connotation and that would have been
4 the name submitted by the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe. Janet said that she included the
5 S’Klallam word for passage in her proposal, but cannot pronounce it. Janet said that the S’Klallm
6 word meant “a passage through”, so she included the word “passage” in her proposed name.

7

8 **KILISUT PASSAGE: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

9 Chair Sara Palmer told Janet Welch that she was aware of the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
10 application, and that the Committee staff had not been able to reach the Tribe. Sara said that she
11 is aware that the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe is short staffed and understands the lack of
12 communication. Sara also said that she herself is a speaker of the Chinook language, and is
13 unaware of the term “kilisut” being a Chinook word.

14

15 Mike Iyall said that this proposal could be forwarded with further outreach. Mike said that there
16 are many examples of Wilkes names using corrupted or incorrect forms of Chinook words.

17

18 Dr. Grant Smith said that he thought this was a thoughtful proposal, and looks forward to seeing
19 the comments received before the next meeting.

20

21 Chair Sara Palmer said that she was hesitant to proceed due to a possible proposal for the same
22 feature from the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe. Janet said that she will research the Chinook
23 meaning of the word further. Mike said that it was important to remember that “jargon” was not
24 specific to a particular Tribe. Mike said that he favors deferring the proposal until hearing from
25 the Tribes.

26

27 Mary Schaff asked staff to clarify the timing of events with this feature. Staff said that the Port
28 Gamble S’Klallam Tribe did submit a proposal first, but the proponent listed could not be reached.
29 After repeated attempts to contact the Tribe, the proposal was left off the agenda until they could
30 be contacted, as is the usual process.

31

32 Mike Iyall said he was in favor of deferring this proposal. Dr. Grant Smith said that deferring this
33 proposal would just add one more meeting to the process. Dr. Smith said that during the outreach
34 period following this meeting, additional input and information may be received. Mike said that
35 he could go along with that, and the Committee always has the option to defer at the next meeting.
36 Dean Foster agreed, saying that this is why the Committee has a two-step process, and the public
37 deserves to see these proposals proceed.

38

39 Sara said that she is hesitant to support this proposal, and that perpetuating an error with the term
40 “Kilisut” is not something she is comfortable with. Sara also said that she will need to see Tribal
41 support to be able to support this proposal herself.

42

43 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved to approve the name Kilisut Passage.

44

45 SECOND: Dean Foster seconded the motion.

46

1 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Kilisut Passage for Final
2 Consideration.

3
4 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR KIRKSON CREEK**

5 None

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7 **KIRKSON CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

8 After an overview of the proposal by Chair Sara Palmer, Mary Schaff said that she found this
9 proposal confusing as to why the name had to be combined. Putnam Barber agreed with Mary,
10 and said that this is a commemorative name that does not commemorate. Mike Iyall asked if there
11 has been any comment yet from Tribal Government, and that folks might not even know why this
12 feature was named in a couple of years.

13
14 Dr. Grant Smith said that he does not like the proposal much due to lack of community support,
15 but is not opposed to further this proposal for Final Consideration. Dr. Smith said that he does not
16 like commemorations to begin with, especially confusing ones.

17
18 MOTION: Putnam Barber moved to defer the name Kirkson Creek until more support was
19 received by the Committee.

20
21 SECOND: Mike Iyall seconded the motion.

22
23 ACTION: The motion was approved to defer Kirkson Creek for Final Consideration. Mary Schaff
24 voted against the motion.

25
26 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR BLACK CANYON RIDGE**

27 Austin Smith, the proponent for Black Canyon Ridge, thanked the Committee for their time and
28 consideration of his proposal. Austin said that he would like to thank the Methow people, and
29 welcomed Tribal comments and participation. Austin also said that he supports deferring his
30 proposal until a further meeting.

31
32 **BLACK CANYON RIDGE: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

33 Chair Sara Palmer said that she had just received an email from the Yakama Nation with a list of
34 replacement names for “squaw” features in WA. Sara thanked Austin Smith for taking action and
35 submitting a replacement name.

36
37 Mike Iyall said that while he respects the Federal naming process, he said that the Committee has
38 accountability to the citizens of WA to move these replacement names forward. Chair Sara Palmer
39 said that she is hoping that before the Committee’s July meeting, the Committee receives more
40 proposed names for these features.

41
42 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to defer the name Black Canyon Ridge until more support was
43 received by the Committee.

44
45 SECOND: Mary Schaff seconded the motion, but added that the Federal process is not set to finish
46 until September, so that there might not be any additional information for the July meeting.

1
2 ACTION: The motion was approved to defer Black Canyon Ridge for Final Consideration.

3
4 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR RIZEOR LAKE**
5 None

6
7 **RIZEOR LAKE: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**
8 Chair Sara Palmer went over the proposal and highlighted several emails received by the
9 Committee. Mary Schaff asked staff to clarify emails that seemed to be opposed to the name.
10
11 Putnam Barber said he supports this proposal to correct a spelling error. Mary said she agrees.

12
13 MOTION: Mary Schaff moved to approve the name Rizeor Lake.

14
15 SECOND: Dr. Grant Smith seconded the motion.

16
17 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Rizeor Lake for Final Consideration.

18
19 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR LAURA CREEK**
20 Rand Schenck, the proponent for Laura Creek, addressed the Committee. Rand said that he has
21 letters of support for his proposal for the Committee. Rand said that Laura was Gifford Pinchot's
22 love interest, and Gifford Pinchot's grandson wrote a letter of support which Rand read to the
23 Committee. Rand said that he has a picture of Gifford Pinchot's grandson and President Harry
24 Truman when the Gifford Pinchot National Forest was created.

25
26 Rand read a letter from Jerry Franklin in support of the proposal as well. Rand also received
27 support from the local ranger for his proposal.

28
29 **LAURA CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**
30 Mike Iyall and Chair Sara Palmer wondered why the proponent contacted a Tribe in Oregon when
31 Washington Tribes were not contacted.

32
33 Mary Schaff asked if Gifford Pinchot had any connection to WA besides being a Federal
34 administrator. Sara said that she believes that Gifford Pinchot did a lot of national level work.
35 Mary said that her point of the question was that Gifford Pinchot did not seem to have much of a
36 connection with the state.

37
38 Dr. Grant Smith said that he does not see a connection between the person being commemorated
39 and the feature, and that he cannot support this proposal. Putnam Barber said that he had a different
40 reaction, and that was "Laura" is a sort of generic first name, and why not use the last name of the
41 person being commemorated?

42
43 Mike Iyall said that he cannot support it due to the lack of connection to the feature.

44
45 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved to deny the name Laura Creek.

46

1 SECOND: Mary Schaff seconded the motion.

2

3 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny the name Laura Creek. Putnam Barber
4 said that he thought it admirable that folks went to the effort to honor Laura Houghteling, and
5 thought that there might be a better way to commemorate her.

6

7 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR TIGER LILY MOUNTAIN**

8 Bonnie Blessing, the proponent for Tiger Lily Mountain, addressed the Committee. Bonnie said
9 she lives on the road leading up to this mountain, and said that most folks just refer to the mountain
10 by its location. Bonnie said that she read stories that this place provided safety and tiger lilies
11 grew in area. Bonnie admits that she does not know if this is the exact location of the feature
12 referenced in the stories. Bonnie said that while she may not be the one to name the feature, she
13 appreciates what she has learned during this process and welcomes Tribal input.

14

15 Linda Storm addressed the Committee next. Linda said that she is honored to be here and in her
16 job as a Wetland Biologist she works with Federally recognized Tribes regularly. Linda said she
17 sent in comments to the Committee, but wanted to speak to Bonnie's proposal. Linda said that
18 Bonnie used one of her slides from a presentation she gave in her proposal. Linda said that in her
19 research, she found reference to place names in the Capitol Forest area, and the "tiger lily
20 mountain" might actually be Capitol Peak.

21

22 Linda said this is a complex issue, and the Tribes need to be consulted with thoroughly. Linda
23 said she is excited about having the place named.

24

25 **TIGER LILY MOUNTAIN: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

26 Mike Iyall said the permission should be given before lore and legend is used in a geographic name
27 application.

28

29 Dr. Grant Smith said that there is interest from both the proponent and the Committee to solicit
30 and receive input from Tribes, so he supports moving this proposal forward for Final
31 Consideration, with the expectation of Tribal input and comment solicitation.

32

33 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved to approve the name Tiger Lily Mountain.

34

35 SECOND: Dean Foster seconded the motion.

36

37 ACTION: During discussion of the motion, Chair Sara Palmer said that as someone who does a
38 lot of work in the Capitol State Forest area, she cannot support this proposal without Tribal input
39 and support. Mary Schaff said that she agrees with Mike Iyall's earlier comments, and feels
40 permission for using the stories and lore needs to be given. Mike said he now supports denying
41 this proposal now. Dean Foster said he supports the motion to move this proposal to Final
42 Consideration to allow input on the proposal. The motion was approved to approve Tiger Lily
43 Mountain for Final Consideration. Mike and Sara voted against the motion.

44

45 **ADJOURNMENT**

46 The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 pm.