Minutes
Washington State Committee on Geographic Names

October 26, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT
Sara Palmer – Chair
Mary Schaff – WA State Library Representative
Dr. Allyson Brooks – Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Mike Iyall – Tribal Representative
Dean Foster - Public Member
Dr. Grant Smith – Public Member
Putnam Barber – Public Member

STAFF PRESENT
Caleb Maki

AUDIENCE PRESENT
Wendy Weiker
Jason Griffith
Robert MacAulay
Ken Carrasco
Kit Moffitt
Judy Ginn
Ben Johnson
Jane Brahm
Alex Levine
Jean Bray
Patrick Beehler
Chuck Holland
Richard Edwards
Drew Crooks
John & Rami Amaro
Scott Bingen
Jill Youde
Susan Blake
Kenny Ocker
Mark Bozanich
Ryan McPhee
Stephanie Buffum
Dale Mix
Paul Soderman
Sara Jones
Jim Bottles
John Roper
Washington State Committee on Geographic Names

October 26, 2021

10:00am Online Meeting

Agenda

A. CALL TO ORDER
B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
C. NAMES FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION
   King County
      Riley Cove – New Name - APPROVED
   San Juan County
      Rabbit Chase Creek – New Name - APPROVED
   Snohomish County
      Andy Holland Marsh – New Name - DEFERRED
   Spokane and Stevens County
      Barney Kolker Canyon - Spelling Clarification - APPROVED
D. NAMES FOR INTIAL CONSIDERATION
   King County
      Cedar Creek – New Name - DENIED
      Owl Creek – New Name - DENIED
   San Juan County
      Basket Island – New Name – APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION
      Cayou Channel – Name Change – APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION
      Hidden Lake – New Name - DENIED
   Skamania County
      Laura Creek – New Name - DENIED
   Snohomish County
      Cedar Glen Creek – New Name - DENIED
   Thurston County
      Chaenn Hill – Spelling Clarification – APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION
      Moonlight Creek – New Name - DENIED
   Whatcom County
      Mount Dallas Kloke – New Name - DEFERRED
E. NAMES SENT BACK TO THE COMMITTEE WITH THEBOARD’S CONCERNS
   Clallam County
      Misty Creek – New Name - DENIED
   Clallam and Jefferson County
      Misty Mountains – New Name - DENIED
F. ADJOURNMENT
CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR RILEY COVE

None

RILEY COVE: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)

Chair Sara Palmer began by asking the Committee for discussion. Dr. Grant Smith said that while he wishes the Committee could avoid commemorative names, this one looks like a reasonable proposal.

Mike Iyall stated that if there is no objection from the Committee, he would like to make a motion to approve the name. Dean Foster seconded the motion.

During the discussion of the motion, Mary Schaff asked staff about the opposition received from two local residents. Staff said that the comments received stated that the feature was known by another name in the past, “McGilvra Cove”.

Chair Sara Palmer said that she noticed that the most of the comments received were from 2009, and asked staff about the lag in time. Staff stated that this proposal was first submitted in 2009, Mr. Riley had not been deceased for the required 5-year minimum for commemorative naming. The proponent at the time chose to withdraw the application and resubmit at a later time.

Dr. Grant Smith stated that he would be more comfortable postponing the proposal for another meeting to see if there were more up to date comments. Mike Iyall said he was comfortable with that idea. Dr. Grant Smith said that he is a little reluctant approving this proposal without more current information.

Mary Schaff said that while she agreed with Dr. Grant Smith, she said that the proponent has been waiting two years in this process. Mary Schaff said that as part of the Committee’s due diligence, she would like to see the Committee act on this proposal.

Mike Iyall and Mary Schaff said that the motion to defer should include the explanation that the proponent should canvass the neighborhood again and see if the public support is still there.

MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to defer Riley Cove to allow the proponent to collect more up-to-date opinions.

SECOND: Dr. Grant Smith seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to defer Riley Cove until the next Committee meeting.
During a break in the meeting, staff received several phone calls from the proponent concerning
the length of time between the support submitted by the proponent and now. The proponent
pointed out that the comments were updated in 2019 before the Committee hiatus.

In light of the new information, Chair Sara Palmer asked the Committee if they would like to
reconsider the proposal Riley Cove.

MOTION: Dr. Allyson Brooks moved to reconsider Riley Cove in light of new information.

SECOND: Mike Iyall seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to reconsider Riley Cove.

After being notified that the proponent sent out a letter updating the residents of the naming effort,
the Committee voted to approve Riley Cove. The Committee thanked the proponent for calling
and notifying them of the new information.

MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved to approve the name Riley Cove.

SECOND: Mary Schaff seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Riley Cove to the Board on Geographic
Names with the Committee’s recommendation to approve.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR RABBIT CHASE CREEK

Rami Amaro introduced herself to the Committee. Mrs. Amaro explained that her and her husband
bought a farm on San Juan Island in 2015 and were the second owners. The Lawson family were
the original homesteaders, and as the Amaro family has restored the farm they started to look into
the Lawson family history. Mrs. Amaro is friends with some Lawson family members, and saw
pictures of rabbit hunting and found out that the Lawson family would make a living allowing
folks from Seattle to hunt rabbit on their land.

The rabbit hunters would ride on the front of an old car, and the proponent found an old barb wire
fence that the hunters would use to round up the rabbits. The proponent thought that the name
chosen would reflect the history of the area.

RABBIT CHASE CREEK: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)

Chair Sara Palmer thanked the proponent for her comments, and asked the Committee if there was
any discussion.

Dr. Grant Smith said that he really like this proposal, and Putnam Barber agreed. Mike Iyall asked
staff if any comments in opposition had been received by the Committee. After being informed
that none had been received, Mike Iyall made a motion to approve the proposal.
MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Rabbit Chase Creek.
SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.
ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Rabbit Chase Creek to the Board on Geographic Names with the Committee’s recommendation to approve.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ANDY HOLLAND MARSH
Chuck Holland introduced himself to the Committee. Mr. Holland is the proponent and nephew to Andy Holland, and felt that Andy Holland has left a legacy through his work as an educator and for the US Forest Service. Andy Holland was a professor at Everett Community College and also donated the funds used to build the Lopez Island Community Center.

Chuck Holland owns a tree farm on which the marsh is located, and asked the Committee to honor Andy Holland by naming the marsh after him.

ANDY HOLLAND MARSH: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)
Chair Sara Palmer thanked the proponent and asked for discussion from the Committee. Putnam Barber asked if there was any direct connection between Andy Holland and the marsh. Dr. Grant Smith said that he has the same concern.

Chuck Holland said that Andy Holland briefly owned the tree farm before he died, less than one year.

Mary Schaff said that she noticed an email from Snohomish County GIS that was opposed and suggested “Holland Marsh”. Dr. Allyson Brooks said that “Holland Marsh” did sound better, and thought that it better reflected a family legacy, versus just Andy Holland who only owned the land for a short period of time.

Dr. Grant Smith said that there are lots of notable citizens without features named after them, and that he feels virtue should be its own reward. Dr. Grant Smith said that this is a weak proposal, and that there was not much connection between Andy Holland and the feature.

Mike Iyall asked the proponent if he would be okay with modifying the proposal to “Holland Marsh”. The proponent agreed.

Dr. Grant Smith said that changing the proposal would honor the Holland family’s presence in the area, but he still does not see much of a connection between Andy Holland and the feature. Dr. Grant Smith also said that he does not see much community use for this feature and support for the name.

Dr. Allyson Brooks said that she agrees, and would like defer this proposal and see if there is more community support for “Holland Marsh”. Dean Foster said that he supports that motion, and asked if there was any public access to the feature. Chair Sara Palmer said that the feature was surrounded by DNR lands.
MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved to defer Holland Marsh.
SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.
ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to defer Holland Marsh until the next Committee of Geographic Names with the expectation of more public support.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR BARNEY KOLKER CANYON
None

BARNEY KOLKER CANYON: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)
Dr. Grant Smith said that the Committee has approved proposals like this in the past where a spelling error has occurred. Dr. Grant Smith said that the Committee agrees with correcting spelling errors, regardless of the original names meaning or what it was intended to commemorate. Mike Iyall said that he supported the proposal as well, and being a historian himself, he has seen a lot of spelling errors for place names.

MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve Barney Kolker Canyon.
SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.
ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Barney Kolker Canyon to the Board on Geographic Names with the Committee’s recommendation to approve.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MISTY CREEK & MISTY MOUNTAINS
None

MISTY CREEK & MISTY MOUNTAINS: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)
Chair Sara Palmer provided an overview of the proposals history before the Committee and Board. These proposals were approved by the Committee, but during consideration by the WA Board on Geographic Names, opposition was raised by the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe. Because of the opposition, the Board sent the two proposals back to the Committee with concerns.

During Committee discussion, Dr. Grant Smith said that it appears there were a lot of historical geographic names for the features that the Committee was unaware of when approving the names. Dr. Grant Smith would like to see the names mentioned in the letter by the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe become the official geographic names. Dr. Grant Smith moved to reconsider these name at the next Committee meeting.

Mike Iyall said that the Committee always makes their decisions based on the best available information at the time, and obviously was not aware of the historic names.

Dr. Allyson Brooks said that in the past, the Committee has always denied proposals when Tribal opposition existed. Mary Schaff said that the proposals were not very strong to begin with, due to the reference to the book The Lord of the Rings. Dr. Allyson Brooks said that she was not sure what another six months would do to change the Tribal opposition to the proposed names.
MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to deny Misty Creek & Misty Mountains based on new information received by the Committee.

SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny Misty Creek and Misty Mountains.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CEDAR CREEK
None

CEDAR CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)
Mary Schaff said that while the Committee has in the past advanced proposals similar to this one to gauge community support, she is concerned with the possible commercial interests due to the proponent’s ranch having the same name.

Mike Iyall said that the feature appears small and possibly seasonal. Putnam Barber said that it appears like the proponent is naming the creek after their ranch. Dr. Grant Smith agreed, saying that in the past the Committee has discouraged these types of proposals and he cannot support this proposal.

Mike Iyall asked how unique cedar trees were to this feature, as opposed to the area as a whole. Mike Iyall said that he thought names should be for unique aspects of the feature.

MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved to deny Cedar Creek.

SECOND: Mike Iyall seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny Cedar Creek.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR OWL CREEK
None

OWL CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)
Mike Iyall said that going forward the Committee should only approve names that reflect unique aspects of a feature. Dr. Allyson Brooks asked staff if Tribal opinion had been sought for this name. Staff said that because the proposed name was up for Initial Consideration, no opinion outreach had been performed.

Dr. Allyson Brooks said that in the future, she would like to see Tribal notification prior to the name appearing before the Committee. Chair Sara Palmer said that the issue is on her personal agenda as the new Chair, and will be talking with DNR’s Tribal Liaison about Tribal outreach for the future. Mike Iyall said that as a Tribal member, consultation late in the process can come as a shock and agrees that outreach should happened early in the process.

Dr. Grant Smith said that while he agrees, the Committee could approve the name and follow
existing procedures and do the notification and outreach at that time. Dr. Grant Smith said that while the name might not be that imaginative, he is open to see if there is support for the name.

MOTION: Dr. Allyson Brooks moved to deny Owl Creek.
SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.
ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny Owl Creek.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR BASKET ISLAND
Alex Levine introduced himself to the Committee. Mr. Levine is a third generation Orcas Island resident and his family owns the adjacent marina since 1972. Mr. Levine cannot recall the first time he heard the name “Basket Island”, but due to a lone bent over tree resembling a handle, folks in the area use the name. Mr. Levine also said that Basket Island could be in reference to the Lummi Tribe activity in the area. Mr. Levine said that local residents use the name currently, and has not heard the name “Trinka Rock” used.

BASKET ISLAND: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)
Dr. Grant Smith said he like the idea that the name references something that can be seen, and that it is used by the local residents. Dr. Grant Smith said he would like to see more local support if the name is indeed used.

Mike Iyall said that he would like to see if the Lummi Tribe has a name for the feature, published or not.

Mary Schaff said that in her research, she wondered if the feature is big enough to warrant a name, and if it is connected to Picnic Island. Alex Levine said that at high tide, the island is separate. Mr. Levine also said that Picnic Island is privately owned, but not Basket Island.

Dr. Allyson Brooks said that she is not comfortable with advancing this proposal as the Committee does not even know the landowner. Dr. Allyson Brooks said that she would like to see that information available up front in the future.

MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved approve the name Basket Island for Final Consideration.
SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.
ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Basket Island for Final Consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CAYOU CHANNEL
Stephanie Buffum introduced herself to the Committee and thanked them for their discussion today. She said that place names matter, people may come and go, but the names of the places we visit and recreate matter. People have lived in the area since time immemorial, and instead of recognizing this, a 19th century US Army General William Harney. Mr. Harney was notorious for whipping to death a black woman in Missouri, led the killing of Lakota men, women, and children
in Nebraska, and taking out country nearly to the brink of conflict with Great Britain.

Stephanie Buffum said that it is time to honor Henry Cayou. Mr. Cayou was an instrumental forerunner in leadership, farming, and in crossing cultural bridges between Coast Salish, natives, non-natives, and French settlers. It is for this reason that over 800 individuals support this proposal.

Paul Soderman addressed the Committee next. Mr. Soderman said that he was here today to speak about the Harney family and that his great-great-grandmother was Isabella Harney. Mr. Soderman said that he learned he was related to Mr. Harney about 15 years ago through a family letter. Mr. Soderman said he is aware of another feature name “Harney Peak” (now Black Elk Peak) in South Dakota. Black Elk Peak is the tallest peak the Black Hills and is sacred to the Lakota people.

Mr. Soderman said he begin to study his ancestor’s history, and found out that William Harney indeed attacked a village of Lakota people in Blue Water, Nebraska in 1855 during a punitive mission. Mr. Soderman said that during his research no written orders were found, but Franklin Pierce told William Harney to “whip the Indians” as a response to the Grattan Massacre. Mr. Harney and his 600 men attacked the first village they found under a white flag.

Mr. Soderman has been in contact with the Little Thunder family, whose village was attacked by Mr. Harney, in order to try to heal what happened at the area. Mr. Soderman and the Little Thunder family contacted the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names about getting “Harney Peak” renamed. The Board voted to approve the Tribal name for the mountain, but the South Dakota Governor disbanded the Board. So Mr. Soderman went to the US Dept. of the Interior as the feature is on Federal land. In 2015 they were successful changing the name to Black Elk Peak.

Mr. Soderman is not a local WA resident, but after learning about the efforts to rename Harney Channel, he wanted to lend his support. Not because of his ancestor’s actions, or that it was a popular thing to rename geographic features, but because he saw the effect the renaming of “Harney Peak” had on the Lakota people.

**CAYOU CHANNEL: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

Mike Iyall had to excuse himself from the meeting, but Chair Sara Palmer thanked Mr. Soderman for speaking to the Committee today.

Dr. Grant Smith said that this is a great proposal, and the Committee should move this along. Mary Schaff thanked the proponent for being so engaged in the naming process. Mary Schaff said that she even found some photographs of Mr. Cayou’s house.

**MOTION:** Dr. Grant Smith moved approve the name Cayou Channel for Final Consideration.

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

**ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously to approve Cayou Channel for Final Consideration.
PUBLIC COMMENT FOR HIDDEN LAKE
None

HIDDEN LAKE: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)
Dr. Grant Smith asked staff how many “Hidden Lake” features are in WA. Staff informed the Committee that there are 10 features with that name. The Committee discussed whether the proponent could resubmit the proposal with a more imaginative name.

MOTION: Mary Schaff moved to deny the name Hidden Lake.
SECOND: Dr. Grant Smith seconded the motion.
ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny the name Hidden Lake.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR LAURA CREEK
None

LAURA CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)
Mary Schaff said that she had to research the connection Laura had with the feature, as she had not heard about Laura before. Dr. Allyson Brooks said that while it’s a cute idea, she is not in favor of this proposal. Putnam Barber asked staff if Laura had visited the creek, and staff said that the proponent had not mentioned it.

Dr. Grant Smith made a motion to deny the proposal. During motion discussion, Chair Sara Palmer said that Jerry Franklin should be honored with a feature in the area, but luckily Mr. Franklin is still with us. Chair Sara Palmer also said that it would be more fitting to honor a woman forester.

MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved to deny the name Laura Creek.
SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.
ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny the name Laura Creek.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CEDAR GLEN CREEK
None

CEDAR GLEN CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)
Chair Sara Palmer said that this proposal is similar to the earlier proposal for “Cedar Creek”, and felt the committee’s earlier concerns apply.

MOTION: Putnam Barber moved to deny the name Cedar Glen Creek.
SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.
ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny the name Cedar Glen Creek.
PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CHAENN HILL
None

CHAENN HILL: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)
Chair Sara Palmer said that this was a spelling correction for a feature in Thurston County. Dr. Grant Smith said that the Committee usually votes in favor of spelling corrections, and made a motion to approve.

MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved approve the name Chaenn Hill for Final Consideration.
SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.
ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Chaenn Hill for Final Consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MOONLIGHT CREEK
None

MOONLIGHT CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)
Chair Sara Palmer that this proposal also seems similar to “Cedar Creek” and “Cedar Glen Creek”. Mary Schaff said that she was a little confused how the feature is located under dense foliage like the proponent claims, but also reflects the moonlight.

MOTION: Mary Schaff moved to deny the name Moonlight Creek.
SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.
ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny the name Moonlight Creek.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MOUNT DALLAS KLOKE
None

MOUNT DALLAS KLOKE: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)
Chair Sara Palmer mentioned some letters of support from The Mountaineers and other members of the climbing community. Staff clarified that the feature was indeed outside of the wilderness area.

Dr. Allyson Brooks mentioned that she is worried about the length of the name. Staff said that letters of support do seem to use “Kloke Peak”. Dr. Grant Smith said he was fine with the shorter name, but the Committee cannot rewrite proposals. Mary Schaff said that the name “Kloke” was original enough without the first name.

Dr. Grant Smith made the motion to defer the proposal and see if the proponent would be open to changing the proposal name. Chair Sara Palmer said that this area is documented with having feature names, and wants to see some Tribal consultation concerning the proposed name.

MOTION: Dr. Allyson Brooks made the motion to defer the name Mount Dallas Kloke and see if
the proponent would be open to changing the name to “Kloke Peak”.
SECOND: Mary Schaff seconded the motion.
ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to defer the name Mount Dallas Kloke.
ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 pm.