
Minutes

Washington State Committee on Geographic Names

July 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

STAFF PRESENT

Caleb Maki

AUDIENCE PRESENT

Guy Moura

Lia Frenchman

Crystal Miller

Jason Griffith

Kenny Ocker

Janet Welch

Washington State Committee on Geographic Names
July 26, 2022 - 10:00am - Online Meeting

Agenda

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- C. NAMES FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION

Jefferson County

Kilisut Passage – Proponent: Janet Welch – New Name - DEFERRED

Okanogan County

Rizeor Lake – Proponent: Scott Stluka - New Name/Spelling Clarification - APPROVED

Whatcom County

Kloke Peak – Proponent: Jason Griffith - New Name - APPROVED

- D. NAMES FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

Mason County

Kirkson Creek – Proponent: John Hickson - New Name - DENIED

San Juan County

Reeds Bay – Proponent: Kendra Lamb - Spelling Clarification – APPROVED

- E. SQ--- REPLACEMENT NAMES FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION

Current Name: Sq--- Lake (GNIS ID: 1526459) Chelan County

Proposed Names:

Masawii Lake – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation - DEFERRED

Wowpu-tushwa – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation- DEFERRED

Current Name: Sq--- Peak (GNIS ID: 1508665) Columbia County

Proposed Name:

Wenaha Peak – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation – APPROVED

Current Name: Sq--- Spring (GNIS ID: 1508667) Garfield County

Proposed Name:

Tucannon Spring – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation – APPROVED

Current Name: Sq--- Creek (GNIS ID: 1526452) Jefferson County

Proposed Name:

Noskeliikuu – Quinault Indian Nation – APPROVED

Current Name: Sq--- Lake (GNIS ID: 1526458) Kittitas County

Proposed Names:

Cle Elum Tarn – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation- DEFERRED

Nosh Nosh Wahtum – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation- DEFERRED

Current Name: Sq--- Islands (GNIS ID: 1526456) Klickitat County

Proposed Name:

Sq'wanana – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation – APPROVED

Current Name: Sq--- Mountain (GNIS ID: 1512688) Okanogan County
Proposed Name:
Condon Mountain – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation – APPROVED

Current Name: Sq--- Creek Ridge (GNIS ID: 1526455) Okanogan County
Proposed Names:
Black Canyon Ridge – Austin Smith- DEFERRED
Swaram Creek Ridge – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation- DEFERRED
Mokeihl – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation – DEFERRED

Current Name: Sq--- Creek (GNIS ID: 1526454) Okanogan County
Proposed Name:
West Fork Frosty Creek – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation – APPROVED

Current Name: Sq--- Lake (GNIS ID: 1509698) Skamania County
Proposed Name:
Aalvic Wahtum – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation – APPROVED

Current Name: Sq--- Butte (GNIS ID: 1526448) Skamania County
Proposed Name: Pataniks Pushtye – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation – APPROVED

Current Name: Sq--- Creek (GNIS ID: 1526449) Skamania County
Proposed Name:
Timla Wapykt – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama – APPROVED

Current Name: Sq--- Creek (GNIS ID: 2830645) Skamania County
Proposed Name:
Shluxiksikswana – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama – APPROVED

Current Name: Sq--- Creek (GNIS ID: 1526450) Stevens County
Proposed Name:
Snqilt Creek – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation– APPROVED

F. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Discussion on Derogatory Names

G. ADJOURNMENT

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 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR KILISUT PASSAGE**

6 Before hearing public comment, Chair Sara Palmer announced that the Committee had received a
7 letter from the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe concerning the Kilisut Passage name proposal at the
8 start of this meeting.

9

10 Janet Welch, the proponent, asked Sara to read the letter to the Committee saying that the letter
11 might help resolve this issue.

12

13 Sara read a letter submitted to the Committee by Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe stating the Tribe’s
14 opposition to the proposed name of Kilisut Passage and wishing for a Tribe-approved variation of
15 the S’Klallam place name for the site.

16

17 Janet said that she had been in contact with David Brownell, and had been told that the Tribes
18 would be submitting an anglicized version of the place name. Janet said that while it sounds like
19 a name has been proposed, because it is hard to pronounce it does not sound anglicized.

20

21 Janet said that her concern is that there is local reference and global mapping. Janet said that she
22 refers to the feature as The Passage, and historically it makes sense that people locally would refer
23 to it as The Passage. Janet said that putting it on global mapping essentially translated as The
24 Passage doesn’t really do anybody any service.

25

26 Janet said she wrote to David when he commented on Indian Island, and said that maybe David
27 should back up and name Indian Island with an anglicized version of the name that David
28 presented. Janet proposed to David to name the feature Kilisut Passage with full S’Klallam
29 translation underneath the name. Janet said that naming a feature “Passage” regardless of language
30 is not very descriptive. Janet said that while it may be historically appropriate and used by local
31 people, it’s not going to be a local name but a global name.

32

33 Janet said the she is very impressed by the qualifications and backgrounds of the Committee
34 members, and just wants to see the naming process carried through for this feature. Janet said that
35 she is open to what the feature is called, but just didn’t want to see the naming languish like it has
36 for the past years.

37

38 **KILISUT PASSAGE: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

39 Chair Sara Palmer asked if there was discussion among the Committee. Dr. Grant Smith said that
40 he felt Janet Welch’s comments were very persuasive and he was convinced to do something with
41 this feature other than what is currently before the Committee.

42

43 Mike Iyall said that the Committee must avoid any sense of urgency and that there is no rush to
44 get it wrong. Mike said that jargon was no one Tribe’s language but a mixture of many languages
45 and varied with location. Mike said that the Committee should defer this proposal to allow
46 Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe to submit a proposal and that there is no rush.

1
2 Dr. Grant Smith said he agreed, and was in no rush to get it wrong as well. Dr. Smith said jargon
3 was a way for people to get along, and was important to Washington’s history. Dr. Smith said that
4 he wishes to defer the proposal as well.

5
6 Dean Foster asked the Committee to defer this proposal to allow other possible proposals to catch
7 up in the process. Dr. Allyson Brooks said that she agrees, and this proposal should be tabled until
8 the next meeting to allow other proposals to come forward.

9
10 Mary Schaff said that her only concern is that if the Committee tables this proposal, another
11 proposal might not be submitted to the Committee. Mary said that she has only seen comments in
12 opposition to the current proposal, and wondered if tabling it would lead to it on the agenda
13 indefinitely.

14
15 Chair Sara Palmer said that she was aware of a possible proposal from the Jamestown S’Klallam
16 Tribe, but Committee staff has been unable to reach the proponent. Sara said that she understood
17 though, due to short staffing and other issues the Tribes are dealing with. Sara said that Committee
18 staff would follow up with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe.

19
20 Mike Iyall said the he urges people to remember that this area’s ancient history is not European
21 history, it is Native history. Mike said that if we want to maintain our connection to the past, we
22 must remember our Native history. Mike said that there is no rush, and the Committee should get
23 it right the first time.

24
25 MOTION: Dean Foster moved to defer the name Kilisut Passage.

26
27 SECOND: Dr. Grant Smith seconded the motion.

28
29 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to defer Kilisut Passage until the next
30 Committee meeting.

31
32 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR RIZEOR LAKE**

33 None

34
35 **RIZEOR LAKE: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

36 Mary Schaff commented that she appreciates correcting spelling errors, especially in the case
37 where it makes the name more unique.

38
39 Dean Foster said the he did not receive the materials for the meeting, and asked staff to get the
40 materials for the meeting in advance next time. Mike Iyall asked how big the feature was, Chair
41 Sara Palmer told Mike that the feature was 7.1 acres.

42
43 Mike then made a motion to approve the name.

44
45 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Rizeor Lake.

46

1 SECOND: Mary Schaff seconded the motion.

2

3 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Rizeor Lake to the Board on Geographic
4 Names with the Committee's recommendation to approve.

5

6 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR KLOKE PEAK**

7 None

8

9 **KLOKE PEAK: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

10 Mike Iyall said that there is nothing wrong with naming features using contemporary names when
11 they are not in conflict with traditional names, and that he supports this proposal.

12

13 Dr. Grant Smith said that while he has expressed concerns in the past with commemorative
14 naming, he could go along with this proposal due to public support and the relationship with the
15 feature and the person being commemorated.

16

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

18

19 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

20

21 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Kloke Peak to the Board on Geographic
22 Names with the Committee's recommendation to approve.

23

24 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR KIRKSON CREEK**

25 None

26

27 **KIRKSON CREEK: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

28 After an overview of the proposal from Chair Sara Palmer, Mary Schaff asked staff why the
29 proposal was still on the agenda after last meeting. Staff said that the proposal was deferred at the
30 last Committee meeting to allow the proponent to submit more evidence of local support for the
31 proposed name. Staff said they contacted the proponent, but no additional materials were
32 submitted.

33

34 Mary said that her objection to this proposal at that last meeting was because the proposal was
35 confusing, as it was a combination of two last names and might lead someone to research the name
36 not knowing it was a combination. Mary said that she was not supportive of the proposal.

37

38 Dr. Allyson Brooks said she agreed with Mary about the proposal being confusing due to not
39 commemorating one particular person.

40

41 MOTION: Dean Foster moved to deny the name Kirkson Creek.

42

43 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

44

45 During discussion of the motion, Mary Schaff said because Putnam Barber was absent, she felt it
46 correct to honor Putnam by saying the proponent is welcome to put a sign in their yard with the

1 name.

2

3 Mike Iyall said that because the proponent did not supply additional material to the Committee, he
4 views the proposal as incomplete.

5

6 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny the name Kirkson Creek.

7

8 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR REEDS BAY**

9 None

10

11 **REEDS BAY: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

12 After an overview of the proposal from Chair Sara Palmer, Mike Iyall made a motion to approve
13 the proposed name.

14

15 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Reeds Bay.

16

17 SECOND: Dean Foster seconded the motion.

18

19 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Reeds Bay for Final Consideration.

20

21

22 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION FOR SQ___ REPLACEMENT NAMES**

23 Mary Schaff said things may have changed in light of the Secretarial Order but last time the
24 Committee faced competing proposals from Tribes for the same feature, the Commissioner of
25 Public Lands told the Committee to not make a decision. Mary said that last time the competing
26 names were sent back to the Tribes for mediation. Mary said she is concerned, and wants to make
27 sure the Committee's process is rock solid before going forward. Mary said that because of who
28 she is, she is not comfortable making this decision when two Tribal names are competing for the
29 same feature

30

31 Chair Sara Palmer agreed and said that while she has not spoken directly to the Commissioner of
32 Public Lands, she recommends to the Committee to table the competing Tribal names and ask that
33 the Tribes have further conversation among themselves.

34

35 Dr. Allyson Brooks said that the Committee should reach out to the Tribal Chairs and say that the
36 state is not in a position to decide, and ask if it was possible for the Tribes to agree on one name.

37 Dr. Brooks used the example of her work, where the Tribes are always able to make a decision
38 amongst themselves when human remains are found.

39

40 Mike Iyall said he agreed completely, and the Committee should refer proposals back to the Tribes
41 when names are contested. Mike said that the Tribes should decide the issue.

42

43 Dean Foster thanked the Tribes for submitting the names, and said his concern was if non-Tribal
44 residents are aware of the possible name changes. Dean said that maybe because of the
45 Committee's two-step process, the word will get out and the Committee will get more comments.

46 Dean said that he agrees with what Mike Iyall said earlier, and this is a big issue going around the

1 country and the Committee should get it right.

2

3 Dr. Grant Smith said that the Committee should look to usefulness in a linguistic way and
4 pronounceability when approving names. Dr. Smith said if he has to choose, he will vote for the
5 name that is easy to pronounce, because the general public will want names approved that they
6 will actually use. Dr. Smith said the public will object if the Committee approves names that are
7 hard to use and pronounce.

8

9 Dr. Smith said he supports sending the competing proposals back to the Tribes with the vague
10 concept of usability. Dr. Smith said that in the past, the Tribes have been very helpful and
11 understanding about that concept, and might not need the encouragement of the importance of
12 pronounceability. Dr. Smith said that it is import for the Committee to educate the rest of the
13 community about the nature of the feature, and way and which the feature is important to the
14 indigenous community.

15

16 Mike Iyall said the Committee’s priority should be heritage first, and it is up to the Committee to
17 allow that heritage the process to resolve itself. Mike said that if you look across North America,
18 pronounceability has never been an issue. Mike said there are many examples of European names
19 that are hard or impossible to pronounce, so pronounceability is not as big of an issue to him as
20 heritage.

21

22 Mary Schaff said that in in regards to a names usability, it is kind of like the “chicken and the egg”
23 scenario. Mary said that people will not learn how to pronounce a name until it appears on a map.
24 Mary said before the Committee goes further, she would like to thank all the Tribes and that this
25 was the best Tribal response should could have envisioned when this process started. Mary said
26 she is delighted to see active engagement from the Tribes, and wanted to thank the Tribes for the
27 well thought out proposals.

28

29 **COMPETING PROPOSALS FOR SQ___ REPLACEMENT NAMES (Action Item)**

30

31 MOTION: Mary Schaff moved to defer the following names:

- Masawii Lake – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Wowpu-tushwa – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Cle Elum Tarn – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Nosh Nosh Wahtum – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Black Canyon Ridge – Austin Smith
- Swaram Creek Ridge – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Mokeihl – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

32 During discussion of the motion, Chair Sara Palmer said that she would write a letter to the Tribes
33 and individuals involved and explain the Committee’s decisions.

34

35 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

36

37 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to defer:

- Masawii Lake – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Wowpu-tushwa – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Cle Elum Tarn – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Nosh Nosh Wahtum – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Black Canyon Ridge – Austin Smith
- Swaram Creek Ridge – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Mokeihl – Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

1

2 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR WENAHA PEAK**

3 Guy Moura, representing the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, spoke to the
 4 Committee. Guy said the name was chosen because the feature is above the Wenaha River. Guy
 5 said the name Wenaha is actually a Cayuse place name, but the peak is in the traditional territory
 6 of the Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce. Guy said the name was chosen for consistency because
 7 of the nearby river, and the name is easily pronounceable and is a traditional Native place name.

8

9 **WENAHA PEAK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

10 After hearing from the proponent, Mike Iyall made a motion to approve.

11

12 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Wenaha Peak for Final Consideration.

13

14 SECOND: Dr. Grant Smith seconded the motion.

15

16 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Wenaha Peak for Final
 17 Consideration.

18

19 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR TUCANNON SPRING**

20 Guy Moura, representing the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, spoke to the
 21 Committee. Guy said that the feature is in the traditional territory of the Chief Joseph Band of Nez
 22 Perce and is a distortion of an Indian word meaning bread root. Guy said everyone uses the word
 23 tucannon today.

24

25 **TUCANNON SPRING: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

26 Mike Iyall thanked Guy Moura for participating today. Mike said that he is familiar with corrupted
 27 words, as Toutle is a corrupted Cowlitz word.

28

29 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Tucannon Spring for Final Consideration.

30

31 SECOND: Dr. Grant Smith seconded the motion.

32

33 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Tucannon Spring for Final
 34 Consideration.

35

36 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR NOSKELIIKUU**

37 Lia Frenchman, representing the Quinault Indian Nation, spoke to the Committee. Lia said the
 38 name means “where the whale was dropped”, and might not be the exact place that the event
 39 happened but is a long standing oral history that has been passed down. Lia said that the actual

1 place where the event happened is nearby though, and given the current name of the feature, the
2 Tribe feels this is an appropriate replacement.

3
4 Lia said that this event was a very important to the Quinault people, and has direct relation with
5 stories of Thunder Bird helping the Quinault people. Lia said that the feature currently called
6 Mount Olympus is where Thunder Bird resided, and all these names are connected.

7
8 **NOSKELIIKUU: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

9 Chair Sara Palmer said that she had to make some phone calls to get some coaching on how to
10 pronounce some of these names, but she thinks it's kind of fun if we can learn to say new things.

11
12 Mike Iyall thanked Lia Frenchman for sharing today. Mary Schaff said that the Committee should
13 try to include the origin of the names in the materials if the names are approved. Mike said that it
14 is important to recognize that the Tribal stories are the Tribe's intellectual property and if they
15 wish to share that is wonderful but the Committee has to grant them the respect of asking if it is
16 appropriate to share.

17
18 Chair Sara Palmer said that going forward, the Committee is hoping that becomes part of the
19 conversation. Sara said it would be an opportunity to educate people in Washington on our history.

20
21 Lia Frenchman said that there is discussion with adding an interpretive sign to the feature with the
22 history. Lia said the Quinault Indian Nation does have some interpretive signs on some trails in
23 the area.

24
25 Dean Foster asked if the Committee had authority to change the name of a feature on Federal lands.
26 Mike Iyall said that the Secretarial Order which brought these names forward gives the Committee
27 the right to change the names.

28
29 Dr. Allyson Brooks asked that even if the Washington Committee pushed these names forward,
30 isn't there a Federal Board that decides the name of the features and that the Committee is only
31 advisory? Mike said that due to the Secretarial Order the Committee should go forward, even if a
32 Federal Board over rules the Committee. Mike said that the Committee represents the citizens of
33 Washington.

34
35 Dr. Brooks agreed, but did not want to give anyone the impression that the Washington Committee
36 had final say on Federal land. Mary Schaff said that the Committee does not have the final say on
37 any geographic name, and Dr. Brooks agreed saying that the Washington Board on Natural
38 Resources has the final say.

39
40 Mary Schaff said that the US Board usually is interested in the Washington's decisions, and goes
41 along with them 90% of the time. Mike said that until Washington is over ruled, the Committee
42 should make their stand. Mike said that is we defer these names; they may never come back.

43
44 MOTION: Chair Sara Palmer moved to approve the name Noskeliikuu for Final Consideration.

45
46 SECOND: Mike Iyall seconded the motion.

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

3
4 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SQ'WANANA**
5 None

6
7 **SQ'WANANA: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**
8 Chair Sara Palmer gave an overview of the proposal. Mike Iyall thanked the Confederated Tribes
9 and Bands of the Yakama Nation and moved to approve the name.

10
11 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Sq'wanana for Final Consideration.

12
13 SECOND: Mary Schaff seconded the motion.

14
15 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Sq'wanana for Final Consideration.

16
17 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CONDON MOUNTAIN**
18 None

19
20 **CONDON MOUNTAIN: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**
21 Chair Sara Palmer said that because this feature is entirely located on the Colville Reservation, the
22 Committee is essentially just asking the US Board to agree with what the Confederated Tribes of
23 the Colville Reservation want to name the feature. Sara asked Guy Moura if that sounded correct.

24
25 Guy confirmed that the feature is located on the Colville Reservation. Guy said that Condon
26 Mountain is in the traditional territory of the Nespelem Tribe and is also a usual and accustomed
27 place of the Kataro band of the Okanogan. Guy said that the Condon family is well known in the
28 area, particularly in the Kartar Valley.

29
30 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Condon Mountain for Final Consideration.

31
32 SECOND: Dean Foster seconded the motion.

33
34 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Condon Mountain for Final
35 Consideration.

36
37 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR WEST FORK FROSTY CREEK**
38 Guy Moura, representing the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, spoke to the
39 Committee. Guy said that the feature is located in the North Half of the Colville Reservation and
40 is a tributary of Frosty Creek. Guy said that the name was chosen for consistency's sake.

41
42 **WEST FORK FROSTY CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**
43 Mike Iyall thanked the Colville people and made a motion to approve.

44
45 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name West Fork Frosty Creek for Final Consideration.

46

1 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

2

3 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve West Fork Frosty Creek for Final
4 Consideration.

5

6 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR AALVIC WAHTUM**

7 None

8

9 **AALVIC WAHTUM: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

10 Chair Sara Palmer gave an overview of the proposal and said that at the start of this process, she
11 had hoped that notable indigenous women would be honored.

12

13 Mike Iyall thanked the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and said he had
14 friends named Aalvic as well.

15

16 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Aalvic Wahtum for Final Consideration.

17

18 SECOND: Dr. Grant Smith seconded the motion.

19

20 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Aalvic Wahtum for Final
21 Consideration.

22

23 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR PATANIKS PUSHTYE**

24 None

25

26 **PATANIKS PUSHTYE: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

27 Chair Sara Palmer gave an overview of the proposal and said that with this proposed name there
28 is still a connection with women which she appreciated.

29

30 Mike Iyall thanked the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and moved to
31 approve the name.

32

33 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Pataniks Pushtye for Final Consideration.

34

35 During discussion of the motion, Mary Schaff said that this was another proposal where she hopes
36 the story behind the name is shared. Mary said that she feels the information given to the
37 Committee just touches on the story. Mary said that she hopes Committee can back those
38 opportunities and she would be supportive of that.

39

40 Mike Iyall said as citizens of Washington it is our heritage and we would all be enriched to learn
41 more of our heritage. Chair Sara Palmer agreed and hoped to see more of this effort coming
42 forward.

43

44 SECOND: Mary Schaff seconded the motion.

45

46 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Pataniks Pushtye for Final

1 Consideration.

2

3 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR TIMLA WAPYKT**

4 None

5

6 **TIMLA WAPYKT: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

7 Chair Sara Palmer gave an overview of the proposal. Mike Iyall thanked the Confederated Tribes
8 and Bands of the Yakama Nation and moved to approve the name.

9

10 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Timla Wapykt for Final Consideration.

11

12 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

13

14 During discussion of the motion, Mary Schaff said that in terms of the other proposals, this one is
15 a little light on details. Mary said she supported the proposal as is, but would like to see more
16 information.

17

18 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Timla Wapykt for Final
19 Consideration.

20

21 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SHLUXIKSIKSWANA**

22 None

23

24 **SHLUXIKSIKSWANA: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

25 Chair Sara Palmer gave an overview of the proposal. Mike Iyall thanked the Confederated Tribes
26 and Bands of the Yakama Nation and moved to approve the name.

27

28 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Shluxiksikswana for Final Consideration.

29

30 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

31

32 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Shluxiksikswana for Final
33 Consideration.

34

35 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SNQÍLT CREEK**

36 Guy Moura, representing the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, spoke to the
37 Committee. Guy said that the Colville had prepared a place name document for the upper
38 Columbia River and have around 500 named places.

39

40 Guy said that this proposed name is not a specific place name, but an area place name. Guy said
41 the area is between the Little Dalles up to Northport, and this creek is in the middle of that area.

42

43 **SNQÍLT CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

44 Mike Iyall thanked Guy Moura and made a motion to approve. Guy Moura thanked the Committee
45 and said he appreciated their dedication to this issue.

46

1 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Sñqílt Creek for Final Consideration.

2

3 SECOND: Dean Foster seconded the motion.

4

5 During discussion of the motion, Mary Schaff said that this proposal is interesting because in
6 English one might not be supportive of a general place name being applied to a stream. Mary said
7 she has no problem with the proposal as it stands, but in English one might call into question the
8 idea of a generic being applied to a specific place. Mike Iyall said as a historian, if we look back
9 in history a lot of the explorers and fur traders were incredibly generic when apply geographic
10 names.

11

12 Dr. Allyson Brooks said that when we use terms like English, it's important to remember that
13 Washington State has many languages that are used in our state. Dr. Brooks said even though we
14 talk about being predominantly English, we have a huge variety of languages and cultures. Dr.
15 Brooks said that it is good for people, especially in the United States, to learn how to pronounce
16 other languages.

17

18 Guy Moura said that this proposal conforms to a common practice where a name for a specific
19 area is also included in names for other features. Guy said that while it may not seem typical in
20 American English, when you say things like New York it means a lot of different things to different
21 people, some people may think of the state and others may think of the city.

22

23 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Sñqílt Creek for Final Consideration.

24

25 **UPDATE ON SQ___ ISLAND IN CLARK COUNTY**

26 Staff gave an update on the status of an island located in Clark County. The feature was an island
27 that has now joined the mainland, but still appears in the Federal names database as an island.
28 Staff said that the US Board on Geographic Names will not remove the name without a
29 replacement name. Mary Schaff said that if an individual proposes a replacement name for the
30 feature, that would be a good time to modify the identifier from "island" to something more
31 appropriate.

32

33 **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

34 Chair Sara Palmer gave an update on some discussions she has had with the Governor's Office
35 concerning derogatory names in Washington. Sara said that she is aware of a likely proposal to
36 correct a derogatory name applied to a lake. Sara said that she also heard that the Yakama Nation
37 may submit some proposals to correct some derogatory names on the Columbia River.

38

39 Sara said she is glad these conversations are starting to happen, and that she has stressed to the
40 Governor's Office and the Dept. of Natural Resources about the staffing limitations the Committee
41 of Geographic Names has in dealing with some of these issues.

42

43 Sara said she is aware of a Federal committee that may identify derogatory names in the Federal
44 names database. Mary Schaff said she thinks the Dept. of the Interior is dealing with the sq___
45 names replacement first, and then moving onto derogatory names.

46

1 Mike Iyall said that this is a step towards growth, as the Committee evolves their process they are
2 becoming more inclusive and showing people that if they speak the Committee will listen.

3

4 Dr. Allyson Brook said that the country is in a culture shift and we have to be cognizant, kind, and
5 aware that there are other languages than English that are being used nationally as well as in
6 Washington. Dr. Brooks said that she is not concerned about names that are hard to pronounce at
7 first, as people will learn to pronounce them as we always do.

8

9 Dr. Grant Smith said that he would like to mention the distinction between derogatory and
10 offensive. Dr. Smith said that the Committee has to be careful of politicization, and that the word
11 derogatory means to belittle or hurt someone and the Committee has to remove those names.

12

13 Dr. Smith said he sees examples of people objecting to things, and feel that anything objectionable
14 should be changed. Dr. Smith said that he feels the definition for derogatory is that it can be proved
15 that the term was used belittle someone else. Dr. Smith said the sq___ name replacements are an
16 example of belittling and hurting people by using a word.

17

18 Dr. Smith said that if the Committee was going to deal with any name that people feel is
19 objectionable, he thinks that would allow people to object to anything. Dr. Smith said that in order
20 for a name to be derogatory, it should be documented that it was used to hurt or denigrate
21 somebody and then he is willing to take action, not simply because someone finds it offensive to
22 them.

23

24 Mike Iyall says that he feels this is in a room full of reasonable people, and if a majority feels one
25 way the Committee will act correctly.

26

27 Sara said she would keep the Committee posted as things develop and she enjoys the increased
28 engagement over these issues.

29

30 **COGNA MEETING**

31 Mary Schaff reminded the Committee about the upcoming Council on Geographic Names
32 Authority meeting coming up. Mary said that she hoped to see some of the Committee members
33 attend, and said the COGNA meeting is an important opportunity for the state and Federal naming
34 authorities to connect.

35

36 **ADJOURNMENT**

37 The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am.