
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

1 Washington State Committee on Geographic Names

2 October 26, 2021

3 10:00am Online Meeting

4 Agenda

5 **A. CALL TO ORDER**

6 **B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

7 **C. NAMES FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**

8 **King County**

9 Riley Cove – New Name - **APPROVED**

10 **San Juan County**

11 Rabbit Chase Creek – New Name - **APPROVED**

12 **Snohomish County**

13 Andy Holland Marsh – New Name - **DEFERRED**

14 **Spokane and Stevens County**

15 Barney Kolker Canyon - Spelling Clarification - **APPROVED**

16 **D. NAMES FOR INTITIAL CONSIDERATION**

17 **King County**

18 Cedar Creek – New Name - **DENIED**

19 Owl Creek – New Name - **DENIED**

20 **San Juan County**

21 Basket Island – New Name – **APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**

22 Cayou Channel – Name Change – **APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**

23 Hidden Lake – New Name - **DENIED**

24 **Skamania County**

25 Laura Creek – New Name - **DENIED**

26 **Snohomish County**

27 Cedar Glen Creek – New Name - **DENIED**

28 **Thurston County**

29 Chaenn Hill – Spelling Clarification – **APPROVED FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION**

30 Moonlight Creek – New Name - **DENIED**

31 **Whatcom County**

32 Mount Dallas Kloke – New Name - **DEFERRED**

33 **E. NAMES SENT BACK TO THE COMMITTEE WITH THE BOARD'S CONCERNS**

34 **Clallam County**

35 Misty Creek – New Name - **DENIED**

36 **Clallam and Jefferson County**

37 Misty Mountains – New Name - **DENIED**

38 **F. 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 RILEY COVE**

6 None

7

8 **RILEY COVE: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

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

12

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

15

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

19

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

24

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

29

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

33

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

36

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

39

40 SECOND: Dr. Grant Smith seconded the motion.

41

42 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to defer Riley Cove until the next Committee
43 meeting.

44

45

46

1 During a break in the meeting, staff received several phone calls from the proponent concerning
2 the length of time between the support submitted by the proponent and now. The proponent
3 pointed out that the comments were updated in 2019 before the Committee hiatus.

4
5 In light of the new information, Chair Sara Palmer asked the Committee if they would like to
6 reconsider the proposal Riley Cove.

7
8 MOTION: Dr. Allyson Brooks moved to reconsider Riley Cove in light of new information.

9
10 SECOND: Mike Iyall seconded the motion.

11
12 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to reconsider Riley Cove.

13
14 After being notified that the proponent sent out a letter updating the residents of the naming effort,
15 the Committee voted to approve Riley Cove. The Committee thanked the proponent for calling
16 and notifying them of the new information.

17
18 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved to approve the name Riley Cove.

19
20 SECOND: Mary Schaff seconded the motion.

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

24
25 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR RABBIT CHASE CREEK**

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

32
33 The rabbit hunters would ride on the front of an old car, and the proponent found an old barb wire
34 fence that the hunters would use to round up the rabbits. The proponent thought that the name
35 chosen would reflect the history of the area.

36
37 **RABBIT CHASE CREEK: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

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

40
41 Dr. Grant Smith said that he really like this proposal, and Putnam Barber agreed. Mike Iyall asked
42 staff if any comments in opposition had been received by the Committee. After being informed
43 that none had been received, Mike Iyall made a motion to approve the proposal.

44
45
46

1 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve the name Rabbit Chase Creek.

2

3 SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.

4

5 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Rabbit Chase Creek to the Board on
6 Geographic Names with the Committee's recommendation to approve.

7

8 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ANDY HOLLAND MARSH**

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

13

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

16

17 **ANDY HOLLAND MARSH: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

18 Chair Sara Palmer thanked the proponent and asked for discussion from the Committee. Putnam
19 Barber asked if there was any direct connection between Andy Holland and the marsh. Dr. Grant
20 Smith said that he has the same concern.

21

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

24

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

29

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

33

34 Mike Iyall asked the proponent if he would be okay with modifying the proposal to "Holland
35 Marsh". The proponent agreed.

36

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

41

42 Dr. Allyson Brooks said that she agrees, and would like defer this proposal and see if there is more
43 community support for "Holland Marsh". Dean Foster said that he supports that motion, and asked
44 if there was any public access to the feature. Chair Sara Palmer said that the feature was
45 surrounded by DNR lands.

46

1 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved to defer Holland Marsh.

2

3 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

4

5 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to defer Holland Marsh until the next
6 Committee of Geographic Names with the expectation of more public support.

7

8 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR BARNEY KOLKER CANYON**

9 None

10

11 **BARNEY KOLKER CANYON: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

12 Dr. Grant Smith said that the Committee has approved proposals like this in the past where a
13 spelling error has occurred. Dr. Grant Smith said that the Committee agrees with correcting
14 spelling errors, regardless of the original names meaning or what it was intended to commemorate.
15 Mike Iyall said that he supported the proposal as well, and being a historian himself, he has seen
16 a lot of spelling errors for place names.

17

18 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to approve Barney Kolker Canyon.

19

20 SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.

21

22 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to send Barney Kolker Canyon to the Board on
23 Geographic Names with the Committee's recommendation to approve.

24

25 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MISTY CREEK & MISTY MOUNTAINS**

26 None

27

28 **MISTY CREEK & MISTY MOUNTAINS: FINAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

29 Chair Sara Palmer provided an overview of the proposals history before the Committee and Board.
30 These proposals were approved by the Committee, but during consideration by the WA Board on
31 Geographic Names, opposition was raised by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Because of the
32 opposition, the Board sent the two proposals back to the Committee with concerns.

33

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

39

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

42

43 Dr. Allyson Brooks said that in the past, the Committee has always denied proposals when Tribal
44 opposition existed. Mary Schaff said that the proposals were not very strong to begin with, due to
45 the reference to the book The Lord of the Rings. Dr. Allyson Brooks said that she was not sure
46 what another six months would do to change the Tribal opposition to the proposed names.

1
2 MOTION: Mike Iyall moved to deny Misty Creek & Misty Mountains based on new information
3 received by the Committee.

4
5 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

6
7 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny Misty Creek and Misty Mountains.

8
9 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CEDAR CREEK**

10 None

11
12 **CEDAR CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

13 Mary Schaff said that while the Committee has in the past advanced proposals similar to this one
14 to gauge community support, she is concerned with the possible commercial interests due to the
15 proponent's ranch having the same name.

16
17 Mike Iyall said that the feature appears small and possibly seasonal. Putnam Barber said that it
18 appears like the proponent is naming the creek after their ranch. Dr. Grant Smith agreed, saying
19 that in the past the Committee has discouraged these types of proposals and he cannot support this
20 proposal.

21
22 Mike Iyall asked how unique cedar trees were to this feature, as opposed to the area as a whole.
23 Mike Iyall said that he thought names should be for unique aspects of the feature.

24
25 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved to deny Cedar Creek.

26
27 SECOND: Mike Iyall seconded the motion.

28
29 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny Cedar Creek.

30
31 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR OWL CREEK**

32 None

33
34 **OWL CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

35 Mike Iyall said that going forward the Committee should only approve names that reflect unique
36 aspects of a feature. Dr. Allyson Brooks asked staff if Tribal opinion had been sought for this
37 name. Staff said that because the proposed name was up for Initial Consideration, no opinion
38 outreach had been performed.

39
40 Dr. Allyson Brooks said that in the future, she would like to see Tribal notification prior to the
41 name appearing before the Committee. Chair Sara Palmer said that the issue is on her personal
42 agenda as the new Chair, and will be talking with DNR's Tribal Liaison about Tribal outreach for
43 the future. Mike Iyall said that as a Tribal member, consultation late in the process can come as a
44 shock and agrees that outreach should have happened early in the process.

45
46 Dr. Grant Smith said that while he agrees, the Committee could approve the name and follow

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

3
4 MOTION: Dr. Allyson Brooks moved to deny Owl Creek.

5
6 SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.

7
8 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny Owl Creek.

9
10 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR BASKET ISLAND**

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

17
18 **BASKET ISLAND: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

19 Dr. Grant Smith said he like the idea that the name references something that can be seen, and that
20 it is used by the local residents. Dr. Grant Smith said he would like to see more local support if
21 the name is indeed used.

22
23 Mike Iyall said that he would like to see if the Lummi Tribe has a name for the feature, published
24 or not.

25
26 Mary Schaff said that in her research, she wondered if the feature is big enough to warrant a name,
27 and if it is connected to Picnic Island. Alex Levine said that at high tide, the island is separate.
28 Mr. Levine also said that Picnic Island is privately owned, but not Basket Island.

29
30 Dr. Allyson Brooks said that she is not comfortable with advancing this proposal as the Committee
31 does not even know the landowner. Dr. Allyson Brooks said that she would like to see that
32 information available up front in the future.

33
34 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved approve the name Basket Island for Final Consideration.

35
36 SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.

37
38 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Basket Island for Final
39 Consideration.

40
41 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CAYOU CHANNEL**

42 Stephanie Buffum introduced herself to the Committee and thanked them for their discussion
43 today. She said that place names matter, people may come and go, but the names of the places we
44 visit and recreate matter. People have lived in the area since time immemorial, and instead of
45 recognizing this, a 19th century US Army General William Harney. Mr. Harney was notorious for
46 whipping to death a black woman in Missouri, led the killing of Lakota men, women, and children

1 in Nebraska, and taking out country nearly to the brink of conflict with Great Britain.
2
3 Stephanie Buffum said that it is time to honor Henry Cayou. Mr. Cayou was an instrumental
4 forerunner in leadership, farming, and in crossing cultural bridges between Coast Salish, natives,
5 non-natives, and French settlers. It is for this reason that over 800 individuals support this
6 proposal.
7
8 Paul Soderman addressed the Committee next. Mr. Soderman said that he was here today to speak
9 about the Harney family and that his great-great-grandmother was Isabella Harney. Mr. Soderman
10 said that he learned he was related to Mr. Harney about 15 years ago through a family letter. Mr.
11 Soderman said he is aware of another feature name “Harney Peak” (now Black Elk Peak) in South
12 Dakota. Black Elk Peak is the tallest peak the Black Hills and is sacred to the Lakota people.
13
14 Mr. Soderman said he begin to study his ancestor’s history, and found out that William Harney
15 indeed attacked a village of Lakota people in Blue Water, Nebraska in 1855 during a punitive
16 mission. Mr. Soderman said that during his research no written orders were found, but Franklin
17 Pierce told William Harney to “whip the Indians” as a response to the Grattan Massacre. Mr.
18 Harney and his 600 men attacked the first village they found under a white flag.
19
20 Mr. Soderman has been in contact with the Little Thunder family, whose village was attacked by
21 Mr. Harney, in order to try to heal what happened at the area. Mr. Soderman and the Little Thunder
22 family contacted the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names about getting “Harney Peak”
23 renamed. The Board voted to approve the Tribal name for the mountain, but the South Dakota
24 Governor disbanded the Board. So Mr. Soderman went to the US Dept. of the Interior as the
25 feature is on Federal land. In 2015 they were successful changing the name to Black Elk Peak.
26
27 Mr. Soderman is not a local WA resident, but after learning about the efforts to rename Harney
28 Channel, he wanted to lend his support. Not because of his ancestor’s actions, or that it was a
29 popular thing to rename geographic features, but because he saw the effect the renaming of
30 “Harney Peak” had on the Lakota people.
31
32 **CAYOU CHANNEL: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**
33
34 Mike Iyall had to excuse himself from the meeting, but Chair Sara Palmer thanked Mr. Soderman
35 for speaking to the Committee today.
36
37 Dr. Grant Smith said that this is a great proposal, and the Committee should move this along. Mary
38 Schaff thanked the proponent for being so engaged in the naming process. Mary Schaff said that
39 she even found some photographs of Mr. Cayou’s house.
40
41 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved approve the name Cayou Channel for Final Consideration.
42
43 SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.
44
45 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Cayou Channel for Final
46 Consideration.

1 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR HIDDEN LAKE**

2 None

3

4 **HIDDEN LAKE: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

5 Dr. Grant Smith asked staff how many “Hidden Lake” features are in WA. Staff informed the
6 Committee that there are 10 features with that name. The Committee discussed whether the
7 proponent could resubmit the proposal with a more imaginative name.

8

9 MOTION: Mary Schaff moved to deny the name Hidden Lake.

10

11 SECOND: Dr. Grant Smith seconded the motion.

12

13 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny the name Hidden Lake.

14

15 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR LAURA CREEK**

16 None

17

18 **LAURA CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

19 Mary Schaff said that she had to research the connection Laura had with the feature, as she had
20 not heard about Laura before. Dr. Allyson Brooks said that while it’s a cute idea, she is not in
21 favor of this proposal. Putnam Barber asked staff if Laura had visited the creek, and staff said that
22 the proponent had not mentioned it.

23

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

27

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

29

30 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

31

32 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny the name Laura Creek.

33

34 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CEDAR GLEN CREEK**

35 None

36

37 **CEDAR GLEN CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

38 Chair Sara Palmer said that this proposal is similar to the earlier proposal for “Cedar Creek”, and
39 felt the committee’s earlier concerns apply.

40

41 MOTION: Putnam Barber moved to deny the name Cedar Glen Creek.

42

43 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

44

45 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny the name Cedar Glen Creek.

46

1 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR CHAENN HILL**

2 None

3

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

5 Chair Sara Palmer said that this was a spelling correction for a feature in Thurston County. Dr.
6 Grant Smith said that the Committee usually votes in favor of spelling corrections, and made a
7 motion to approve.

8

9 MOTION: Dr. Grant Smith moved approve the name Chaenn Hill for Final Consideration.

10

11 SECOND: Putnam Barber seconded the motion.

12

13 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to approve Chaenn Hill for Final Consideration.

14

15 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MOONLIGHT CREEK**

16 None

17

18 **MOONLIGHT CREEK: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

19 Chair Sara Palmer that this proposal also seems similar to “Cedar Creek” and “Cedar Glen Creek”.
20 Mary Schaff said that she was a little confused how the feature is located under dense foliage like
21 the proponent claims, but also reflects the moonlight.

22

23 MOTION: Mary Schaff moved to deny the name Moonlight Creek.

24

25 SECOND: Dr. Allyson Brooks seconded the motion.

26

27 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to deny the name Moonlight Creek.

28

29 **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MOUNT DALLAS KLOKE**

30 None

31

32 **MOUNT DALLAS KLOKE: INITIAL CONSIDERATION (Action Item)**

33 Chair Sara Palmer mentioned some letters of support from The Mountaineers and other members
34 of the climbing community. Staff clarified that the feature was indeed outside of the wilderness
35 area.

36

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

41

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

45

46 MOTION: Dr. Allyson Brooks made the motion to defer the name Mount Dallas Kloke and see if

1 the proponent would be open to changing the name to “Kloke Peak”.

2

3 SECOND: Mary Schaff seconded the motion.

4

5 ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously to defer the name Mount Dallas Kloke.

6

7 **ADJOURNMENT**

8 The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 pm.