

ARIZONA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC NAMES

STATUTORY AUTHORITY – A.R.S. §41-835-838

The significance of geographic names was recognized by the State as early as 1945, when Arizona's Legislature declared it to be the policy of the state that geographic features retain the names they currently had in order to preserve Arizona's historical legacy. In 1982, the Arizona Board was created, and in 1990, the Arizona Legislature gave responsibility for determining the most appropriate names for geographic features to it.

Statutes that define the responsibilities of the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names, directs the board to:

- Receive and evaluate all proposals for changes in or additions to names of geographic features and places of historical significance in this state. It designates the most appropriate and acceptable names and the spelling of these names for use in maps and official government documents.
- Receive and evaluate all proposals for naming geographic features in this state for which no generally accepted name is or has been in use. It designates the most appropriate and acceptable names and the spelling of these names for use in maps and official government documents;
- Cooperate with political subdivisions of this state to eliminate the duplication of the names of geographic features that are not of historical significance,
- Assist and cooperate with the United States Board on Geographic Names in matters relating to names of geographic features and places in this state;
- Maintain a list of advisers who have expertise in this state's history, geography, or culture and consult with those advisers in evaluating proposals;
- Designate one or more members to act as the state representative to the Council of Geographic Names Authorities.

Correct, accurate, authentic geographic names are essential to search and rescue efforts, law enforcement, land administration, boaters and hikers, etc. The primary purpose of the State Board is to standardize names of geographic features so that all levels of government and jurisdictions use the same name for the same feature.

The Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names provides citizens the opportunity to name, rename, and research geographic names in the state of Arizona.

It is the mission of the board to provide appropriate and official names for the State of Arizona. Without the board, Arizona names would be decided at the federal government level without Arizona's voice.

REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2005 – 2006

Geographic Names Considered and Acted Upon

2005

- *Bob Stump Memorial Parkway* – Commemorative name change for SR303L, formerly known as the Estrella Parkway. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors submitted the proposal (Approved)
- *Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway* – Proposed name for portion of former US 80 in Arizona (proposal tabled)

2006

- *Lost Dog Wash* – Proposed new name for wash in the Sonoran McDowell Preserve. The City of Scottsdale submitted the proposal (initial review – no action taken)
- *Taliesin Wash* – Proposed new name for a wash in the Sonoran McDowell Preserve. The City of Scottsdale submitted the proposal (initial review – no action taken)
- *Taliesin Overlook* – Proposed new name for feature in the Sonoran McDowell Preserve. The City of Scottsdale submitted the proposal (initial review – no action taken)

New Board member

The Board welcomed Dr. Carolyn Daugherty, Dept. of Geography and Public Planning, Northern Arizona University for a two-year term. She was appointed in 2006, and will serve until January 2008.

Open Meeting Training

Board Counsel reviewed the following items relevant to the Open Meeting Law: posting agendas, executive sessions, listing and acting on agenda items, providing public access to meetings, and discussions outside the meeting.

Board Counsel also conducted a training session for members on the current Attorney General Opinion regarding the use of E-mail and the Open Meeting Law.

Review of Statutes

Board Counsel reviewed the state statutes related to the Board, especially those statutes addressing names issues for roads.

Letter to US Geological Survey regarding possible reorganization of US Board on Geographic Names

The US Geological Survey had recently outsourced some of its functions, and there was concern that the US Board on Geographic Names function would also be outsourced. The Arizona State Board wrote a formal letter to the Geological Survey thanking them for keeping the Board on Geographic Names functions and staff intact in their Reston, VA facility.

Review of Status of ASBGHN brochure and outreach

The state Board began reviewing the content of its brochure and will begin to explore ways in which it can increase outreach activities to planning and zoning personnel in city, county and tribal governments. The information in the pamphlet could also be put into a PowerPoint presentation that the state Records Management Division staff could use as part of their presentations to records managers in other government agencies.