

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
Eight Hundred and Forty-sixth Meeting  
Department of the Interior, Rachel Carson Room  
September 8, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.  
(Hybrid Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Marcus Allsup	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)
Meghan Barrett	Department of Homeland Security
Marielle Pedro Black	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Wendi-Starr Brown	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Thad Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Liz Flake	United States Postal Service
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Census Bureau)
Andrew Griffin	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Chris Hammond	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Sean Killen	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Susan Lyon	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Chair)
Patrick Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Jeremy Smith	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress (Vice Chair)
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Domestic Names Committee

Staff

Josefa Baker, U.S. Geological Survey  
Julie-Ann Danfora, U.S. Geological Survey  
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey  
Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey  
Sergio Rodriguez, U.S. Geological Survey  
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Robert Francis, U.S. Forest Service  
William Lukas, U.S. Geological Survey  
Thomas Powell, U.S. Forest Service

## 1. Opening, Roll Call, and Membership

The Chair opened Meeting 846 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:38 a.m. and requested a roll call of the members. She noted that motions would pass by a simple majority of votes.

## 2. Docket

### **Change names of geographic features named “sq\_\_” in response to Secretary’s Order 3404**

The Chair announced that the docket for this meeting contained 643 name changes that the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force, set up by [Secretary’s Order 3404](#), recommended to the BGN. The Task Force shared a list of the recommended changes to all BGN members and deputy members. For each geographic feature, the list provided the current official name, the GNIS Feature ID, a link to a web map showing the location, and the recommended replacement name.

The Task force has also submitted proposals to the BGN to change the names of five unincorporated populated places, which are being considered under the normal BGN review process, including outreach to appropriate stakeholders.

A motion was made and seconded to accept all the names recommended by the Task Force.

Tischler thanked the Task Force members for their diligent efforts over the past several months to review the names and to recommend replacements from a list of candidate names (selected from nearby features), names suggested during a public comment period, and names suggested through Tribal listening sessions and consultation. He also thanked the BGN staff for their assistance in reviewing the existing features and for their advice on toponymic conventions.

Guempel stated that the BGN acknowledges the list of replacement names recommended to it by the Derogatory Geographic Names Task Force. The BGN also recognizes that the Task Force did due diligence by working through the name selection process described in Secretary’s Order 3404.

Vote: 18 in favor  
 0 against  
 1 abstention

Lyon expressed her appreciation for all the work the Task Force did during this unusual and completely new procedure to change a large number of geographic names. Wallace thanked Tischler for his leadership.

The BGN website will be updated shortly to note today's BGN actions and to provide a list of the new names. Updates to GNIS will begin immediately, a process that is expected to take a few weeks. Changes to other USGS products (The National Map, National Hydrography Dataset) will take place within those products' revision timescales.

### 3. Other Business

Any inquiries from the media or individuals regarding the name change effort should be directed to Tischler.

Flora asked other agencies to comment on the expected timeline for updating their products, noting that it could take several years for the Census Bureau to incorporate all of the changes. Tischler said the timing is determined by each agency. Wallace shared that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is waiting until December 2022 to cancel thirteen raster charts, so that the new names can be shown before the product is retired. Kanalley noted that the Forest Service Deputy Chief will issue a memo about updating products. It is difficult for the FS to update their visitor maps, due to the amount of existing map stock kept on hand at each forest. It would be prohibitively expensive to destroy maps and print new ones, so errata notices will be attached to existing maps. These maps might also include other names that could soon be declared derogatory and need to be changed. The FS will add metadata tags to products with the former names, but this is not a priority. The FS does not want to change historical records of the names.

McCormick reported that most updates to GNIS can be made quickly, but some might take longer due to ongoing revisions to the GNIS data structures.

The BGN's *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* document has been updated to reflect Secretary's Order 3404, specifically the addition of sq\_\_\_ as the third officially derogatory word.

### 4. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held September 15, 2022, during the annual meeting of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities, Frederick, Maryland.

(signed)

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Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary  
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED  
(signed)

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Susan Lyon, Chair  
Domestic Names Committee