

Date: January 16, 2013

To: Ryan Draughn, Chair, NC Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee

From: Tyrel G. Moore, Chair, North Carolina Board on Geographic Names

Re: January 16, 2013 NCBGN Report to NC Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee

- 1) Let me briefly mention that the US Board on Geographic Names approved the North Carolina Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee's recommendation to deny the petition to rename Mill Creek in Ashe County as "Hippie Creek" and to deny the petition to name an unnamed Raleigh water feature Bristol Creek.
- 2) The NCBGN also has been requested to provide an opinion on a proposal (received December 20, 2012) to name a Wake County reservoir Lake Avocet.
- 3) A more complicated and far-reaching issue concerns an NCDOT request that the NCBGN develop a plan to remove objectionable names on streams in Caswell, Rutherford, Transylvania and Union counties.

To gain more background on possible actions, I have talked with Jenny Runyon at the US Geological Survey and with Wayne Walcott, who was the NCBGN Chair when the same Board addressed the same issue in 2004. At that time, the offensive names were expunged and replaced on a statewide basis to the extent that they could be identified. The office of the North Carolina Secretary of State expedited that action where a report from the NCBGN listing the objectionable usages became part of a resolution for their removal by a Legislative bill.

The NCBGN, working with data identifying the streams with controversial names should follow a procedure that would take at least a year to complete. That process would involve relying, on a case-by-case basis, on local opinion to propose a new name to replace the offensive one. This input would take the most time to gather. The USBGN would expect that new names would be carefully proposed, especially with regard to local history or meaning. We also have to be aware that some local opinions may consider the current usage as not being objectionable. These concerns aside, the NCBGN's role as a conduit between the State of North Carolina and the USBGN/GNIS is the structurally appropriate path to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

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