

**U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names

Charter

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** The official designation of the committee is the Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names (Committee).
2. **Authority.** The Committee is established under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) and is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Ch. 10).
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Committee will recommend to the Secretary changes to existing Federal land unit names and additional terms that may be considered derogatory, and identify resources required to implement any resulting name changes.
4. **Description of Duties.** The Committee will recommend a process to solicit, encourage, and assist proposals to the Secretary to change derogatory geographic names. The Committee will make recommendations to the Secretary regarding Federal land unit names that are considered derogatory; however, in many cases, (e.g., the names of national parks and designated wilderness), an act of Congress will be required. The term "Federal land unit" includes (1) National Forest System land; (2) a unit of the National Park System; (3) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System; (4) any part of the National Landscape Conservation System; and (5) a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Committee will solicit proposals to replace derogatory geographic feature and Federal land unit names from:
 - (1) Indian Tribes;
 - (2) Appropriate State and local Governments;
 - (3) The affected Federal Agency or Department; and
 - (4) Members of the Public
5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Committee reports to the Secretary through the Director of the National Park Service (NPS).
6. **Support.** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Committee will be provided by the Department of the Interior (Department).
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Committee's activities are estimated to be \$275,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 1.50 Federal staff years support.

8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) is an NPS employee, designated by the Director, who is a full time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all Committee and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Committee will meet approximately two to four times annually, and at other such times as designated by the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Committee will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Committee will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **Membership and Designation.** The Committee will consist of no more than 17 members to be appointed by the Secretary of whom, to the extent practicable:
 1. At least four will be members of an Indian Tribe;
 2. At least one will represent a Tribal organization;
 3. At least one will represent a Native Hawaiian organization;
 4. At least four will have backgrounds in civil rights or race relations;
 5. At least four will have expertise in anthropology, cultural studies, geography, or history; and
 6. At least three will represent the general public.

Appointments will be on a staggered term basis for a term not to exceed 3 years.

Any vacancies will be filled in the same manner in which initial appointments were made.

Non-Federal members of the Committee will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, non-Federal Committee and subcommittee members engaged in Committee, or subcommittee business, approved by the DFO, may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under 5 U.S.C. § 5703.

In addition, the Committee will have non-voting ex-officio members including, but not limited to:

1. a Department of the Interior representative;
2. a Department of Agriculture representative;
3. a Department of Defense representative; and
4. a Department of Commerce representative.

13. **Ethics Responsibilities of Members.**

- a. **Federal Employees.** Members who are appointed to the Committee in their official capacity as Federal employees are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions.
- b. **Special Government Employee Members.** Members of the Committee appointed as special Government employees (SGEs) are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions. Additionally, SGE members are required, prior to appointment and annually thereafter, to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report. SGE members are also required to receive initial ethics training prior to performing any Committee duties and to receive annual ethics training thereafter. The Department will provide materials to those members serving as SGEs, explaining their ethical obligations.
- c. **Non-Federal Members Who Are Not Special Government Employees.** Non-Federal members of the Committee and subcommittees appointed as representatives are not subject to Federal ethics statutes and regulations. However, no non-Federal Committee or subcommittee members will participate in any Committee or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation, in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.

14. **Subcommittees.** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Committee for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Department. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their Assignments subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

15. **Recordkeeping.** Detailed records must be kept of each Council and formally or informally established Council subcommittees. All records must be made available to the public, subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552), and must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 and other approved Agency records disposition schedules.



Secretary of the Interior

FEB 05 2024

Date

Date Filed