

Naming Policies of the State of Wisconsin Geographic Names Council

It is the policy of the State of Wisconsin Geographic Names Council:

- (A) Not to name a geographic feature after any living person.
- (B) That names having a scientific derivation are not as a rule acceptable.
- (C) That names with historical significance or with Indian or French origin are usually appropriate, but care should be exercised that the Indian names are from tribes native to Wisconsin. They should not be too long nor difficult of pronunciation,
- (D) That newly acquired proper names for geographic features shall not be designated with " 's " or "s", indicating possession, following the name. For example: Mott Lake, rather than Mott's Lake or Motts Lake.
- (E) That only lakes 10 acres or more in size shall be considered by the Council for naming unless reason is evidenced for special consideration by the Council. For example: significant public use.
- (F) That only streams 5 miles or more in length shall be considered by the Council for naming unless reason is evidenced for special consideration by the Council. For example: trout stream.

The U. S. Board on geographic names has indicated the following guidelines with reference to the naming of geographic features:

- (A) That the intended honoree(s) of a commemorative name must be deceased at least five years before consideration.
- (B) That local usage be followed whenever possible.
- (C) That the specific name precede the generic name; for example, preference is given to Alice Lake rather than Lake Alice.
- (D) That whenever practicable the recommended names include single names only followed by the generic name; for example, preference is given to Meyer Lake rather than John Meyer Lake.
- (E) That hyphens be omitted in newly established names.
- (F) That descriptive words such as "Big", "Little", etc. be eliminated unless they are necessary for proper identification of the feature.