

# FORSYTH COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: APRIL 26, 2018 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 5

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GEOGRAPHIC NAMES COMMEMORATING LOCAL CITIZENS AND LOCATIONS AS REQUESTED BY THE U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:** Recommend Approval

**SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:** See Attached

ATTACHMENTS:  YES  NO

SIGNATURE: *J. Dudley Watts, Jr.* DATE: April 25, 2018  
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GEOGRAPHIC NAMES COMMEMORATING  
LOCAL CITIZENS AND LOCATIONS AS REQUESTED BY THE  
U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names for use by the departments and agencies of the Federal Government; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board on Geographic Names requests the opinion of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners concerning the names proposed in the Forsyth County area; and

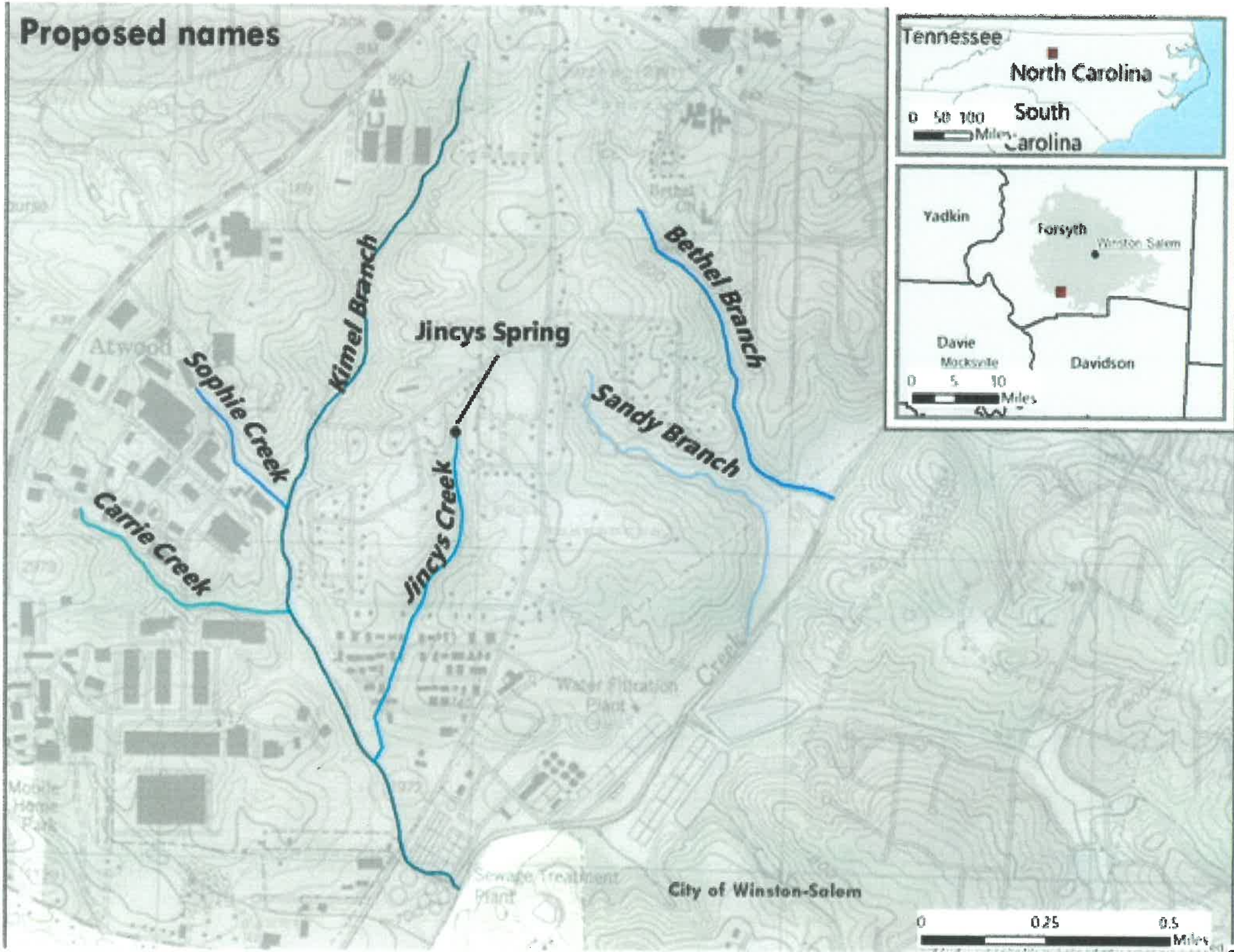
**WHEREAS**, the proposed names are as follows:

<u>Proposed Name:</u>	<u>Person Commemorated:</u>	<u>Submitted By:</u>
Kimel Branch	Charles Stanton Kimel (1894-1982)	David Tilley, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Carrie Creek	Carrie Jane Jones (1895-1963) (First wife of Charles Kimel)	David Tilley, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Sophie Creek	Sophie Sharp (1907-1989) (Second wife of Charles Kimel)	David Tilley, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Bethel Branch	Bethel Methodist Church/Community	David Tilley, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Sandy Branch	Alexander "Sandy" Griffith (1821-1900)	David Tilley, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Jincys Creek	Jincy Alspaugh Grffith (d. 1855)	David Tilley, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Griffith Pond	William Griffith (1765-1845)	David Tilley, Winston-Salem, N.C.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby provides an opinion supporting the Geographic Names identified herein which commemorate local citizens and locations as requested by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 2018.

# Proposed names





**Griffith Pond  
(proposed)**



**Town of Lewisville**



## CHAPTER 3. DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIC NAMES POLICIES

### Policy III. Commemorative Names

Human influence on the land has taken many forms. One of the more prominent forms has been the association of people's names with the landscape. This has resulted in the adoption of many personal names and nicknames for identifying geographic features, such as mountains and streams.

**Sec. 1 The BGN will consider proposals to apply names or nicknames of deceased persons to geographic features in the United States and areas under its jurisdiction. The BGN will only accept proposals for names that are intended to honor a person or persons deceased at least five years. The BGN will disapprove names that could be construed to honor living persons.**

**Sec. 2 The person being honored should have had either some direct or long-term association with the feature, or have made a significant contribution to the area, community, or State in which it is located.**

**Sec. 3 A proposal commemorating an individual with outstanding national or international recognition may be approved even if the person was not directly associated with the geographic feature.**

**Sec. 4 A proposal to revise or eliminate an existing personal commemorative name will usually be disapproved unless the proponent presents a compelling justification.**

**Sec. 5 The BGN discourages the use of an individual's full name in a feature name. Exceptions are occasionally made to avoid ambiguity (see Policy IX. Long Names, Sec. 2).**

**Sec. 6 Commemorative name proposals must meet the same basic criteria required of other name proposals.**

#### Guidelines

A proposal to commemorate an individual should include evidence of local support for the proposed name and its application. Such evidence may be in the form of letters from the appropriate governing authorities and local residents, as well as, where appropriate, from historical societies, service organizations, etc.

The proponent must provide biographical information about the intended honoree(s), including his/her full name(s), death date(s), and evidence of any association with the feature proposed for naming (e.g., any evidence of local civic contribution). If the intended honoree has not been deceased at least five years, the proposal will be returned to the proponent with a request that it be resubmitted once the waiting period has passed.

## **CHAPTER 3. DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIC NAMES POLICIES**

Examples of past decisions by the BGN have indicated “direct association” or “significant contribution” when the person being commemorated was:

- an early or long-time resident,
- a developer, restorer, or maintainer of the feature,
- a donor of land to local, State, Tribal, or Federal governments, and
- a person who played a large part in protecting the land for public benefit.

A person’s death on or at a feature, such as in a mountaineering accident or automobile or plane crash, does not necessarily meet the “direct association” criterion.

The BGN recognizes that personal names are often linked to an individual or family whose name has come to be associated with the feature. Commemoration in these cases may be appropriate. Ownership or management of the land or the feature may not meet the “significant contribution” criterion.

This policy does not apply to proposals for pets (nonhumans) (see Policy XII. Animal Names).

## CHAPTER 3. DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIC NAMES POLICIES

### Policy IX. Long Names

The BGN has historically avoided long geographic names. Although the BGN does not specifically define what constitutes an unacceptably long name, if the name's length makes it difficult or cumbersome to convey, then the BGN will usually disapprove it. For reference, other Federal agencies do have specific policies, such as the U.S. Postal Service, which limits the names of post offices to 28 characters.

**Sec. 1 In general, the BGN will disapprove overly long names.**

**Sec. 2 The BGN discourages the use of an individual's full name in a feature name. Exceptions are occasionally made to avoid ambiguity.**

**Sec. 3 To avoid overly long stream names, the BGN will approve names of tributaries as official names without reference to their parent stream. Exceptions are occasionally made to avoid ambiguity.**

#### Guidelines

When the BGN considers a proposed name to be overly long, the BGN will confer with the proponent and request a shorter form. For example, in 2008 the BGN received a proposal for the name *Rear Admiral Richard E. Bennis Reach* for an unnamed channel in South Carolina. This name was deemed important for navigation purposes, but its length would obscure other critical information portrayed on nautical charts. As a result, the BGN requested that the proponent submit a shorter form. To accommodate both the commemorative intent of the name as well as its practical application, the revised name *Bennis Reach* was accepted by the BGN as the official name for Federal use.

As examples of exceptions, in accordance with Sec. 2, the BGN has approved long names to commemorate individuals, using more than the surname so as to avoid ambiguity and make the referent person unmistakable. Examples include *Walter E. Long Lake (TX)*, *Claude Birdseye Point (AZ)*, and *George R. Stewart Peak (CA)*.

As examples of exceptions in accordance with Sec. 3, the BGN has approved long names of stream forks or branches that might be regarded as incomplete unless the names of their main streams were included. Examples include *East Fork North Fork North Fork American River (CA)* and *North Fork of Middle Fork American River (CA)*.



**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATION**

This is to notify the U.S. Board on Geographic Names that the:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Forsyth County Board of Commissioners**  
 (Name of government entity, organization, or individual)

recommends that the U. S. Board on Geographic Names take the indicated action for the following proposed names:

	Approve	Reject	Take action as specified below	Render a decision without our recommendation
<u>Bethel Branch</u>	___	___	___	___
<u>Carrie Creek</u>	___	___	___	___
<u>Jincys Spring</u> (as a spring)	___	___	___	___
<u>Kimel Branch</u>	___	___	___	___
<u>Sandy Branch</u>	___	___	___	___
<u>Sophie Creek</u>	___	___	___	___
<u>Griffith Pond</u>	___	___	___	___

**Comments** (the following factors contributed to this recommendation; attach supporting documentation if appropriate):

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, ZIP Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-mail)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**Return to:** U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 523 National Center  
 Reston VA 20192-0523  
 Telephone: (703) 648-4552  
 Fax: (703) 648-4549  
 E-mail: [BGNEEXEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNEEXEC@usgs.gov)