



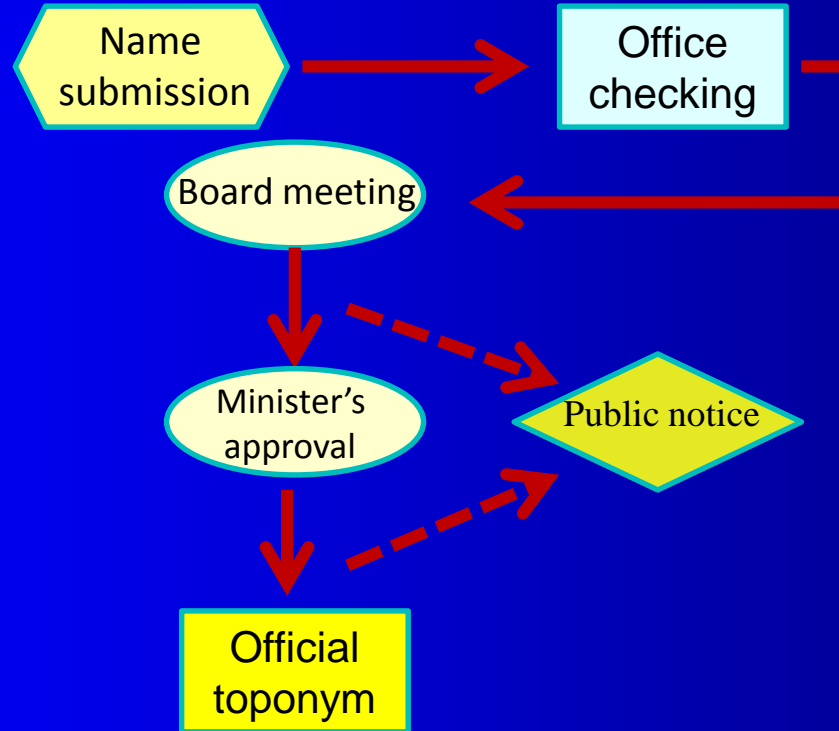
Some thoughts on name decisions / Des décisions – quelques pensées

Types of problems encountered

Helen Kerfoot



Naming authorization can be quite simple

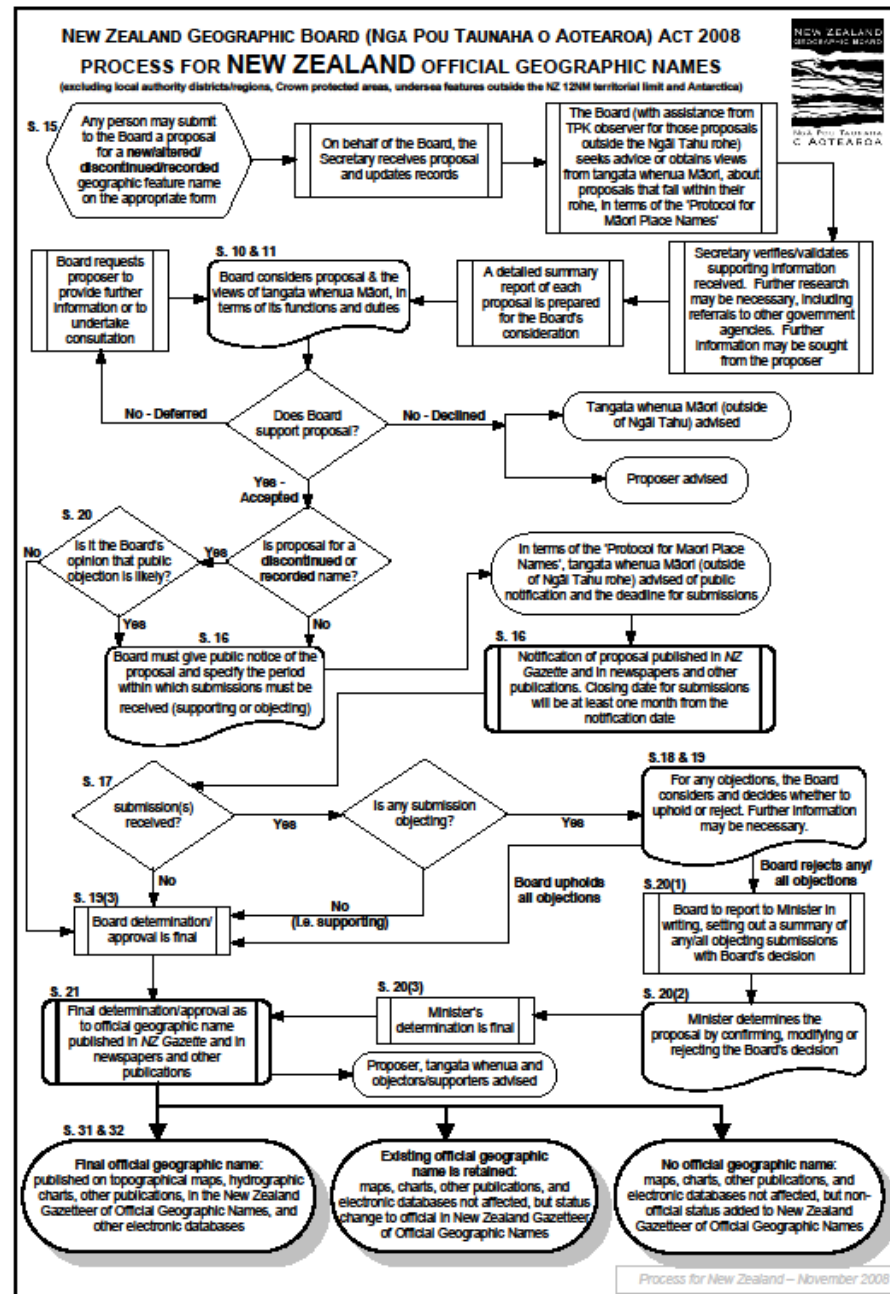


Other steps may be necessary: referral to language specialists, more detailed surveys, considering public objections ...



The process of names approval can be planned and can be complex

New Zealand example





... for the Board and Secretariat

- Where do we start?
- Language and spelling
- How much evidence is needed for a name to be approved?
- Changing names
- Type of feature/application of a name
- The public and the politics
 - Volunteer Geographic Information/
sourcing





Where do we start?

- Perhaps all names on a published map could be considered official
 - then add and modify
- May be starting from card records





Language and spelling

- Unwritten language
- Differences in spelling
- Multiple names in the same language
- Dialectics
- Multiple languages
- Romanization





... one name, or more?





How much support?

- How many people? Who?
- How much evidence?





Changing names

- Names recorded with incorrect spelling
- Names well known
- Names locally used or names of “colonial”/military/historical use
- Names now considered derogatory or pejorative
- Names that are no longer known
- Names with much duplication





Type of feature / application of name

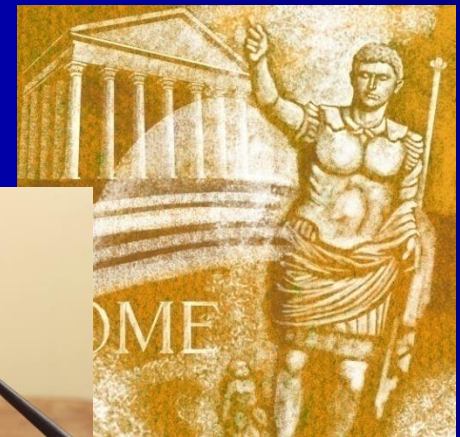
- What is extent of named feature?
 - geographically
 - toponymically
- What type of feature is named?
- What are the correct coordinates?





The public and the politics

- What public input should be involved in the naming process?
- How does the Board avoid political interference?





Examples of political pressure where Canadian public won the day

- **Mount Logan** – highest mountain;
 - NOT re-named for Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau
- **Castle Mountain** in Rocky Mountains
 - Changed to Mount Eisenhower
 - After public outcry:
Castle Mountain and **Eisenhower Peak**
- **Radar Hill** ...
 - NOT changed to Kap'yong Hill
 - **Kap'yong Memorial**





Impact of the social media

- Power of social networking
 - crowd-sourcing, wiki-approaches
 - neo-geography, open standards
- Vast amount of information
 - confusion and ambiguity
or
 - information that is reliable and up to date
- “Crowd-sourcing can provide agile means to improve available data” (Atkinson, 2011)

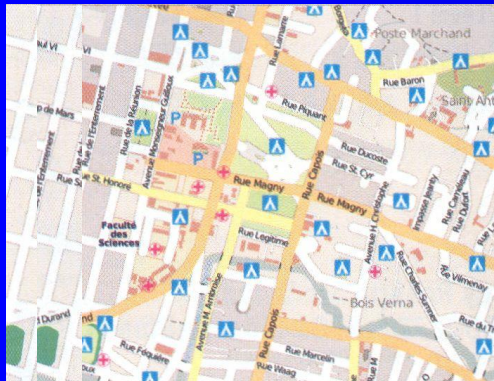




Examples of crowd-sourcing

Haiti earthquake Jan. 12, 2010

- Maps lacking information



Dec. 30, 2009

Jan. 13, 2010

Jan. 29, 2010

(National Geographic)

- Quick response by volunteers – names and information
- Help guide emergency workers ... accuracy?

UK “Location Lingo Project”

- Ordnance Survey

- joint project to aid emergency services, as risk of losing local knowledge

— data submitted by public; add to databases as alternative unofficial names



- but some names – spurious, pets, nicknames

Administrators – challenges of user-generated information – affects workloads



... more crowd sourcing



Urban names gathered through iPhone app. Lantmäteriat, Sweden



Crowd-sourced names – bad/good news

- Don't change too quickly!
 - perhaps ephemeral or not yet formalized
 - Syria and Google (criticism in UN)
- Will be needed in future, as budgets diminish
 - Must know source – authenticity and accuracy
 - Perhaps structured hierarchy of data providers
 - Benefit for names authorities by being part of other projects
 - environmental studies,
 - community-based data ... etc.

Place 7 novembre



Place Mohamed Bouazizi



Place 14 janvier 2011





In the end

- Emphasis on care and consistency
- Reflection of language, heritage, identity
- Names recorded for the benefit of future generations
- Authorized names should get wide distribution and use
- If more than one name is acceptable, conditions of use should be clear