



Alice Belfy <belfy.stjamestown.bi@gmail.com>

---

## Request for the St. James Township Board of Trustees opinion about a proposed island name change

1 message

---

O'Donnell, Matthew <mjodonnell@usgs.gov>

Mon, Apr 9, 2018 at 2:42 PM

To: mcnamara.stjamestown.bi@gmail.com

Cc: belfy.stjamestown.bi@gmail.com, "Metzger, Dan (DTMB)" <metzgerd@michigan.gov>, "Olkowski, Tony (DTMB)" <OlkowskiT@michigan.gov>, "Ewald, Nan (DTMB)" <EwaldN@michigan.gov>, Charles Hickman <chickman@usgs.gov>

The Honorable Kathleen McNamara, Supervisor  
St. James Township

mcnamara.stjamestown.bi@gmail.com

Issue: Proposal to change the name of Squaw Island

Dear Supervisor McNamara:

As you may know, the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names for use by the departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The BGN has received a proposal from the current owners of Squaw Island in St. James Township to change the name of the island to Eagle Island.

Because local opinion is important to the BGN, we would like the opinion of the St. James Township Board of Trustees concerning this issue. We ask that you please share this request with any offices or others who might have an interest in this proposal.

The current landowners report that they were asked by local tribes to change the name of Squaw Island because the word "squaw" is considered offensive. The landowners agreed to proposed the name Eagle Island as a replacement. The landowners plan to operate the Squaw Island Lighthouse as a tourist attraction and do not want to change its historic name. The BGN does not have purview over the names of structures, and no proposed change to the name of the lighthouse is being considered. The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians reports that it has no objection to the name Eagle Island.

This proposal is listed on the BGN's Review List #431, posted at [http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/quarterly\\_list.htm](http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/quarterly_list.htm). The case summary is attached for your review and convenience. Also attached are the original proposal, a map of the island, and a Geographic Name Proposal Recommendation form to facilitate a response from your office. Also attached is a copy of the response to the proponent from the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Once we receive your response, we will ask the Michigan State Names Authority (copied on this email) for their recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to hearing from you. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We may be contacted by mail at the address below; by telephone at (703) 648-4553; by fax at (703) 648-4549; or by e-mail at [BGNESEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNESEC@usgs.gov).

Sincerely,

Matt O'Donnell, research staff  
For Lou Yost, Executive Secretary  
U.S. Board on Geographic Names



U.S. Geological Survey  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
MS 523  
Reston VA 20192-0523

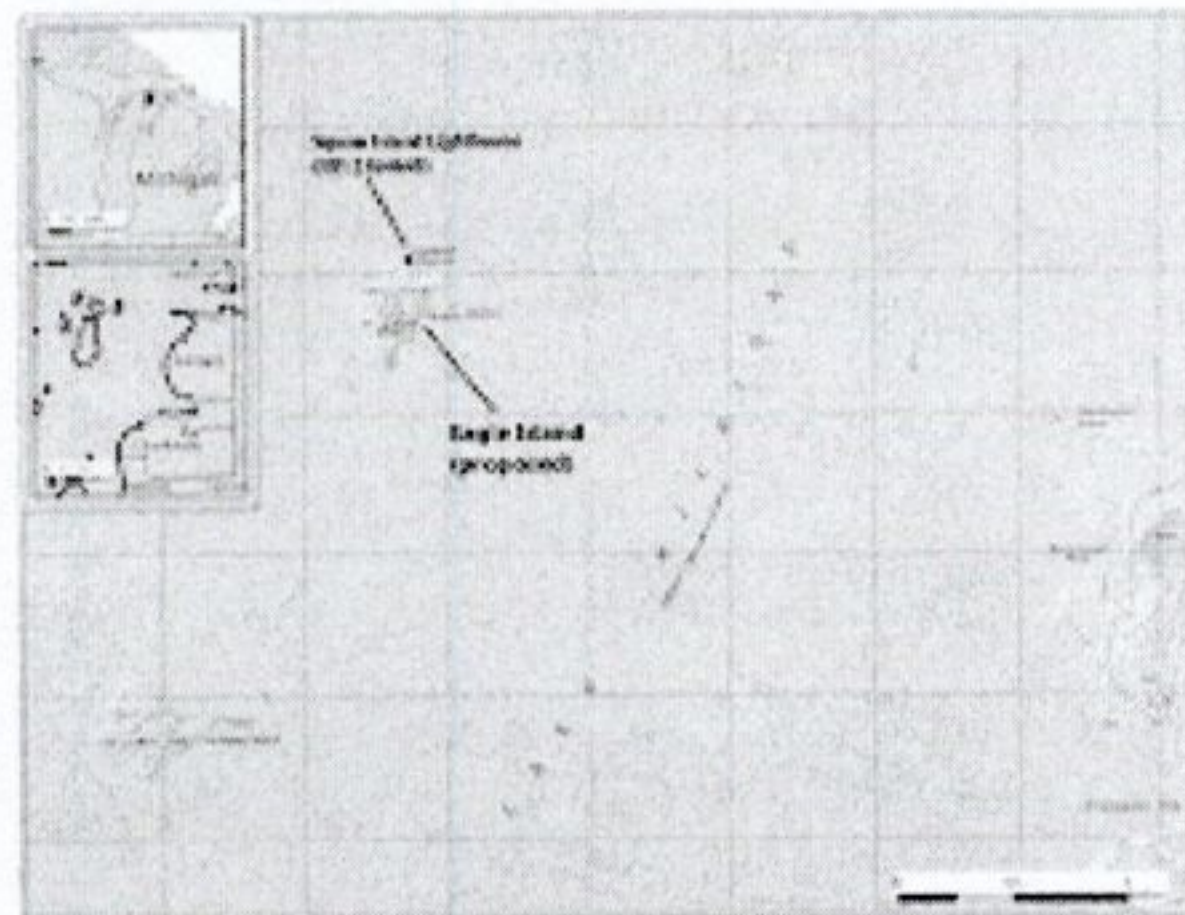
cc:

Alice Belfy, Township Clerk, belfy.stjamestown.bi@gmail.com  
Daniel Metzger, Michigan State Names Authority, metzgerd@michigan.gov  
Anthony Olkowski, Michigan State Names Authority, OlkowskiT@michigan.gov  
Nan Ewald, Michigan State Names Authority, EwaldN@michigan.gov  
Charles Hickman, USGS Liaison for Ohio and Michigan, chickman@usgs.gov


Matt O'Donnell | Xcellent Technology Solutions, Inc.  
Contractor in support of U.S. Board on Geographic Names | Domestic Names Committee  
Phone/fax: 703.648.4553 / 703.648.4549  
Email: mjdodonnell@usgs.gov  
Room 1C112 (in library offices)


---


**5 attachments**




**map of Eagle Island.jpg**  
1088K

 **Eagle Island case summary.docx**  
19K

 **Eagle Island proposal.pdf**  
71K

 **Little Traverse Band of Odawa no objection.pdf**  
72K

 **St. James Township Eagle Island recommendation form.doc**  
37K