State land board charged with incompetence

By SUSAN HERMANN
Of the Emerald

OSPIRG is releasing a report today which charges the State Land Board with "incompetence bordering on scandal."

The report also charges that "a record of weakness" amounting to "administrative negligence" by the State Land Board and division of state lands is costing Oregon taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost royalty revenue and that the board failed to adopt statewide policies to meet increasing threats to Oregon's valuable waterways.

In a 94-page report, Robert Stach, Jr., a second year law student at the University and OSPIRG intern, focused on the board's waterways management responsibilities.

The State Land Board members are Governor Tom McCall, Secretary of State Clay Myers, state treasurer James Redden and William Cox. Cox is a member of the division, the operating arm of the land board.

The report brought up four examples where the board is failing to meet these responsibilities.

These examples the report stated were:

— The board's files show that sand and gravel operators are authorized by the division to remove from 23 river bed locations 3 million cubic yards of material worth $475,000, without any payment to the state. The board failed to assert ownership of these 23 areas, thus the royalties were foregone. Many sources show that these areas are state owned.

— Oregon owns "navigable" rivers and can and should obtain royalties for sand and gravel removals from state waterways.

— The division has failed to determine ownership of these areas even though the advisory committee to the board strongly recommended it do so three years ago.

— The advisory committee urged the board and division to resolve conflicting ownership claims (due to natural changes in the river channel) to the bed of the Willamette. To date the division has issued no report on the matter which again could provide substantial revenue to the state.

— Requiring leases could bring $100,000 to the state annually, but it has taken the board one year to adopt leasing policies after the attorney general's October 1972 opinion authorizing such leases and still not one dollar has been collected from operators of marinas, moorages and other waterway structures on state-owned rivers. Estimates of annual revenues go from $100,000 up $2 million.

— Over one year ago the advisory committee informed the Board of 31 acres of unauthorized land fills made since 1963 in Oregon's estuaries. In August, Cox told OSPIRG that he has taken no action against such fills.

OSPIRG recommended that the division move rapidly to determine the extent of waterway ownership in order to increase public revenues and extend public control. "The land board has more power over Oregon's rivers and estuaries than any other agency," states Stacy, "but it has done next to nothing to establish effective management programs."

OSPIRG said that Oregon's "waterways and adjacent shorelines" are a single resource and must be managed accordingly.

However, the report found that public control of resource is severly fractured: the state controls the river bed and the river bank while a host of uncoordinated cities, counties and port authorities control shore areas beyond the river bank, thereby making unified

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Ritchey asks McCall for state AD funding

By SCOTT SPITTAL
Of the Emerald

University President Robert Clark, Athletic Director Norv Ritchey and representatives from Oregon State University and Portland State University met yesterday with Governor Tom McCall to propose that the state take over the salary funding of athletic coaches.

The Governor's administrative assistant, Ron Schmidt, said no decision had been made on the proposal.

Currently, the athletic departments at each university pay the freight for coaching. Oregon, with 31 coaches, has a faculty budget of more than $394,000. OSU spends more than $345,000 for 31 coaches. PSU spends $80,000 for 11.

Athletic directors from all three universities met with Chancellor Roy Lieuallen late last month to try to find a solution. They came up with the suggestion that the legislature be asked to fund money for coaches.

University Athletic Director Norv Ritchey has a simple explanation for why the request was made. " 'Cause we're going broke."

"Under the pressures the ADs find themselves to produce a winning and competitive program, they don't see any financial light at the end of the tunnel," Ritchey said.

"We want to find out if the state of Oregon wants major college athletics, and if so, is it willing to support it," OSU Athletic Director Jim Barratt said.

Both Ritchey and Barratt feel the coaches provide educational value. "You have to ask philosophically why the University differentiates between the educational value of a coach versus, say, an English professor," Ritchey said.

"I can justify asking for state support on the same basis acting, music and other activities of an academic nature justify their support. I think coaching is teaching at its highest," Barratt said.

Ritchey stated that his coaches hold academic rank and, except for head coaches in major sports, his coaches are paid either equal to or less than comparative salaries of regular faculty.

"We are in a real bind, where the costs have doubled in ten years and we just don't have the income to offset the rising costs," Barratt said.

Although Oregon stands to reap a potential profit of up to $250,000 this year, OSU is in financial trouble.

OSU's business manager estimated that losses could be as high as $125,000 this year.

Both Ritchey and Barratt look to public financing as a way of insuring they will be able to maintain their present programs.

Ritchey said the pressures of competing in major college sport has led to the proposal. "If you don't compete this way in the world we live in, you can't compete."

There is a precedent for state support of faculty salaries. Only the three larger state schools pay coaches salaries. Smaller schools are supported by the state.

Chancellor Roy Lieullan says he is "neutral" on the proposal. "I haven't decided whether it's a good idea or not."

A certain amount of money could be used to stabilize AD income, though the amount of coaches salary funding would have to be preset, he said.

Ritchey said he didn't feel the money, if approved by the legislature, should come out of current University allocations. He suggested that salary funding should be "over and above" any other University funding.