

PMH board delays management proposal decision

The question of whether or not to hire a medical management firm will not likely be answered for some time, following action taken by Pioneer Memorial Hospital's board of trustees Tuesday night.

In a unanimous vote, the board agreed to enter into a contract with the Oregon Association of Hospitals' Director of Management Systems, R.D. Ellingson, to draft a long-range plan for the hospital. Government regulations require that hospitals be in the process of completing such a plan by June.

Hospital board member Dan Sweeney, who previously had pushed for a speedy resolution of the management firm question, stated Tuesday that "we need to go through the planning process in order to make an intelligent decision on the management proposals. We've got to know where we're going, first."

Under the terms of the contract, Pioneer Memorial, a member of the Oregon Association of Hospitals, would pay Ellingson \$500 per month for a maximum of six months to complete the planning process. The hospital board indicated that it would arrange for Ellingson to come to

Heppner in the near future to outline what his planning effort would entail in a public meeting.

In other development, the board discussed a bill recently introduced in the Oregon House of Representatives by Rep. Bill Bellamy, which would require hospital board members to be elected, rather than appointed by the county court.

Under the terms of Bellamy's proposal—House Bill 3037—one board member would be elected from the county's north end, one from the south end, and the remaining three would be elected on an at-large basis.

Board members voiced no objections to the concept of having an elected, rather than appointed board. But there was criticism expressed over a number of points, including that the bill does not address itself to handling the transition between replacing appointed members with elected ones, or resolve age-old problems stemming from a lack of clear delineation over who controls the hospital—the county or the hospital board.

A committee from the hospital board will draft an official response to the bill, with plans to meet with

Bellamy when he appears in Heppner on April 27 to attend an Oregon Wheat League meeting.

Bellamy told the Gazette-Times that he has no personal opinion on whether the bill should be approved. He said it was drafted at the request of Save Our Hospital leader Merl Cantin.

Bellamy stated that he was seeking public opinion on the bill, adding that "I'll do whatever the people want me to do. I want to know their feelings. If they don't want it, then it will stay right here in committee and never come out."

The District 55 representative said he would like public response to be "within the next couple of weeks." Responses from the public should be directed to the county court, or to Bellamy's office in Salem, the freshman representative said.

Hospital Administrator Bob Byrnes told the board that he was investigating the possibility of entering an agreement with one of the Portland area hospitals with a medical education program, to allow physicians working on residency requirements to spend six week rotations at Pioneer Memorial. The move would

provide the hospital with back-up physicians, give experience to the doctors working on the residency program, and could serve to attract resident physicians to locate in Heppner upon completion of their program.

An agreement with a group

of physicians at St. Anthony's Hospital in Pendleton for providing doctors to fill in for Heppner's lone practicing physician, Dr. Joseph Gifford, is working well, Byrnes reported. Dr. Joan Pagel, who was in Heppner last weekend to allow Dr. Gifford a weekend

off, generated enough income to the hospital to pay her fee, Byrnes said.

The financial situation for the hospital itself was not as close to break-even proposition, Byrnes reported. Figures for March showed that the average daily occupancy was

29 per cent, resulting in a net loss of \$2,637. In February, the hospital showed a profit for the first time in a number of months, when the occupancy averaged 47 per cent. February statistics showed that the hospital—without taking into consideration tax funds—

took in \$738 more than expenses.

Sandy Murray, president of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, reported that her group plans to hold a tea and open house at the hospital during National Hospital Week from May 6-12.

Anglers can expect good fishing opener

A big day in the year for many Oregon anglers breaks on Saturday, April 21, with the opening of the general trout season.

Setting on opening day weather is a good way to lose money, but it seems the conditions are more often cold and miserable than not. Nevertheless, many waters will offer good angling in spite of conditions and a good percentage of Oregon's 800,000 or so anglers are likely to turn out.

It should be kept in mind that not all waters open in April. Coastal rivers, for instance, won't open until May 26 to protect outmigrating salmon and steelhead. Most streams in the northeastern corner of the state as well as a few other waters in Oregon also do not open until May.

There are major changes in regulations for the lower 100 miles of the Deschutes River, and other smaller changes elsewhere, so anglers would be wise to pick up a copy of the 1979 Angling Synopsis. They are available free from sporting goods stores and other outlets where angling licenses are sold. (Don't forget your angling license, by the way.)

A year ago, due to a mild winter and light snow pack, anglers found unusually good water (if not weather) conditions early in the season. This year they will be more like normal. Some rivers will be high, murky and cold from melting snow runoff. Some lakes and campgrounds will be inaccessible during the early part of the season due to snow cover.

Because of cold water temperatures and ice cover on ponds at Fall River and

Wizard Falls trout hatcheries, many fish have shown less than normal growth and will be below legal size by April 21. Because of this, some waters in eastern Oregon that are normally stocked before the opening will not be planted, and others may receive fewer fish than usual. With warmer weather and heavy feeding, however, hatchery fish are now growing rapidly and the picture may change for the better before opening day.

The following is a summary of prospects for the opening weekend compiled from the reports of 22 field biologists whose districts cover the fishing waters of the state. An attempt has been made here to accurately summarize conditions, but it should be recognized that weather will have a strong influence on fishing prospects and access in the days leading up to the opening.

Most northeast Oregon streams remain closed to angling until May 26.

Exceptions to this are Willow Creek and Rhea Creek which open April 21.

Ponds which are open year around but which will be planted with catchable sized trout prior to April 21 include Cutsforth, Tatone, McNary and Hat Rock ponds. Access to all of these should be okay by the general season opener on the 21st.

Most lakes and ponds in the John Day Basin should provide good angling although some may receive smaller allocations of stocked trout than in past years due to slower than normal growth in central Oregon hatcheries during cold weather.

Access to Bull Prairie

Reservoir will probably be blocked by snow and campgrounds will also probably be snowed under. The same is likely going to be true of Magone and Olive lakes. Strawberry Lake was completely iced over in early April and not likely to open by April 21.

Access is also questionable to Canyon Meadows Reservoir. Waters for which stocking is planned before April 21 are Row Creek Reservoir, Wineland Lake, Bates Pond and Carpenter Pond.

Willow Lake will receive a sizeable plant of pan-sized rainbow trout prior to opening weekend. Because of cold weather, angling for kokanee is likely to be slow during the early weeks of the season. Boats and motors are available for rent at the lake.

Kinney Lake will receive 4,000 legal-sized rainbows for the opening and should also have a good population of carryover trout from last year.

Victor Pond, Hatchery Pond and Willowa Pond will each be stocked for opening weekend. The Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam has been providing good angling in recent weeks for large rainbow trout.

Streams in Burnt River, Powder River and Pine Creek drainages open April 21, but will probably be high, murky and cold. Fishing is likely to be poor until water conditions improve later in the season.


Among ponds for which rainbow stocking is planned are North Powder No. 1 and 2, Roullet, Haines No. 1, Vogel Pond and Highway 203 Pond. Morgan Lake should be good for rainbows 8 to 12 inches.



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