

# Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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April 2016

[www.wapgh.org](http://www.wapgh.org)

## **April Highlights**

A total of (39) thirty-nine members and guests were registered for the April 13, 2016 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. Dan Lacey welcomed first-time attendee: Bob Zehentbauer of Ohio Emergency Management Agency and new member: Bob Tully of Pittsburgh Marine Technology.

## **Coast Guard News**

LT Devin Adams presented the **attached** report.

CDR Leon McClain presented a Public Service Commendation to Richard Riley of Marion Hill Associates for his long standing contributions to the Pittsburgh region. A picture will be posted on the Waterways website.

## **Army Corp of Engineers**

John Dilla covered the **attached** lock closure report. Several important items to note:

- Due to changes to the Notice to Navigation Interests (NTNI) to conform to the national system, said notices will no longer be emailed to membership. The notices can be found at: <http://ntninotices.usace.army.mil/lpwb/f?=150:1>. The Corp was asked if individuals could set notification preferences so that when something is posted in our region, an email would notify the new posting. There was uncertainty about this style of notification; however, individuals can preset search parameters.
- Completion of the Montgomery auxiliary chamber repair work is vital to maintain current maintenance schedule closing main chamber from May 16 through June 10.
- Change of Command is scheduled for the end of July. Colonel John W. Lloyd will be replacing Colonel Bernie Lindstrom.

## **National Weather Service**

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

## **Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report**

Mary Ann Bucci reported on the following items:

- Representative Keith Rothfus visited the Port offices on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. The discussion was centered on the Water Resource Development Act 2016 (WRDA). Representative Rothfus has taken a leadership role in addressing the long-delayed Upper Ohio Navigation Project by directing a letter to the Honorable Jo-Ellen

Darcy and Lieutenant General Thomas Bostick that included several congressional member signatures. Members are encouraged to reach out to Representative Rothfus and thanked him for his support.

- A press conference with Congressman Bill Shuster and Congressman Keith Rothfus was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at the Emsworth Lock & Dam.
- U.S. Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania made brief remarks at the beginning of the Pittsburgh Inland Waterways User Board Meeting. Casey introduced the RIVER Act (Reinvesting In Vital Economic Rivers and Waterways) of 2014, an industry-supported bill that raised the fuel tax from 20 cents per gallon to 29 cents, to shore up the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and make possible more lock construction. He also made a pitch for prompt completion of the Upper Ohio Navigation Study, and construction at Emsworth, Dashields and Montgomery Locks.
- Industry Day at the Meadows Hotel & Banquet Center in Washington, PA.
- The American Waterway Operator's Regional meeting will be in Pittsburgh at the Fairmont Hotel in August.

#### **Education Committee Report**

Michael Graham reported that the next "Who Works the Rivers" is scheduled for April 21, 2016 with the "Future is Mine" group. At this time, there are 65 attendees confirmed with a potential of 20 additional registrants. There are currently 6 companies confirmed to present at this event. The optimal number of presenting companies is 8 so anyone interested in participating should contact Mike directly. He also confirmed that a representative from the Outdoor Classroom will be present at this event.

#### **Navigation Committee Report**

David Podurgiel covered the following items:

- A Watch Phase was announced for the following locks due to high water: Emsworth, Montgomery and Pike Island.
- Companies are urged to inform pilots and vessel captains to cut side work lights in the lock chamber. These lights cause issues with the lock staff on the lock walls while locking tows.
- There has also been radiation concern in the use of radar while in the Lock chamber, there is no imminent danger of radiation from radars while on the lock walls. Cautionary measures are extended to those on top of the pilot house who come within 3 feet of the radar while running or in standby mode.
- MSU Pittsburgh has partnered with the Three Rivers Pollution Response Council, Port Of Pittsburgh Commission and other government agencies (DHS, TSA, US EPA) to plan an industry day at the Meadows Banquet Center on May 20, 2016 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Individuals can register at [industrydaysvp@gmail.com](mailto:industrydaysvp@gmail.com).

#### **Legislative Committee Report**

Richard Kreider provided the following report:

- **Corps/Industry O&M and Engagement Meeting**

There was a March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting in Cincinnati between industry and the Corp's Great Lakes & Ohio River Division to address operations and maintenance needs for FY 2016, 2017 and 2018. The meeting provided educational on budgeting and the work plan along with the actual tentative repair schedule review. Several suggestions were made to minimize industry impact and repair schedules are currently being redrafted. The meeting notes will be **attached** and listed on the WAP website. The Corps is to return a final draft the FY16-18 repair schedule no later than April 29<sup>th</sup> and it will be shared with the membership upon receipt.

- **WAP/WCI Washington DC Trip**

Attendees participating in the congressional visits included; Richard Kreider, Patrick Kelly, Brian Loring, Mike Somales, Daria Schwartz and Mary Ann Bucci. Focus items included:

- o The importance of the EDM to the system and on moving the process forward to include it in the next WRDA. Specifically, to question the delays in the study and to work with us to make every effort to see what the project is included in WRDA.
- o Pushed for Congress to appropriate funds at the highest level that can be supported by the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and to continue the levels of O&M funding for the FY2017 as granted in FY2016.
- o Oppose the Administration's proposal to impose new inland waterways user fees (lockage fees) which could impact the current 29 cent per gallon fee the industry recently agreed to and is currently paying.

- **Inland Waterways Users Board Meeting**

The 78<sup>th</sup> meeting took place on April 1<sup>st</sup> in Pittsburgh. For the first time, attendees were addressed by a member of Congress, Senator Bob Casey.

- **FY2017 Appropriations**

The FY2017 Energy & Water Development appropriations bill are beginning to advance. Both the House and Senate appropriations subcommittees plan to mark up their respective FY2017 Corps of Engineers funding bills this week. The full Senate Appropriations Committee has also announced it will mark the bill this week.

Reports indicate the House Appropriations Committee's FY2017 Energy and Water Development and related agencies appropriations bill will be considered in the Subcommittee today. The bill provided annual funding for the US Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Energy programs, national defense and nuclear weapons activities, and for other related agencies.

The Corps' overall funding level in the House bill is \$6.1 billion, which is \$1.48 billion above the President's FY2017 request and is an increase of \$100 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level. The bill also provides construction account funding of \$1.946 billion or \$855.6 million more than the FY2017 President's request.

The bill call for full use of estimated annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) to "help advance American competitiveness and export ability". The IWTF funding amount will not be known until the full committee markup, date to be determined.

The bill provides Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding at a record \$3.157 billion, \$452 million more than the Administration's request for FY2017. The FY2016 O&M funding level was to \$3.137 billion, the then-highest ever appropriated to this account in an annual appropriation bill.

The investigations account received \$120 million, or \$35 million over the Fy2017 request.

The bill also prohibits the use of funds to implement the controversial "Waters of the US" rule that expands the government's jurisdiction on waterways.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) and Energy & Water Development (E&WD) Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson (R-ID) have played an active role in pushing this bill forward.

Overall, this is a very positive first step in the FY2017 funding process and congress appears to support bridging the gap between the USACE/Industry's needs and the President's budget.

- **AWO Spring Convention**

Richard will be meeting with our key Pennsylvania representatives again next week at the AWP Barge-In event and hope to reinforce and increase the level of support for our ongoing needs in the Pittsburgh District.

**Additional Comments:**

Dan Lacek confirmed that a joint meeting with the Huntington District will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup>. CDR Jackie Twomey of the Towing Center of Expertise in Paducah will be speaking on Subchapter M.

**May Membership Meeting**

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2016 at Chartiers Country Club (601 Baldwin Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15205).

**PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE IN THE 2016 MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON FEE:**

Cost of the luncheon will be **\$30**. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. with lunch served promptly at noon. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Thursday, May 5, 2016 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh  
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

May 11, 2016

**Menu:**

Fresh Fruit Cup w/Honey Cream  
Chicken Picatta sautéed w/fresh mushrooms, capers and lemon  
Broccoli w/lemon butter  
Lemon Meringue Pie

**Cost:**        *\$30/per member*

\_\_\_\_\_        YES, I will be attending

\_\_\_\_\_        No, I will not be attending

**\*\*Special Dietary Requirements:** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond **by Thursday, May 5, 2016** to:

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