

# Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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November 2016

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

## November Highlights

A total of (19) nineteen members and guests were registered for the November 9, 2016 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. Dan Lacey was unable to attend so Treasurer Michael Graham presided over the meeting.

## Coast Guard News

LT Shawn Simeral presented the **attached** report.

## Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla covered the **attached** lock closure report.

Kathy Griffin provided the following information:

- Nationwide Changes to Corps O&M Budget Formulation.
  - o Eliminates practice of generally limiting Regional/District budget to historic five-year average.
  - o Rigorous review of entire budget versus last 25 percent around historic five-year average.
  - o Increased focus on asset management and return on investment.

In response to recommendation by Port of Pittsburgh to modify budget process used to fund capital improvements (Construction General), recommend socializing idea through Corps Regional stakeholder meetings and established groups.

## National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

## Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci provided a verbal report at the meeting. No written report was submitted for inclusion.

## Education Committee Report

Michael Graham reported the following:

- That the Barge Breakaway Seminar was held on October 13, 2016 at the Floreffe Fire Hall. A total of forty-six (46) individuals representing ten (10) companies were in attendance. Presentations from the Coast Guard, Corp of Engineers, National Weather Service, David McQuiston, and Dick Ehringer were included in the annual agenda. The landing visit was replaced this year with a tabletop exercise that was extremely successful and provided much interaction between attendees. The committee plans on rotating between actual landing visit and tabletop exercise annually.

- The October "Who Works the Rivers" had 31 students from two schools (Beattie Tech and Carrick High). This was a great number of attendees since one of the schools cancelled late. There were six companies and governmental agencies along with the outdoor classroom rep from Allegheny Land Trust who participated. Murray American Towing and the Coast Guard garnered much interest at their tables.

### **Navigation Committee Report**

David Podurciel provided the following information:

- David will be taking over as Navigation Committee Chair and thanked everyone for the opportunity. Anyone that has ideas or suggestions to improve committee communication.
- Emphasized that there is always someone available to handle navigational questions or issues.
- A meeting is scheduled at Lake Lynn on November 17<sup>th</sup> to get the chance to meet the new NOAA staff.
- A meeting is scheduled with PENNDOT on December 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss barge placement on the piers during the Liberty Bridge renovations and industry's concerns will remain front and center in this discussion.

### **Legislative Committee Report**

Richard Kreider was unable to attend but provided the following report:

- The LRD Stakeholder group met last week along with the Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) stakeholders. This was an effort to broaden work to a system-wide approach. This committee work should in no way circumvent local communication avenues.
- The 2016 WCI Waterways Symposium is scheduled for November 15-17, 2016 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati, OH. The symposium topic is: "Increasing Investment for the Nation's Waterways". As part of the symposium, Rich will be one of the five speakers leading a panel discussion regarding the "Scheduling of Future Inland Waterways O & M". More information can be found on the WCI website.
- Congress is currently on recess and are back in their home states and districts engaged in final campaign efforts. A Continuing Resolution was enacted on September 29<sup>th</sup> and allows the federal government to function through December 9<sup>th</sup>. Following that date, Congress will consider how it will fund the federal government for the remainder of FY2017. One leading option is to pass an Omnibus Appropriations Bill that would include all remaining appropriations measurers, including the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill that funds the Corps of Engineers. Other options will depend upon the post-election results and the political atmosphere in Washington.
- Both the House and Senate have now passed their versions of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), leading to what will hopefully be final Congressional passage before the end of this session. Both versions do not include a Public-Private Partnership

(P3) provision that could have allowed the collection of tolls or lockage fees on the inland waterways. The House bill did include the Upper Ohio Study Chief's Report that would allow the Emsworth, Dashields and Montgomery (EDM) locks project.

**December Membership Meeting - LOCATION CHANGE**

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 14, 2016** at Bella Sera (414 Morganza Rd, Canonsburg, PA 15317). Cost of the luncheon will be **\$30**. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh  
Meeting Response Form**

Bella Sera (414 Morganza Road, Canonsburg, PA 15317)

December 14, 2016 @ Noon

**Menu:**

Romaine & Radicchio Salad w/balsamic vinaigrette/buttermilk ranch  
Chicken Lilliana w/Sun-Dried Tomato, Roasted Garlic & Fresh Thyme  
Roasted Yukon Golf Fingerling Potatoes w/sea salt, pepper & olive oil  
Chef's Choice of Vegetable  
Fresh Baked Carmel Apple Walnut 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 Wednesday, December 7, 2016** to:

Cheryll Cranmer  
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Fax:            (724) 285-4999  
Email:        [cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org](mailto:cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org)