

Legislative Committee & Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report – Scott Harshman (Port of Pittsburgh), Chair; Legislative Committee: Scott Harshman, Pat Kelly, and George Petrus

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

1. Priorities:

- Continue to support Upper Ohio River Navigation System & Lower Mon Projects
- Oppose additional taxation, tolling, and lockage fees
- Fully utilize and draw down funding from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund

2. Congressional Appropriations

- Request submitted for additional funding needed for the Lower Mon Project

3. Water Resources Development Act of 2024 – time to start preparing for next WRDA

- WRDA addresses water infrastructure needs critical for the Nation’s economic competitiveness and domestic security. WRDA is strictly authorizing legislation. The funding to implement authorized studies, projects, and activities is provided separately through the annual appropriations budgetary process.

PORT OF PITTSBURGH COMMISSION:

1. Grant funding opportunities

- **PortPitt’s Senator Jim Ferlo Memorial Small Grants Program** (closed)
- The Federal Highway Administration is accepting applications for the **Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program** (open – due 7/26)
- **PA DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund** (open – due 7/31)

2. United States Marine Highway Program – *Application is pending and being reviewed by USDOT*

- Expect decision mid-July

3. Past Events

- Pittsburgh Traffic Club hosted **tour of both PennDOT’s Traffic Management Center and the Fort Pitt Tunnel on Wednesday, June 27th**
- **On June 28th, PortPitt’s media consultant did a video shoot** on our rivers along with both the PA Fish & Boat Commission and Campbell Transportation Company, Inc., related to recreational boater interaction with commercial vessels.
- The PA Fish and Boat Commission, in partnership with NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) and partnering agencies and organizations held a media event **on June 29th in Pittsburgh** in advance of Independence Day that was the **national kickoff for “Operation Dry Water”, a nationwide effort to educate the public about the danger of Boating Under the Influence (BUI).**

4. Future Events

- Beaver County Chamber of Commerce’s **Legislative Cruise on the Gateway Clipper on Wednesday, July 26th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm** and leaving from the Rochester Boat Ramp
- **Allegheny River Summit** follow-up meeting schedule by USACE for **August 1st.**
- **WCI will hold its annual media trip to Pittsburgh on August 9-11**, in conjunction with the Montgomery Lock groundbreaking ceremony.
- Future PortPitt “Lunch & Learn” in Brownsville in September/October/November.

END