

August Meeting Highlights

President David Podurgiel welcomed everyone to the August WAP membership meeting that was hosted at the Chartiers County Club. Twenty-three members were in attendance for the meeting.

Navigation chairman Shayne Checkan was not in attendance, so David provided the report. New Cumberland Lock & Dam (L&D) is behind schedule with an anticipated ending date of 08-18-23. This will now push back the Montgomery L&D project. During large chamber openings there will not be a 70' width restriction. Anticipated closure date are as follows:

Main Chamber closures

1. Sept 5 – Sept 25th
2. Oct 17th – Nov 22nd
3. Nov 26th – Dec 22nd

Aux Chamber closures

4. Sept 2nd – Sept 5th
5. Sept 25th – Oct 17th
6. Nov 22nd – Nov 25th

On August 5th there was an incident at the New Kensington bridge involving a company contracted to paint the bridge but failed to notify USCG. Masters of towing vessels informed USCG that wires were hanging from the bridge within the navigation channel. USCG immediately responded to the situation and took action to remove the unsafe condition. Towing companies are encouraged to continue to have masters of towing vessels report any unsafe condition to the USCG.

Navigation committee members David and Shayne will be attending upcoming Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) outage meeting in St. Paul, MN on August 29.

Click Here to Read Full Navigation Report

Scott Harshman provided the Legislative Committee Report. The Port of Pittsburgh priorities will remain the same but added that navigation projects identified as “funded to completion” with Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding should continue to be 100% funded from General Treasury – not cost shared. Port of Pittsburgh and WAP should continue to ensure that Montgomery L&D is completed and 100% funded. A link for Open Tug can be found on Port of Pittsburgh website. This is designed to be a resource for companies looking for transportation or storage.

Click Here to Read Full Legislation Report

MST1 Onnalee Blackledge provided the USCG report. Roberto Clemente bridge/Sixth street bridge (Monongahela River, mm 1.5) has a tentative fix date of

Sept. 5. Mariners are asked to be cognizant when transiting through that area for bridge hazards. August 18-20 a safety zone will be established for Kittanning Riverbration (Allegheny River, mm 45.1-45.8). Companies were also reminded that any sexual misconduct that occurs on a vessel is required to be reported to USCG.

Click Here to Read Full USCG Report

Mark Eberly provided the USACE Report. Updates were provided for New Cumberland (estimated to be open mid-September), Emsworth (NTNI 202742), and Montgomery L&D (NTNI 203225). The upcoming dive schedule was also reviewed.

Click Here to Read Full USACE Report

Lee Hendricks presented the National Weather Service report. It was noted that for rivers to have any significant rise it would take approximately 2-2½” of rainfall in 24 hours. The first 1-1¼ would be absorbed by the ground. Prediction for late fall/early winter is above normal temperatures with normal precipitation.

Click Here to Read Full USACE Report

Kristen Stojakovich, chair of the Membership and Networking committee reminded membership of the future events including: Annual Golf Outing at Seven Oaks Country Club will be Sept. 19 and will again be held in partnership with Traffic Club of Pittsburgh. Please register early as the event will sell out. Annual holiday Galla is schedule for December 08. Total membership count is 59 member companies.

Upcoming Education events include Barge Breakaway Seminar, Oct 19 at The Fez. The Port of Pittsburgh received a well-deserved thank-you for awarding WAP as a recipient for its small grants program. The \$10k will be used for Man Over Board and Who Works the Rivers educational events.

Old Business: N/A

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 13 at Chartiers County Club. Guest Speaker will be Jason Bumblis from Pacer Studio's.

Click Here to Register for September Meeting