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Waterways Association  
of Pittsburgh

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### **September Meeting Highlights**

President David Podurciel welcomed everyone to the August WAP membership meeting that was hosted at the Chartiers County Club. Thirty-two members and one guest speaker were in attendance for the meeting.



David introduced Jason Bumblis, President of Pacer Studios. Pacer Studios has been contracted by WAP to update and modernize its website to be more customer / user friendly. Jason was able to show us a

beta version of our new website. He explained the basic format is completed and now the small details just need to be updated. The goal of Pacer is to go live with the new website mid-October. Some highlights of the new website will include: Member companies being able to update company profiles and job postings, registration and payments for meetings, events, etc. will be made through the website, and the entire site will be mobile friendly.

With the absence of our Navigation Chair, David provided a brief navigation report. High water events have been minimal and operating conditions have been ideal. New Cumberland L&D work was not completed as scheduled and a future date TBD will be needed. Montgomery L&D project has begun, please expect major delays. Closure dates are listed below:

#### **Main Chamber closures**

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

#### **Aux Chamber closures**

4. Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sept 5<sup>th</sup>
5. Sept 25<sup>th</sup> – Oct 17<sup>th</sup>
6. Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – Nov 25<sup>th</sup>

Hannibal L&D (mm 126) will be closed July 15 – November 7, 2025. Expect major delays.

***Click Here to Read Full Navigation Report***

Mary Ann Bucci provided the Legislative Committee Report. The Port of Pittsburgh priorities will remain the same but reminded us of the importance that Montgomery L&D was fully funded at \$850 Million but due to inflation, the cost has risen to \$1.648 Billion. We must continue to ensure this project is fully funded.

Save the Allegheny River (STAR) is a group to ensure the Allegheny River continues to survive for businesses and recreational boaters. It is projected, at its current funding levels that in 2028, lockages may be reduced to once per day. Port of Pittsburgh is seeking to have an independent study completed for all the benefits the Allegheny River has to offer. Port of

Pittsburgh is also looking to have a meeting with PA DEP to discuss dredging on the Allegheny.

On August 16, the Monongahela and Allegheny river received new highway route designation, M-79. This will allow for maritime administrative grants.

Port of Pittsburgh small grants program awarded 12 applicants funding including WAP and WAP member companies.

***Click Here to Read Full Legislation Report***

MSTC Kevin Schneider provided the USCG report. Pipe replacement operations will be conducted October 12 to January 15 on Ohio River (mm 111.5 RDB), mariners are being requested to transit this area with the slowest safe speed to minimize wake and proceed with caution. WAP members were also reminded that any sexual misconduct that occurs on a vessel is required to be reported to USCG. Currently there are no known incidents in that have been reported in MSU Pittsburgh.

***Click Here to Read Full USCG Report***

John Dilla provided the USACE Report. It was noted that all details will be in NTNI for Hannibal Primary closure (noted in navigation report) and Emsworth L&D scheduled for November 13 – December 20.

***Click Here to Read Full USACE Report***

Lee Hendricks presented the National Weather Service report. The tri-state area is predicted to have a slow warming trend until fall. Winter is predicted to be warm and dry with increased rain fall.

***Click Here to Read Full NWS Report***

Mike Graham informed members of upcoming training for Barge Breakaway Seminar, Oct 19 at The Fez. Registration is now open. Who Works the Rivers will be on October 24 at Gateway Clipper Fleet.

***New Business:*** Our sister association, Huntington District Waterways Association (HDWA) is struggling for membership. David Podurciel ask if there were any way WAP could help them out.

***Old Business:*** N/A

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 04 at Lafayette Hotel (Marietta, Ohio). This is joint meeting with HDWA. Guest Speaker will be Joshua Hunt, assistant prosecuting attorney for Marietta bridge bomber.

***Click Here to Register for October Meeting***