

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
- ***Support initiative that navigation projects identified as “funded to completion” with Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding should continue to be 100% funded from the General Treasury -- not cost-shared -- consistent with Congressional intent***

2. Congressional Appropriations

- Requests submitted to Congress for additional funding needed for the Lower Mon Project
- US House Appropriations Committee approved their bill on June 22nd that includes \$455 million for inland waterways construction and the US Senate Appropriations Committee passed their bill on July 20th that includes \$161 million for inland waterways
- Federal Fiscal Year 2024 begins October 1st – likely short-term Continuing Resolution to keep the government funded while Congress continues to work on appropriation bills

3. Water Resources Development Act of 2024

- Both the House and Senate have started to work on next WRDA bill – priorities will be:
 - IIJA projects should be 100% federal funded (as highlighted in Section 1 above)
 - No further reduction in Allegheny River’s Levels of Service

4. Next PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Opportunity

- **On September 25th** PennDOT will begin accepting applications for the next round of funding for grants under the MTF Program with **applications due on November 10th**

PORT OF PITTSBURGH COMMISSION:

1. United States Marine Highway Program

- On August 16th, received new Marine Highway Route Designation, the M-79, to cover both the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers

2. PortPitt’s Small Grant Program Awards

- Twelve local applicants were awarded funding are: Blawnox-Glenover VFC, Elizabeth Borough VFC, Friends of the Riverfront, Homestead Borough, Marion Hill Associates, Pittsburgh Intermodal Terminals, RiverWise (Beaver County), Sense of Connection, Venture Outdoors, Verona Borough, Vigilant Hose Co. (Port View), and Waterways Association of Pittsburgh

3. Save The Allegheny River (STAR) – PortPitt & SPC taking the lead - held first meeting on 9/5

4. Past Events

- Hosted in Pittsburgh WCI’s annual media trip on August 9-11
- Montgomery Locks & Dam groundbreaking on August 11
- Congressman Deluzio & staff boat tour on August 31
- Sponsored Three Rivers Pollution Response Council’s Spill Boom / Fire Response Event on 9/12

5. Future Events

- Next Inland Waterways Users Board meeting will be in DC on October 19
- WCI’s 20th Annual Waterways Symposium in New Orleans on November 13-15

END