

4621 Easy Street  
West Mifflin, PA 15122  
412-512-3060  
[RMcCallister@wapgh.org](mailto:RMcCallister@wapgh.org)

Waterways Association  
of Pittsburgh

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### **October Meeting Highlights**

Prior to the meeting MSU Pittsburgh & Huntington Investigative Officers held its annual Marine Incident Summit reviewing marine casualties that occurred in their respective districts from October 2021 to October 2023. Discussions were held by USCG and stakeholders ranging from injuries sustained, collisions, drug testing requirement, and reporting requirements. The



Marine Incident Summit is a collaborative informational session to bring awareness and best management practices through open communication.

President William Barr welcomed everyone to the joint meeting between Huntington District Waterways Association (HDWA) and Waterways Association of Pittsburgh (WAP) that was hosted at the historic Lafayette Hotel in Marietta, OH. WAP had 14 members in attendance. President of WAP David Podurgiel then also welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the districts and the challenges that we all face on the inland waterways. David also emphasized the Allegheny River and the efforts of “Save the Allegheny River” (STAR) to maintain open staffed locks for commercial and recreational boaters.

Navigation report was provided by David Podurgiel. High water events have been minimal this year and hopefully this trend will continue for the remainder of the year. Montgomery L&D project has begun, please expect major delays. Closure dates are listed below:

#### **Main Chamber closures**

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

#### **Aux Chamber closures**

3. Sept 25<sup>th</sup> – Oct 17<sup>th</sup>
4. 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.

The legislative report was provided by Scott Harshman from Port of Pittsburgh. Highlights included legislative priorities and impending government shutdown and its potential consequences. The PennDOT multimodal transportation fund applications for grants are now open and due by November 11, 2023.

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

***[Click Here to Read Full Legislation Report](#)***

USCG Eyobe Mills and HDWA Commanding Officer William Albright provided the USCG report. Several closures were discussed for the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers. No closures will last more than a couple of hours. A question was asked about the process for event holders, on how to request a river closure. It was explained this is outlined in the Federal Register and a 90-day notification is ideal to all for research and public comment. USCG does try to accommodate all request they can be approved faster. Several river closure have been delayed recently due to late notices.

***[Click Here to Read Full USCG Report](#)***

Alicia Miller provided handout for current weather and river conditions. It is forecasted to be a warmer than normal winter season with increased chances of rain.

***[Click Here to Read Full NWS Report](#)***



Special guest speaker Joshua Hanks provided an in-depth detailed presentation in regards to the prosecution of the Marietta Bridge Bomber. Mr. Hanks was the assistant prosecuting attorney for this trial and won convictions on four counts. The Marietta bridge bomber was sentenced for 96 months in jail.

New Business: It was noted by William Barr that the Point Pleasant River Museum (1<sup>st</sup> floor) is now open and has 2 river boat simulators. The museum was destroyed by fire in 2016.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at Chartiers County Club. Guest Speaker will be Errin Howard (virtual), RiverWorks Discovery.

***[Click Here to Register for November Meeting](#)***