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Waterways Association
of Pittsburgh

Newsletter
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www.wapgh.org

December Meeting Highlights

President David Podurgiel welcomed everyone to the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh (WAP) that was hosted at Chartiers Country Club. WAP had 31 members in attendance. He then introduced guest Greg Kayser from McDonough Marine Service. David also recognized WAP past presidents in attendance sitting together, James Guttman, Michael Somales, Dave Kretzer, and Dick Ehringer.

Robert McCallister then recognized David Podurgiel for serving at the pleasure of the WAP as President from 2022-2023. His wife Laura was also in attendance and supporting her husband's achievement. A crystal plaque was given as a sign of appreciation from WAP. Shane Checkan also spoke kind words on behalf of David and the accomplishments that he has achieved and the personal help he afforded him on the Navigation Committee.

Navigation report was provided by Shane Checkan. Not much has changed since last meeting, high water events continue to be minimal this year. Please don't get complacent and continue to train and secure your fleets for when the weather (water) does change. Put your own eyes on your fleets as we are not going to have flat water forever. Montgomery L&D is slated to open up on December 22. Shane also thanked the crews working at Montgomery and ACOE for excellent communication to stakeholders throughout this closure.

David and Shane also provided a Lock 3 Monongahela update as there were two meetings the day prior. One was with industry and the second with general public. Both meetings were at Elizabeth fire hall. Some industry had concerns in regard to the lowering (equalizing) of the upper pool and raising of the lower pool after breach which is still predicted for July 2024. Some stakeholders will have to perform dredging operations to conduct business as usual. Public concerns were more concentrated on "fish reefs" which will be installed above and below current Lock 3. ACOE stated new charts of locations are being created to ensure everyone knows where they will be located. The July breach is expected to have a minimum 3 day closure (up to 12 days). WAP has asked the closure to be minimal as possible and to also provide a 60-day notice prior to breach.

Some members also expressed concern in regard to vessel transit heights for the Port Perry Bridge and Bell Bridge during high water occurrences.

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

[Click Here to Read NAVIGATION REPORT](#)

John Dilla provided the Army Corp of Engineers Report and started by saying he was taking a new position (remote lock operations) within the ACOE. He then introduced Alan Nogy and the new Chief, Locks and Dam Branch to the WAP. Mr.

Nogy has been with ACOE many years and was previously the lockmaster at Charleroi L&D. His official first day is December 18, 2023.

[Click Here to Read ACOE](#)

The legislative report was provided by Scott Harshman from Port of Pittsburgh. Highlights included submission of 2024 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) request for IJA projects to be 100% funded to completion, no cost sharing, and no reduced funding (especially on Allegheny River). Port of Pittsburgh also just hosted "Lunch and Learn" tour at Heartland



Fabrication in which approximately 25 individuals attended. If any companies may want to utilize their facility for future visits, please contact Port of Pittsburgh. In the upcoming year, grant seminars will be conducted. More to come on this. Mary Ann Bucci also thanked David Podurgiel for his hard work and collaboration with Port of Pittsburgh. Mary Ann then presented David with some keepsakes.

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

USCG Eyobe Mills reminded everyone to be safe throughout the holiday season and for mariners to always use caution when transiting. Eyobe also reminded companies of obligation for reporting pertaining to sexual harassment.

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

Alicia Miller started by asking who bought a snowblower for Christmas. Sadly, she then explained, they will not be needing it this year as it is predicted to have higher than normal temperatures to finish the year. It is predicted to get colder and mid-January and snow accumulation is still possible. This year precipitation is well below previous year by 7".

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

Networking/Membership: HAZWOPER Training took place on December 5. 26 WAP members attended. First Aid, CPR, AED training is scheduled for February 8, 2024.

WAP Member cost of \$750 will remain the same for 2024.

New Business:

David Podurgiel made a motion to accept slate of candidates as recommended by Board of Directors. It was voted and moved to approve by members in attendance.

David Podurgiel made a motion to update Pittsburgh Maritime Association (PMA) banking account to reflect current BOD (traditionally most recent past president) and Administrative Director (Robert McCallister) as primary signers on the account. It was voted and moved to approve by members in attendance.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at The Fez (Aliquippa). Guest Speaker - ARDC

[Click Here to Register for January Meeting](#)