

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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August 2015

www.wapgh.org

August Highlights

A total of (29) twenty-nine members and guests were registered for the August 12, 2015 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. Dan Lacek welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chris D'Addario of Just Ducky Tours introduced guest Jay Crissey of Marine Total Safety (Chicago); Fred Nyhuis of Marathon Petroleum Company introduced new Port Captain Greg Erwin; Daria Schwartz of Ingram Barge Company introduced guest Nancy Wisniewski of Transcor Corporation; Dan Lacek welcomed guest Chaplain Brandon Mazingo and new Coast Guard CDR Leon McClain and LT Eddie Valdez to the meeting.

Coast Guard News

LT Devin Adams presented the **attached** report. Several attendees commented on the newly published guidance for the identification and reporting of marine casualties and suggested that further improvements really need to be made.

*An additional Fireworks Event has been added for Wednesday, August 19th from the Point to mile .5 on Ohio River.

Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla covered the **attached** lock closure report

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

A meeting will be held to evaluate briefing procedures during ice and high water situations.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Gloria Ralston covered the following information:

- As of July 17th, Mary Ann Bucci was named the Port of Pittsburgh Commission Interim Director indefinitely.
- Mission Critical Partners, Inc. has been awarded the contract to complete a business case study for the Wireless Waterway. The case study will focus on the progress made to date and will look at future possibilities of the project. Schneider Downs is also completing a financial analysis of the project. The Port's staffing could be impacted depending on the outcome of the study.
- LNG Feasibility Study has been completed and is currently being reviewed. The Executive Summary is now available on the Port's website and a full report can be requested by contacting the Port directly.

- The Port of Pittsburgh Commission Strategic Plan is currently back under review based upon the recent changes.
- The County Commissioner Association members were treated to a lockage through Emsworth and expressed real interest in the infrastructure deficiencies. Members were encouraged to contact their county commissioners to provide additional support on this issue.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham reported the following:

- The Man Overboard Seminar had a total of 77 participants representing 16 companies including governmental agencies. Approximately 70% of the attendees participated in the water portion of the training.
- Who Works The Rivers - The next WWR is scheduled for October 6, 2015. As always everyone is invited and encouraged to attend as a speaker and/or a presenter. If any company is interesting in sponsoring these programs, they should contact Michael Graham directly.
- Barge Breakaway Seminar-The Barge Breakaway seminar is scheduled for October 15, 2015 (Floreffa Fire Hall). The agenda is currently being finalized and will be provided to membership shortly.

Navigation Committee Report

Ryan Newton provided the following report:

EMSWORTH L/D RESTRICTED 80' OPERATIONS IN EFFECT THIS WEEKEND 15AUG15 AUGUST 12, 2015 @ 0130

REMINDER:

RESTRICTED OPERATIONS: On the three weekends, listed below, the 110-ft x 600-ft primary lock chamber will be opened to navigation traffic with a width restriction of 80-ft. Due to the width restriction all multi-cut lockages will require self-help. The 56-ft x 360-ft auxiliary lock chamber will be closed to navigation traffic during this time. There will be no change to the lockage procedures for recreational boaters during this restriction.

- First weekend - [August 15, 2015 through August 16, 2015](#)
- Second weekend - [August 29, 2015 through August 30, 2015](#)
- Third weekend - [September 05, 2015 through September 07, 2015](#)

MASONTOWN BRIDGE STEEL REPAIRS: AUGUST 7, 2015 @ 1114

The USCG has issued the following Broadcast Notice to Mariners for structural steel repair to begin on the Masontown Bridge, Mile 79.1, MON starting August 8, 2015 at 8 a.m. The work barge will move for navigation if needed:

MONONGAHELA RIVER MILE 79.1 MASONTOWN BRIDGE

DUE TO STRUCTURAL STEEL REPAIRS, A WORK BARGE WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENCROACH INTO THE NAVIGATION CHANNEL 10 FEET FROM THE RIGHT DESCENDING PIER AND APPROXIMATELY 80 FEET FROM THE LEFT DESCENDING PIER. WORK WILL TAKE PLACE [6 A.M. TO 5 P.M.](#) DAILY [UNTIL AUGUST 19, 2015](#). WORK BARGE WILL

MOVE FOR NAVIGATION BY CONTACTING THE ON SITE WORK BOAT M/V DONNA LEE ON VHF-FM CHANNELS 13 AND 16.

OHIO RIVER DRILLING MILE 75.8: AUGUST 6, 2015 @ 1016

MSU Pittsburgh has notified us of an update to the below listing that has been published in the LNM. The contractor will be working until [2300-0000](#) each day on this project. They will not be in the channel.

MILE 75.8 - DRILLING OPERATION

Continuing [until August 12, 2015](#), from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., each day, geotechnical drilling operations will be conducted in the vicinity of Mile 75.8. The contractors floating plant will consist of the M/V SENECA CHIEF. The M/V SENECA CHIEF will monitor VHF-FM Channels 13 or 16.

Mariners are urged to exercise caution in the area.

NEW CUMBERLAND AUXILIARY CHAMBER: AUGUST 4, 2015 @ 1603

Don Fogel informed me that he received the engineering report on the New Cumberland auxiliary chamber. The USACE will be able to continue to pass ice through the small chamber as needed.

MONTGOMERY & NEW CUMBERLAND AUXILIARY CHAMBERS: JULY 31, 2015 @ 1141

We reached out to Don Fogel, to confirm that the auxiliary chambers at Montgomery and New Cumberland are already funded and are currently in the 2016 maintenance and repair schedule.

At Montgomery L/D the auxiliary chamber sill is damaged around the miter point. The plan has been, as I have been reporting, that the USACE sounded for dredging, awarded a dredging contract and once the dredging is complete they will dive and assess the damage. This repair is already funded and is currently in the 2016 maintenance and repair schedule. The USACE has a meeting in late August to review and discuss the 2016 maintenance and repair schedule. For these repairs to be completed in the auxiliary chamber at Montgomery, they are hoping to be able to do the repairs in the wet, if not, a temporary sheet pile cofferdam will have to be installed.

New Cumberland auxiliary chamber miter gates are red tagged and are only to be utilized in the event of an emergency. This project is also already funded and is currently in the 2016 maintenance and repair schedule. One concern with New Cumberland auxiliary chamber is that the USACE has not made a final determination regarding running ice through the auxiliary chamber to prevent any further damage to the miter gates until the repairs can be completed. As we all know, this is one of the first places for ice to develop and become a significant issue. We can discuss our concerns during the maintenance and repair meeting later in August.

At one point a couple of years ago with the Asset Management Scheme of Repairs a policy was instituted that all monies would be allocated to the main chambers and no repairs would be made to the auxiliary chambers. This policy was changed in the past year with the realization

that the small chambers were a vital asset needed to maintain navigation when the main chambers were under repair. This may be how the rumors began regarding the auxiliary chambers being in a fail to fix mode.

NAV Notice 15-30 - Date: 30 July, 2015

Subject: Geotechnical Drilling For Proposed Bridge across the Ohio River Mile 75.8

Geotechnical Drilling For Proposed Bridge across the Ohio River Mile 75.8

1. To Whom It May Concern: Notice is given that Triad Engineering, Inc. will be performing geotechnical drilling for a proposed new bridge across the Ohio River, Mile 75.8. This drilling will be taking place approximately 530-feet from the left bank and 430-feet from the right bank (See Attached Map).
2. The work is scheduled to begin on August 3, 2015 and will be completed by approximately August 11, 2015. The Contractor will be working 14 hours per day, 7 days per week, for approximately 8 days.
3. Equipment to be used shall include a 35-foot by 75-foot barge with an 800 HP tow boat in addition to a small pontoon boat for transportation personnel from the shore to the drill site. The barge will contain a 8-foot by 12-foot drilling rig with associated tools. The barge will be equipped with white corner lights and running lights. The barge will only be on the river during daylight hours.
4. The barge, tow boat, and pontoon will be moored at the Cardinal Power Plant located immediately downstream.
5. Mariners should monitor radio frequency channels 13 & 16 while transiting in the vicinity of the work site.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider was unable to attend and Dan Lacey provided several report highlights but full report is listed below:

INLAND WATERWAYS USERS BOARD

The IWUB is meeting is toured Chickamauga Lock and Dam yesterday and meeting today in Nashville. Mike Somales is attending the meeting and I will get an update from him upon his return and share it with the group at our next meeting.

CONGRESIONAL UPDATE

The House and the Senate have started their annual Summer Recess. During recess, on the Appropriations front, Members will be thinking about how to avoid a government shutdown and the ways to do that, with the possibility of a short-term Continuing Resolution (C.R.) by October 1. Hurdles like funding for Planned Parenthood or a continuing battle to repeal portions of Obamacare could muddy the waters ahead, however. In an interview in *Bloomberg*, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) said, "We are preparing for every contingency," with his staff using the recess to perform "technical groundwork for a stopgap CR and potential omnibus" according to an unnamed source in the article.

- A first in many years, House and Senate appropriations committees have marked up all 12 bills, totaling \$1.017 trillion (discretionary spending). "The White House has threatened to veto all of the bills, either because they adhere to spending caps set in the 2011 Budget Control Act, Public Law 112-25 or because they would evade those caps by designating run-of-the-mill spending as war funding. President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats want to negotiate new spending levels and want Republicans to drop dozens of policy riders," according to *Bloomberg*.
- On the Energy & Water Development appropriations bill for FY '16, the \$35.4 billion House and Senate bills would increase funding by \$1.2 billion over FY '15 levels. House bill H.R.2028 would increase spending on nuclear weapons programs and move forward a Yucca Mountain nuclear waste site in Nevada that Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid opposes. The House bill would decrease spending for renewable energy research and development. The Senate bill would provide \$773 million less than President Obama wanted for renewable energy programs and would create a pilot program for consolidated nuclear waste storage. Both bills would shield coal mining from regulation by barring the Army Corps of Engineers from redefining mining "fill material," according to *Bloomberg*.

MG PEABODY RETIRED ON AUGUST 8th

BG (P) Ed Jackson, currently Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations at Corps Headquarters, assumed the role of Deputy Commanding General for Civil Works and Emergency Operations, HQ USACE. WCI will be meeting with BG Jackson to review his agenda and establish a working relationship with the industry.

REGISTRATION FOR WCI/INFORMA ECONOMICS 12th ANNUAL WATERWAYS SYMPOSIUM

Online registration opened 8/3 for WCI's Annual Meeting and the 12th Annual Waterways Symposium, November 11-13, at the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel in New Orleans.

You can register online at: <http://www.etchouches.com/128790>

Symposium highlights include:

- Opening remarks by New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu;
- Keynote address by Bill Hite, President, United Association;
- Lunch address by MG Michael Wehr, MVD Commander, USACE;
- Political Recap by Jim Wiesemeyer, Informa;
- "What's Moving on the Waterways" Commodities Panel;
- Viewing of the indie film, "BARGE" with Director/Producer Ben Powell;
- Viewpoints discussion, moderated by Spencer Murphy (Canal Barge), focusing on the renewal of New Orleans 10 years after Katrina and the renaissance of the GIWW, with Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA), Gary LaGrange (Port of New Orleans), Jim Stark (GICA), Justin Aerenworth (Gulf Coast Restoration Agency) and Michael Hecht (Greater New Orleans Inc.)
- P3 Perspective Panel with Scott Sigman, Illinois Soybean Association and others TBD

Other Comments

Chaplain Mazingo offered counseling services in regards to crew personal/profession challenges by completing visits aboard vessels.

Richard Lockwood reported that COL Butch Graham was recently promoted to General.

September Membership Meeting

The *next* membership meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2015 at Bella Sera (414 Morganza Road, Canonsburg, PA). Cost of the luncheon will be \$25. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Thursday, September 3, 2015 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Bella Sera

September 9, 2015

Menu:

Romaine & Radicchio Salad w/Balsamic Vinaigrette & Ranch
Lemon Chicken Romano w/Flat Leaf Parsley & Lemon White Wine
Au Gratin Potatoes/Chef's Choice of Vegetable
Brownies & Mini Cannolis
Lemonade, Ice Tea & Coffee Station

Cost: *\$25/per member*

_____ YES, I will be attending

_____ No, I will not be attending

****Special Dietary Requirements:** _____

NAME: _____
(Please print)

COMPANY: _____

Please respond **by Thursday, September 3, 2015** to:

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