

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

P.O. Box 534, Lyndora, PA 16045
Phone: 724-355-4101 Fax: 724-285-4999
Email: cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org

August 2018

www.wapgh.org

August Highlights

A total of (32) thirty-two members and guests were registered for the August 8, 2018 luncheon meeting at the Chartiers Country Club. Guests John Gazzola of Master Marine Inc. along with his wife Josie were introduced.

The 2018 Pittsburgh Maritime Association Scholarship Recipient Claire Simpson was recognized.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurciel provided the following report:

- There are 2 upcoming Dam Safety Exercise's, one at **Charleroi Lock 4 on 8/16 @ 0900, Morgantown on 8/28 @ 0900**. Focus will be to familiarize participants with the Emergency Action Plan (EAP). The EAP provides detailed instructions for response to emergencies, such as a potential dam failure.
- Review process for communication during an incident.
- Identify ways in which the EAP could be improved.
- Resolve concerns regarding coordination and responsibilities.
 - Results are starting to come in from all the lock outages this summer and the news isn't good.
 - 1st example: Fort Martin Power Plant, they are in Critical mode. Plant is currently running at only 75% capacity due to the lack of coal needed from the Ohio River. They need to unload 8-9 barges per day through the rest of the year; they are currently buying fuel/coal to back fill the remaining 25%. This cost will now be passed to the rate payer and we don't feel as an industry that the economics and impact to the public is being considered when 'unplanned' outages are occurring.
 - 2nd example: Level of Service on the Allegheny at Lock's 2&3. Level of Service is listed at #1 but we are not getting full service, i.e. no doubles after 2200 till 0800. I feel this is an injustice to Industry who are not only contributors to the Inland Waterways Fund but also rate/tax payers and I formally request today as the WAP Navigation Chairman that we bring the LOS up to Level 1 w/ 24/7 doubles available.
 - I have recently reached out to industry stakeholders for their tonnage numbers for 2019. Companies can ill afford

to work around a restricted schedule and with the upcoming Lock 2 project industry and terminals will need to stock pile as much as possible or we will run into what Fort Martin and USS are up against currently.

- Montgomery Large chamber outage starts 8/9-9/14.
- A meeting was held recently regarding the deterioration in the communication process between the COE Pittsburgh District and regional stakeholders. As you all know, I brought this up in our May meeting. This meeting or perspective dates has yet to be discussed/scheduled.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission

Mary Ann Bucci presented the following:

- To address the Allegheny River level of service, the mechanism utilized to determine changes needs to be focused on future growth analysis not past figures.
- The Pittsburgh City Council voted to pass the "RIV" legislation to update Pittsburgh's riverfront zoning. This new legislation will greatly impact future industry development along the rivers. It established community standards for riverfront building setbacks and building lengths to "preserve access" to the riverfronts for everyone.
- The CMAQ program (retrofitting engines) is in the final stages. If anyone is still interested in participating in the program, should contact Mary Ann directly.
- On July 18, Mary Ann testified before the Senate Finance Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness. She testified to the following: "I urge you to appreciate the conduit of the inland waterways and port system to American competitiveness and growth. Modernizing our ports and rivers is an investment in our Nation's continued economic prosperity because grain, petroleum, steel, chemicals, building materials and over a half-million jobs are riding on our waterways transportation system and through our ports."

Legislative Report

Dean Marlin provided the following report:

The House and Senate are on vacation so there has not been much legislative movement since our last report. As follows:

- FY 19 APPROPRIATIONS. Still waiting, but - Both the House and Senate passed their versions of the appropriations bill and they are now in conference with a hopeful passage by the end of September. Of particular note, the Senate version funds the Inland Waterways Trust fund at \$309 million - which is \$70 million than that passed by the House. Accordingly, the Senate version will fully fund 5 major projects (Olmsted, Lower Mon (2,3,4), Kentucky and Chickamauga Locks and the LaGrange major rehab project.
- WRDA 2018. Still waiting, but - The house passed WRDA in June but we are still awaiting action in the Senate which will hopefully

occur by the end of August. The Congressional Budget Office indicated that the WRDA bill will cost \$3 billion over 10 years. The Senate Environment and Public Works committee consequently scaled back provisions related to their water pollution program to just \$9 million annually - (down from hundreds of millions annually) so the Issue is resolved.

- INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE. Still waiting, but - Bill Shuster (House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair released a draft of a new infrastructure plan - for primarily highways, roads, bridges. Major points are
 - o A Federal tax increase of 15 cents/gal on gas and 20 cents on diesel fuel to be phased out in 3 years then indexed to inflation and eliminated in 2028.
 - o An Adjustment to the Harbor maintenance trust fund to allow for deposited funds to be appropriated directly for maintenance dredging of ports.
 - o There are no provisions directly related to inland waterways trust fund.

Shuster is not seeking re-election and so this will not be considered by this congress. However, this is considered a groundwork document for future infrastructure legislation next year. The consensus is that Congress is not interested in turning infrastructure into a "pay-for" - but who knows. What is notable is that 3/4^{ths} of all Americans want more federal spending on public transportation and infrastructure.

- And - FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH
Uber has abandoned all development of self-driving commercial trucks.

Coast Guard News

LT Shawn Simeral presented the **attached** report.

Army Corp of Engineers

Mark Ivanisin introduced Beth Schneller, Branch Chief of Technical Support prior to covering the **attached** lock closure report.

National Weather Service

Alicia Miller covered the **attached** report.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham was unable to attend. The following information was presented:

- The Man Overboard Seminar held on Friday, July 20th. There were approximately 80 attendees that took part in the seminar conducted by the River School. Participants then utilized the Clarion Inn's outdoor pool following the classroom portion.
- The Barge Breakaway Seminar date is October 18 with Tabletop Exercises and will be held at the Floreffa Fire Hall.

- The next Who Works the Rivers was scheduled for October 4, 2018. Due a conflict with the PMC Annual Golf Outing, the new date of October 11th is currently being confirmed.

Bill Porter notified attendees that the Pittsburgh Maritime Club will be hosting a tour of the Pittsburgh River Rescue boathouse and operations along with the Fireboat 1 and its operational capabilities on Thursday, August 30th. The tour will be followed by a networking event at Southern Tier. A flyer is currently being finalized and will be distributed shortly.

September Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at Chartiers Country Club. Cost of the luncheon will be **\$30**. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. and lunch served promptly at noon. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Thursday, September 6, 2018 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

****PLEASE NOTE: ANYONE TRAVELING FROM THE NORTH TO CHARTIERS COUNTRY CLUB WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE BALDWIN ROAD CLOSURE. THIS CLOSURE WILL THROUGH OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. SPECIAL DIRECTIONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN ALL COMMUNICATION FOR MEETINGS HELD AT CHARTIERS COUNTRY CLUB.**

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club
September 12, 2018 @ Noon

Menu:

Mixed Field Greens w/Chartiers Crouton (balsamic dressing)
Chicken Parmagiana w/angel hair pasta, marinara sauce and melted cheeses
Strawberry Parfait
Cold Tea, coffee and hot tea

Cost: *\$30/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 6, 2018** to:

Cheryll Cranmer
Phone: (724) 355-4101
Fax: (724) 285-4999
Email: cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org