

August Highlights

Michael Graham, President, WAP welcomed members and special guests to our meeting. Thirty-two members were registered, including COL Adam Czekanski, USACE who replaced COL Andrew Short upon his retirement.

COL Czekanski was introduced and took a minute to speak to the members. He is new to the three rivers area, but not to the Corps. His service includes serving as Department Commander in San Francisco and most recently Commander in Buffalo, NY. He begins his new assignment with a 90-day tour of the district as he feels it is very important to know the team and the locations to best serve his new position. COL Czekanski stated partnership with Waterways Association of Pittsburgh is critical to “do what we do in our business” and looks forward building to a strong relationship.

Also introduced and welcomed was Nate Hough, new Director of Operations at Campbell Transportation and Kevin Mudd of Port of Beemac, a new member to the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh.

Tom Bryan of Bryan Materials was introduced as a guest speaker at the luncheon. Tom came to speak to the membership regarding a WV taxation issue that has recently affected his business -- **See New Business** for details.

Coast Guard News

LT CDR Miros started the USCG presentation by reminding members that any hazardous conditions must be reported as soon as possible. There have been issues with this type of reporting and USCG is requesting all mariners and industry personnel be aware of the importance of reporting to the USCG as soon as a hazardous condition is identified.

Please see the **attached informational flyer** regarding sign up for the Real Time Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNM). This important service will provide real-time information regarding critical river conditions or issues that may affect your work on our in-land waterways.

LT James Dunbar, USCG, provided the **attached report**.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel, Vice President, WAP, began his presentation by reminding members that with the multitude of on-going repair and maintenance projects, cooperation between industry can assist in negating delays. Recently there has been an issue with those delayed in que for lock usage have reportedly not been naming helper boats. Some of this is due to the 4-day delay and helper boats not required to be named until 6 hours before lockage begins. See the requirement / explanation of helper vs. pull boat requirements below.

1. Pull boats: They are assigned by Lock personnel when vessels get the call it's time to do your share.
2. Helper boats: These are the vessels hired by the transiting company to help with their cuts. If no one is available to hire a helper boat, said company or lock might ask one of the vessels in queue to help.
3. Tier sheets: They might not show who the helper boats are during 0700/1900 report especially if vessel has a few days wait, but no later than six (6) hours before locking a vessel MUST let Lock personnel know who their helper boats are at which time, they will update Tier Sheet.

David also advised that a shortage of manpower affects and causes delays. Please be patient during the construction, repairs, and maintenance of locks. Your patience makes the work less stressful.

The scheduled closure of Montgomery from 10/18/21 through 12/17/21 may include weekend openings.

Reported as this time, Smithfield Bridge work is scheduled for Spring 2022 through 2023. Spans 3 and 4 would be affected – the southside spans partially over land will reduce vertical clearance from 42.5' to 36.5'. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Additionally, the following report was provided:

- Area Rivers have been near 'pool stage all month, decent operating conditions.
- Pike Island continues with its daily outages as planned in NTNI 14766. They are 2 day outages, mid-week for 8 hours per day. This is the Primary Chamber, vessel have been doing double, Industry has stepped up and vessels are working together to pull doubles. COE notifications have been timely on the planned work schedules.
- Montgomery Lock has been progressing with daily tier sheets at 0700 and 1900. For the most part things have been going well. We had an issue where a company didn't have helper boats set up for its 3 cuts which caused extra delay time, I spoke to Mark DeMattio about this, the error was on Industry, it has been resolved and an email went out clarifying the procedures on the NTNI. COE personnel have worked with Industry when crew changes have been needed.
- There have been a few instances where personnel shortages at Lock (s) 2 & 3 Allegheny have caused delays including not opening back up at 0400 under the new schedule of 20 operating days. Navigation Committee reached out to Mark Ivanicin and he is working on it, there is a shortage of personnel for the Allegheny River. Although we can all understand this, as Industry we need assurance the lock is fully operable when we arrive, these delays as you know are a financial burden we can ill afford.

Upcoming Lock outages and their impacts on Industry.

2021

Montgomery OR Mile 31: 7/26-8/24, Primary Chamber, delays have been up to 53 hours.

Braddock Lock 2 Mon Mile 11.2: 9/13-10/15, Primary Chamber for 3 weeks, significant delays expected. Auxiliary Chamber closed: Sept. 12 @ 1200 through Sept. 13 @ 0600 and again Oct. 15 from 2000 through Oct. 16 @ 1200

Willow Island OR Mile 161: 10/1-31, Primary Chamber, delays expected.

Montgomery OR Mile 31: 10/18-12/17, Primary Chamber, major delays expected.

Legislative Committee Report

Patrick Kelly, Ex -Officio President, WAP and Chair of the Legislative Committee provided the following Report:

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVES \$8.96 BILLION IN FY22 FUNDING FOR CORPS OF ENGINEERS (WCI Breaking News 8/5/2021)

Senate Appropriations Committee marked up and approved the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Energy & Water Development (E&WD) Appropriations bill that funds the Civil Works Program of the Corps of Engineers. Overall FY22 funding for the Corps' Civil Works Mission is \$8.96 billion, an increase of \$1.165 billion above the FY21 enacted level and \$2.168 billion above the Administration's budget request.

"This funding level fully utilizes the offset for appropriations from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for the Corps of Engineers, and for the eighth consecutive year, the bill makes full-use of estimated annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) to advance American competitiveness and export capabilities," according to a Committee press release.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEGOTIATIONS (as of 8/9/2021)

While major differences persist about the size, scope and pay-for of a potential bipartisan "infrastructure" deal; the senate is poised to approve two bills this week that could total as much as 4.5 trillion dollars.

Previously, the Biden Administration's proposed American Jobs Plan was a \$2.25 trillion package that included **\$17 billion in funding for the inland waterways, inland ports of entry, coastal ports and ferries** and would be paid for by a corporate tax increase.

Army Corp of Engineers

John P. Dilla of the USACE noted the many current and planned lock closures. Communication is key during this time of so many closures and daily changes. USACE is there for industry if there are questions.

A 100th Anniversary of Locks and Dams in the Three Rivers area is in the planning stages. Potential location will be Emsworth, details to be determined and announced at a later date.

The Government Fiscal Year 2022 begins in October with Senate approved funds of 6.5 billion earmarked for inland waterways projects.

In addition, John provided the **attached report**.

NOAA

Alicia Miller of NOAA advises future forecasting still indicates a 60% chance of La Nina conditions for fall and winter. Looking toward a dry October and November. Projections indicate a very cold December / January timeframe. Please see the **attached report**.

Port of Pittsburgh

Go to the website for the latest news and events as provided by the Port of Pittsburgh: www.portpitt.com

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham, President and Education Committee Chair, provided the following report:

- **Man Overboard Seminar** was held Friday, July 23, Clarion Inn, Belle Vernon
 - 37 Attendees were registered
 - Keith Alexander provided an exceptional educational experience
 - Not all attendees utilized the opportunity for the in-water experience which is an important part of the seminar. *Corporate members, please be sure to explain the importance of the in-water training to your employees to encourage their participation in this portion of the exercise at the next seminar.*
 - Next year's seminar will be held at a new location to be announced at a later date.
 - See photos in our **Gallery** page
- **Breakaway Barge Seminar**
 - Thursday, October 21 at the Fez in Aliquippa
 - This location will allow for waterfront training at Industry Terminal & Salvage
 - Details will be provided at a later date
- **Who Works the Rivers – Fall Event**
 - With the corona virus -- delta variant spreading, schools cannot attend, as well funding is an issue at this time
 - First quarter, 2022 we will look at the possibility of a spring event

Networking Committee

Michael Graham confirmed our next event will be the Golf outing on Friday September 17. Invitations and Sponsorship opportunity information has been sent out.

Seven Oaks Country Club will be the venue for a second year, offering a challenging course. If weather permits, dinner will be served outdoors.

Please RSVP for attendance or sponsorship by September 9, 2021

Our final event for 2021 will be the Holiday Party. It will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe on Friday, December 10. Special room rates are available for those of you who would like to stay the night. Details to follow soon. Mark your calendar!

New Business

Changes to By-laws

- January 2021, changes to By-laws were approved by the Board of Directors
 - Changes due to merge with Pittsburgh Maritime Club
- An edited copy of those changes has been sent to members August 18, 2021, of note:
 - Article IV, OFFICERS & DIRECTORS, Section 1: Adding two (2) Director Seats
 - Article XIII, GIFTS, Section 1: The Maximum "Gift" has been increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500
- A membership vote to ratify the changes will take place at our next meeting, September 8
- If you cannot attend, you may vote by e-mail – e-mail vote must be received by September 7

Member Concerns

Richard Ehringer, Past President raised concern regarding the invitation of active Past Presidents to Waterways Association of Pittsburgh board meetings. He advised active Past Presidents have not been receiving invitations to these meetings as required by By-laws.

- Michael Graham responded:
 - This oversight had been brought to the attention of the board at the April meeting
 - Future invitations to board meetings will include active Past Presidents

Richard also expressed concern regarding the non-participation of the Port of Pittsburgh Commission at WAP meetings.

- Michael Graham advised the following:
 - WAP is in on-going conversation with POP to rectify this situation
 - WAP is hopeful their participation will resume as soon as the next meeting

West Virginia Personal Asset Taxation, Hancock County

Tom Bryan of Bryan Materials was invited to speak regarding a taxation issue his business has been involved in for some time now. He is reaching out to membership to make them aware of the situation.

Of note:

- Personal assets in Hancock County, WV on July 1 each year can be taxed an approximate rate of 3.5% (*going back as far as 5 years*)
- There is at least one loophole, and for those who are aware, personal assets are moved out of the county on that date to avoid taxation for the entire year
- Tom reports dredging the river for stone/gravel and being in the county for periods of time, but not all the time
- Asset value seems to be determined by a local commission, with no credit given for documented depreciation
- Tom is currently looking at tax, penalties, and interest for the past 5 years of approximately \$35K as he has lost his most recent case at a local court level
- He plans on filing an appeal to the county tax office
- WAP is reaching out to Port of Pittsburgh Commission whose specialty is legislation and its' effects on industry to assist Bryan Materials in whatever way possible

Old Business

There was no old business to report

September Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is:

Wednesday, September 8, Chartiers Country Club

- Check in is 11:30
- Lunch begins promptly at noon

Please email the attached response form, or you may call or text your response to Carole Ann Krelow, Executive Director at (724-991-0136) by Wednesday, September 1 to reserve your space.

Waterways Association
of Pittsburgh

Member Luncheon Meeting Response Form

Chartiers Country Club

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Check in 11:30 until Noon

Lunch Begins Promptly at Noon!

Menu

Tossed Green Salad
Pork Loin Roast with Apple Cream Sauce
Mashed Potatoes & Fresh Green Beans
Fruit Cup

Please note any Special Dietary Requirements: _____

Cost: \$30 per member

I will be attending:

Name Company

Please respond to Carole Ann Krelow, Executive Director - by Wednesday, September 1

ckrelow@wapgh.org OR Call, Leave Message or Text at 724-991-0136

Cash, Checks or Master Card, Discover or Visa Accepted

For Credit Card charges, please fill out attached form and return with response form

A 10% convenience fee will be added to all credit card payments (\$3.00)



P.O. Box, 178 ● Valencia, PA 16059-0178 ● Carole Ann Krelow, Executive Director ● 724-991-0136

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Credit Card Authorization

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card Mailing Address: _____

Phone # Associated with Credit Card: _____

Your Mobile Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Credit Card Type: VISA Mastercard Discover

Credit Card Number: _____

Credit Card Expiration: _____

Credit Card Security Code: _____

Amount to be Charged: _____

(Ten Percent Processing fee per person \$3.00 pp)

Authorized Signature: _____