

# 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](mailto:cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org)

December 2018

[www.wapgh.org](http://www.wapgh.org)

## December Highlights

A total of (30) thirty members and guests were registered for the December 12, 2018 luncheon meeting at the Chartiers Country Club. Patrick Kelly introduced first-time attendees: John Darnley of the National Weather Service; rent Legendre of Bechtel; Ryan Fliehman of the Ohio River Forecast Center and COL Andrew Short of the Army Corp of Engineers.

## Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel provided the following report:

Kathy Griffin discussed several items:

- Following a meeting last month discussing the upcoming outage at AR Lock 3 and the Levels of Service change at AR 4 from LoS 2 (16 hours per day) to 3 (8-10 hours per day) we determined that as an industry we must present our case why any changes to the LoS will be detrimental to industry, the terminals, local economies and any future development plans 5 years and further. I don't want to take the key talking points away from Dean Marlin who has worked diligently on this with Ryan Newton and I. I feel when the time is right Dean will update all.
- It has been a struggle this year for industry, one of great economical losses due to abnormal weather patterns that kept us in elevated river levels, and both planned and unplanned lock outages. We have stock piles at power plants, coke plants, sand and gravel, etc at their lowest critical levels in years, but...from chaos comes progress and we are seeing communication between stakeholders and Gov't agencies improve and this is key along with accountability. Industry groups from the AWO, WCI and local waterways associations have worked diligently over the years to get funding for the COE, we are now seeing the fruits of our labor but how do you spend it, work on long overdue projects, and at the same time minimize impact to industry? It's both a great problem to have and yet a challenging one but this is where communication and an understanding of the private sector and the workings of the gov't have to be discussed and I feel we are in Pre K but advancing at a quicken pace.
- Also, we can't forget the breakaways we have had this year and during last month's Industry Days hosted by the USCG Pittsburgh MSU it was determined that a team needs to be formed to help address breakaways and how they can be prevented in the future. We all look forward to the progress that will be made to eliminate these mishaps in the future.

## **Port of Pittsburgh Commission**

Mary Ann Bucci reported on the following:

- Scott Harshman was thanked for filling in for Mary Ann at last month's meeting. The Port is fortunate to have him join the staff due to his background.
- During the first quarter of 2019, legislative meet & greets will be scheduled with Representatives Conor Lamb and Guy Reschenthaler. This will aid in solidifying support from them regarding waterway infrastructure needs.
- P3 Webinars are currently be conducted by the Corp. P3's would be extremely negative for industry as it has each state running navigational issues. Industry already pays 50% capital investment (fuel tax) for the Waterways Trust Fund and this would just provide even less influence regarding infrastructure improvements.
- Several important conferences:
  - PORTS '19 - September 15-18, 2019 at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown
  - WCI Meeting and Waterways Symposium - November 6-8, 2019 at the Fairmont Pittsburgh

## **Legislative Report**

Dean Marlin provided the following report:

- **NOV 21- USACE HAS RELEASED ITS FY 19 WORK PLAN**
  - On November 21 the USACE released its FY 19 work plan which laid out specific allocations provided by the FY 19 Minibus Appropriations Bill. The construction account allocations is \$329.8 Billion dedicated to 5 top priority lock and dam modernization projects and full use of the revenues into the IWTF. This includes \$42.6 million to Lower Mon 2,3,4. ... The other 4 projects are Olmstead, Kentucky (\$50 million); Kentucky Lock (\$43.6m); Chickamauga, Tennessee (\$89.7 million); and Lagrange, IL (\$57.5 million).
  - Also, the Investigations Account is allocating \$2.5 million for PED (Pre-Construction Engineering and Design) projects for the Upper Ohio Navigation Program (\$2.3 billion for Emsworth, Dashields and Montgomery Locks).
- **NOV 14 THE WATERWAYS COUNCIL INC.**
  - Has Elected Peter Stephaich (CEO, Campbell Transportation Company) as Chairman of the Board 2019 - 2021.
  - Has also Elected Mary Ann Bucci (Executive Director, Port Of Pittsburgh Commission) to a 3-year term as a Director at Large.
  - Also named Tracy Zea as VP - Government Relations. He previously served on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (5 years) and for John Thune (R-SD) and was integral in developing the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014.
  - Save the date - February 12-14 the WCI - Washington meeting and our annual legislative trip.

- **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAPPENINGS**

- House Transportation Committee
- Incoming House Transportation Chairman Pete Defazio (D-Oregon) replaces Bill Shuster.
- Sam Graves (R-MO) will be the top ranking. He was strongly supported by Shuster.
- Government Shutdown 12/21/18 (Extended from 12/7 - RIP George H.W. Bush)
- 7 spending bills are set to expire (including one that funds transportation agencies). All were passed in September.
- What remains in the 2<sup>nd</sup> minibus appropriations bill which includes \$5 billion for the border wall.
- Chuck and Nancy meeting with Donald yesterday in a publicly broadcast contentious meeting.
- Partial shutdown. Approximately 25% of the Government. "Buckle up".

- **THE UPCOMING INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE. \$1.5 TRILLION**

- Democrat Chuck Schumer is pushing for real bill with direct/robust federal investment while Republican Mitch McConnell is not interested in a "\$900 billion stimulus package which "we did at the beginning of the Obama era" ... Nancy Pelosi is committed to a bill as it will provide good paying jobs.
- Pete Defazio is pushing back against the idea that the new majority democrats seek create a climate panel as part of the package.
- Meanwhile - President Trump is reportedly set to spend "buckets of money" on infrastructure - a sign of possible agreement.
- A "VMT" Pilot Program is gaining broad support - proposed initially by Bill Shuster and now supported by DeFazio.
- (VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled) fees are charges applied to a vehicle (versus toll road). They can be captured by an onboard device and can measure distance driven by a vehicle through varying area types and configurations (congestion, specific roads, etc).
- The DOT is starting to release BUILD infrastructure grants (Elaine Chao). Major money is going to Transportation Committee member interests including \$39.4 million Oregon ports (DeFazio) and \$35.4 million for Missouri bridge and highway projects Sam Graves (R Missouri).

### **Coast Guard News**

CDR Fran Smith presented the **attached** report.

### **Army Corp of Engineers**

John Dilla presented the **attached** report.

COL Andrew Short discussed several items:

- Meetings are being conducted to solicit \$2.8M funds for the ROLAT program.
- The Charleroi workplan has been completed early which will allow for the contract work to be addressed.

- The Corp is hosting Representative Conor Lam on Thursday at Montgomery with the Upper Ohio funding being highlighted.
- A brief on the Upper Ohio project will be submitted to the inland Waterways User Board.
- The COL would be interested in active participation within the PORT '19 conference.

#### **National Weather Service**

John Darnley covered the **attached** report. He introduced Ryan Fliehman of the Ohio River Forecast Center who presented information on the difference between forecasts and outlooks.

#### **Education Committee Report**

Michael Graham notified members that the first "Who Works the Rivers" will be held on April 11, 2019. Richard Lockwood has been approached to repeat the CMU/OSHER Course entitled, "Our 3 Rivers: Key to Economic Health & Quality of Life". The first class was sold out and Rich has approached the WAP to possibly take this over.

#### **January Membership Meeting**

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at Bella Sera (414 Morganza Road, Canonsburg, PA 15317). 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 Friday, January 4, 2019 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh  
Meeting Response Form**

Bella Sera  
January 9, 2019 @ Noon

**Menu:**

Spring Mix Salad - w/blue cheese, candied pecans, dried cranberries and balsamic vinaigrette  
Lemon Chicken Romano w/fresh herbs, pecorino and lemon  
Artisan Au Gratin Potatoes/Chef's Choice of Vegetable  
Chocolate Chip Brownies & mini Cannoli  
Coffee, tea and iced 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 Friday, January 4, 2019** to:

Cheryll Cranmer  
Phone:        (724) 355-4101  
Fax:            (724) 201-3243  
Email:        [cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org](mailto:cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org)