

# Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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December 11, 2019

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

## December Highlights

A total of (24) twenty-four members and guests were registered for the December 11, 2019 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club.

## Navigation Committee Report

David Podurciel provided the following report:

- Allegheny Lock 2 is still not fully operational in that doubles cannot be performed. What is stalling this there isn't a handrail in place. In discussion with the USACE they are pressuring the contractor to get this completed. Core drilling needs done for a 42" high railing. A suggestion was made to at least start railing needs to be for lock man to safely do doubles, I will let Corp answer during their report on this.
- Charleroi Lock will be closed from December 17 @ 0800 thru December 20 @ 1700 as required to support ongoing construction of the new lock, this will be a total river shut down as there is no auxiliary chamber. This was discussed and approved by the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Navigation Committee after discussion with Industry partners.
- The Hydro Committee had its first conference call on 12/9; all went well as we now have a new Coast Guard member conducting the meeting, Ensign Russell. Our next call will be January 6, earlier if conditions merit one.
- December 12 will be the ORS Stakeholder Engagement meeting in Cincinnati where we will discuss the 2020/21 lock outage schedule. Of major concern to Pittsburgh District is Emsworth Primary Chamber 75 day outage from 8/31-11/14. Braddock might need up to two weeks closure of the Primary Chamber between 11/16-12/18. I am going to request that if this need to happen that it be done on the latter 2 weeks of the outage, this gives industry 2 weeks to get caught up with no delays between Emsworth and Lock 2 Braddock.
- We are currently experiencing our first significant water event of the season, although not near flooding but it does challenge mariners after months of pool conditions. I ask that all companies start preparing their crews for these conditions.

## Port of Pittsburgh Commission

Mary Ann Bucci provided the following report:

- All the CMAQ funding has been committed. The PPC is also committed to trying to secure additional funding for FY 2020/2021.
- US EPA is currently accepting applications for their Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant program. There is

approximately \$44 million available nationwide. Deadline to apply is February 26<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in applying for a specific project, please contact Scott Harshman at the Port to further discuss.

- The PPC and WAP have put together their preliminary program for the 2020 Osher Lifelong Learning class on Our Rivers. The classes will be on Wednesdays in May and June. Thank you in advance for everyone's participation and support of this program.
- Scott is looking into the Appalachian Regional Commission's POWER Grants program to see if there are any potential projects that we could pursue related to our waterways.
- We need to pay attention to the Defense Bill coming out of Congress to ensure wall funding is not being diverted from Civil Works for inland waterways.
- There's a local journalist who is writing feature articles on the Ohio River. It's called, *Good River: Stories of the Ohio*, and is a series about the environment, economy and culture of the Ohio River watershed, and is produced by seven nonprofit newsrooms. Visit [PublicSource.org](http://PublicSource.org) or [OhioWatershed.org](http://OhioWatershed.org).

### **Legislative Report**

Dean Marlin presented the following report:

- Even though Congress was scheduled to adjourn 12/12 - they have extended their session through next week and possibly till December 20.
- **FY 20 APPROPRIATIONS: RUNNING ON EMPTY**
  - On 11/19 the house and Senate approved a second CR to fund the government till December 20.
  - Both parties (surprisingly) agree that a government shutdown will be poisonous to both parties - So here are their options:
    - Pass all appropriations by year end.
    - Both McConnell and Pelosi would like to do this because if the House votes to Impeach - the senate will virtually "grind to a halt" until after impeachment proceedings in January.
    - Attempt to reach a year-end agreement that will pass full year bills where there is agreement, and do continuing resolutions on any contentious bills
    - However, Homeland Security is the most contentious bill - and the White House has signaled that they likely will not go for this scenario.
    - Do another CR into February / March - which forces all departments to be funded at fy2019 levels - and consequently wreak havoc on a multitude of spending plans and measures planned that where to be initiated fy2020.
- **WRDA 2020**
  - Water Resources Development Act requests are now in. Again, the WCI is seeking a 75%/25% split versus the current 50/50.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE**
  - Connor Lamb was appointed to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to fill Elijah Cumming's position.

This bodes very positive for lock and dam advocacy in our area.

- o In mid-November the Democrats caucused in an attempt to erect another Trillion \$ infrastructure proposal. Although this effort is important (as nothing has occurred since early this year) - it is viewed as another attempt to have congress "walk and chew gum" in the face of the current impeachment wrangle.

□ **OUR ANNUAL HILL VISIT: FEBRUARY 12-14. 2020**

- o We're looking for folks to join us and the WCI in our annual walk of the Hill to advocate for the IMTS - and specifically our District's important contribution and requirements to this nation's most important marine highway.
- o Frankly, this is both an important contribution for our waterways - and an exciting event! Further, participants will be receiving a "once-in-a-lifetime", ring-side seat to a crippled and contentious government that is just coming off a failed impeachment attempt in a red-hot election year - and it's Valentine's Day!!!
- o Hurry! There are only 8 seats available, so please contact me or Cheryl ASAP with your questions and interest.

**Coast Guard News**

The **attached** report was reviewed. The Congested Waterways meetings have been concluded until May. Also, the RNA is moving forward and available shortly. The RNA would primarily remove recreational boaters from the commercial traffic navigation areas.

**Army Corp of Engineers**

The **attached** report was reviewed.

**National Weather Service**

The **attached** report was reviewed.

**Education Committee Report**

Michael Graham reported that dates for the 2020 Man Overboard Seminar and Barge Breakaway Seminar are being identified. He will also be working to finalize the "Who Works the Rivers" dates.

**Other Notes**

Daria Schwartz notified attendees that information regarding scholarship donations for 2020 was available at the front registration desk.

**January Membership Meeting**

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at **Bella Sera**. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. with lunch served promptly at noon. Cost of the luncheon will be **\$30**. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Friday, January 3, 2020 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

# Meeting Response Form

Bella Sera  
January 8, 2020

**Menu:**

Spring Mix Salad w/Balsamic Vinaigrette  
Chicken Lilliana w/Sundried tomatoes, caramelized shallots, sherry cream sauce  
Roasted Yukon Golf Fingerling Potatoes  
Mason Jar Tiramisu  
Lemonade, Iced Tea & Coffee Station

**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 3, 2020** to:

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Email:        [cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org](mailto:cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org)