

Port of Pittsburgh Commission & Legislative Committee Report – Scott Harshman (Port of Pittsburgh), Chair; Legislative Committee: Scott Harshman, Pat Kelly, and George Petrus

1. Water Resources Development Act of 2022

- U.S. Senate passed their WRDA bill on July 28th by a 93 – 1 vote
 - Includes cost-share adjustment from current 65 % General Funds / 35% IWTF to 75% / 25% for construction and major rehab projects
 - Contains language to not sunset timeline for this cost-share change
- U.S. House passed their WRDA bill on June 8th by a vote of 384-37
 - House bill does not contain 75/25 cost-share change but local Reps have signed a letter in support
- **Current Status** – WRDA bill was included as part of the National Defense Authorization Act passed by the US House on December 8th and the US Senate is expected to vote on and pass the NDAA this week and send it to the President
 - **FINAL BILL makes permanent the 65% general revenues - 35% Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) cost-share for lock and dam construction and major rehabilitation projects**
- Port of Pittsburgh Commission’s priorities for WRDA this past year:
 - Upper Ohio River Navigation System Project & Lower Mon Project
 - Oppose additional taxation, tolling, lockage fees & support 75/25 cost-share
 - Reassess how the USACE conducts their Benefit-Cost Analysis

2. Annual Federal Energy & Water Appropriations Funding

- Federal Fiscal Year ended September 30th
- Congress passed a Continuing Resolution to keep the federal government funded through December 16th and the President signed it
- **Current Status** - Short-term (one week) Continuing Resolution being passed by both the US House and US Senate this week to keep the government funded

3. Inland Waterways User Board Quarterly Meeting took place on December 1st

- Key continuing take-away: inflation & supply chain issues causing cost over-runs
 - ***Lower Mon Project likely still needs an additional \$109 million***
 - ***Montgomery Locks & Dam Project may need an additional \$200 million***

4. Port Security Grant Opportunity

- ***PortPitt hosting webinar this Friday, December 16th at 9am*** – in preparation of next funding opportunity expected in the Spring of 2023

5. Legislator Outreach

- There are a number of newly elected officials within both the federal and state governments in our region
- PortPitt working on opportunity to meet with Congressman-elect Chris Deluzio
- New legislative maps for PA House, PA Senate, and US House of Representatives go into effect in January 2023

6. America’s Marine Highway – now United States Marine Highway Program

- Part of NDAA – includes language in marine highway transportation definition to include: *“(iv) bulk, liquid, or loose cargo loaded in tanks, holds, hoppers, or on deck;”*

END