

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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www.wapgh.org

February Highlights

Due to inclement weather, the February membership luncheon was cancelled. This electronic report was provided to the membership.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurciel provided the following report:

- It has been a struggle already this year for industry, due to abnormal weather patterns that keep bringing high water events, this has become a weekly occurrence and as you might be aware, we are having another event starting today with an 18.5 gage at Grays Landing Lock predicted for 4:00AM tomorrow morning. We have activated the One Call system on multiple occasions this year already based on information from the NWS. Weekly Hydro Committee Meetings have been held with the goal of getting on time information to Industry with a focus on Safety.
- A 'Barge Fleeting Safety Initiative' meeting is being held tomorrow, this will include local Mariners, USACOE, and the Coast Guard. Goals include avoiding barge breakaways and accountability.
- Reminder that Montgomery Lock outage 2019 starts on March 11 through June 14th.
 - For the period from 11 March through approximately 30 April, the primary lock chamber will be closed, with one lockage conducted in the primary chamber approximately every two hours daily between 6:01am and 1:59am, and additional lockages performed overnight between 2:00am and 6:00am per the procedures in paragraph 12. Also, the primary chamber will be open on weekends listed in paragraph 12. The primary chamber will have a width restriction during this period. The auxiliary lock chamber will be fully closed during this entire period.
 - For the period approximately from 01 May through 14 June, the 110-ft x 600-ft primary lock chamber at Montgomery will be fully closed. All navigation traffic will pass through the 56-ft x 360-ft auxiliary lock chamber using the procedures provided in paragraph 3. The only exception will be on weekends listed in paragraph 12 when the primary chamber will be open with a width restriction.
 - Paragraph 12:
On the six weekends listed below, the 110-ft x 600-ft primary lock chamber will be opened to navigation traffic with a width restriction of 80-ft by 595-ft long. The 56-ft x 360-ft auxiliary lock chamber will be closed to navigation traffic during this time.

- 1 **First weekend - Midnight March 22 through 0600 March 25, 2019**
- 1 **Second weekend - Midnight April 05 through 0600 April 08, 2019**
- 1 **Third Weekend - Midnight April 19 through 0600 April 22, 2019**
- 1 **Fourth Weekend - Midnight May 03 through 0600 May 06, 2019**
- 1 **Fifth Weekend - Midnight May 17 through 0600 May 20, 2019**
- 1 **Sixth Weekend - Midnight May 31 through 0600 June 03, 2019**

PROCEDURES: During the open weekends the Corps will institute the following lockage procedure. Boat locking order will be determined by arrival time at Montgomery L/D, and all pilots should radio as best as possible at normal arrival points. The locking procedure for the primary lock chamber will be two cuts up and then two cuts down. All tows must be ready to lock when added to the tier sheet. Tows will be limited to Maximum of a double lockage and all double lockages will require the use of the self-help program to pull cuts. Due to the presence of the coffer box in the chamber approach, no set-over tows will be allowed. No adding or swapping of barges will be allowed once the tow's lock turn has been established. No crew changes, taking on stores etc. will be permitted during the closure. These activities will need to be arranged at landings or other approved locations and must not impede the lockage process. There will be no change to the lockage procedures for recreational boaters during this restriction.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission

No report was provided.

Legislative Report

Dean Marlin provided the following report:

WCI CAPITOL HILL VISIT REPORT - FEBRUARY 12, 2019

- The Waterways Association provided two of 12 teams as part of the Waterway Council Inc.'s annual visit to the Hill. We were well received by approximately 16 Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia Senators and Representatives. Altogether the 12 teams conducted over 90 meetings in a day that started at 7 AM and ended with a 7PM banquet honoring Senator Tammy Duckworth.
- The meetings emphasized our opposition to any tax, tolls or lockage fees, support of a FY20 Energy and Water appropriation's full contribution to the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF), advocating for re-balancing cost sharing in order that IWTF portion of IWTF financed construction projects be shifted to a 25%, from the existing 50%, of total funding, and increasing the FY20 Army Corp's civil works program operation and maintenance funds over FY19.
- Thanks to our Daria Schwartz, Bill Porter, Dave Podurgiel, Mike Graham, Dean Marlin, Dave Konesni, Mike Kelly and David Van Dyke for their valuable time and advocacy on behalf of the WAP - as well

as the Port of Pittsburgh's advocacy under Mary Ann Bucci and Scott Harshman.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- The State of the Union gave no details on the infrastructure plan. In essence, the Whitehouse understands the importance of the infrastructure initiative, but the absence of detail is being widely interpreted as the President abandoning his previous \$1.5 trillion plan and leaving it to congress to come up with a proposal. To this end the House and the Senate have both started holding hearings on an infrastructure package with funding discussions ranging from an increase in the Federal gas tax, to fees for vehicle miles traveled (VMT = a user tax), to development of private-public partnerships (P3's = tolling).
- The House Transportation and Infrastructure committee has set its subcommittees and held its first hearing February 7 under the caption "the Cost of Doing Nothing" ... The congressional subcommittees are now organized and there are 32 members (18 Democrats and 14 Republicans) of which four Democrats and seven Republicans have direct geographic ties to the inland waterways.

OTHER NEWS

- Although the government is now funded through September, the bill excludes back pay for hundreds of thousands of sub-contracted workers.
- Per Administration directive to establish approximately ten - "P3" pilot programs - The Corps of Engineers has announced a 60-day period for submitting information related to the conceptual Public-Private Partnership (P3) delivery of specific Civil Works Projects.
- On February 11 the Corps conducted a Stakeholder session for input regarding suggested implementation for various provisions contained in WRDA 2018.
- Congress is off this week for the first recess of 2019.

Coast Guard News

The **attached** report was submitted.

Army Corp of Engineers

The **attached** report was submitted.

National Weather Service

The **attached** report was submitted.

Education Committee Report

The first "Who Works the Rivers" will be held on April 11, 2019. Tentative dates have been set for the following: Man Overboard on July 11, 2019 at the Clarion Hotel and October 10th for the Barge Breakaway at the Floreffa Fire Hall. The "Who Works the Rivers" fall date is October 3rd. Unless there are any conflicts, these dates will be confirmed.

March Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2019 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 Friday, March 8, 2019 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club
March 13, 2019 @ Noon

Menu:

Mixed Field Greens Salad w/balsamic vinaigrette
Baked Stuffed Breast of Chicken/stuffed w/home-style dressing
Red Bliss Potatoes
Cherry Crisp w/vanilla ice cream
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, March 8, 2019** to:

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