

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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February 12, 2020

www.wapgh.org

February Highlights

A total of (23) twenty-three members and guests were registered for the February 12, 2020 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. Michael Graham was not able to attend due to the annual Washington DC Trip. Gretchen Chamberlain presided over the luncheon. Tommy Woosley of Crouse Corporation was reintroduced to the membership.

Navigation Committee Report

Bob Barra provided the following report:

- Shane Checkan and I met with Mark Eberle, Lock Master Dashields and Mark Ivanisin at their request to discuss repair/design changes on the mooring cell directly above the lock/approach down bound at Dashields. This cell is key to vessels landing on during approach during high water, the work needs to be expedited and we will continue to work together during the construction phase once approved.
- We reached Action and Flood Stage at multiple locks on the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers, the One Call system was activated due to rapidly changing forecast. Communication has been excellent and timely from Alicia Miller's team.
- A local company had a Man Overboard incident inside CW Bill Young Lock in January and I was asked to join Ian McKelvey as industries representative during their root cause investigation. Two things came of the meeting, 1. There was a deviation from procedures by lock personnel that contributed to the MOB as was personal responsibility of the deck hand who fell in. 2. Policy has always been 3 deck hands on all up bound/down bound doubles at Lock 2 Mon, Emsworth, Dashields, and Montgomery. This is now the policy during all doubles on the Allegheny for safety reason so the 1st cut doesn't get away from vessel crews/lock personnel. An industry wide bulletin was sent out.
- USACE Fiscal Year Work Plan
 - o Lower Mon 2, 3, 4 Project: \$111 million to complete the project
 - o \$7.7 million to continue PED for the Upper Ohio River Navigation Study (Ohio/Pennsylvania)

Port of Pittsburgh Commission

Mary Ann Bucci was unable to attend the meeting due to attendance at the annual Washington DC visit. No report was submitted.

Legislative Report

Dean Marlin was unable to attend the meeting due to attendance at the annual Washington DC visit. The following report was submitted:

- Congress will be in recess for Presidents Day and the weeks of April 16, April 13. In fact, the congressional calendar is lighter this year due to November Elections. For those who like to do advanced "party" planning, the Democratic National Conventions is July 13 - 16, and the Republican National Convention will be August 24-27.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

- The House Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees have produced a \$760 Billion infrastructure plan of which \$3 Billion is designated for inland waterways modernization and 19.7 billion for harbor maintenance. This proposal also which addresses highways, rail transit systems, airports, bridges - and with a climate-focus aimed toward reduction of carbon emissions. Now - how to fund?
- The Senate supports a \$287 Billion surface transportation reauthorization (as has been done for decades).
- Reportedly the Administration is going to propose a \$1 Trillion infrastructure proposal spread out over the next decade - plus an \$810 billion reauthorization.

DC CONGRESSIONAL VISIT: Feb 12 - 14:

- We are participating in the annual WCI "Fly-In" on February 14.
- Our Association, represented by Daria Schwartz, Bill Porter, Dave Podurgiel, Dave Konesni, Shane Checken, Pat Kelly, Mike Graham, and Dean Marlin are joining other advocates from around the nation to lobby congress on behalf of the Inland Waterway System as well as our Pittsburgh Waterways. We've got our umbrellas, water wings and PFD's ready to go!
- Report to follow.

WRDA 2020:

- The Water Resources and Development Act is in the process for its bi-annual redo. The USACE is currently recommending 17 flood control, dredging, river locks and ecosystem restoration projects totally \$9 billion - but the list could be longer. The WCI is asking that the Inland Waterways Trust Fund contribution mix be changed from the historic 50% government/50% IWTF mix - to 75%/25% mix in 2020.
- The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has been holding stakeholder meetings with advocacy groups and will be conducting formal hearings on February 27, March 7.
- The Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee is preparing to mark up its WRDA bill with several Senators signaling a need for the cost share change for the Inland Waterways Trust fund as a top priority.

FYI:

- The House Appropriations committee has been internally discussing a return of "earmarks" (aka "Community Project Funding" which would be extended to nonprofit entities and the USACE Civil Works programs
- The House is holding a hearing on how to regulate miles-long freight trains that can block intersections for hours. Legislation in 35 states attempting to prevent same - have been overturned by federal courts.

COMMITTEE FOR SAVING AND REVIVING LOW USE RIVERS

- **USACE EFFORTS.** In January the USACE Pittsburgh District authored a recommendation ("Low-Use Systems-Budgeting, Maintaining and Reliability") to have the USACE form a national level "Project Delivery Team" to re-evaluate the viability of the LoS metric system and to ultimately engage the Assistant Secretary of the Army and the OMB in a possible change to Corps policy. The recommendation (Fact Sheet) has presently received concurrence from the Division and is starting up the ladder. Thanks to Colonel Short, Kathy Griffin, Vince DeCarlo and any other Corps personnel for pioneering and forwarding this important national effort.
- **GRASS ROOTS EFFORTS.** Your Association has initiated a "grass-roots" effort to challenge the effects of the Level of Service regulation - nationwide.
 - In January, our flyer "Help Stop the Slow Strangulation of Commerce on the IMTS!" (a piece co-sponsored by us and the Port of Pittsburgh Commission) - "caught fire" in a Missouri stakeholder meeting. Since then the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas Association, Tennessee Tombigbee Association, Red River Valley Association, and key stakeholders on the Missouri and Kentucky/Green waterways have expressed a strong desire to join our effort.
 - We have been invited to speak at the April meeting of the Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals Association meeting in April
 - Consequently, we are in the process of developing a Linked-In Group, identifying other organizations and action items necessary to identify the magnitude, scope and impact of the LoS Regulation.

Coast Guard News

The **attached** report was reviewed. The RNA (restricted navigation area) has been put into place. The RNA would primarily remove recreational boaters from the commercial traffic navigation areas. A press release will be scheduled for early March to educate all mariners of this new restriction.

Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla presented the **attached** report.

National Weather Service

The **attached** report was reviewed.

Education Committee Report

Mike Graham was unable to attend the meeting due to attendance at the annual Washington DC visit. Date reminders below:

April 23, 2020 Who Works the Rivers
July 23, 2020 Man Overboard Seminar/Clarion Inn
October 15, 2020 Who Works the Rivers
October 22, 2020 Barge Breakaway Seminar/Floreffe Fire Hall

*The Who Works the Rivers program designed by Riverworks Discovery will be celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

March Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at Chartiers Country Club. 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, March 6, 2020 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club
March 11, 2020

Menu:

Tossed Baby Greens Salad w/balsamic Vinaigrette dressing
Chicken Caprese - roasted chicken breast stuffed w/mozzarella, fresh basil
and sundried tomatoes
Parmesan Risotto
Carrot Cake

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 6, 2020** to:

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