

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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www.wapgh.org

January Highlights

A total of (43) forty-three members and guests were registered for the January 13, 2016 luncheon meeting at Bella Sera. Dan Lacek welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Coast Guard News

LT Devin Adams presented the **attached** report. Demolition of the Oakmont Bridge tentatively set for January 26th will cause a 72-hour river closure.

Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla covered the **attached** lock closure report. The 2016/2017 repair schedule draft was distributed to membership prior to the meeting. A review of this schedule will occur immediately following the luncheon at 2 p.m. All attendees were invited to participate.

Mike Somales requested that the Corp base number of resources on the Allegheny where high volume of traffic exists - this would be based on determined level of service.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci reported on the following items:

- On January 28th, FEMA will be conducting two sessions on Port Security Grant Completion. A strong investment justification is vital in the award of funds the training will be held at MSU Pittsburgh, Bridgeville, PA. Please contact Dave Morgan for further information.
- A meeting at the Port of Pittsburgh Offices to discuss strategy and needs for our annual Washington, DC visit has been scheduled for February 9th at 1 p.m. This year's DC meeting is scheduled for March 14-16. In addition to the Feb 9th meeting with USACE, there is a follow-up conference call on March 7, 2016 at 1 p.m. Call-in information will be sent out prior to the call.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham reported the following:

- Tentative dates have been identified for the Man Overboard Seminar (July 14, 2016) and the Barge Breakaway Seminar (October 13, 2016). Plans are currently underway to confirm these dates.

- Who Works The Rivers - The next WWR is scheduled for April 21, 2016 with the "Future is Mine" Group. As always everyone is invited and encouraged to attend as a speaker and/or a presenter. If any company is interesting in sponsoring these programs, they should contact Michael Graham directly.

Navigation Committee Report

Eunice Ratcliff covered the following items:

- A high water incident occurred that put various locations in the WATCH and Action Phases of the USCG Waterways Action Plan.
- Lock 5 Allegheny River was out of operation for several days due to the high water conditions.
- Montgomery Lock & Dam was out of operation for several days due to a navigational incident in the main chamber. The incident resulted in a **total river closure** due to an extended closure of the auxiliary chamber. Temporary repairs have been made to the main chamber upper gates and the lock is now back in operation. The auxiliary chamber remains out of operation.
- Lock 3 Monongahela River auxiliary chamber was also out of operation for several days due to hydraulic issues.
- The auxiliary chamber at Ohio River New Cumberland Lock remains out of service awaiting repairs.
- The main chamber at Maxwell Lock & Dam, Monongahela River, remains out of service awaiting repairs.
- The Oakmont Bridge demolition is tentatively scheduled for January 26th as stated under the US Coast Guard report. The WAP navigation committee is working closely with the contractor, the USACE, and the USCG bridge district. This will be a 72 hour river closure to clear the main channel span.
- Discussions are still underway with the USCG Bridge District, the USACE, and the contractor regarding barge placement at the Liberty Street Bridge proposed rehab project.
- Steubenville Street Bridge decorative blue lights are now able to be turned off as barges transit the area. The USCG Bridge District is looking for feedback on the feasibility of this system.
- Immediately following the luncheon, a meeting with the Corp has been scheduled for review the 2016/2017 repair schedule. Everyone is encouraged to stay and participate in this meeting.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider provided the following report:

- The WCI annual meeting dates have been confirmed for March 14-16. The legislative visits will be held on March 15th. Anyone interested in volunteering for the visits should contact Rich Kreider or Cheryl Cranmer. The list of volunteers will be reviewed and the board will decide on the allocation amount for this annual trip.
- The Inland Waterway User Board meeting will be held in Pittsburgh on March 30 - April 1st. Strong participation during this meeting is strongly encouraged.

Richard Kreider introduced John Doyle of WCI. John Doyle has 35-years of experience in waterway resource development. WCI is an advocacy group of 150 members that promote the waterways importance.

John Doyle reported that at the end of the Congress's first session, the FY'16 Omnibus Appropriation Bill was passed that provided the Corp with record level funding.

- Corps' Civil Works Funding was \$5.99 Billion
- Inland Trust Fund - supported projects received \$405.2 million
- Operations & Maintenance was \$3.137 billion

The FY17 budget is expected to be released on February 9. Appropriators have said they want the process to move early and under "regular order", with appropriations bills moving forward individually rather than in a mega/omnibus.

The process to move the 2016 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is underway, with House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee members holding the first listening session in November. Both the House and Senate authorization committee leaders have said they are eager to move a WRDA bill early. Keep in mind it will be very difficult to pass a WRDA in this election year if it contains any controversial items.

February Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2016 at Chartiers Country Club (601 Baldwin Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15205).

PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE IN THE 2016 MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON FEE:

Cost of the luncheon will be **\$30**. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. with lunch served promptly at noon. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Thursday, February 4, 2016 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

February 10, 2016

Menu:

Mixed Field Greens w/Chartiers Crouton - Balsamic Vinaigrette
Vegetarian Angel Hair Primavera w/garden vegetables, garlic & olive oil
Green Beans Almandine
Cherry Crisp w/vanilla ice cream
Ice Tea, Hot Tea or Coffee

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 Thursday, February 4, 2016** to:

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