

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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July 2015

www.wapgh.org

July Highlights

A total of (36) thirty-four members and guests were registered for the July 8, 2015 luncheon meeting about the Gateway Clipper. Dan Lacek welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dan also noted that today was CDR Lindsay Weaver's last meeting. The Change of Command Ceremony is scheduled for July 20th and the WAP Board will recognize CDR Weaver and welcome incoming CDR Leon McClain at a dinner on July 16th.

William Porter of Ingram Barge Company presided over the 2015 Scholarship recognition. The four recipients were: Lucille Wang, Karalee Flohr, Connor Simpson and Hannah Kozich. William honored each recipient with their achievement highlights and then presented them with their scholarship certificate. William also recognized the following organizations for their support of the scholarship fund: River Salvage Company, Henderson Brothers, Ingram Barge Company, Alpha Coal, Waterways Association of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Maritime Club.

Coast Guard News

LT Devin Adams presented the **attached** report. He also stressed, as water levels and flows remain high and swift, fleeting areas should maintain vigilance.

Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla covered the **attached** lock closure report. Richard Lockwood covered the remaining items of interest that were included in the report. Luncheon attendees requested additional information regarding the Montgomery auxiliary chamber status. Richard Lockwood explained that dredging would be necessary to fully evaluate the chamber damage. Presently, there is no time frame on completion of this evaluation.

Richard Lockwood also mentioned that the Corp will be completing a Vessel Traffic Management program that will deal with the movement of vessels in the port. Any company that is interested in participating in this program should contact Richard Lockwood directly.

CDR Lindsay Weaver presented a Department of Homeland Security Certificate of Appreciation to John Dilla and Gary Householder for their participation in the Recreational Boating Safety Forum.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report. Joe also took the opportunity to recognize CDR Lindsay Weaver for her work within the Port.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci covered the following information:

- CDR Lindsay Weaver was recognized with thanks for all her support and hard work in our region during her term.
- Executive Director Steve Martinko has resigned from the Port of Pittsburgh and has taken a position with K & L Gates in Washington, DC. Mary Ann will be serving as Acting Director.
- Mission Critical Company has been awarded the contract to complete a business case study for the Wireless Waterway. The cast study will focus on the process made to date and will look at future possibilities of the project.
- LNG Feasibility Study has been completed and is currently being reviewed. The study will be posted on the Port's website by the end of the month.
- The Port of Pittsburgh Commission Strategic Plan should be finalized with the next 4 to 6 weeks.
- Murray American River Towing and River Salvage were recognized for their quick action in assisting organizers of the Three Rivers Regatta.

CDR Lindsay Weaver presented Mary Ann Bucci a Department of Homeland Security Certificate of Appreciation for the Port's support of the Recreational Boating Safety Forum.

Education Committee Report

Dan Lacek reported the following:

- Who Works The Rivers - The next WWR is scheduled for October 6, 2015. At this time, two groups with a total of 40 participants are confirmed. 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.
- Man Overboard Seminar - The MOB seminar is scheduled for Thursday July 16th at the Mon Valley Health Plex. At this time, we have around 96 participants for this important training opportunity.
- Barge Breakaway Seminar-The Barge Breakaway seminar is scheduled for October 15, 2015 (Floreffa Fire Hall). As we get a little closer to the date, someone from the group will be reaching out to potential speakers/presenters.

Navigation Committee Report

Ryan Newton provided the following report:

- The Emsworth Lock & Dam second phase closure will begin August 3rd through September 18th. The second phase involves installing bulkhead slots at the upstream end of the lock. Three weekend openings will occur on August 15, August 29 and September 5. Tows will be limited to 80ft width and a pull will be necessary for a double.

- There is currently turbulent water flow through small chambers. Crews should remain vigilant when transiting through to avoid any accidents.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider provided the following information:

- **Charleroi Lock and Dam tour with Chairman Simpson and Congressman Murphy**
Several folks from industry, the Port of Pgh and the local USCOE met with Chairman Simpson and Congressman Murphy at Charleroi Lock and Dam on June 5th to tour the lock and educate the Chairman and Congressman regarding the benefit of the Lock and Dam system to industry. As we discussed at last month's luncheon, the Chairman was instrumental in getting the house to pass FY '16 Energy & Water Development Appropriations bill (E&WD) on May 1st.
- **FY '16 APPROPRIATIONS STALEMATE?**
Last month I also indicated we were anticipating that the Senate would release its Energy & Water Development Appropriations bill later this month and move it through the Senate in June. Unfortunately that did not happen and Congress is now in recess for the July 4 holiday and will return July 9. The FY '16 Energy & Water Development (E&WD) appropriations bill that funds the Corps of Engineers is now one of seven appropriations bills that have been passed the House. The Senate has marked-up its version of the bill in the full Appropriations Committee but while it is still too early to predict how the appropriations process will unfold for the rest of the year, there are increasing signs of a budget stalemate ahead. The stalemate could leave the E&WD bill and other appropriations bills initially requiring a Continuing resolution to fund Federal programs after September 30 and perhaps once again needing to be wrapped into an Omnibus package at the end of the year.
- **MG PEABODY SUCCESSOR NAMED**
BG(P) Ed Jackson, currently Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations at Corps Headquarters, will assume the role of Deputy Commanding General for Civil Works and Emergency Operations, HQ USACE. MG John Peabody is currently serving in this role but is expected to retire at the end of August. BG Jackson most recently served as Commanding General (Forward), Transatlantic Division, USACE in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- **INLAND WATERWAYS USERS BOARD APPOINTMENTS EXPIRE**
On May 27, all appointments on the Inland Waterways Users Board (IWUB) expired. Reappointments for the 10 members who most recently served are expected to be announced soon, along with an 11th member, which has not been filled for two years.
- **CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MISSES DEADLINE**
Pursuant to Section 2002 of WRRDA 2014, the Corps, in consultation IWUB, was required to release its new 20-year plan for capital investments on June 10. However, the draft report is still being reviewed in the office of the ASA and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and currently is not expected until July or August.

- **UPCOMING INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES**

- **August 18-20:** AWO Summer Safety Meetings and Ohio Valley Regional Meetings will be held in Memphis this year.
- **November 11-13:** WCI/Informa Economics/*Waterways Journal* Fall Waterways Symposium (New Orleans). Registration will open soon.

Other Comments

Dick Ehringer raised concern regarding the Army Corp decreased workforce within the Port relative to the current state of various locks and dams that have been addressed at today's meeting. It may be advisable to develop a plan of action if there is a loss of a main chamber or loss of pool. Dan Lacek will coordinate a meeting between the Army Corp, WAP Legislative and Navigation committees to discuss a course of action.

August Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2015 at Chartiers Country Club. Cost of the luncheon will be \$25. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Thursday, August 6, 2015 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

August 12, 2015

Menu:

Fresh Fruit Cup w/Honey Cream
Chicken Basil Explosion (pan-seared chicken breast served over angel
hair pasta w/basil pesto sauce and roasted red peppers)
Apple Crisp w/vanilla ice cream

Cost: *\$25/per member*

_____ YES, I will be attending

_____ No, I will not be attending

****Special Dietary Requirements:** _____

NAME: _____
(Please print)

COMPANY: _____

Please respond **by Thursday, August 6, 2015** to:

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