

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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July 2016

www.wapgh.org

July Highlights

A total of (43) forty-three members and guests were registered for the July 13, 2016 luncheon meeting about the Gateway Clipper's Princess. Dan Lacek introduced first-time attendees: Fred Albright of Cenergy; Ben Lauterbach and Chaz Mance of Cummins Bridgeway; and Ryan Falcone of the Southwest PA Commission.

Coast Guard News

CDR Leon McClain introduced to new representatives to the membership: LCDR Fran Smith along with LT Shawn Simerol. LT Shawn Simeral presented the **attached** report.

Army Corp of Engineers

Brian Luprek covered the **attached** lock closure report. Richard Lockwood discussed the following additional items:

- The Change of Command will be held on July 29th where COL John Lloyd will begin his tenure in the Port.
- Level of Service meetings will begin in August with industry representatives.
- A new concrete sill will be poured on Emsworth main chamber. It is estimated that the Corp will need to close both the main and auxiliary chambers from the morning of August 8th to the afternoon of August 10th to allow the concrete to cure before it can be exposed to wheel wash.
- Allegheny River dredging has been included in the budget package. Dredging will only occur within the navigational channel. This should be completed by the end of the fiscal year or by early spring of next year.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci reported on the following items:

- Mary Ann joined Lt. General Todd Semonite (USACE Commander General and Chief of Engineers) during his recent visit to Pittsburgh that included visiting several of the locks & dams in the region.
- The Upper Ohio Navigation Study is at the State and Agency Review. This is the last phase before the final document is prepared and sent to the Chief of Engineers for his Chief's report. The anticipated to date to have this report to the Chief of Engineers

is late September. This expedited schedule is a direct result of all our public out-reach, stakeholder support and the political pressure of our elected officials in regards to the importance of completing this study. Early indications are that the report still does not meet the OMB minimum Cost-to-Benefit ratio of 2.5. It does increase the project from 1.0 to 1.6, but there is a lot of work to do after we get the project authorized and get the project appropriated.

- Senator Casey is expected to hold a press event on Thursday, August 18, 2016 at the Charleroi Lock and Dam beginning at 10:30 AM. Details to follow. This event will conflict with the AWO Conference. We need to insure strong industry support and attendance.
- Congress Rothfus will be taking a tour from Georgetown through the Montgomery L/D to see industries, including the new Shell facility, along the Ohio River. He has invited several members of Congress to join the trip.
- CMAQ 2nd Amendment (\$4 million) is awaiting an executed contract. There is still \$2.5 million in current funding available. Based upon timing, applicants will need to work with engine manufacturers to insure Tier 3 engine or Tier 4 engine availability.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham reported that the Man Overboard Seminar is scheduled for tomorrow at the Mon-Vale HealthPlex. Planning for the October Barge Breakaway and the "Who Works the Rivers" will begin shortly and further details will be made available at that time.

Navigation Committee Report

Eunice Ratcliff was unable to attend the meeting. David Podurgiel provided the following information:

- There have been very few navigational issues during the Emsworth closure. The delay sheet has been distributed through the Navigational Committee.
- Pilots should use caution when navigating to Lock 5 on the Allegheny due to some river shoaling.
- The Mon-Fayette Expressway extension from Jefferson Hills to the Parkway East in Monroeville has been revived. This expansion would include a realignment of a bridge over the Monongahela River at Duquesne. The bridge pier placement has been reviewed and it appears it should not create any navigational issues.
- Pilots and Captains should be reminded to be aware of recreational boaters and some challenges that they may cause while transiting the rivers.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider provided the following information:

- The LRD Stakeholder group will meet in Cincinnati on July 20th to review the 3-year lock repair schedule. Industry will also be leading an educational presentation ("Barge 101") regarding the

basic economic and operational factors of barge and towboat operations.

- The American Waterway Operators (AWO) will be meeting in Pittsburgh on August 16 - 18 at the Fairmont Hotel. AWO in coordination with the Coast Guard and with the guidance of the AWP Board of Directors and Towing Vessel Inspection Working Group is conducting education sessions over the next several months on Subchapter M. One such session will be held on August 17th during the Pittsburgh meeting and will include Subchapter M comprehensive briefings. This August session will be open to nonmembers as well as AWO members. Further information will be disseminated to the membership when it is available.
- The appropriation process along with WRDA appear to be stalled at this time. A continuing resolution is expected. With the delay in WRDA 2016, it allows time for the EDM to be included in the WRDA as the USACE has indicated that the Chief's report should be completed by the end of September.
- Attempts to exempt Puerto Rico from the Jones Act failed in the House. Although the immediate threat to the Jones Act in the House has passed, the Puerto Rico legislation awaits consideration by the Senate, and the Jones Act remains a target for the powerful conservative think tank, The Heritage Foundation.
- The 2016 WCI Waterways Symposium is scheduled for November 15-17, 2017 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel in Cincinnati, OH. The symposium topic is: "Increasing Investment for the Nation's Waterways".

August Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2016 at the Chartiers Country Club. 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, August 4, 2016 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

August 10, 2016

Menu:

Seasonal Fresh Fruit Cup w/Honey Cream
Chicken Stir Fry w/Asian-style vegetables over steamed white rice
Sugar Snap Peas
Strawberry Parfait
Iced Tea, coffee and 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 Thursday, August 4, 2016** to:

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