

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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July 10, 2019

www.wapgh.org

July Highlights

A total of (40) forty members and guests were registered for the July 10, 2019 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club.

The 2019 Pittsburgh Maritime Association Scholarship Recipients were recognized, and certificates awarded.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel provided the following report:

- The Navigation Committee has worked with the USACE to discuss the upcoming Allegheny Lock 2 outage scheduled to start on August 5. This will be highlighted by the USACE report but I want to mention we had a miscommunication occur on June 20th during a meeting at Lock 2. Due to contractors starting early they were not going to be able to pull doubles, this started at the end of June. Dave Boyd from CTC was at this meeting with me and neither of us recalls that this was starting so soon, this has caused a stir amongst Industry because there wasn't a formal NTNI posted. We are working with the USACE to resolves this breakdown.
- Willow Island Lock starts its outage today, July 9, 2019, Bellaire Harbor Service will be providing an assist boat should we reach the 40' trigger on the dam opening. The cost will be 5412.00 per day this will be shared between all that transit the lock.
- We have experienced minimum delays during the Montgomery contractor work and haven't needed to approve any Priority Lockages.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission

Scott Harshman provided the following report:

- This year's CMU OSHER class concluded with a meeting with Representative Conor Lamb on July 8th. Industry members were thanked for their support and participation in making this class a success. Planning is currently underway for the next class to be held in May/June/July of 2020 that will have 20-25 adult attendees.
- The Port was awarded a follow-on grant from the Allegheny County CITF to assist with marketing, sponsorships, regional promotion and technology enhancements.
- Upcoming Events:
 - August 8, 2019 - AWO Boat Tour for congressional staff
 - November 6-8, 2019 - 2019 Waterways Council, Inc.'s Annual Meeting and 16th Annual Waterways Symposium at the Fairmont Hotel

- A Campbell Transportation Company crew was commended for recently rescuing an individual that jumped off a bridge into the river.

Legislative Report

Dean Marlin presented the following report:

- Following the July 4th Holiday - the House and Senate are back in session week and are next slated to take the month of August off - to return after Labor Day. However, it is likely the Senate will stay in session into August.

- **FY 20 APPROPRIATIONS**

As previously reported the Energy and Water Appropriations bill (including funding for the USACE) was previously passed. Full passage of all 12 appropriations bills is expected to be by passed by the House by the end of July. Meanwhile, the Senate is still addressing their markup. Consequently, there is a growing possibility that we will not have FY 20 appropriations in place by 10/1. This could lead to a need for congressionally approved extensions as we have experienced in previous years.

- **WRDA**

The House - Water Resource Subcommittee (to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee) will begin meeting on July 10 regarding the Water Resource Development Act with view toward a renewed 2-year approval required in 2020.

- **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Following the collapse of last month's infrastructure meeting, House Transportation Chairman Pete Defazio is reportedly attempting to again gain White House support by narrowing the infrastructure focus (in turn, reducing funding requirement) and optional funding sources. However, there is a consensus that there will be no meaningful movement on an infrastructure package this year.

Dean Marlin made a motion to develop a sub-committee of the Navigation Committee to deal with improvement of commercial lock operations on low-use rivers. This committee will be made up of Legislative, Navigation and Strategic Planning Sub-Committee. It was **moved and voted to approve** the motion establishing the Navigation Sub-Committee on Low-Use Rivers.

- On June 19, a meeting consisting of a combination of the Navigation, Strategic and Legislative Committees along with Colonel Short and his staff to review the Corp's progress toward addressing the need to support and improve commercial lock operations on low-use rivers. As a result:

- Initiation of a new after-hours locking request system
 - a. While reducing the hours of lock service on AR Lock 4, the ACE - Pittsburgh Division has published a notice to navigation interests (NTNI 9968-4) which enacts a formal after-hours locking request program which will document and better react to industry after-hour lockage requests. Further, the Pittsburgh Division is extending the request system to both the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers.

- b. All requests will now be documented, actively considered and aggregated to a formal data base. In turn this information will be used with a view toward providing more commercial lockage reliability - all while enabling the Corps to optimize lock staffing on low use rivers.
 - c. The System's calling chain, flow chart and controls have been sent to interested parties. If you would like a copy, please look it up on the Corps web site or we can provide you with same via email.
- A review of the IMTS - Level of Service Criteria System
- a. As promised by the USACE - the Pittsburgh Division has forwarded our request for review and consideration of the 2012 LOS Criteria to the IMTS Working Group which is currently meeting. The Working Group's recommendations will then be forwarded the IMTS Board of Directors sometime in December followed by any changes to be forthcoming next year.
 - b. This review will likely utilize your Committee's November 2018 Letter of Request to Colonel Short- along with our Addendum which lists 17 concerns with the existing criteria - and 5 alternatives for more effectively operating locks on lower use rivers.
 - c. Our Division's Chief of Operations (Kathy Griffin) who is on temporary assignment to HQ - is reportedly working with the Chief of Engineers of HQ addressing the challenges faced by all low use rivers.

□ **MISCELLANEOUS**

- o The current high water and flooding events which have been impacting the entire IMTS are providing the WCI with influential "capital" by drawing attention to the importance of the IMTS - and need for additional funding.
- o According to the Government Accounting Office - trains are reportedly getting longer. Two Class 1 railroads have increased train length by 25 % since 2008 - and one railroad is running a 3-mile long train twice weekly.

Coast Guard News

The **attached** report was reviewed.

Army Corp of Engineers

The **attached** report was reviewed.

National Weather Service

The **attached** report was reviewed.

Education Committee Report

The Man Overboard Seminar will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at the Clarion Hotel. The seminar currently has 73 attendees. The "Who Works the Rivers" fall date is October 3rd.

The Barge Breakaway Seminar will be held on October 17th at the Florefffe Fire Hall. Based upon the recent increase in breakaways within our region, member companies are strongly encouraged to reach out to all non-member companies to participate in this seminar. The Coast Guard confirms that attendance to such a course is considered an advantage in the case of a breakaway investigation.

August Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 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, August 9, 2019 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

Chartiers Country Club
August 14, 2019 @ Noon

Menu:

Fresh Fruit Cup
Chicken Marsala
Whipped Redskin Potatoes
Steamed Broccoli w/toasted garlic
Angel Food Cake w/fresh strawberry coulis & whipped cream

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, August 9, 2019** to:

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