

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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www.wapgh.org

July Highlights

The July Membership luncheon was cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic "stay in place" order from Governor Tom Wolf. All the reports have been submitted electronically and are included in this newsletter.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel provided the following report:

- ⌚ WAP COVID-19 Tasks Force update: Meetings have been cancelled till further date/time if the need arises.
- ⌚ We are experiencing normal operating conditions as local rivers are in pool stage; the USACE has not made any moves to restrict drafts.
- ⌚ **Montgomery Lock: The repair party will return July 6 thru August 22 to retrofit the downstream concrete sills in the Auxiliary Chamber. Closure of both the 110-ft x 600-ft primary chamber and the 56-ft x 360-ft auxiliary chamber is tentatively scheduled for:**
- ⌚ August 13 @ 0700 thru August 14 @ 1700. Restrictions for entering and departing the downstream end of the primary chamber must be followed during the following time periods (tentative): August 14 @ 1701 thru August 15 @ 0700, Restrictions are as follows: When entering and exiting the downstream end of the primary chamber, towboats shall use minimal power as required to reduce prop wash. This low throttle/slow-bell restriction shall be adhered to within 300 feet of the middle wall bullnose when entering and departing the lock chamber. During the 'restriction' period the WAP Navigation Committee will be reaching out to the Port Captains of the vessels in queue so the proper communication is received by their vessel on the importance of these guidelines. A few years back a vessel washed out the new concrete sill at Emsworth and we cannot let this happen again.
- ⌚ A meeting is being scheduled between the Navigation Committee and USACE representatives the week of July 13 to discuss the upcoming Emsworth Lock closure of the Primary Chamber from August 31 thru November 14, we will develop the NTNI together.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission

The **attached** report was provided.

Legislative Report

Dean Marlin provided the following report:

The full Congress is in recess, to return 7/20. The House will again recess August 1 and the Senate August 8 until after the Labor Day holiday.

INFRASTRUCTURE :

- ⌚ On June 30, the House released a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill "Moving Forward Act ... a Transformational Infrastructure Bill to Create Jobs and Rebuild America." The bill is mostly partisan and contains no substantive funding mechanism excluding \$145 billion of deficit spending. The Republicans frame it as a "Green New Deal - style Climate Focus Bill" It is far-reaching in application and apparently doomed to failure.
- ⌚ The Senate will not consider this bill but is advancing a slimmer and mainly surface transportation bill.
- ⌚ The "Bottom Line"; Infrastructure bills and funding remain divisive in both scope and funding. Even if the two chambers manage to conference their bills - the scope, funding, and partisan tensions are dooming this priority need once again. There are 3 months remaining before the existing transportation and authorization funding expires.

WRDA 2020 OR "THE AMERICA WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2020"

- ⌚ The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is expected to release a draft bill on July 9, followed by a (hoped for) July 15 markup. Congressman Conor Lamb is co-sponsoring this bill.
- ⌚ The Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee previously approved WRDA 2020 in May with a 35% (IWTF):65% (FED) split.

THE COMMITTEE FOR SAVING AND REVIVING LOW USE RIVERS

- ⌚ Congressmen Michael Bost (R-IL) and Conor Lamb (D-PA) are co-sponsoring the proposed "Coastal and Inland Ports and Terminals Commerce Improvement Act." This pioneering, legislation offers a competitive, federally matched grant program for funding small ports, terminals, and waterways. This bill was stimulated and Championed by the Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminal Association, we (WAP) wrote a letter to Congressman Lamb requesting his co-sponsorship.
 - As importantly the bill is bi-partisan and has IMTS-wide support as demonstrated by the additional written support of Congressmen Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), Bob Gibbs (R-OH), Dave Loebsack (D-IA) - and Congresswomen Carol Miller (R-WV) and Vicky Hartzler (D-MO).
- ⌚ Last month Kathy Griffin of the USACE reported their initiative for re-evaluating low use waterways metrics and budgeting methods with a long-term view toward a national roll-out and obtaining additional funding from Congress. Kathy communicated that she is updating the charter and awaiting Col. Short's signature to initiate.
- ⌚ In support of the Allegheny River Development Corporation and Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson, we are pursuing the feasibility of increasing the access of recreational, commercial, and socio-economic use of the Allegheny River. This past week we met with Penn State to discuss the status of the 52 aquatic species labeled as "endangered" in the early 1980's - and which have led to a progressive loss of river access. This meeting was positive, and we are forwarding.

The **attached** report was provided.

Army Corp of Engineers

The **attached** report was provided.

National Weather Service

The **attached** report was provided.

Education Committee Report

DATE CHANGE: The Man Overboard Seminar has been rescheduled for Friday, July 24, 2020 at the Clarion Inn/Belle Vernon. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

August Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2020 aboard the Gateway Clipper Fleet. During this luncheon, the 2020 Pittsburgh Maritime Association Scholarship recipients will be formally recognized.

The Pittsburgh Maritime Association is seeking scholarship donations to maintain this vital industry opportunity for the members. Anyone with questions can contact Cheryl Cranmer directly.

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 Thursday, August 6, 2020 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Gateway Clipper Fleet
August 12, 2020 @ Noon

Picnic Menu:

Kansas City BBQ Ribs
Grilled Chicken Breast Sandwich
Corn on the Cobb w/lime and cilantro
Quarter Cut Potato Wedges w/melted cheddar and smoky bacon
Hannah's Famous Macaroni Salad
Broccoli & Cauliflower Salad
Pound Cake with Fresh Strawberries and Whipped Topping

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 6, 2020** to:

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