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Newsletter
2021 Issue No. 2
March
www.wapgh.org

**PITTSBURGH MARITIME ASSOCIATION
IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

*FOUR \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE GRANTED IN 2021
EMPLOYEES OF WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH MEMBERS MAY APPLY
APPLICATIONS MUST BE POST-MARKED BY MARCH 31, 2021 TO BE CONSIDERED
APPLICATION AND CRITERIA ATTACHED*

March Highlights

Seventeen members registered for our membership luncheon on February 10. An additional twelve members registered to attend virtually via Zoom. After two months of virtual attendance coupled with our face-to-face luncheons, we have found this is a great solution for those who want to participate but cannot be there in person due to restrictions. We will continue the virtual option for as long as needed.

WAP welcomes three new members; Triad Metals International, BMG Marine and Kosmos Cement.

Recent highwater events caused by spring melt off were cause for the shutdown of several locks. Both the Navigation Committee and the USCG reported industry responded well to the fast-moving situation. Drift can also be an issue – See an example in our Photo Gallery.

There is major concern regarding the 2023 planned Montgomery Lock construction shutdown currently scheduled for 6 months. It will be important for industry to work with the USACE to come up with a schedule that allows commerce to continue during this important construction event. *See the Navigation Committee and USCG Reports for details of these and other events.*

The Stonewall Jackson Reservoir 25-year master plan has been published. This plan holds great importance to our membership. Use this link to visit and review the plan.

<https://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Lakes/Stonewall-Jackson-Lake/Stonewall-Jackson-Master-Plan/>

Navigation Committee Report

Dave Podurgiel, Vice President provided the following report:

- Operating conditions are near normal following a High Water event.
 - We had a significant flood event on the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers which started the weekend of February 27th. By Monday morning the following locks were out of service.
 - Pt Marion (Mon Mile 91) Major Flooding
 - Grays Landing (Mon Mile 81)
 - Maxwell (Mon Mile 62) directly above Alicia Docks
 - Charleroi (Mon Mile 42)
 - Lock 3 Elizabeth (Mon Mile 24) directly above our WEL landing

- The three upper Ohio River Locks between Pittsburgh and Mile 33 had their auxiliary chambers go out and gate openings that made it unsafe to transit till Wednesday.
- All locks on the Ohio River System hit Action Stage.
- Greenup Lock (OR Mile 341: Main Chamber culvert valve scheduled repairs 16 February through 11 March 2021 (Phase II) Average Delay 42 Hours. Locking has been suspended due to drift conditions.
- On Wednesday, 3/3/21 a virtual Navigation Stakeholder Engagement meeting was held to discuss upcoming Lock projects. This is a joint meeting between USACE and Industry. Multiple red flags came up with their scheduling plans starting in FY 23 (starts Oct 2022 w/ USACE) through 2024. The biggest Red Flag was starting in October 2022, Montgomery would have three shutdowns that basically shut the lock down for 6 months out of twelve.
- Below are the numbers, which are recorded from a Main Chamber closure at Montgomery from April 24th through June 8th. During this time frame we passed 1,709 barges in 989 hours which equates to .58 hours per barge, or 1.72 barges per hour. In 2019 Montgomery passed a total of 17,309 barges (9,841 Loads and 7,468 Empties) which is 56% of barges are loaded which equates to 8,655 barges in six months. $8,655 \text{ barges} \times .58 \text{ hours per barge} = 5,020 \text{ hours}$ needed to pass the 8,955 barges. $5,020 \text{ hours} / 24 \text{ hours per day} = 209 \text{ days}$ needed to pass the 8,655 barges.
- Needless to say, operating only 183 days we would only be able to move 7,578 of the 8,655 barges. This amounts to 1,077 barges we could not move. If we consider 56% of the barge move as loads, is 603 loads @ 1,500 tons/load = 904,500 tons of commodities that could not transit the lock.
- The plan is to start dialogue with the Pittsburgh District USACE soon incorporating the Navigation Committee to help, this is unacceptable, and we have the support at the national level.

Coast Guard News

LTJG William Russell, USCG, provided the attached report.

National Weather Service

Alicia Miller of NOAA Federal provided the **attached** report for the newsletter.

Legislative Report

Dean Marlin, Legislative Committee chair, provided the following report for the newsletter.

WCI WASHINGTON MEETINGS (“FLY-IN”) WILL BE VIRTUAL

- WCI held its virtual board meeting on February 23 – but the most recent information places the annual “Fly-In” date to somewhere in mid-April. A registration link will be sent to all interested, and we will report more as soon as the information becomes available.

INLAND WATERWAYS USERS BOARD

- This vital working group which was canceled at the end of January by the DOD (along with 41 other User Advisory Boards), will likely be resumed. Army Corps spokesman Eugene Pawlick recently stated that “the Inland Waterways Users Board is a legislated advisory Committee subject to a federal act so cannot be abolished without congressional action. The Army is being proactive in performing the steps necessary to return the Board to Active status.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION – POTENTIAL EFFECT ON THE INLAND WATERWAYS

- As customary for a new administration – Biden will not release their fiscal year budget request (typically presented in early February) – until late March or April.

- A significant part of Biden’s anticipated mid-March address to Congress will be the long-awaited \$2 trillion infrastructure bill. This is next up on the “table” as Congress has now cleared the impeachment trial and the Covid -19 relief package (which, at this writing, is expected to vote 3/9 and become signed into law shortly thereafter).

INFRASTRUCTURE

- The American Society of Civil Engineers has released their Infrastructure Report Card published once every 4 years. This report covers 17 infrastructure categories including inland waterways locks and dams, roads, levees, drinking water - and more. This year they rated our waterways infrastructure as a “D+” (as opposed to a “D” in 2017). The progress is due to an increase in private investment in ports as well as federal grant programs. Recommendations include further improvement of the WRDA cost share to a 75/25 mix, developing standardized measurement for system delays, and developing a prioritization and appropriations system that can fund more-needy projects ... View the report on www.infrastructurereportcard.org.
- The bipartisan Policy Center and US Chamber of Commerce have reported that a new infrastructure bill could generate an estimated 11 million jobs and help rebuild the economy.

ADDITIONAL

- Marine Supply Chain Issues ... Senators Wicker (R-Miss) and Boozman (R-Ark) have sent a letter to the Federal Maritime Commission regarding the supply chain disruptions occurring off of major US Ports. Specifically, a significant increase of importing vessels is creating bottlenecks and costs (demurrage and competitive disadvantages).
- On March 3, the Port of Pittsburgh Commission released their Economic Impact Study and it can be found at www.portpitt.com.

Army Corp of Engineers

John P. Dilla of the USACOE provided the attached report for the newsletter.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham, President and Education Committee Chair, provided the following report:

- **Breakaway Barge Seminar date has been set: Thursday, April 8.**
 - *Please see the attached registration form for details.*
 - This will be the first of two seminars to be held in 2021.
 - Attendance can be either in-person or virtual.
 - Membership in the Waterways Association is not required to attend this important training.
 - You must be signed up by April 1.
 - *The second seminar in 2021 is tentatively scheduled for October 21.*
- **Man Overboard Seminar** is tentatively scheduled for July 22, details to follow.
- **Who Works the Rivers** will have 2 events this year, but both will be held virtually.

Details for each of the above events will be announced as available.

Networking Committee

WAP’s first networking event of 2021 will be the Clay Shoot at Hunting Hills Shooting Preserve in Dilliner, PA, on Friday, May 7. Event will include course shooting and a steak fry at the outdoor pavilion. Watch for registration forms with more details to be issued very soon!

April Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14 at Chartiers Country Club.

Please email the attached response form, or you may call or text your response (724-991-0136) by ***Thursday, April 8, 2021*** to reserve your space.



The Barge Breakaway Seminar

The seminar will contain presentations from the Army Corp of Engineers, US Coast Guard, National Weather and other industry experts. The material covered in this seminar is designed for on-site managerial personnel, employees responsible for shoreside fleet integrity and security as well as deckhands securing barges in fleets. Topics to be addressed will include proper fleet management, review of the waterways action plan, past incidents and lessons learned and maritime law. With recent Barge Breakaway incidents, it is imperative as an industry to get as much participation to this seminar as possible! Please let your river neighbors know about this important event!!

Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021

Time: Registration: 8 a.m. (**Continental breakfast will be provided**)
Seminar: 8:15 a.m. – 2 p.m. (**Lunch will be provided**)

Location: Sokol Club Hall
2912 East Carson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
ONSITE PARKING AVAILABLE

Cost: \$20 company member employees (covers food & beverages)
\$30 non-members (per person)

Don't delay – Register Now!
Registration Deadline is April 1, 2021

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number Attending: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

**(Payable to: Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
PO Box 178, Valencia, PA 16059)**

Names (please print):

RSVP to:

Phone: 724-991-0136

EMAIL: ckrelow@wapgh.org



Credit Card Authorization

Name: _____

Credit Card Billing Address: _____

Phone # Associated with Credit Card _____

Your Mobile Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Credit Card Type: VISA Mastercard Discover

Credit Card Number: _____

Credit Card Expiration: _____

Credit Card Security Code: _____

Amount to be Charged: _____

(\$33.00 per person for Luncheon includes 10% Convenience Fee)

Authorized Signature: _____



Member Luncheon Meeting Response Form

Chartiers Country Club

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Check in 11:30 until Noon

Lunch Begins Promptly at Noon!

Menu

Breadbasket

Fattoush – Mediterranean Chopped Salad with Vegetables, Croutons and Lemon Mint Dressing

Beef Tips Diane with mushrooms served over Pappardelle Egg Noodles

Broccoli

Dutch Apple Pie

Please note any Special Dietary Requirements: _____

Cost: \$30 per member

_____ Yes, I will attend

_____ ***I will attend virtually***

Name

Company

Please respond to Carole Ann Krelow, Executive Director - by Thursday, April 8

ckrelow@wapgh.org OR Call, Leave Message or Text at 724-991-0136

Cash, Checks or Master Card or Visa Accepted

For Credit Card charges, please fill out attached form and return with response

A 10% convenience fee will be added to all credit card payments (\$3.00)