

# Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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May 2017

[www.wapgh.org](http://www.wapgh.org)

## **May Highlights**

A total of (31) thirty-one members and guests were registered for the May 10, 2017 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club.

## **Coast Guard News**

LT Shawn Simeral presented the **attached** report.

## **Army Corp of Engineers**

John Dilla covered the **attached** lock closure report. A fact sheet covering the River Information System (RIS) is also **attached**.

## **National Weather Service**

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

## **Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report**

Mary Ann Bucci did not submit a written report to be included.

## **Education Committee Report**

Michael Graham presented the following:

- The first "Who Works the Rivers" program was held April 20<sup>th</sup> with the "Future is Mine" group. The future is mine group provided 22 students from 7 different schools. we also had Carrick high with 16 students and Blackhawk with 14. With 7 presenter companies and agencies in attendance, the seminar was well received by the students. The company tables were busy after lunch and a good time was had by all.
- Man Overboard Seminar tentative date is July 13, 2017. The association is currently seeking a new location for this seminar due to a venue closure that has eliminated the classroom facility at the Mon Vale Health Plex. We are looking at the Rostraver Public Library as an alternative location for the classroom portion, however it may be a bit small for the usual amount of attendees.
- Barge Breakaway Seminar date has been confirmed for October 12, 2017.
- The second "Who Works the Rivers" program has been set for October 19, 2017. One school has already been confirmed.

## **Navigation Committee Report**

David Podurgiel provided the following information:

- **Charleroi Outage/Full River closure**

- 15May - 16June
- Original schedule
- 15-19
- Full River Closure
- 20-21May
- Open without restrictions
- 22May - 2June
- Full river closure, working overtime though
- 3-4 June
- Open w/ 35'X300" restriction
- 10-11 June
- Open without restrictions (Good possibility)
- I had discussion with industry (local users, i.e. us, CTC, ACBL, C-Mine, Crouse, Ingram and response was go for it.
- **Emsworth Lock**
  - Due to a failure at Cannelton Lock, Mile 721 Ohio River the decision by the USACE has been to cancel the planned Emsworth Lock repairs scheduled for June 26-Sept. 15. This will be rescheduled for FY 2018
- Congested Waterways Committee's meeting is scheduled for 10 May @ 0900, update given at WAP meeting.
- LockFest 2017 will take place on 13 May at Lock 4 Allegheny from 9AM-2:30PM, open to the public. I will be representing Industry informing attendees on the view point/sight lines from the pilot house of towboats using personal knowledge and photos. A potential Murray Captain will be assisting me. We had a 'walk through' on Thursday, 4 May.

### Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider provided the following report:

- **CONGRESS PASSES STRONG FY 2017 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL**  
 The bill funds the Army Corps of Engineers, provides full-use of the IW Trust Fund and provides record *O&M Funding*. FY '17 funding for the Corps' Civil Works mission totals **\$6.038 billion**, a slight (0.8%) increase above the FY 16 funding level, but almost a 31% increase above the Obama Administration requested level. The bill provides **full-use of estimated annual revenues from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF)** with the appropriation of **\$75.25 million in additional IWTF revenues plus matching funds**. The Corps of Engineers, not Congress, will decide project-specific allocations for this additional funding. Depending on how the Corps decides to make these allocations to the eligible projects, between \$375 million and \$393 million will be provided for IWTF-funded projects in the FY '17 Corps' workplan that is due 45 days

after the Omnibus bill's enactment. In order to avoid incurring preventable cost increases for IWTF projects due to expiring contract options applicable to as many as three priority projects (**Lower Mon**, Kentucky and Chickamauga), the Corps is directed to allocate necessary funds within 10 days of enactment of the FY '17 bill to the affected projects. The bill provides \$3.149 billion for the Corps' Operations & Maintenance (O&M) account, the fourth consecutive year of record-level funding, including at least \$46.5 million in additional O&M funds for inland navigation and \$1.3 billion for activities funded by the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, which hits the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA)-required target. It also provides \$362 million, a \$17 million increase from the FY '16 level, for Mississippi River & Tributaries. An explanatory statement accompanying the bill notes that "...until such time as a comprehensive (P3) policy is established..., the Corps shall discontinue all work on project-specific public-private partnerships beyond the P3 project selected [Fargo/Moorhead] as a new start in fiscal year 2016."

- **INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE STILL MONTHS AWAY**

A \$1 trillion infrastructure package may be next up to bat on the White House agenda, but the timing remains unclear. The consensus seems to be it could be introduced after tax reform is completed, perhaps at the end of this year, but it could slip into next year. No details have been offered yet by the Trump Administration on the infrastructure initiative, or how it would be paid for.

- **INLAND WATERWAYS USERS BOARD MEETING**

The next meeting of the Inland Waterways Users Board is Wednesday, May 17 in Charleston, WV, with a site visit on Tuesday, May 16 to the Winfield and the Greenup Locks and Dams. Among the issues to be addressed at the meeting are FY '17 funding for the inland navigation program, status of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and lock project status updates.

### **June Membership Meeting**

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 14, 2017** 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 Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh  
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

June 14, 2017 @ Noon

**Menu:**

Mixed Field Greens served with Balsamic Vinaigrette  
Chicken Crepes  
Wild Rice Blend  
Apple Pie w/Vanilla Ice 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 Wednesday, June 7, 2017** to:

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Email:        [cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org](mailto:cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org)