

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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February 2016

www.wapgh.org

February Highlights

A total of (44) forty-four members and guests were registered for the February 10, 2016 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. Dan Lacek welcomed first-time attendees: Matt Ehrin of US Army Corp of Engineers; Dale Brosius of Cleveland Brothers; Robert Tully of Pittsburgh Marine Technologies; and Bob Carter of Carmeuse Lime and Stone.

Dan credited the current communication strategy between industry and the Corp in the reduction of scheduled closures in the 2016/2017 Corp repair/maintenance schedule which will be reviewed following the meeting.

Coast Guard News

LT Devin Adams presented the **attached** report.

Army Corp of Engineers

Ian McKelvey covered the **attached** lock closure report. The revised 2016/2017 repair schedule draft has been distributed to membership prior to the meeting. A review of this revised schedule will occur immediately following the luncheon at 2 p.m. All attendees were invited to participate.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci reported on the following items:

- A meeting at the Port of Pittsburgh Offices to discuss strategy and needs for our annual Washington, DC visit has been scheduled for February 11th at 1 p.m. This year's DC meeting is scheduled for March 14-16.
- Representative Keith Rothfus will be in the Port offices on March 7, 2016 at 1 p.m. for a pre-WRDA meeting. The Emsworth/Montgomery/Dashiields authorization will be a priority in a new WRDA bill.
- HDR, Inc. is working on a report to estimated industry costs associated with scheduled and non-scheduled lock closures.
- River Life Task Force new President and CEO, Vivien Li, has expressed a strong commercial industry interest in regards to the next chapter in the riverfront's revitalization. Mary Ann will be

extending a WAP membership luncheon invitation to Vivien in the future.

- Port Security Grant cameras will be hooked up into one system. This needs to be accomplished by August 31, 2016. Any company that accepted grant monies for camera installation will be expected to join this system allowing the Captain of Port access to camera feed when deemed necessary.
- The City of Pittsburgh and CMU filed a \$50 million "Smart City" grant application. These funds would be utilized to improve city transportation.
- The Federal Highway Administration is thrilled with the strong participation in the CMAQ program. At this time, funds are still available.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham reported the following:

- Who Works The Rivers - The next WWR is scheduled for April 21, 2016 with the "Future is Mine" Group. Jessica Kester, The Outdoor Classroom Program Manager, has contacted the Waterways in regards to the Who Works the Rivers. The Outdoor Classroom is a non-profit environmental education organization located in Pittsburgh's South Hills. They are working with RiverWorks Discovery and the Port Authority of Pittsburgh this year to cover a few of the events that RiverQuest used to participate in. One of those events is the Who Works the Rivers event and we look forward to their participation in this important program. Industry members are invited and encouraged to attend as a speaker and/or a presenter. If any company is interesting in sponsoring these programs, they should contact Michael Graham directly.
- Tentative dates have been identified for the Man Overboard Seminar (July 14, 2016) and the Barge Breakaway Seminar (October 13, 2016). Plans are currently underway to confirm these dates.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel covered the following items:

- The USACE has extended the comment period on the Public Notice Recreational Boat Dock Monongahela River Mile 64.89 LDB to February 19, 2016. The proposal and location have been reviewed and appear to cause no navigational issues.
- The Marine Incident Summit has been scheduled for April 6, 2016 at the Ohio River Museum in Marietta, OH. More information will follow; however, members are encouraged to travel down early to spend some time in the Museum itself.
- Discussions concerning rehabilitation project for the Liberty Street Bridge continue as all involved parties voice interests and safety concerns regarding the current plans and how to mitigate associated risks.
- Repairs on the Vanport Bridge will yield an air draft reduction in clearance but should have no effect on navigation.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider provided the following report:

- The WCI annual meeting dates have been confirmed for March 14-16. The legislative visits will be held on March 15th. WAP attendees will include: Patrick Kelly, Brian Loring, Mike Somales, Daria Schwartz and William Porter. WCI will hold a prep session for the congressional visits on March 14th in the late afternoon. Meetings are also be hold with the Port of Pittsburgh and local USACE representatives to ensure a unified front and message.
- The President's FY2017 Budget was released yesterday and insured continued challenges based upon reduced proposed funding levels. Such items include:
 - A 29.8% cut in the US Army Corp of Engineer's Civil Works Program.
 - A 41.5% reduction for the Construction account.
 - A 13.8% decreased in Operations and Maintenance (O&M) account.
 - Implementation of a \$1.289 billion inland waterways user-fee.The budget is obviously disappointing but not entirely unexpected in this election year.
- House Transportation and Infrastructure Chair Bill Shuster continues to press for a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) this year. WCI is working closely with Congress in an effort to change the major rehabilitation threshold to \$50 million from the current \$20 million in order to better define and differentiate Corps' capital work from Operations & Maintenance activities. Our biggest concern is the status of the Chief's report for the Upper Ohio River (Emsworth, Dashields and Montgomery) as it has currently been delayed and is rumored to be put on hold while additional economic studies are being conducted. It will be extremely important to get the Upper Ohio Study recommendations included in WRDA 2016.
- The Inland Waterway User Board meeting will be held in Pittsburgh on April 1st. The meeting is a public meeting and strong participation during this meeting is encouraged.
- The AWO 2016 Spring Convention, Annual Membership Meeting, and Barge-In will be held April 19-21, 2016 in Washington DC. These meetings and visits are very similar to the WCI meeting.

Additional Comments

Dick Ehringer recognized the committee efforts in the closure reductions in the revised 2016/2017 Corp Repairs and Maintenance Schedule.

March Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2016 at Chartiers Country Club (601 Baldwin Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15205).

PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE IN THE 2016 MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON FEE:

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, March 3, 2016 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

March 9, 2016

Menu:

Mixed Field Greens w/Chartiers Crouton - Balsamic Vinaigrette
Salmon broiled with white wine and served with cucumber dill sauce
Rice Pilaf
Double Chocolate Layer Cake
Ice Tea, Hot Tea or Coffee

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, March 3, 2016** to:

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