

July Highlights

Michael Graham, President, WAP welcomed members and special guests to our “Annual Picnic” meeting aboard the Gateway Clipper, Princess. Forty were registered, including one of the four Pittsburgh Maritime Association Scholarship awardees. Mathew Lacek, and his parents Daniel and Kelly Lacek attended the luncheon. Daria Schwartz, President of PMA awarded Matthew with his well-deserved \$2,000 scholarship. See a photo in our **Gallery**.

Also welcomed was CDR Eric J. Velez, of the USCG. CDR Velez has moved to Pittsburgh from Hawaii and assumed the duties of former CDR Demo. A formal change-of-command ceremony was held at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden on July 1st to commemorate this important change. CDR Velez took a moment to thank us for his first invitation to a Waterways membership meeting and advised he looks forward to growing a strong relationship with WAP membership and wants very much to be active with WAP. See a photo from the change-of command event in our **Gallery**.

COL Andrew J. Short of the USACE attended his final membership luncheon as he is retiring. COL Short spoke to the members and said he very much enjoyed his three years in Pittsburgh. He stated he felt the Port of Pittsburgh and Waterways Association were a positive and strong force tying together the USACE, USCG and Industry. He thanked everyone for their time, participation, and friendships. A farewell reception for COL Short is planned at the Heintz History Center on July 29. COL Adam J. Czekanski will be assuming the leadership role in Pittsburgh.

Newly appointed Chief, Vincent DeCarlo was also welcomed and congratulated on his new role at the USACE.

Michael also made note that recently a Board Member had resigned his seat and Michael Kidd of Crouse Corporation had been appointed by the Board of Directors to fill the seat for the duration of the term ending in 2021. See an updated listing of Officers and Board members in our **Officers** page.

Finally, on July 15 the Waterways Association surprised former Executive Director Cheryll Cranmer with a casual dinner party at Anthony’s Coal Fire Grill in Cranberry Township. It has been almost a year since Cheryll had resigned her position and this was the first opportunity to have an in-person event with her, she was surprised! Several current and past WAP members attended and presented Cheryll with a gift as a thank you, and remembrance of her 20+ years of service to the WAP. See a photo in our **Gallery**.

Coast Guard News

LT James Dunbar, USCG, provided the **attached report**.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel, Vice President, WAP, started by thanking COL Short for his good work while in Pittsburgh. David felt COL Short’s work in Pittsburgh had been positive especially relating to communication between the USACE and Industry.

Additionally, the following report was provided:

- Area Rivers have been fluctuating all month, no high-water events.
- NTNI and Priority Lockage Form were sent out to Industry for the upcoming Montgomery outage. The only change to the form was it must be submitted 36 hours prior to arrival. Information below.

Priority Lockage requests must be made 36 hours prior to arrival of tow. Request are based on life-sustaining needs, guidelines are listed below. As is past practice, request forms will be sent to me to be reviewed by the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Navigation Committee.

- Home Heating Oil
- Public Health and Medical Services
- Petroleum (Gas/Diesel) for public consumption

Upcoming Lock outages and their impacts on Industry 2021

Braddock Lock 2 Mon Mile 11.2: July 26 @ 0600 thru Jul 28 @ 0600 This was not on the schedule, but it needs done. Brian McFarland from COE called to describe the work, the Navigation Committee requested that they start the work during the beginning of the Montgomery outage. During this outage, the contractor will be de-energizing the lock in order to complete final electrical work associated with the newly installed interlock controls thus shutting down both chambers for 48 hours. I reached out to those mostly impacted including USX. If they can shorten the outage, they will communicate that to Industry as soon as they can. This will be a total closure of both chambers for 48 hours.

Montgomery OR Mile 31: 7/26-8/24, Primary Chamber, major delays expected.

Braddock Lock 2 Mon Mile 11.2: 9/13-10/15, Primary Chamber for 3 weeks, significant delays expected.

Willow Island OR Mile 161: 10/1-31, Primary Chamber, delays expected.

Montgomery OR Mile 31: 10/18-12/17, Primary Chamber, major delays expected.

Legislative Committee Report

Shane Checkan, Board Member, WAP and Assistant Chair of the Legislative Committee provided the following Report:

FY22 APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS STATUS IN THE HOUSE

On Monday July 12th the House Appropriations subcommittee on Energy and Water Development (E&WD) approved the top-line funding for the COE FY 2022. The subcommittee passed a vote by voice, with the full House committee to mark up the bill on Friday, July 16th.

- Overall proposed funding for the Corps is \$8.66 billion, an increase of \$1.1 billion above FY21's appropriated level, and \$1.9 billion above the President's FY22 budget request.
- The Corps' Investigations account funding is \$155 million, \$2 million above the FY21 enacted level and \$49.2 million above the FY22 request.
- Funding for the Construction account is \$2.6 billion, an increase of \$799.4 million above FY22's budget request.
- Funding for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) is \$4.8 billion, an increase of \$967.3 million above FY21 and \$500 million above the Administration's request.
- Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) projects are proposed to receive an estimated \$2.05 billion, \$370 million above the FY21 enacted level and an increase of \$424.1 million above the Administration's request.
- The Subcommittee also approved the list of Community Project Funding (formerly known as earmarks) that included \$22.5 million in Construction funding for the Navigation and

Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP). The project funding was requested by Representatives Bustos (D-IL), Hinson (R-IA), Graves (R-MO), and Luetkemeyer (R-MO).

- The House did not yet release funding information for Inland Waterways Trust Fund Construction and Major Rehab projects.

Overall, the FY22 Senate Appropriations are dragging on at a much slower pace. The Subcommittee allocations are not yet set, nor have any markups of FY22 appropriations bill been scheduled on the Senate side.

Given where both sides are with the appropriations process, the WCI has advised us that they see virtually no chance the E&WD Appropriation bill will be enacted into law by September 30, 2021 (the end of the fiscal year). The WCI anticipates We anticipate that, again this year, Congress will enact a Continuing Resolution (CR) in late September that will fund the Corps (and the balance of the Federal government) at FY21 levels (with some exceptions) through the late Fall. Hopefully, there will be an agreement between the House, Senate and White House on an omnibus appropriations package for all FY22 appropriations bills (including the E&WD appropriations bill) at some point in the Fall – but it is too early to know for sure if, or when, that might happen.

Army Corp of Engineers

John P. Dilla of the USACE discussed the Montgomery Lock project is projected to take approximately 2 years to complete. Work being done is not just in the water but land construction as well. Completion is scheduled for 2023 and the priority is to have a main chamber that is more reliable. Construction scheduled during the October – December timeframe for Primary Chamber Gate Anchorage Repairs is painful but also necessary.

He also advised there is \$500K of additional funding “in-the-works” which would be used for maintenance programs.

In addition, John provided the **attached report**.

NOAA

Alicia Miller of NOAA advises recent rainfalls and squalls have had no major impact on the rivers. Future forecasting indicates a 60% chance of La Nina conditions for fall and winter. Please see the **attached report**.

Port of Pittsburgh

Go to the website for the latest news and events as provided by the Port of Pittsburgh: www.portpitt.com

Education Committee Report

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

- **Man Overboard Seminar** is scheduled for Friday, July 23, Clarion Inn, Belle Vernon
- **WAP will hold a second BAB Seminar** in 2021.
 - Thursday, October 21 at the Fez in Aliquippa.
 - This location will allow for waterfront training.
 - Details will be provided at a later date

Networking Committee

Shane Checkan, Board Member, WAP confirmed our next event will be the Golf outing on Friday September 17. Seven Oaks Country Club will be the venue for a second year, offering a challenging course. If weather permits, dinner will be served outdoors. Opportunities for Sponsorship are available. Look for details this week. Save the date!!

Carole Ann Krelow, Executive Director, WAP confirmed our final event for 2021 will be the Holiday Party. It will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe on Friday, December 10. Special room rates are available for those of you who would like to stay the night. Details to follow soon. Mark your calendar!

New Business

There was no new business to report.

August Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is:

Wednesday, August 11, Chartiers Country Club

- Check in is 11:30
- Lunch begins promptly at noon

Please email the attached response form, or you may call or text your response to Carole Ann Krelow, Executive Director at (724-991-0136) by *Friday, August 6* to reserve your space.



Member Luncheon Meeting Response Form

Chartiers Country Club

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Check in 11:30 until Noon

Lunch Begins Promptly at Noon!

Menu

Cole Slaw

Perogis & Brats

Fresh Sweet Corn Off-the-Cob

Apple Pie

Please note any Special Dietary Requirements: _____

Cost: \$30 per member

I will be attending:

Name

Company

Please respond to Carole Ann Krelow, Executive Director - by Friday, August 6

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

Cash, Checks or Master Card, Discover or Visa Accepted

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

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