

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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June 2017

www.wapgh.org

June Highlights

A total of (26) thirty-one members and guests were registered for the June 14, 2017 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. The following guests were introduced: John Perkun of WBCM and first-time attendee Dave Van Dyke of Campbell Transportation Company.

Coast Guard News

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

Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla covered the **attached** lock closure report.

National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci provided the following report:

- Members were introduced to the new logo and tagline for the Port of Pittsburgh. The website address is www.portpitt.com and our email addresses will be succinct with the website. The old website address and email are still functioning and all information will forward to the portpitt domain. Wall-to-Wall is working on graphics for letterhead, business cards and some informational flyers. In addition to our efforts with Wall-to-Wall, the PPC is going to run water safety ads on the radio, beginning on Monday, June 12, 2017 on WDVE. These ads will run throughout the day for the next three weeks. Throughout the summer, you will hear ads on WESA and KVE1. The Port hopes to change the message throughout the summer. Your feedback and ideas for messaging are welcome.
- The PPC has received an extension on the CMAQ grant. The program was set to expire on July 31, 2017 and it has been extended to September 30, 2020.
- The PPC hosted a press event for Senator Casey on Monday, June 12, 2017 aboard the M/V Princess, part of the Gateway Clipper Fleet. Senator Casey's message was the importance of funding the lower Mon Project in 2018. The President's budget only funded Olmsted. The PPC thanked Terry Wirginis and everyone who supported the event.
- In addition to our marketing efforts, the PPC is looking to partner with the Gateway Clipper Fleet and the National Waterway Foundation to put permanent displays on the docks telling our story of the importance of rivers to the public.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham was unable to attend. Pat McGuire provided the following:

- Man Overboard Seminar date is July 13, 2017. The Clarion Inn on Finley Road will host the classroom portion of the seminar. Following lunch, the group will move to the Mon-Vale HealthPlex for the In-Water Training.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel was unable to attend. Ryan Newton provided the following report:

- **Charleroi Outage/Full River closure**
 - Lock opened at 10AM on Tuesday, 3.5 days ahead of schedule.
- **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 was scheduled for 10 May @ 0900, update given at WAP meeting.
 - Podurgiel/Loring attended Forecast Communication and Discussion Meeting with National Weather Service, WPXI Meteorologist and members of PENDOT, etc.
 - Our 'ask' was to have the conditions of the river during High Water events broadcast during the daily weather reports on WPXI. Also, could WPXI offer a 'real time' app that mariners could use for changing river conditions? NOAA is going to provide apps info to help mariners, NWS Chat provides real time information, just a matter of people using it.
 - Information needs to reach rec boaters of our challenges during high water events, WPXI agreed and is already adding to their news programing.
 - A vessel trip with WPXI weather team is being planned to give better understanding of our challenges due to high/low water conditions and will spin the 'congested waterways' into the report.
- In light of Emsworth Lock outage being canceled due to Cannelton Lock issue there will be no further outages on the Mon/Upper Ohio for the remainder of the year. Next outage will be Lock 4 Allegheny from October 2-November 28. Replacement of Upstream/Downstream Miter Gate Seals. (full river closure)

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider provided the following report:

- There are mounting priorities to be handled in the near term in the Nation's capital, including the need for Congress to address the

expiring debt ceiling before the August recess, the continued need to fill Administration slots, and the requirement to provide FY2018 funding for the Federal government by October 1st.

- The FY2018 appropriations process continues with the House Appropriations Committee starting to roll out the 12 individual appropriations bills. The Senate has a June 28th hearing on the FY2018 Corps budget scheduled in the Senate Environment & Public Works (E&PW) Committee. For the Corps, the President's FY2018 budget request proposed \$5.02 billion for Civil Works, which is \$382 million above President Obama's FY2017 request but more than \$1 billion less than the FY17 enacted level. The budget request included \$1.02 billion for the Construction account, which is \$736 million less than the FY17 enacted amount, and no new starts were recommended. A highlight in the budget request was the highest-ever request of \$3.1 billion for the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) account. The FY2018 request also includes a recycled user-fee proposal - similar proposals in the past have been rejected by the Congress and not supported by industry.
- Congress is still working on how to proceed with an FY2018 Budget Resolution. At this stage with FY2018 funding, it appears that a Continuing Resolution will be needed to keep the Federal government running past October 1.
- Last week was the Administration's "Infrastructure Week", designed to highlight various aspects of the Nation's infrastructure needs. It began last Monday with the President proposing to privatize the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic control system. Last Thursday, he met with governors and mayors to discuss aligning the Administration's infrastructure policies with the specific needs of the states. The President said he plans to work with state and local governments on his \$1 trillion infrastructure plan to be funded by \$200 billion from direct Federal investment matched by "significant additional dollars". No specifics were provided concerning sources of non-direct Federal funding.
- There is still no current nomination for the Secretary of the Army, or for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.
- Congressional committee on both sides of the Capitol recently cleared legislation reauthorizing the US Coast Guard and Federal Maritime Commission for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019. Title VIII of the Senate bill is consistent with the version of the Commercial Vessel Incidental Discharge Act approved by the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation in January.

Rich reminded all members to keep in touch with their local representatives to encourage passage of important waterway legislation.

July Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 12, 2017 aboard the Gateway Clipper Fleet M/V Princess**. The boat will remain docked during this meeting. 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, July 5th if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Gateway Clipper Fleet M/V Princess

July 12, 2017 @ Noon

Picnic Luncheon Menu:

Kansas City BBQ Ribs
Grilled Chicken Breast Sandwich served w/lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise
Corn on the Cobb w/Lime and Cilantro
Quarter Cut Potato Wedges w/melted cheddar and smoky bacon
Hannah's Famous Macaroni
Broccoli & Cauliflower Salad
Pound Cake with fresh Strawberries and Whipped Topping
Coffee, hot tea and soda

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, July 5, 2017** to:

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