

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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June 2018

www.wapgh.org

June Highlights

A total of (33) thirty-three members and guests were registered for the June 13, 2018 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. First-time attendees: Scott Lynn of US Steel and John Nugent of Heartland Fabrication were introduced.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel provided the following report:

- On May 24th at there was a barge breakaway from Gulf Materials fleet, a total of 15 barges broke loose, 2 sank. Recovery operations commenced on 5/26 and the channel was cleared and open on May 29th.
- We had simultaneous Barge Breakaways on 1/13/18. 27 Barges from Jacks Run, Mile 2 Ohio and 38 from Bellaire Harbor. As of today, 3 barges are still sunk above Emsworth Lock, 1 in the back channel. A hydraulic grinder is now being used to break up the concrete in one of the barges.
- Brian Loring and I met with representatives at Lock 4 Charleroi on 5/22 to discuss potential changes to the outage, very productive. In a nut shell, starting 18 June, closed 5 days, open weekend no restrictions, closed 12 days, open weekend with restrictions (350 length), closed 12 days. If all goes planned and weather cooperates there is chance open a couple days early.
- Montgomery Large chamber outages starts 8/6-9/14. After last WAP meeting we had a round table discussion about the chamber opening the weekend of 9/1-4 with restrictions including no wheel wash over the sill. The risk of damaging the sill isn't worth getting a couple extra tows through so we agreed to just keep it closed and continue to lock through auxiliary chamber. We are meeting to finalize this Nav Notice after today's Waterways meeting.
- We are still awaiting forming a local joint industry/USACE task force to help address OUR issues and to better communication lines.
- The Huntington District will conduct a Marine Casualty meeting followed by their business meeting on 19 June, I plan to be in attendance for both.

Legislative Report

Dean Marlin provided the following report:

- **June 6 - The House passed the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)** providing the Army Corps of Engineer record funding authorization and latitude for working on locks and dams, dredging and other water resources program. The bill Including
 - Construction Account - \$2.3 billion (\$1.3 billion over Presidents FY19 budget request).
 - Operations and Maintenance Account increase to \$3.8 billion - \$700 million more than FY19 budget request.
 - Investigations Account receives \$128 million - \$45 million over the FY19 budget request.
 - Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund approved at \$1.6 billion - which was the WRRDA 2014 target.
 - Inland Waterways Trust Fund supported projects to receive full-use of the revenues.
 - Excludes the 10-year, \$1.037 billion user fee or Public Private Partnership tolling proposal as suggested by the Presidents FY19 budget - and strongly opposed by WCI
 - Directs the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to evaluate organizational structure of the Civil Works function of the USACE to identify impediments to efficient project delivery and recommend changes to congress.

The bill now moves to the senate (where a similar Senate version was marked up. WRDA is now considered a legislative priority).

- **June 8 - The House Approves FY2019 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill**
 - FY19 Energy and Water Development (E&WD) appropriations bill passed 235 to 179. It includes strong funding for the Corps at \$7.28 billion - \$451 million over FY18 appropriated funding.
- **The House also passes Rescissions Package - USACE Not Effected**

Which could null and void \$15 million of unspent funds from FY18. This will not impact the USACE funding program.
- **June 12 - Army Corp Releases FY 18 Work Plan**
 - The USACE released its FY18 Work Plan for their appropriated \$6.8 Billion of which \$4.6 Billion is statutorily targeted and approximately \$1.8 billion is at USACE own discretion. This is another year of record funding and funded projects have moved from historically 1 (Olmsted) to 5 projects (Olmsted \$175 million, Lower Mon \$98 million, as well as Kentucky Lock (\$39.5 million), Chickamauga (\$76.5 million) and LaGrange (new - rehabilitation - \$10 million).
 - For first time the work plan allows the USACE to authorize a non-federal sponsor to assume responsibility for construction - even with the corps' share of the cost.

- **Infrastructure Bill (\$1 Trillion Administrative Proposal)**
 - During May there was very little movement on this \$1 trillion proposal. The Administration does not expect movement till end of year.
 - Several House leaders are working on concepts to put forward later in 2018 - but discussions on funding are "out of their jurisdiction".
 - On 5.25 Politico reported that the proposal is going nowhere - so Congress has turned to moving infrastructure related bills through traditional reauthorization process (like FAA and WRDA) which could indicate that political will to legislate infrastructure is lacking.
 - Recently the House Transportation Committee inquiring as to what others would want to see in a infrastructure bill - "even though no one expects such a thing to come together before the November election" ... However, with WRDA and FAA bills almost accomplished some expect more conversation on infrastructure soon.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission

Mary Ann Bucci presented the following:

- Special thanks were extended to all the National Safe Boating Day sponsors. It was an exciting and informational day.
- Mary Ann has been invited to testify before the Senate Finance Committee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 in Washington D.C.
- The PPC is hosting a press conference for Senator Bob Casey at the Braddock Lock & Dam on July 9, 2018 at 10:30 AM. He will address the 2018 workplan for the Lower Mon Project and the need of the inland waterways system and the river's importance to SW Pennsylvania. Information is forthcoming.
- On June 23, Vice President Pence will be attending a fundraiser for Representative Keith Rothfus.
- The PPC will be working on an Economic Impact Study for the inland waterways system in Pittsburgh and the region's importance to the national system.

Coast Guard News

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

Army Corp of Engineers

Mark Ivanisin covered the **attached** lock closure report.

National Weather Service

Alicia Miller covered the **attached** report.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham reported that the Man Overboard Seminar date has changed to Friday, July 20th. The location for this training is being confirmed and details should be sent out to the membership next week.

July Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 11, 2018 aboard the Gateway Clipper Fleet's Princess. 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 Thursday, July 5, 2018 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

****PLEASE NOTE: ANYONE TRAVELING FROM THE NORTH TO CHARTIERS COUNTRY CLUB WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE BALDWIN ROAD CLOSURE. THIS CLOSURE WILL THROUGH OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR. SPECIAL DIRECTIONS WILL BE INCLUDED IN ALL COMMUNICATION FOR MEETINGS HELD AT CHARTIERS COUNTRY CLUB.**

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Gateway Clipper Fleet's Princess
July 11, 2018 @ Noon

Picnic Menu:

Kansas City BBQ Ribs
Grilled Chicken Breast Sandwich
Corn on the Cobb
Quarter Cut Potato Wedges with Melted Cheddar & Smokey Bacon
Hannah's Famous Macaroni Salad
Broccoli & Cauliflower Salad
Pound Cake with Fresh Strawberries and Whipped Topping
Coffee, 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 Thursday, July 5, 2018** to:

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