

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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May 2015

www.wapgh.org

May Highlights

A total of (twenty-six) 26 members were registered for the May 13, 2015 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. Dan Lacek welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Coast Guard News

CDR Lindsay Weaver notified attendees that MSU Pittsburgh was losing LT Eric Jesionowski, their Prevention Department Head in June. He is headed out to Fort Lauderdale to lead the Coast Guard's Cruise Ship Inspection Center of Expertise. In the interim, LT Devin Adams will provide continuity for the Prevention Department until the new Prevention Department Head, LT Eduardo Valdez arrives in July.

Lt. Devin Adams covered the **attached** report.

- All U.S. Coast Guard units are taking increased unit security measures and have implemented Force Protection Condition Bravo measures - we are encouraging all military personnel to remain vigilant. The Coast Guard is also encouraging mariners, including vessel and facility operators who maintain Coast Guard approved security plans, to remain alert, ensure their security procedures are in place, and to report any suspicious activity to the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard adjusts unit security procedures as deemed necessary. Such decisions can be made out of an abundance of caution or in response to specific threats. At this time, there are no known credible or specific threat against Coast Guard personnel, facilities, or the maritime industry. The Coast Guard is NOT raising maritime security levels.

Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla covered the **attached** report.

- The United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) has issued a Force Protection Directive to increase U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) security posture to Force Protection Condition (FPCON) BRAVO at USACE Civil Works projects until further notice. This increase in Force Protection will include changes in mail handling and towboat crew change procedures conducted on USACE Louisville District property as follows:

Towboat's and crew's mail and packages, will not be handled by USACE employees. Tow companies are to notify the locks before

their company personnel may bring packages/mail and deliver them onto the boat after bearing a valid Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) card to USACE personnel.

Towboat Crew Changes on USACE property will require that Tow companies notify the locks in advance, and crew members are required to show USACE personnel a valid Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) card before being allowed to utilize USACE property crew changes.

National Weather Service

Lee Hendricks covered the **attached** report.

Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci covered the following information:

- The WRRDA Bill was the mechanism by which the Allegheny River Development Corp (ARDC) was able to enter into an agreement with the USACE. WRRDA allows for contributory funds. The ARDC was able to raise the funds needed through the Commonwealth of PA's multi-modal funds and raising the match with private donations. The leadership in our region was instrumental in getting WRRDA through the House and Senate.
- The Port of Pittsburgh Commission has issued a *Request for Proposal* for a Business Case Study for the Wireless Waterway. The case study will review the progress made to date and look at future possibilities of the project.
- CMAQ contracts for FY2014/2015 will be sent out early June.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham was unable to attend the luncheon due to recent surgery. Members can contact Mike by email at mgraham@gatewayclipper.com or at his home address of 216 Munsey Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15227.

Daria confirmed that the "Who Works the Rivers" program held on April 16, 2015 had over 100 student. It hosted the Consortium for Public Education and the TFIM (the future is mine). The next program will be held in October.

The Man Overboard Seminar has been scheduled for July 16th at the MonVale Health Plex and details will be forwarded to the membership closer to the seminar date.

Navigation Committee Report

Eunice Ratcliff provided the following report:

- The US Army Corp of Engineers and US Coast Guard are taking increased unit security measures and have implemented Force Protection Condition Bravo measures as stated in above report summaries.
- Priority Lockage Criteria from has been established and will be sent out to the membership to explain this procedure.

- The two closures scheduled for the Emsworth Lock & Dam were discussed. The first closure from June 8 - July 10 will be a full closure. The second closure from August 3 - September 18 will have supply windows of two to three days scheduled. More details will be made available when all the details are confirmed.
- There is some outdated data in the Corp Chart Book regarding the Port Perry Bridge Pool should be 11 feet not 9 feet.

Legislative Committee Report

Richard Kreider provided the following report:

- **ATTENDED AWO SPRING MEETING AND PARTICIPATED IN THE ANNUAL BARGE-IN**
The 13th Annual AWO Barge-In, held on April 15, set a record for both the number of AWO members participating and the number of meetings with Congressional offices. Over 150 AWO members met with 187 lawmakers and staff, pressing for support regarding the following items:
 - Support for the Jones Act
 - National Standard for Vessel Discharges
 - Ensure Waterways Reliability with regard to a science based approach in the development of policies to prevent invasive species movement. These policies must allow commerce to move unimpeded while ensuring high standards of environmental protection.
- I led a group this year with Dave Podurgiel and Bill Barr. Our group made 7 PA and WV office visits which included; Senator's Casey, Toomey, Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito and House Representative's Rothfus, Perry and McKinley. Overall the PA and WV folks were very supportive regarding our agenda and for the most part pledged continued support for the Inland Waterways. We also used the opportunity to press for increase in the funding levels from the President's proposed budget for the Corp's Construction account, O&M and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.
- **RECORD-HIGH FY '16 HOUSE E&WD APPROPRIATIONS BILL**
On May 1, the House of Representatives approved the FY '16 Energy & Water Development Appropriations bill (E&WD) by a vote of 240 to 177. The bill would significantly increase funding for the Corps of Engineers' Civil Works Program. The bill includes:
 - \$5.637 billion for the Corps' Civil Works mission, which adds \$905 million to the Administration's request and increases the Corps' FY 2015 appropriation by \$182 million.
 - \$1.634 billion of funding for the Construction account, which is 40% above the Administration's requested level. Within the Construction account, \$340 million would be made available for Inland Waterways Trust Fund priority navigation projects, which Appropriations Committee leaders say expends full use of revenues into that fund. The industry is still pushing for an additional \$20 million as we expect the new fuel fee will generate approx. \$360 million.
 - \$3.094 billion of funding for the Corps' Operations & Maintenance (O&M) account. This is the highest ever included in an annual appropriation bill, and the third consecutive

year of record-level O&M funding. It is nearly \$390 million higher than the Administration's FY '16 requested level.

- \$1.25 billion for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) for FY2016, which is \$150 million or 14% higher than last year's \$1.1 billion, and well above the \$915 million that the Administration requested for the HMTF.

WCI recognized the leadership of House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY), and Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson (R-ID) for their efforts in getting this bill passed.

- We anticipate that the Senate will release its Energy & Water Development Appropriations bill later this month and move it through the Senate in June. Everyone is encouraged to reach out to your Senators to call for high FY '16 funding for the Corps' Civil Works mission within the Senate Energy & Water Development Appropriations bill. If you go to WCI's website at <http://waterwayscouncil.org> and click on the "Take Action Now!" button on the right side of the screen they have a tool that helps you quickly put together a letter to your Senators.

- **UONS, CHARLEROI LAND CHAMBER AND PORT PERRY BRIDGE UPDATE**

I spoke with Jeanine Hoey (USCOE) and confirmed the following:

- Gen Peabody challenged the impact of a full and/or partial closure at the locks and its impact on the BCR at the current 7% discount rate and adjusted it via an addendum to the report. They are drafting a document defining the scope of the addendum and want to finish the work in time for WRDA 2016.
- The land chamber at Charleroi has not been deauthorized (only Congress can do that) but rather deferred. They will have 7 years to address the issue if it is not funded by then. This keeps the project in the original 1991 \$500 million range and within the 902b cap (20% of the base + inflation).
- It appears the Port Perry bridge height requirements will be reduced if no credible objections are received during the public comment period.

- **BUDGET RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

For the first time in 10 years, Congress has adopted a budget resolution. The House and Senate first passed their separate versions of budget resolutions for FY '16 and then last week, the Senate adopted the conference report on the budget resolution by a vote of 51 to 48. The budget gives guidance to appropriators for developing funding bills, including for the Corps of Engineers.

- **IWUB MEETS THURSDAY IN GALVESTON**

The 75th meeting of the Inland Waterways Users Board (IWUB) will take place on Thursday, May 14 in Galveston, Texas.

- **U.S. COAST GUARD COMMANDANT ADM PAUL ZUKUNFT**

Commandant ADM Paul Zukunft was the keynote speaker at the Board of Directors meeting. ADM Zukunft discussed his priorities for the Coast Guard, including thwarting transnational criminal networks, safeguarding U.S. interests in the Arctic, implementing an

effective cybersecurity strategy, and facilitating the American energy renaissance.

- **NEW AWO CHAIRMAN**

David Sehrt (Ingram) replaced Frank Morton (Turn Services) as the AWO Chairman

Other Comments

Dan Lacey reported on the following board activities:

- Committee rosters have now been updated:
 - Health, Safety, Training & Education
 - Chair - Mike Graham
 - Committee: Daria Schwartz
 - **Still seeking additional members that wish to serve
 - Navigation
 - Chair - Eunice Ratcliff
 - Committee: Brian Loring and Ryan Newton
 - Legislative
 - Chair - Rich Kreider
 - Committee: David McQuiston and Patrick Kelly
 - Membership
 - Chair - Gretchen Chamberlain
- At the April board meeting, a Strategic Planning Committee was established. This committee will be charged with looking for opportunities to grow the association.
 - Chair - David McQuiston
 - Committee: James Guttman, Patrick Kelly and Rich Kreider

Mary Ann Bucci reported that the Pittsburgh Maritime Club is sponsoring a tour of the Carrie Furnace and a luncheon at Rock Bottom Restaurant on Thursday, June 18. A detailed flyer will be emailed to the Waterways membership.

The Corps of Engineers has approved a proposal to expand the statistical boundaries of the Port of Cincinnati. Now officially known as the "Ports of Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky," the port district includes a 226.5-mile reach of the Ohio River, plus a seven-mile reach of the Licking River. The district includes all or part of 15 counties in Kentucky and Ohio. Previously, the Port of Cincinnati covered just a 26-mile corridor, and about 12 million tons of cargo moved over the port's docks per year; the district was ranked as the 51st largest port in the United States. With the new boundaries, the expanded port district moves about 48 million tons, ranking it 15th among all U.S. ports and No. 2 among U.S. inland ports, behind only the Port of Huntington Tri-State, which underwent a similar statistical expansion several years ago. *As noted by officials, this also increases funding for the area due to increased tonnage.

David Podurciel shared details regarding a recent visit by the PA Coal Alliance held on one of Murray's towing vessels. This visit provided great waterway educational opportunities.

June Membership Meeting

The *next* membership meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2015 at Bella Sera. Cost of the luncheon will be \$25. Registration will begin at 11:45 a.m. Please call, email or fax the response form below by Thursday, June 4, 2015 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Bella Sera

June 10, 2015

Menu:

Radicchio Salad w/balsamic vinaigrette & Buttermilk Ranch
Chef's Vegetable Choice
Au Gratin Potatoes
Fork Tender Beef w/rosemary horseradish cream
Fresh Baked Caramel Apple Walnut Pie

Cost: *\$25/per member*

_____ YES, I will be attending

_____ No, I will not be attending

****Special Dietary Requirements:** _____

NAME: _____
(Please print)

COMPANY: _____

Please respond **by Thursday, June 4, 2015** to:

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