

# Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

P.O. Box 534, Lyndora, PA 16045  
Phone: 724-355-4101 Fax: 724-285-4999  
Email: [cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org](mailto:cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org)

November 2014

[www.wapgh.org](http://www.wapgh.org)

## November Highlights

A total of (thirty-four) 34 members and guests were registered for the November 12, 2014 luncheon meeting at Chartiers Country Club. Due to the Executive Director's travel, the presentations were submitted early for insertion into the newsletter.

## Coast Guard News

CDR Lindsay Weaver covered the **attached** report.

## Army Corp of Engineers

John Dilla covered the **attached** report.

## National Weather Service

Joe Palko covered the **attached** report.

## Port of Pittsburgh Commission Report

Mary Ann Bucci covered the following information:

The Port of Pittsburgh Commission will be highlighting two important topics of interest. The first will be on the Upper Ohio Study and the second will be on an LNG Conference we hosted late last month.

- Steve Martinko testified in front of the USACE Civil Works Review Board last month in regards to the Upper Ohio Study. There were two significant points to summarize: (a) this is not a case of, if we build it and they will come, and, (b) this is not a local issue, but a national issue. The testimony on The Upper Ohio Study was well received, and, unanimously approved by the Civil Works Review Board. A Chief's report is expected in January 2015. General Peabody valued the testimony and thanked the PPC. We appreciate all the stakeholders who worked with the PPC to get this done. We also praise the USACE for all their hard work. Once the report is finalized, we work on an authorization plan to push through Congress. We look forward to working with everyone to get this done. The only industry stakeholders invited to testify at the hearing were Steve Martinko, PPC and Marty Hettel, AEP River Operations.
- The PPC is conducting a study that looks at an initiative to build a natural gas marine corridor that extends from the Morgantown area

in West Virginia through Pennsylvania and down the Ohio River to Huntington, WV. The ultimate goal of this effort will be to expand the potential of natural gas as a replacement for diesel fuel for the operators on the inland waterways. On October 24, 2014, we hosted a one-day conference at the Allegheny County Community College West Campus. This conference was intended to facilitate dialogue among the stakeholder organizations toward the development of a strategic plan.

### **Education Committee Report**

Michael Graham reported on the following:

- The fall who works the rivers was another success with 61 students from 2 schools. We were a bit disappointed with the turn out from industry but we did have enough for a full program. The schools were very happy with the presentation and have both voiced interest in returning.
- The spring 2015 who works the rivers looks like it will once again be hosting the consortium for public education and the TFIM (the future is mine) group, so we are looking for member companies willing to come and speak with students.
- The Barge breakaway was also a huge success with 54 attendees for both portions. The managerial side was very informative with the coast guard, national weather service, and Army Corps of Engineers all giving excellent presentations. The Hands on portion was also very informative also with Deanne Orr giving an informative talk on procedures and safety. Once we have dates for the events for next year, we will get them out to members.

### **Navigation Committee Report**

Eunice Ratcliff reported on the following:

#### **OCTOBER 9, 2014**

##### ***E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:***

Within the U.S. Coast Guard Eighth District alone, marine casualty data indicates that over the past 12 years, 44 recreational vessels have struck (allided) moored barges within barge fleets, resulting in 26 fatalities and 44 injuries.

These serious incidents involving barges highlight the critical need for barge operators to properly display navigation lights in accordance with the Inland Navigation Rules. As with all marine casualty investigations, the Coast Guard seeks to identify the specific causal factors involved in each incident, including whether the involved barge fleets are sufficiently lit. The Coast Guard would like to take this opportunity to remind barge operators of their obligation to meet current barge lighting regulations. Furthermore, these tragic casualties are a strong warning to recreational boaters of the dangers associated with operating near and around barge fleets.

In July 2014, the Coast Guard published changes to the Inland Navigation Rules. This included amending Rule 30 "Vessels anchored, aground, and moored barges" to incorporate barge lighting requirements previously located in other regulations, including requirements for an unobstructed white light of sufficient intensity to be visible for at least 1 nautical mile.

The Coast Guard urges owners and operators of barge fleets to complete the following actions:

- Review fleet lighting procedures to ensure that barges are sufficiently lit and operated in accordance with the Inland Navigation Rules<sup>1</sup>, including technical requirements as prescribed in Annex I, as well as any applicable area-specific regulations in 33 CFR Parts 162 and 165. 2
- Ensure that barge fleets remain in compliance with permits issued by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to 33 CFR Parts 320 through 332, and/or regional issuing authorities.

The Coast Guard also strongly recommends that owners and operators of all vessels, including recreational vessels, remain extra vigilant when operating boats during nighttime hours, times of reduced visibility, or when strong currents exist and when other navigational challenges posed by barge fleets are present.

This Safety Alert is provided for informational purposes only and does not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational or material requirement. It was developed by the U.S. Coast Guard Eighth Coast Guard District, New Orleans, LA. Questions may be addressed to LCDR Matt Denning, (504) 671-2152, or may be forwarded to [D08-DG-District-DPI@uscg.mil](mailto:D08-DG-District-DPI@uscg.mil).

1. The current version of the Navigation Rules can be found at [www.navcen.uscg.gov](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov).
2. Current versions of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) can be found at [www.ecfr.gov](http://www.ecfr.gov)

The alert can be viewed at [https://homeport.uscg.mil/cgi-bin/st/portal/uscg\\_docs/MyCG/Editorial/20141009/1114\\_2.pdf?id=3cde3753736e7174c95c3de92c45738c8c313656](https://homeport.uscg.mil/cgi-bin/st/portal/uscg_docs/MyCG/Editorial/20141009/1114_2.pdf?id=3cde3753736e7174c95c3de92c45738c8c313656)

#### **OCTOBER 10, 2014**

##### **MEETING:**

A meeting was held on Friday October 10, 2014 at the USACE William Moorhead Federal Building in downtown Pittsburgh concerning the South Shore Marina (Max Marina) Monongahela River, Left Bank, River Mile 2.6-2.75. The purpose of this meeting was to continue further discussions of the proposed marina and the focus of the meeting would be on the safety of the marina vs. the navigation community. The following individuals were present at the meeting:

- Scott Hans - USACE
- Dan Lacek - WAP Vice President - Incoming President
- David Podurgiel - Murray Energy
- Kathy Griffith - USACE (Representing Col. Lindstrom)
- Larry Darnell - Campbell Transportation
- Deane Orr - Search Light Safety
- Jack Setton - Engineer for Applicant
- David Maxwell - Applicant
- George Brkovich - USACE
- Eunice Ratcliff - WAP Navigation Committee Chair
- David McQuiston - WAP President (arrived towards the latter part of the meeting)

The group was unable to come to an agreement. The meeting was concluded and the following would occur:

- The applicant could maintain the current marina application permit proposal and the USACE would address the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh's request for additional time per their letter dated September 24, 2014.
- The applicant will submit a new proposal with a reduction in width. The USACE will allow a (7) seven day comment period for industry to review and submit comments on the revised marina permit application.

**October 13, 2014**

**MEETING:**

A meeting was held with Peter Stephaich, Stephen Martinko, Richard Kreider, and Michael Somaes to discuss the WAP support of the ACOE proposal of LMA7

**OCTOBER 14, 2014**

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:**

We will be experiencing our first widespread rainfall and river rise of the season Wednesday and Thursday.  
See attachment for graphics of specific projections.

- Heightened awareness as this is first significant rise of the season
- Rain will move into the region after sunset Tuesday (Oct 14) and linger into Wednesday Afternoon (Oct 15)
- Period of heaviest rain 11pm Tuesday night- 7am Wednesday morning
- Projected rainfall: 2.00" Mon Basin / 1.50" Allegheny Basin / 1.25" Ohio Basin
- Grays Landing 14.9 feet -Wednesday evening (Near Action Stage)
- Parsons 8.9 feet - Wednesday
- Monongahela 3 to 7 foot rise
- Youghiogheny 3 to 5 foot rise
- Ohio 2 to 3 foot
- Allegheny 1 to 2 foot rise
- No flood stages are forecast.
- Pittsburgh projected to stay in pool (below 18 feet)
- Flows/velocities will increase rapidly Wednesday compared to recent weeks

For further information contact the NWS Pittsburgh 24 hours a day at 412-262-1583.

**October 16, 2014**

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:**

Monongahela River Lock 4 is currently in the WATCH phase of the Waterways Action Plan due to a 12.0' gate opening. MSU Pittsburgh has issued the following safety marine information broadcast:

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:**

**Safety Marine Information Broadcast**

THE U.S. COAST GUARD CAPTAIN OF THE PORT HAS ISSUED THIS SAFETY ADVISORY DUE TO HIGH WATER / HIGH FLOW CONDITIONS AT LOCK AND DAM 4, MILE MARKER 41.5 MONONGAHELA RIVER. THE GATE OPENING IS READING GREATER THAN 8 FEET. EXERCISE CAUTION WHILE DOUBLE LOCKING THROUGH LOCK 4.

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:**

See attached or go to

<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Portals/72/docs/regulatory/2014%20Public%20Notices/PN%2014-37%20Revised.pdf> for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District Revised Public Notice 14-37 - Monongahela River Mile 2.4 - 2.75 LDB - Marina Construction Application. Comment period ends October 26, 2014.

**October 17, 2014**

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:**

Monongahela River Mile 1.0 - Underwater Bridge Pier Inspections will be conducted Monday & Tuesday October 21-22, 2014

Try Street Railroad Bridge (Port Authority Transit Bridge): Divers will be conducting underwater pier inspections during daylight hours. Approximately 10 hours each day. The channel will be cleared upon request by contacting the Infrastructure Dive Boat via VHF radio Channel 16.

**October 20, 2014**

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:**

REMINDER: The Allegheny River Mile Marker 0.0 - 0.1 will be closed to navigation tonight, Monday October 20, 2014, from 2000 - 2030 for the Pittsburgh Steeler Fireworks Display

**October 23, 2014:**

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:**

Hannibal Locks and Dam will be closed to Navigation for (4) four hours from 10:00 to 14:00 on Friday October 24, 2014. For additional information please see attached Notice to Navigation Interests or to view online visit:  
<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NavigationNotices.aspx>

**October 23, 2014**

**COMMENT SUBMITTED:**

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh submitted a comment on Public Notice 14-37 (REVISED) Proposed construction of a marina at Monongahela River, Left Bank, River Mile 2.4 - 2.75, City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**October 24, 2014**

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:**

Pittsburgh Repair Fleet Schedule Meeting Announcement:  
Please reference the attached proposal of the Fiscal Year 2015 Pittsburgh Repair Fleet Schedule and a draft of the upcoming Fiscal Year 2016 Repair Fleet Schedule. The Pittsburgh District Corps of Engineers will host a joint meeting of the Corps of Engineers and River Recreation Users Summit (CERRUS), the Corps of Engineers Waterways Association Action Group (CEWAAG) and other navigation stakeholders at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at the USACE PEWARS Facility located at 3500 Grand Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15225-1512.

The purpose of the meeting will be to review and discuss the FY2015 Repair Fleet Schedule. We will also have an opportunity to review a draft of the FY2016 schedule.

Discussions will focus on impacts to navigation and potential courses of action available to mitigate adverse impacts to our stakeholders as we continue to maintain our aging infrastructure.

Please feel free to forward to anyone who is not on the email list. If you receive a forwarded copy and wish to be added to the email distribution list, please contact me at the number below.

If you cannot attend in person, please use the teleconference number provided below:

Telephone 1-888-675-2535

Access code - 4929488

Pass code - 5528

Please RSVP via email to me not later than Tuesday, October 28, 2014.

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:**

After Action Review Meeting Announcement

We will have an After Action Review of the Dashields and Montgomery Main Chamber Outages immediately following the USACE Pittsburgh District FY20145 Repair Fleet Schedule Review (See trailing e-mail) for those that are interested. The purpose of this meeting is to review with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Industry

what we did best and what can be improved upon in regards to the Dashields & Montgomery main chamber outages and the industry self-help program.

If you cannot attend in person, please use the teleconference number provided below:

Telephone 1-888-675-2535

Access code - 4929488

Pass code - 5528

PLEASE RSVP VIA EMAIL TO [Donald.B.Fogel@usace.army.mil](mailto:Donald.B.Fogel@usace.army.mil) NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014.

**October 29, 2014**

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:**

Broadcast Notice to Mariners:

R 281900Z OCT 14FM COGARD MSU PITTSBURGH PATO COMCOGARD SECTOR OHIO VALLEY LOUISVILLE KYBTUNCLAS //N16600//SUBJ: REQUEST BROADCAST NOTICE TO MARINERS BEGINNING 0400 LOCAL ON 29OCT 2014 AND ENDING AT 0400 LOCAL ON 01 NOV 2014THE CAPTAIN OF THE PORT PITTSBURGH ADVISES ALL MARINERS THAT A 260FOOT BARGE IS MOORED PERPENDICULAR TO THE LEFT DESCENDING BANK OF THEOHIO RIVER AT MILE 119.5. THE BARGE IS CONDUCTING UNLOADINGOPERATIONS AND WILL REMAIN MOORED AFTER SUNSET DISPLAYING PROPERLIGHTING. MARINERS SHOULD TRANSIT THE AREA WITH CAUTION. U.S. COASTGUARD SECTOR OHIO VALLEY WILL BE STANDING BY ON VHF-FM CHANNEL 16.BTNNNN

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:**

Nav Notice 14-56

Date: October 27, 2014

Birmingham Highway Bridge Rehabilitation over the Monongahela River, RM 2.3

To view see attached or go to:

<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NavigationNotices.aspx>

**E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:**

Morgantown Lock and Dam closure extended through 2300 on November 12, 2014. This will extend the total river closure through November 12, 2014. To view see attached or go to:

<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NavigationNotices.aspx>

**REPAIR PARTY MEETING REVIEW:**

I attended a meeting Wednesday October 29, 2014 at PEWARS on Neville Island in Pittsburgh with the ACOE, CERRUS, CEWAAG and other navigation stakeholders to discuss the attached proposal of the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Pittsburgh Repair Fleet Schedule with the Pittsburgh District Corps of Engineers.

Listed below are the revisions discussed and the tentative plan that was agreed upon. I will forward the approved 2015 Pittsburgh Repair Fleet Schedule once it is published. Please note items in bold: The Monongahela Lock 4 Project will CLOSE THE RIVER TO ALL NAVIGATION and there will be significant delays involved with the Emsworth Lock & Dam Project. We were able to work with the ACOE to schedule various weekend openings (some with width restrictions) to move traffic and alleviate the queue to some extent.

Also note, the land chamber repairs at Maxwell and the auxiliary chamber repairs at Lock 3 on the Monongahela run concurrently. Minimal impacts to navigation are expected. In the event the work to the river chamber at Maxwell is not complete (allowing full operation of the river chamber) prior to the scheduled April 2015 repairs of the land chamber, the land chamber repairs will be rescheduled.

06OCT14 - 12NOV14 HAS BEEN EXTENDED THROUGH NOVEMBER 12, 2014. (I have attached the Notice to Navigation Interests that was revised yesterday, Wednesday October 29, 2014)

MORGANTOWN LOCK & DAM

Monongahela River Mile 102.0

COMPLETE RIVER CLOSURE

**84' X 600' CHAMBER CLOSED TO NAVIGATION**

01DEC14 - 19DEC14

MONTGOMERY LOCK & DAM

Ohio River Mile 31.7

Minor Impact to Navigation

110' X 600' Auxiliary Chamber Closed to Navigation (Repair party equipment in the small chamber)

110' X 600' Main Chamber Available

02MAR15 - 10APR15

NEW CUMBERLAND LOCK & DAM

Ohio River Mile 54.4

Minor Impact to Navigation

110' X 600' Auxiliary Chamber Closed to Navigation

110' X 1200' Main Chamber Available

27APR15 - 29MAY15

MONONGAHELA RIVER LOCK & DAM 3

Monongahela River Mile 23.8

Minor Impact to Navigation

56' X 391' Auxiliary Chamber Closed to Navigation

56' X 720' Land Chamber Available

27APR15 - 29MAY15

MAXWELL LOCK & DAM

Monongahela River Mile 61.2

Minor Impact to Navigation

84' X 720' Land Lock Chamber Closed to Navigation

84' X 720' River Lock Chamber Available

08JUN15 - 10JUL15

EMSWORTH LOCK & DAM

Ohio River Mile 6.2

**SIGNIFICANT DELAYS EXPECTED**

110' X 600' Main Lock Chamber Closed to Navigation

56' X 360' Auxiliary Lock Chamber Available

No weekend openings to allow concrete to cure!

03AUG15 - 18SEP15

EMSWORTH LOCK & DAM

Ohio River Mile 6.2

**SIGNIFICANT DELAYS EXPECTED**

110' x 600' Main Lock Chamber Closed to Navigation

56' X 360' Auxiliary Lock Chamber Available

110' X 600' Main Lock Chamber will be open with an 80' width restriction on the following dates:

15AUG15 - Saturday

16AUG15 - Sunday

29AUG15 - Saturday

30AUG15 - Sunday

05SEP15 - Saturday

06SEP15 - Sunday

07SEP15 - Monday

05OCT15 - 06NOV15

MONONGAHELA RIVER LOCK & DAM 4

Monongahela River 41.5

**COMPLETE RIVER CLOSURE**

56' X 720' CHAMBER CLOSED TO NAVIGATION

56' X 720' Chamber open to pass traffic on the following dates:

10OCT15 - Saturday

11OCT15 - Sunday

12OCT15 - Monday

24OCT15 - Saturday

25OCT15 - Sunday

26OCT15 - Monday

16NOV15 - 11DEC15

MONTGOMERY LOCK & DAM

Ohio River Mile 31.7

Minor Impact to Navigation

56' X 360' Auxiliary Chamber Closed to Navigation (Repair party equipment in the small chamber)

110' X 595' Main Chamber Available

**AFTER ACTION MEETING REVIEW:**

I attended an After Action Review of the 2014 Montgomery Lock & Dam and the Dashields Lock & Dam main chamber closures. These are the notes that I came away with from the meeting.

The main emphasis on the 2014 closures at Dashields and Montgomery is there were no accidents or injuries encountered during these main chamber closures. This feat was accomplished with drastically increased exposure hours, for the ACOE employees and industry employees, over an extended period of time. This shows a level of teamwork and professionalism between government and commerce that most industries cannot fathom!

There were multiple discussions and examples of situations that occurred during the two closures that can be improved upon through more in depth discussion and development of precise guidelines that will take place in the months leading up to the next significant outage in the Pittsburgh District - Emsworth Lock & Dam June 08 - July 10, 2015. It was deemed necessary by all those in attendance to start early and to largely advertise the Emsworth main chamber closure and the significant delay times that are anticipated among the recreational boating community.

Capturing lessons learned is an integral part of every project and serves several purposes. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a cooperative dialogue that could be utilized as a valuable guideline in the upcoming similar lock outages that we will encounter in the Pittsburgh District. Our goal was aimed at reducing risk, improving safety and effectively managing delay times. It was concluded that we should have a meeting and review, at a minimum, the following prior to any extended outage that will involve significant river closures and/or delay in the Pittsburgh AOR: (This is an extremely rough draft of the notes to be further developed over the next several months in preparation of the Emsworth main chamber closure.)

*Safety:*

- Develop a training session for ACOE employees and industry reps similar to the "Man Overboard" or "Barge Breakaway Seminars" that are held by the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh to explain safety expectations, Industry language (such as the difference between a helper boat and a pull boat), and the locking /queue process.
- Review/Revise the Industry Self Help Procedures regarding requirements unique to the specific location such as rigging, lines, bumpers, extra man power, drafts, helper boats, pull boats, queue, crew changes, etc.

*Communication:*

- Contact information for the Lockmaster, His/Her Relief, Area River Ops, Branch Chief, Industry Operations Representative for vessels transiting the area, the WAP Navigation Committee Chair, etc.
- Unified Traffic Control (Command) Center to include representatives from the ACOE, and industry representatives on a 24/7 basis throughout the entire outage. Align the shift changes at the Command Center to stagger between industry and the ACOE. This will prevent information from being miscommunicated during shift change.
- Provide queue updates via VHF at pre-designated times that will be stated in the Notice to Mariners twice daily.
- Provide queue and SITREP updates at 0700 and 1900 via e-mail.



- Explore the possibility of setting specific times for recreational lockages or lock recreational vessels when the lock is turned back between Northbound and Southbound lock tiers.

*Priority Lockage:*

- Standardized Form
- To be completed by the customer not the carrier.
- Develop a group of various industry representatives to serve as the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh's Priority Locking Committee. All priority locking requests will be submitted to the committee for approval.

If you have any suggestions or comments that may improve the safety or expedite the locking process during the next significant main chamber closure in the Pittsburgh District please e-mail them to me to allow for further discussion at our next meeting.

***INFORMATION:***

Recreational boaters awarded \$120,000 PennDOT grant to fund lock operations on the Upper Allegheny River in Armstrong County. See the following article.  
<http://triblive.com/news/armstrong/7047040-74/locks-ardc-grant#axzz3HkFdA4Dr>

**October 30, 2013**

***E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:***

There has been a time change for the safety zone for the Steelers Fireworks this Sunday November 02, 2014.

OHIO RIVER

MILE 0.0 - MILE 0.1 - FIREWORKS DISPLAY/RIVER CLOSURE On November 2, 2014, from 2015 until 2145, the Pittsburgh Steelers Fireworks will be held between approximate Miles 0.0 and 0.1. The COTP Ohio Valley has established a Safety Zone for this event. Vessels will not be allowed to transit this Safety Zone during the event period.

ALLEGHENY RIVER

MILE 0.3 - MILE 0.0 - FIREWORKS DISPLAY/RIVER CLOSURE On November 2, 2014, from 2015 until 2145, the Pittsburgh Steelers Fireworks will be held between approximate Miles 0.3 and 0.0. The COTP Ohio Valley has established a Safety Zone for this event. Vessels will not be allowed to transit this Safety Zone during the event period.

The updated broadcast notice to mariners is below.

SUBJ: REQUEST BROADCAST NOTICE TO MARINERS BEGINNING 2015 LOCAL ON 02 NOV 2014 AND ENDING AT 2145 LOCAL ON 02 NOV 2014 THERE WILL BE A BARGE BASED FIREWORKS DISPLAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2014 FROM MILE 0.0 TO 0.2 ON THE ALLEGHENY RIVER AND MILE 0.0 TO 0.3 ON THE OHIO RIVER. A FULL RIVER CLOSURE WILL BE IN EFFECT FROM 8:15 P.M. UNTIL 9:45 P.M. THE COAST GUARD CAN BE REACHED ON VHF-FM CHANNEL 16.

***FOR COMMUNICATION AND DISCUSSION:***

Due to a near miss event, we have had multiple discussions with industry and the USCG regarding the possibility of participating or holding an education event in conjunction with MSU Pittsburgh and the USCG auxiliary for the rowing community to discuss the navigational rules of the road and the hazards associated with the towing industry. Something similar to the Man Overboard Seminar and the Barge Breakaway Seminar. We are looking for thoughts and suggestions.

**November 3, 2014**

***E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:***

Attached please find the sign-in sheet from our October 29th meeting regarding the Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016 Pittsburgh District Repair Fleet Schedules. We have incorporated the attendees' comments into the attached revised schedules and modified the format specifically for stakeholder use and clarity.

Although there are no major changes to the proposed schedules distributed earlier, added are designated re-openings of the main lock chamber at Emsworth L/D during the August to September 2015 closure and similar scheduled openings at Charleroi L/D in October 2015 and again at Emsworth L/D in July 2016. These two to three day openings during the scheduled closures are intended to mitigate traffic issues to industry and to provide lock availability during holiday closures for recreational users.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me by email or at the telephone number provided below.

**November 4, 2014**

***E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:***

Monongahela River Lock 4 is went out of out of operation at 1425 due to a problem with the gates. The lock is expected to be out of operation for repairs over the next 4 - 6 hours. We will provide information when the lock has re-opened to navigational traffic. The Lock was re-opened to navigation at 1830.

**November 7, 2014**

***E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:***

ADVISES ALL MARINERS THAT A 260FOOT BARGE IS MOORED PERPENDICULAR TO THE LEFT DESCENDING BANK OF THEOHIO RIVER AT MILE 119.5. THE BARGE IS CONDUCTING UNLOADINGOPERATIONS AND WILL REMAIN MOORED AFTER SUNSET DISPLAYING PROPERLIGHTING. MARINERS SHOULD TRANSIT THE AREA WITH CAUTION. U.S. COASTGUARD SECTOR OHIO VALLEY WILL BE STANDING BY ON VHF-FM CHANNEL 16.BTNNNN

***E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION:***

Please see the attached or go to <http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/NavigationNotices.aspx> to view the 2014 dredging schedule for the Monongahela River.

**Legislative Committee Report**

Richard Kreider presented the following report:

- **USCOE MEETING IN DC re THE UPPER OHIO NAVIGATION STUDY RECOMONDATIONS**

Steve Martinko and Marty Hettel spoke on behalf of the industry at the Chiefs review meeting in Washington, DC on 10/21. Steve and Marty's remarks were well received and in support of the Pittsburgh district's recommendations re the UONS. During the meeting one of the senior Corp officials supported Steve's remarks by acknowledging the initial study did not appear to be forward looking and needs to consider not only the historical data but the many proposed and potential projects in the district that are a direct result of the area's Energy Renaissance.

- **MID-TERM ELECTIONS DELIVER CHANGE**

Last week's mid-term elections resulted in a Republican takeover of the Senate when the new Congress convenes in January. Fifty-two seats in the Senate will be held by the Republicans, with 46 seats in Democratic hands. Two races, in Alaska and Louisiana, are still undecided. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) is expected to become the new Majority Leader. Regarding key Senate committees, the Environment and Public Works Committee will be chaired by Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK) and Senator Barbara Boxer will serve as Ranking Member. On the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) will become Chairman, as Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) moves to Ranking Member. On the

Senate Finance Committee, Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) will become Chairman with Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) becoming Ranking Member. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) will assume the reins of the Budget Committee and Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) will lead the Subcommittee on Energy and Water. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) will likely chair the Finance Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth. In the House, Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Reps. John Garamendi (D-CA) and are seeking the Ranking Member spot on the House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee, chaired by Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA). Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY) will continue to lead the House Appropriations Committee, with Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) serving as Ranking Member. The House Ways & Means Committee is expected to be led by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), with a potential challenge from Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX). Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI) will continue as Ranking Member.

Two good friends of our industry will not be returning to the House with the defeat of T&I's Ranking Member Rep. Nick Rahall II (D-WVA) and Water Subcommittee Ranking Member Rep. Tim Bishop (D-NY). Congressman Rahall and Congressman Bishop formed a strong team with Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) and Subcommittee Chairman Bob Gibbs (R-OH) to pass the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) earlier this year.

We will learn more about the impact of the elections at the WCI Board of Directors Meeting this week in Chicago and hope to provide additional info at our next luncheon.

- **LAME DUCK SESSION BEGINS THIS WEEK**

The lame duck session of Congress will begin November 13, but the most significant activity will likely not take place until after Congress returns from the Thanksgiving recess the week of December 1. The expiration of the Continuing Resolution on December 11, FY '15 appropriations, the Defense Authorization Bill, and extension of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) will occupy Congress's attention during the lame duck.

Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) are developing legislation that would increase the barge industry's diesel user fee by 9-cents-per gallon. **Everyone is urged to reach out to their Members of Congress to support this effort.**

- **NESP (Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program) 'DEAR COLLEAGUE' LETTER DEADLINE IS FRIDAY**

Reps. Ron Kind (D-WI) and Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) are circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter to be sent to President Obama urging inclusion of funding for the Navigation Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) in the President's FY '16 budget. Office of Management and Budget Director Shaun Donovan and Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Jo-Ellen Darcy are copied on the letter. Currently 17 bi-partisan Members of Congress have

signed the letter. The deadline is Friday, November 14 for additional signatures.

- **SECTION 7001 FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE POSTED**

As required by WRRDA, the Corps has issued a notice in the *Federal Register* seeking proposals from non-federal interests for proposed feasibility studies and proposed modifications to authorized water resources development projects or feasibility studies for inclusion in the Corps' *Annual Report to Congress*. The deadline for submissions is December 3, 2014.

- **GRANT ALLOWING ALLEGHENY RIVER LOCK OPERATIONS TO CONTINUE**

A grant of \$120,000 was awarded to the Allegheny River Development Corporation by the state Pennsylvania to allow lock operations on the Allegheny River to continue during regular hours. WRRDA 2014 included a provision to allow non-federal interests to contribute funds for this purpose on navigable waterways segments.

- **UPCOMING INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES**

November 18: Inland Waterways Users Board mtg(Linthicum, MD).

#### **December Membership Meeting**

The *next* membership meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2014 at Chartiers Country club. 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, December 4, 2014 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh  
Meeting Response Form**

Chartiers Country Club

December 10, 2014

**Menu:**

Mixed Field Greens w/Chartiers Crouton - Balsamic Vinaigrette  
Roasted Sirloin of Beef  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Crème De Menthe Parfaits

**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, December 4, 2014** to:

Cheryll Cranmer  
Phone:        (724) 355-4101  
Fax:            (724) 285-4999  
Email:        [cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org](mailto:cheryll.cranmer@wapgh.org)