

Waterways Association of Pittsburgh Newsletter

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September 2018

www.wapgh.org

September Highlights

A total of (39) thirty-nine members and guests were registered for the September 12, 2018 luncheon meeting at the Chartiers Country Club. Richard Lockwood introduced the CMU-OSHER course attendees and asked them all to stand.

Navigation Committee Report

David Podurgiel provided the following report:

- We are currently on the tail-end of a major high-water event that saw swift rises of all three rivers, with most locks in the Pittsburgh District going "Out of Service".
- Dailey Hydro Committee calls took place and information was sent out to industry multiple times per day.
- Nothing critical that wasn't shared through email demanded the need for "One Call" at this time.
- LRP/WAP Schedule and Communications Meeting was held on August 23 with the COE, industry was represented by Dan Lacek, Rich Kreider, Jay Ruble (Crouse), Richard Kern (Ingram Barge and Dean Marlin and Dave Kosnesni (Nicholas Enterprises).
 - o Constructive meeting where we addressed the current Montgomery closure and the overall economic impact the outages have caused to industry.
 - o We discussed the extension of the Dashiels outage that we were unaware of. The COE worked with its contractor to keep it on schedule to finish on September 14th but now the high-water event has held up the project, together with the COE we will pick new dates to finish the final four days of work.
 - o We discussed the upcoming FY19 schedule, more meetings to follow to try and lessen the impact on industry yet allow the COE to get its work completed.
 - o Allegheny River Lock 2 work: industry has asked for more input into the scheduled outage, currently a 52-day total river closure in Aug/Sept 2019 is unacceptable.
 - o A communication was discussed to address scheduled/unscheduled outages and navigation restrictions. The COE put great thought into this and as Navigation Chair, I feel we made great progress. Note: During the current Montgomery

closures, the delay in Dashields, and the high-water event, the communication has been exceptional.

- o Montgomery large-chamber outage starts Aug 9/September 14. This work was one 3 days ahead of schedule but due to high water is still "out of service".

Port of Pittsburgh Commission

Matt Pavlosky presented the following:

- The CMAQ program (retrofitting diesel towboat engines) is actively accepting applications. Since July, the program has received four new applications. If anyone is still interested in participating in the program, should contact Mary Ann directly.
- The Atlanta MPO (metropolitan planning organization) visited with the Commission staff. MPOs facilitate the transportation planning process, including freight movement. Discussions focused on how the Port of Pittsburgh operates.
- The Port participated in a PENNDOT DUI/BWI program to promote overall safety over the Labor Day holiday. Partners included the US Coast Guard, Fish & Boat Commission, and Pittsburgh River Rescue. The event appeared on KDKA and WTAE news broadcasts.

Legislative Report

Dean Marlin provided the following report:

On September 4 Congress returned to work in the face of un-passed appropriations bills necessary to meet the September 30 fiscal year end. Despite those deadlines, the first week kicked off with much initial focus being consumed by the Supreme Court Nomination. As a result, important agreements are behind schedule - In particular:

- Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriation's - still waiting - but.
 - o 9 of 12 individual appropriations bills have been cleared by the Senate - at the moment not one is signed into law.
 - o Of note - H.R. 5895 (which includes the Energy and Water Development appropriation that funds the USACE (\$309 million) - is a bill that also includes funding for the Veterans Administration, Housing and Urban development and the Legislative Branch. To this end the House and Senate Conferees are currently negotiating the funding of the VA "Choice" program (\$1.6 billion which will allow Veterans to receive care from local providers). This is drawing out the conference process.
 - o With 2018 ending September 30 - it is likely that there will be a Continuing Resolution to provide funding on 10/1.
- WRDA 2018 (aka "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018) which is intended to provide \$3 billion in funding over 10 years.
 - o WRDA previously passed the House and was hoped to have cleared the Senate in August ... But is still awaiting Senate floor time.
 - o Apparently the "sticking point" of the moment is that Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) wants a permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (Department of the Interior)

which is included in the WRDA Senate bill - and, his unanimous consent is needed to pass a WRDA package.

- INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE. Still waiting, but -
 - An infrastructure bill remains unfulfilled since August 2017 when the President first asked ("Tweeted") Mitch McConnell to get one on his desk for signing. This was furthered in February 2018 when the Administration produced a controversial \$1.5 Trillion proposal which has gone nowhere - aside from Bill Shuster's (retiring House Transportation Committee Chairman) recent legislative outline suggesting federal taxes on fuels to help seed the proposal - but primarily intended to inform the debate somewhere down the road.
- And - FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH
 - In August The Defense Secretary approved specific actions the Army will take in support of the Administrations proposed reorganization. This includes moving the Corp's civil works program from the DOD to the DOT. As previously mentioned - such a change will require an Act of Congress.

Coast Guard News

LCDR Fran Smith presented the **attached** report.

Army Corp of Engineers

Ian McKelvey presented the **attached** report.

National Weather Service

Lee Hendricks covered the **attached** report. He also introduced Myranda Fullerton who has just joined the National Weather Service.

Education Committee Report

Michael Graham was unable to attend. The following information was presented:

- The October "Who Works the Rivers" flyer has been distributed to members. There are currently four schools confirmed along with one individual. There are two additional schools looking into transportation. Erin Howard has been a great help and garnered much of the interest. New industry presenters are being sought to provide information to the students. Please contact Mike directly.
- Planning is currently underway to finalize the agenda for the Barge Breakaway Seminar in October.

October Membership Meeting

The **next** membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at the Lafayette Hotel in Marietta, Ohio. This is our annual joint meeting with the Huntington District and the meeting will begin upon the conclusion of the Industry Incident Summit meeting around 11 a.m. Cost of the luncheon will be **\$30. ALL PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN PERSON AT THE MEETING IN MARIETTA.** Please call, email or fax the response form below by Friday, October 5, 2018 if you plan on attending the luncheon meeting.

**Waterways Association of Pittsburgh
Meeting Response Form**

Lafayette Hotel, Marietta, OH
October 16, 2018 @ 11 a.m.

Menu:

Sliced Pork Loin
Baked White Fish
Whipped Potatoes/Gravy
Vegetable Medley
Cole Slaw/Garden Salad
Assorted Desserts
Lemonade, Ice Tea & Coffee Station

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 Friday, October 5, 2018** to:

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