

## The Newsletter of the Port of Pittsburgh Commission

2021 Vol 1

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The new year brings new opportunities and the hope for better times ahead for all of us. We have learned a great deal over the past year, and we believe those lessons have made our industry stronger, and our commitment to service remains our primary goal.

We are appreciative of the bi-partisan support and effort in Congress passing the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 2020; and the "new start construction" designation for the Upper Ohio Navigation Project in the USACE's 2021 Workplan. Both are important issues to our infrastructure needs on our inland waterway system.

The progress and efforts to end COVID-19 offer confidence that 2021 will see a return to business as usual, but with new strategies and resources.

We are delighted to bring you "The Newsflow," to provide updates and insight into the happenings in our Port District, and we will continue to keep you apprised of the available opportunities and good things happening in our region.

*Mary Ann Bucci* Executive Director, Port of Pittsburgh Commission

### STARTING THE YEAR OFF ON SOME HIGH NOTES

This past year certainly had its challenges, but we are happy to report on important and positive achievements for the inland waterways that happened at the end of the year and in the first month of 2021.

2020 Water Resource Development Act Signed Into Law  
WRDA was part of the federal government's end of the year Omnibus Appropriations bill that became law. A key recommended change to the inland waterways construction cost-share formula from the current 50/50 split to a 65% General Revenues / 35% Inland Waterways Trust Fund ratio for the next ten years was included.

Energy & Water Development Appropriations  
The Omnibus Appropriations bill passage also included the Energy & Water Development accounts which fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works programs with almost \$323 million in the construction account for FY21. This included a new construction start for an inland waterways project to be named in the USACE's next Work Plan which often follows shortly after passage of this bill.

Corps' Work Plan Includes New Start at Montgomery  
Led by Rep. Conor Lamb, a bi-partisan group of congressmen from the tri-state region (PA-OH-WV) including Rep. Mike Doyle, Rep. Rep. Guy Reschenthaler, and Rep. Mike Kelly all from western PA, advocated for the Upper Ohio Navigation Project as the best candidate for the new construction start on the inland waterways. On January 19th, the Army Corp released their FY21 Work Plan that designated the Upper Ohio Navigation Project as the new start with \$22 million dedicated this year to the Montgomery Lock & Dam.

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### 3 RIVERS, 3 QUESTIONS

with *J.D. Shearer*

Three Rivers Marine  
& Rail Terminals, LP



*J.D. Shearer is the President of Three Rivers Marine and Rail Terminals, LP, located on the Monongahela River in Charleroi, PA.*

**1. Tell us a little about Three Rivers Marine & Rail Terminals, and what has helped build your reputation in the Port of Pittsburgh area?**

Three Rivers is a family owned company that has been operating terminals within the Port of Pittsburgh since 1997. We are active within all of the transportation organizations as well as our local communities. We have built a reputation on quality products and services. This is all made possible by the great team of managers and employees that we have working with us every day.

**2. As you continue to evolve and adapt your business model, can you give us a glimpse of the TRMRT's future?**

Three Rivers spends a great deal of time and effort on innovating. In 2021, we will be completing the construction of two new 50,000 square foot warehouses as well as a number of equipment upgrades.

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## HIGH NOTES continued

New Grant Program for Small Inland Ports and Terminals  
Also in December, the National Defense Authorization Act became law and included language spearheaded by Congressman Lamb and Congressman Mike Bost from Illinois that will allow small inland ports and terminals, including private entities, who meet certain criteria, to be eligible for federal grants under this program.

These are four major initiatives that have 2021 off to a good start! The Port of Pittsburgh Commission is proud to have worked with our industry partners and related trade groups in educating and advocating on the need for these infrastructure programs and initiatives. We greatly appreciate the support and funding provided by our elected officials and government agencies in recognizing the important role of our inland waterways.



## Senator Kim Ward Named First Ever Female Majority Leader in PA General Assembly



On November 12, 2020, PA State Senator and PPC Commissioner Kim Ward (R-39) was elected Pennsylvania Senate Majority Leader, making her the first woman in state history to hold the Majority Leader post in the Senate or House of Representatives. Prior to being elected Majority Leader, Senator Ward served as Majority Caucus Administrator and as the first

female chair of the Senate Transportation Committee. As a legislator, Senator Ward has introduced and had legislation signed into law for a variety of issues, such as protections against child abuse, college grants for middle-income families, and insuring legal right-to-work programs by implementing the federal E-Verify program.

Majority Leader is the second-highest ranked post in the Senate. Her responsibilities will include overseeing the legislative agenda, developing policies and strategies for the Senate Republican Caucus, chairing the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee and playing a key role in floor debates. As Majority Leader, Senator Ward will also have a major role in negotiating budgets and other issues with the Administration, the House of Representatives, and in supervising action on the Senate floor.

Senator Ward was elected to the Pennsylvania 39th Senatorial District seat in 2008, the first woman ever elected to that seat. Prior to her election to the Senate, she served as a Westmoreland County Commissioner and a Hempfield Township Supervisor, where she was Chairwoman of the Board for the final three years. Before entering public service, Senator Ward worked as a Board Certified Respiratory Therapist at Allegheny General Hospital, Vanderbilt University Hospital and Hershey Medical Center.



## 3 RIVERS, 3 QUESTIONS continued

J. D. Shearer

**3. You have two terminals located within the Lower Mon Lock & Dam Project that is slated to be completed in 2023. How excited are you to have a modernized lock system on the Mon?**

It is great to see our waterways getting the attention they deserve. Infrastructure and in particular our waterways infrastructure is extremely important to our country's future. We would like to thank our Congressional Delegation and the leadership of Mary Ann Bucci and the Port of Pittsburgh Commission for their efforts in securing the funding.



## IN MEMORIAM

Herbert "Herb" Packer III  
(1951 -- 2021)



Herb Packer was a friend to the Port of Pittsburgh Commission. As the Director of PennPORTS and the Governor's Action Team, he served as an invaluable liaison between the PPC and the Governor's Office in Harrisburg. Herb would often travel from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh for board meetings or other business and would spend time in the PPC offices making sure to engage all members of the staff. Herb had a heart befitting his towering frame.

Prior to his dedicated professional career with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Herb earned a degree in Political Science from Penn State University, and he played basketball for Penn State as well. He also played professionally in several European countries. Furthermore, he directed the Area M basketball program for Special Olympics for over 31 years for which he was honored by being inducted into the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Hall of Fame. Herb was very dedicated to his family, particularly his nieces.

Staff and board members of the Port of Pittsburgh Commission, both past and present, will always remember Herb fondly and miss him greatly.



## COLONA TRANSFER L.P.

Full-service, Intermodal Transfer Facility in the Port of Pittsburgh

Colona Transfer is a full-service intermodal terminal for bulk material handling. The terminal is located in the Port of Pittsburgh, which is the fourth busiest inland port in the United States. Colona provides full intermodal transfer services with its 60-barge harbor, CSX rail access, truck access, 120 acres, and 420,000 square feet of warehousing.

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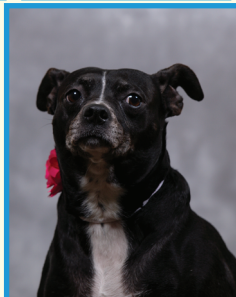
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GOOD THINGS FLOW FROM HERE

