Illinois River Carriers Meeting – Minutes

November 12, 2019 Regular Meeting

President Mike Blaske

* Called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and guest. He then provided a safety briefing in case of an emergency.
* Introduction of members and guests

Captains Committee Chair – Jeremy “Shot” Tardy

* Updated the group on river forecasts which were overall pretty good with most water levels hovering a foot or two above normal.
* Next closures are scheduled for July 2020
* Update on projects on the Illinois Waterway
* Dams at Peoria and LaGrange should be down for another 10 days
* 1 tow in queue at Starved Rock as of this morning
* 6 tows in queue at Marseilles Lock

Ray Lees – Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

* Briefed the group on a long range transportation plan for the region
* Serves the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
* Interfaces with Federal and State Highway departments
* 2020 plan will update existing plan and will project 25 years out
* Plan will be presented to IDOT and will address Rail, Water, Air, and Highway (all modes of transportation)
* Meeting with shareholders will be scheduled around the Thanksgiving timeframe. Call-In will be available for the meeting
* Public/Private involvement is welcome

Chris Barger - Sector Upper

* Updated group on pending issues
* Updated group on ATON’s – Lower part of river just run following the high water event
* Plan to run up to the Brandon Road Locks soon to take care of the upper section

LT Garner, Waterways Management– MSU Chicago

* Updated group on electro-fishing near Chicago which was initiated due to eDNA being found in the area
* November 18th – 22nd daytime closures at Fish Barrier

Daniel Wilkinson – MSU Peoria

* Discussed Subchapter M inspections and getting ready for second year of phase in

Mike Walsh, IWW Program Manager, USACE

* Will keep the group up to date on ice conditions

Tom Heinold – USACE – Illinois Waterway Project

[www.mvr.usace.mil](http://www.mvr.usace.mil) – For Updates

* Updates on closures will be posted
* Mother nature will be the wildcard for next year and could impact work dates for next summer
* New risk to some of the work for next year could be funding due to lack of appropriations bill
* Funding could prevent all of the work being done next year. Peoria, Dresden, and Brandon work could be deferred if funding is not available.
* Current Closure Schedule:
* LaGrange July 1, 2020 thru Sept 30, 2020 Full Closure
* Peoria July 6, 2020 thru Sept 30, 2020 Full Closure
* Starved Rock July 1, 2020 thru Oct 29, 2020 Full Closure
* Marseilles July 6, 2020 thru Oct 29, 2020 Full Closure
* Dresden July 6, 2020 thru Oct 3, 2020 Restrictions in Place
* Dresden Oct 4, 2020 thru Oct 25, 2020 Full Closure
* Brandon July 6, 2020 thru Oct 3, 2020 Restrictions in Place
* Brandon Oct 4, 2020 thru Oct 25, 2020 Full Closure

Allan Monterroza - Bridge Updates

* I-80 protection cell is still WIP
* Utica Bridge beam placement still pending weather/water conditions

Chris Reger – USACE

* Updated the group on current dredge activities

Chris – Barge – Sector Upper

* Illinois Waterway Action Plan – Updates
* UMR Waterway Action Plan – Updates

Jeremy Tardy – Captain Committee Chair

* Hot Wash discussion regarding the locking committee actions
* Group was generally satisfied with the results of the locking committee decisions – Most thought the committee performed very well and kept traffic flowing the best that could be done.
* Concerns about recreational boats were discussed and we will try to coordinate a meeting with the Rec boat community prior to future events
* Only concerns during the prior event were Rec boats and priority lockings
* It was recommended that priority lockings cease 30 days prior to the full closures in July 2020 meaning that no priority lockages would be considered beginning June 1, 2020.

Mike Blaske – IRCA President

* Discussed two (2) current vacancies within the IRCA Board. Interested members should reach out to a current board member to express interest.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, January 14, 2020 – Par-A-Dice, East Peoria, IL

Meeting Ajourned