

The Newsletter of the Port of Pittsburgh Commission

2026 Vol 3 (issue #26)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the summer edition of *The Newsflow*!

As we sail through another season on our region's waterways, I'm pleased to share some exciting updates from the Port of Pittsburgh Commission.

You'll find the latest on WRDA 2026, a conversation with Dr. Quinton Bullock in our 3 Rivers / 3 Questions feature, highlights from the visit of Assistant Secretary Adam Telle and Lt. Gen. Butch Graham to the region, and more news from around our river community.

We also extend a warm welcome to U.S. Coast Guard Commander Mike Metz, offer our best wishes to David "Pod" Podurgiel on his retirement, and invite you to explore six new educational videos produced by the Port in partnership with Skene 19 Films.

Thank you for reading, and we hope you are having a safe, enjoyable summer!

Mary Ann Bucci Executive Director, Port of Pittsburgh Commission

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and USACE Commanding General Visit Pittsburgh Region



The Honorable Adam Telle, 14th Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and Lt. Gen. William "Butch" Graham Jr., 56th Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, visited the Pittsburgh region on April 30, 2026, for two important Army Civil Works initiatives.

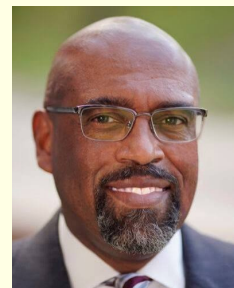
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3 RIVERS, 3 QUESTIONS

with

Dr. Quintin B. Bullock



Dr. Bullock is President of the Community College of Allegheny County and a member of the board of the PPC.

1. Tell us about your role at CCAC, your background, and some of the initiatives you're working on.

I have had the privilege of serving as President of the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) since March 2014. Throughout my tenure, I have been guided by a commitment to expanding access to high-quality education, creating seamless pathways to four-year colleges and universities, and delivering workforce training that empowers students to achieve their personal, educational, and career aspirations. I believe that community colleges play a transformative role in changing lives, strengthening communities, and driving economic opportunity.

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3 Rivers, 3 Questions with Dr. Quintin B. Bullock (continued)

With more than 30 years of experience in higher education and community college leadership, I have dedicated my career to advancing educational equity, workforce development, and strategic community partnerships. My focus has been on ensuring that the diverse students we proudly serve have access to the knowledge, skills, and credentials needed to succeed in an increasingly complex and competitive economy. Equally important is helping students see a clear connection between education and opportunity, whether their goal is to transfer to a four-year institution, enter the workforce, or advance within their chosen profession.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role is working closely with employers, industry leaders, labor partners, and community-based organizations to align our programs with both current and emerging workforce needs. Through these collaborations, CCAC continues to expand opportunities in high-demand fields such as skilled trades, healthcare, transportation, information technology, advanced manufacturing, and culinary arts. We are also strengthening career pathways that provide students with industry-recognized credentials, hands-on learning experiences, internships, apprenticeships, and direct connections to employment opportunities throughout the region.

These efforts reflect our belief that education is most powerful when it is connected to real-world opportunities and meaningful outcomes. By partnering with organizations across Allegheny County and southwestern Pennsylvania, we are helping to build a talented workforce, support regional economic growth, and prepare students not only for the jobs of today, but for the careers and leadership opportunities of tomorrow.

2. What sparked your interest in the Port, our rivers, and the important work being done throughout the region's waterways? What has your experience been like?

The rivers have always been central to the identity, history, and economic success of the Pittsburgh region. As someone who has spent my career focused on education, workforce development, and community advancement, I became interested in the Port because I wanted to better understand one of our region's most valuable yet often underappreciated assets and explore how I could contribute to its continued growth and success.

Many people think of our rivers primarily as places for recreation, tourism, and community gatherings. While they certainly serve those purposes, they are also vital economic engines that support commerce, manufacturing, energy production,

construction, and transportation throughout the region. The waterways connect southwestern Pennsylvania to national and global markets, support thousands of jobs, and play a critical role in moving goods efficiently and sustainably.

As I became more involved with the Port, I gained a much deeper appreciation for the complexity and significance of the river transportation system. Serving on the Port Board has provided firsthand insight into the planning, coordination, and expertise required to maintain safe and efficient waterways. It has also highlighted the importance of collaboration among industry leaders, labor organizations, government agencies, educational institutions, and community stakeholders.

One of the most meaningful aspects of this experience has been recognizing the direct connection between the Port's work and the mission of CCAC. Behind every barge, terminal, logistics operation, and infrastructure project are skilled professionals whose talents keep our economy moving. The Port's success depends on a strong workforce, and that creates tremendous opportunities for educational institutions like CCAC to help prepare the next generation of technicians, operators, healthcare professionals, logistics professionals, skilled trades, and business leaders.

This experience has reinforced my belief that economic development, workforce development, and education are deeply interconnected. The Port's impact extends far beyond the rivers themselves. It strengthens communities, supports family-sustaining careers, and creates opportunities for future generations. I have been especially impressed by the commitment to safety, innovation, environmental stewardship, and collaboration that exists throughout the maritime and river transportation sectors, and I am honored to contribute to that important work.

3. What are your hopes for the future of the Port, its waterways, and the safe use of our rivers? How do workforce development and education fit into that vision?

My hope is that the Port continues to grow as a driver of economic opportunity while remaining a national leader in safety, reliability, and environmental responsibility. Our rivers are among the region's greatest assets, and continued investment in infrastructure, navigation systems, technology, and workforce development will help ensure they remain productive and sustainable for generations to come.

Achieving that vision requires a continued commitment to

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Telle and Graham visit Pittsburgh (continued)

The visit began with the signing of the Chartiers Creek Watershed Feasibility Study by Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) Executive Director Rich Fitzgerald. The study includes Canonsburg Lake as part of its evaluation of flood-risk management opportunities throughout the watershed. Also participating in the signing were Assistant Secretary Telle, Lt. Gen. Graham, Port of Pittsburgh Commission (PPC) Executive Director Mary Ann Bucci, and Dj Ryan, PPC Board Member and SPC Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives.

The Chartiers Creek Watershed Feasibility Study is among the first in the Pittsburgh District to implement the Army Civil Works' new R.A.P.I.D. planning framework—Risk-Informed, Aligned, Proportional, Iterative, and Decisive—introduced under Assistant Secretary Telle's "Building Infrastructure, Not Paperwork" initiative. The approach is designed to streamline planning, reduce unnecessary delays, and accelerate the delivery of practical infrastructure solutions. The Chartiers Creek Watershed Feasibility Study encompasses approximately 277 square miles and will evaluate flood-risk management alternatives for more than 250,000 residents throughout the watershed, where communities have experienced frequent and increasingly severe flooding over recent decades.

Following the signing, the group traveled to Montgomery Locks and Dam in Monaca, Pennsylvania, for a firsthand update on one of the nation's most significant inland waterways infrastructure projects. Hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District, the tour included a briefing from Resident Engineer Jenna Cunningham, who outlined

ongoing construction activities within the auxiliary lock chamber and the next phases of the Upper Ohio Navigation Project. Joining the Montgomery Locks and Dam tour along with Executive Director Bucci, were Shane Checkan (ITS) and David Podurgiel (ACNR), representing the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh.

Montgomery Locks and Dam remains a cornerstone of the Upper Ohio Navigation Project, which will modernize the Emsworth, Dashields, and Montgomery lock and dam facilities. Originally constructed before 1936, these three facilities contain the oldest and smallest lock chambers on the Ohio River. The project will replace Montgomery's existing 56-foot by 360-foot auxiliary chamber with a modern 110-foot by 600-foot lock, significantly improving navigation efficiency and reliability.

The project is expected to support more than 15,000 jobs nationwide during construction while strengthening the Upper Ohio River's role as a critical freight corridor. Each year, 15 to 20 million tons of commodities—including coal, coke, petroleum products, steel, and aggregates—move through this section of the river. Water transportation remains one of the nation's most cost-effective freight modes, costing approximately four times less than trucking and roughly one-third less than rail.

Photo: Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Adam Telle listens as Resident Engineer Jenna Cunningham discusses construction progress during a tour of Montgomery Locks and Dam on April 30, 2026. (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo by Andrew Byrne.)

3 Rivers, 3 Questions with Dr. Bullock (continued)

safety. Safe waterway use must remain a shared priority among commercial operators, recreational users, environmental advocates, and public agencies. As activity on our rivers continues to evolve, strong partnerships among industry, government agencies, educators, and community organizations will become even more important.

Education and workforce development are essential to that future. We have an opportunity to introduce more students and young professionals to careers they may never have considered, including maritime operations, logistics, engineering, environmental sciences, skilled trades, transportation management, and public service. By strengthening connections between educational institutions and river-related industries, we can create pathways that lead directly to rewarding careers.

Just as importantly, we have a responsibility to develop the next generation of leaders. Today's students will become tomorrow's operators, engineers, business leaders, policymakers, and Port advocates. Through education, mentorship, internships, apprenticeships, and career exploration opportunities, we can ensure that our waterways continue to be supported by a talented, diverse, and highly skilled workforce.

Ultimately, the future of the Port depends on the people who will steward these resources and industries for decades to come. By investing in education and creating opportunities for the current and future generation to engage with the maritime and transportation sectors, we can help ensure a vibrant and prosperous future for our rivers, our region, and the generations that follow.



PortPitt Launches Six New Educational Videos on YouTube Channel

The Port of Pittsburgh Commission (PortPitt), in partnership with Skene 19 Films of Greensburg, continues to expand its public education efforts with six new videos released on the PortPitt YouTube Channel beginning in July 2026.

Designed for residents, educators, elected officials, and industry stakeholders, the growing video library showcases the importance of the Port of Pittsburgh and our region's three rivers to commerce, recreation, the environment, and everyday life. New releases include:

- Overview of PortPitt 2026 – Learn about the Commission's mission and the Port District.
- Gateway Clipper – Discover the role of Pittsburgh's iconic riverboat fleet.
- The Upper Ohio River – Explore one of America's most important inland waterways.
- Osher Class (CMU Lifelong Learning) – See how PortPitt is educating the next generation of river advocates.
- Winter Weather & River Navigation – Learn how navigation continues through winter conditions.
- Environmental Impact – Discover why inland waterways are among the nation's most sustainable transportation systems.

These videos are part of PortPitt's ongoing commitment to educating the public about the economic, environmental, and recreational importance of southwestern Pennsylvania's waterways.

Visit the PortPitt YouTube Channel (@portofpittsburgh) or click here <https://www.youtube.com/@portofpittsburgh/videos> to watch these videos and explore an expanding collection of educational content highlighting the people, projects, and waterways that keep the Port of Pittsburgh moving.



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PORTPITT | Overview 2026



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PORTPITT | Gateway Clipper



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PORTPITT | The Upper Ohio River



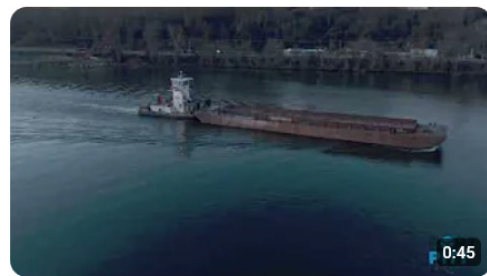
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PORTPITT | Osher



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PORTPITT | Winter Weather

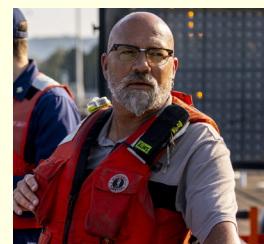


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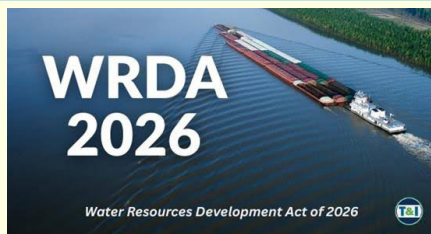
PORTPITT | Environmental Impact

Best Wishes to David J. Podurgiel on His Retirement

The Port of Pittsburgh Commission extends its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to our friend, David J. Podurgiel, on his retirement. After 35 years of dedicated service to the inland river industry, "Pod" has certainly earned the opportunity to enjoy this next chapter. While we suspect retirement won't keep him away from the waterways for long—as a volunteer, mentor, and valued supporter of the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh—we know his experience and leadership will continue to benefit the industry. We thank David for his many years of service and friendship, and we wish him health, happiness, and fair waters in retirement. We look forward to seeing him along the river for years to come.



WRDA 2026 Advances in Congress



The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2026 continues to advance in Congress, with both the U.S. House and Senate taking key steps in July.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously approved its WRDA 2026 legislation, including a provision to establish an Inland Navigation Construction Program Management Office at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters to improve accountability and delivery of inland navigation projects.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee also approved its version of the bill, which includes measures to increase transparency by requiring the Corps' Capital Investment Strategy (CIS) to be submitted to Congress at the same time it is provided to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The legislation also strengthens the role of the Inland Waterways Users Board (IWUB) by requiring regular Corps briefings on project funding capabilities.

In addition, for the first time since 2023, inland waterways projects have been included in the President's budget request. For the Pittsburgh district, this includes \$167 million for construction of the Montgomery Locks and Dam on the Ohio River, with support from US Representatives Chris Deluzio and Guy Reschenthaler.

The House and Senate will now work to reconcile their bills before sending final legislation to the President for consideration.

U.S. Coast Guard MSU Pittsburgh Welcomes New Commanding Officer



The U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Pittsburgh held its Change of Command Ceremony on June 18, 2025, at the Kamin Science Center, marking the transition of leadership from Commander Justin Jolley to Commander Michael Metz.

The ceremony was attended by members of the U.S. Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary Heartland District, and regional maritime partners, recognizing the important role MSU Pittsburgh plays in ensuring the safety, security, and environmental stewardship of the region's navigable waterways.

During his tenure, Commander Jolley worked closely with the Port of Pittsburgh Commission and the broader maritime community on initiatives that strengthened navigation safety, emergency preparedness, and interagency collaboration throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania's river system. The Port of Pittsburgh Commission extends its sincere appreciation to Commander Jolley for his dedicated service to the Pittsburgh maritime community and wishes him continued success in his new assignment.

The Commission warmly welcomes Commander Michael Metz to the Pittsburgh District and looks forward to continuing its strong partnership with MSU Pittsburgh in support of the region's commercial navigation, economic vitality, and waterway safety.



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