



**PLEASE
GRAB
A
SEAT**

Schuylkill Navy.



Welcome

Paul Horvat
Commodore

STATE OF THE SCHUYLKILL

MONDAY | MAY 7 | 6PM

MANDEVILLE HALL
SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY
5600 CITY AVENUE



PHOTO CREDIT
TEMPLE ARCHIVES, GEORGE WOODS BELLER
BULLETIN PHOTOGRAPHY, PHOTOGRAFOS.COM, 1/16/14
PHOTO CREDIT
TEMPLE ARCHIVES, GEORGE WOODS BELLER
BULLETIN PHOTOGRAPHY, PHOTOGRAFOS.COM, 1/16/14

AGENDA

SPECIAL REMARKS

Don DiJulia
Saint Joseph's University

Michael DiBerardinis
Managing Director, City of Philadelphia

PRESENTATION

Bonnie Mueller
Vice Commodore

Paul Laskow
Chair, River Restoration Committee

Margaret Meigs
Chair, Public Engagement

PANEL

Jen Wesson
Executive Director, Head of the Schuylkill

Dotty Brown
Andy Quinn
Emilia Ratrick
Catherine Reddick

sju.edu/magis

Saint Joseph's University
5600 City Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131-1376
610.660.1300

**Living greater
at Saint Joseph's.
That's the magis.**





**Managing Director
Mike DiBerardinis**

Schuylkill Navy.



Bonnie Mueller
Vice Commadore



WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH ?

Align our engaged community of where
we've been ... and where we are

Provide clarity about what each fan
and friend of the Schuylkill River can
do to provide support going forward

Answer your questions and engage
your interest and talents

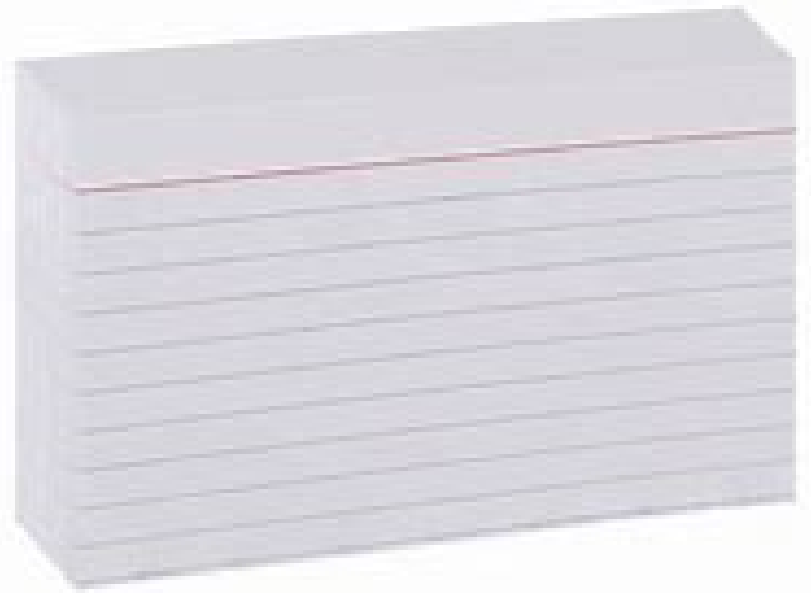
Bonnie Mueller
Vice Commodore

hey! I GOT
A QUESTION



I
have
an
idea

T
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SKILL
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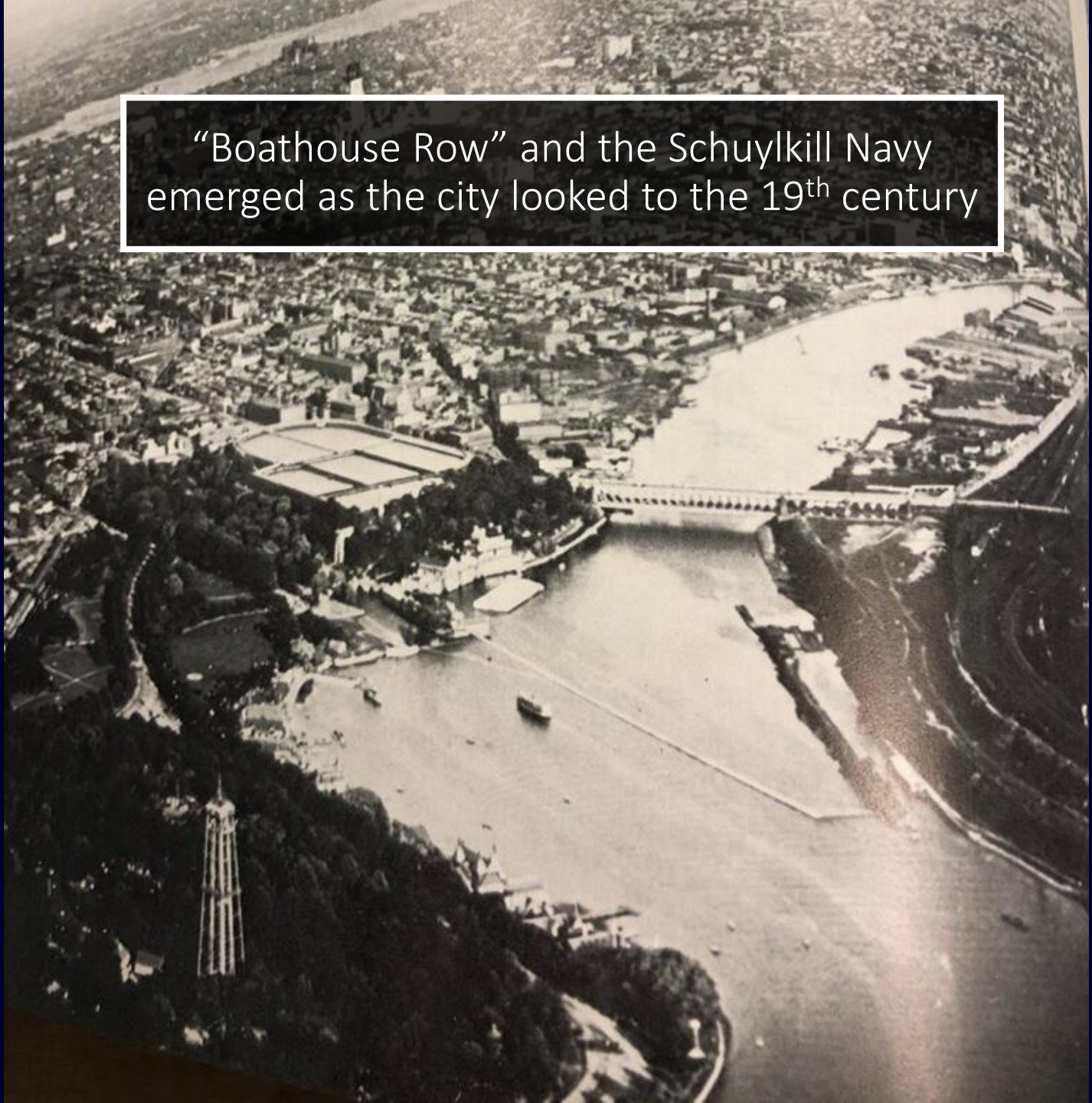
Our story on the river begins with the quest for clean water



The
creation of
the
“Schuylkill
Pool”
allowed for
recreational
use of the
Schuylkill



“Boathouse Row” and the Schuylkill Navy emerged as the city looked to the 19th century



Accumulation
of silt material
was an
ongoing
problem ...
from almost
the start



EDITORIAL PAGE

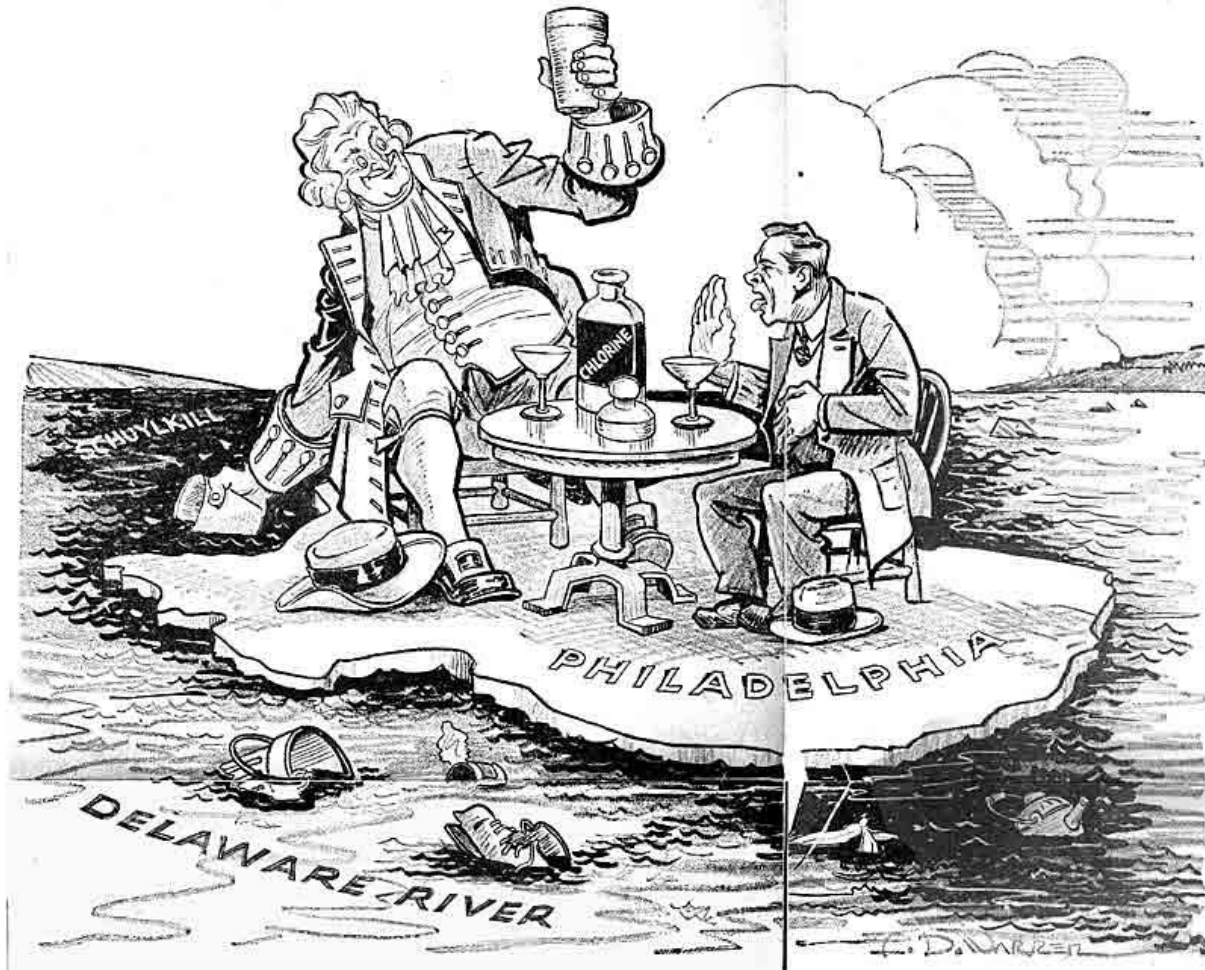
PHILADELPHIA RECORD

The War in Outline :: America Speaks :: Travel

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 1937


Screen :: Stage :: Music :: Art :: Radio :: Puzzles

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE, BUT NOT A DROP FIT TO DRINK.



How did we
fund these
dredges in
the past?



An aerial photograph showing a wide river with a sharp bend. A multi-arched bridge spans the river in the upper left. The right bank is densely wooded and contains several buildings, likely a residential or institutional area. A road or path winds through the trees. The water in the bend is dark, while the surrounding areas are lighter, suggesting vegetation and structures.

City-Funded Dredging



State-Funded Dredging
from
Coal Remediation Funds





Federal-
Funded
Dredging via a
congressional
earmark got
the job done
in 1996

The Crisis Repeats Itself
Every 10-12 Years



Hitting Bottom:
Summer 2013

Depth Chart



Vertical Depth Reference

Vertical depth in feet referenced to Mean Low Water (MLW) 01474300







Increasing loss of the
“National Course” as a
viable venue



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Provide clarity about what each fan and friend of the Schuylkill River can do to provide support going forward

Answer your questions and engage your interest and talents

Paul Laskow
Chair, River
Restoration
Committee



Paul Laskow
Chair, River
Restoration
Committee

Align our engaged community of where
we've been ... **and where we are**

RESTORATIVE DREDGING – “PLAN A”
(path we've taken to garner support)

RESTORATIVE DREDGING – “PLAN B”
(plan for “private funding,” if needed)

MAINTENANCE DREDGING
(to avoid crisis in the future)



Paul Laskow
Chair, River
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The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Stan Wischnowski EXECUTIVE EDITOR / SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
Gabriel Escobar PHN EDITOR / VICE PRESIDENT
Michael Days PHN EDITOR, READER ENGAGEMENT / VICE PRESIDENT
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Brian Leighton PHN DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR / EDITING & STANDARDS
Michelle Bjork PHN DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR / OPERATIONS & PROJECTS

Dredging is badly needed

For almost two decades, silt has built up on the floor of the Schuylkill, slowly threatening navigation and safety. All along the Schuylkill Navy, Boat House Row's umbrella organization, has pressed to have the river dredged. If it doesn't happen soon, the city could muck up Philadelphia's status as the nation's premiere regatta city. The Army Corps of Engineers' regional offices agree that the river should be



Rowers make their way along the Schuylkill, which is in desperate need of dredging.
 CHARLES FOX / Staff Photographer

The path to this level of support was a long one



**By Charter,
the Schuylkill Navy serves to:**

- **Promote amateurism on the Schuylkill**
- **Secure collective action across the various clubs**

Then-Commodore Margaret Meigs executed her power to establish a committee to focus exclusively on the challenge

River Restoration Committee

- **Monthly meetings**
- **Cross-club representation**
- **Additional participation from major regatta committees, paddling organizations**
- **Standing and ad-hoc professional expertise and advice**
- **Regular interface with the City and regional elected officials**



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



“Pulling in the Experts”

THE PROJECT WAS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 344 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1996. SECTION 344 MODIFIED THE LANGUAGE OF THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE NAVIGATION PROJECT FOR THE LOWER (TIDAL) SCHUYLKILL RIVER AS FOLLOWS:

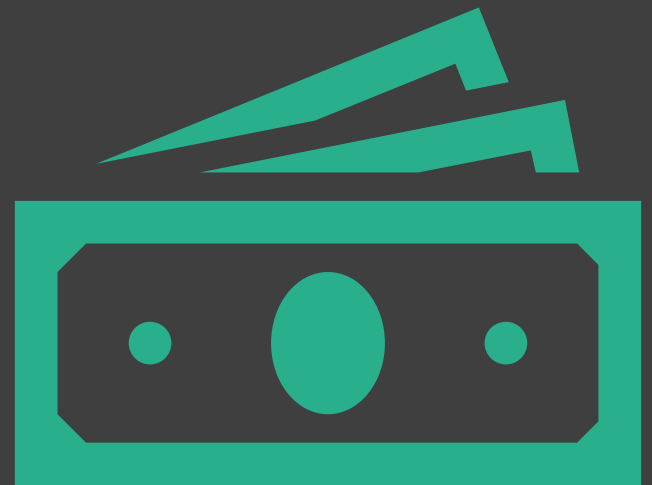
SEC. 344. SCHUYLKILL RIVER, PENNSYLVANIA.

The navigation project for the Schuylkill River, Pennsylvania, authorized by the 1st section of the Act entitled "An Act making appropriations for the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors, and for other purposes", approved August 8, 1917 (40 Stat. 252), is modified to provide for the periodic removal and disposal of sediment to provide for a depth of 6 feet within portions of the Fairmount pool between the Fairmount Dam and the Columbia Bridge, generally within the limits of the channel alignments referred to as the Schuylkill River Racecourse and return lane, and the Belmont Water Works intakes and Boathouse Row.

PUBLIC LAW 104-303—OCT. 12, 1996 110 STAT. 3723

- The project was dredged in the 2000-2001 timeframe. Approximately 30,000 cubic yards of material was dredged from the rowing course, return lane and the area in front of Boat House Row. The material was pumped into barges below Fairmount Dam and then transported downstream for disposal into the Corps of Engineers Fort Mifflin Confined Disposal Facility at the confluence of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers.
- It is anticipated that the dredging process for the next maintenance of the area would be similar to the work performed in 2000-2001. The estimated cost of the work is approximately \$3,100,000.

Congressional
Authorization
(to dredge)
is not the same as
Funding
(to dredge)




Assembling the Schuylkill's Friends

CHAKA FATTAH
2ND DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2301 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4001

DISTRICT OFFICE:
3401 N. 54TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151
(215) 871-4465



COMMITTED:
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND
RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS'
AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES
SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

November 24, 2014

Steven L. Stockton
Director of Civil Works
Headquarters
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

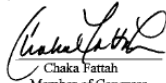
Re: FY 2015 Work Plan – Operations and Maintenance
Schuylkill River Maintenance Dredging Project

Dear Mr. Stockton:

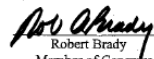
We write to request that you assign a high priority to the Schuylkill River Maintenance Dredging Project ("Dredging Project"), in the FY 2015 Work Plan so that funding is available to perform this Project.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this request.


Very truly yours,



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Robert Brady
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510
November 16, 2017

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
Headquarters
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear General Semonite:

We are writing to request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) prioritize the Schuylkill River dredging project in its FY 2018 Work Plan for Operations and Maintenance. This project is necessary to keep the Schuylkill River safe and accessible for Pennsylvanians, and we urge you to ensure that the project receives the funds it needs to be dredged to the authorized level of six feet.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Patrick Meehan
United States Representative



Robert A. Brady
United States Representative



Dwight E. Evans
United States Representative

DONALD NORCROSS
FIRST DISTRICT NEW JERSEY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3001

1031 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20516
(202) 225-6861 PHONE
(202) 225-6865 FAX

10 MELROSE AVENUE, SUITE 219
CHERRY HILL, NJ 08003
(609) 427-7000 PHONE
(609) 427-4188 FAX

www.norcross.house.gov
NJC01@mail.house.gov

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
Headquarters
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000


December 14, 2017

Re: FY 2018 Work Plan—Operations and Maintenance
Schuylkill River Maintenance Dredging Project

Dear General Semonite,

I write to join the Congressional delegation from Southeastern Pennsylvania requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("US ACE") assign a high priority to the Schuylkill River Maintenance Dredging Project ("Project"), in the FY 2018 Work Plan so that funding would be available to perform the Project.

Sincerely,



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

cc: Brigadier General William H. Graham
Commander and Division Engineer
302 General Lee Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11252

The Evolution of Support

Late 2014

**Listed on US ACE Phila District
Office 2015 Capabilities List**

Late 2015

**Listed on US ACE Endorsed
Work Plan**

Late 2016

**Almost “GO,” thanks to
supplemental storm damage
funds**

**US ACE and other advisors recommended
one final attempt (and ask)**

While working to secure Federal funding for the Project, the major stakeholders in the Project, i.e., universities, schools, rowing clubs and regattas have been working to ensure that this request for maintenance dredging will be the last such request. Upon completion of the above Project restoring the area to its Congressionally authorized depth of six (6) feet, these stakeholders have offered to collaborate and financially support the City of Philadelphia to allow it to dredge regularly along Boathouse Row and the racecourse, thereby obviating the need for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intervention in the future.

A Final Ask



December 15, 2017

The Honorable Ryan McCarthy
Under Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-0101

Re: US Army Corps of Engineers FY 2018 Work Plan – Operations and Maintenance
Schuylkill River Boat House Row and Racecourse Maintenance Dredging Project

Dear Secretary McCarthy:

As a student-athlete at Loyola Academy, you understood the importance of the parallel competency built by sports. As Loyola's Martin Fahey said in the history of the Loyola rowing: *"Medals, which can be won and lost in a weekend, can tarnish and fade in significance. Fine character, which takes more time and work to build, is forever."*



2 Wall Street
Princeton, NJ 08540

November 17, 2017

Brigadier General William H. Graham,
Commander and Division Engineer
US Army Corps of Engineers
302 General Lee Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11252

Re: FY 2018 Work Plan – Operations and Maintenance
Schuylkill River Boat House Row and Racecourse Maintenance Dredging Project

Greetings:

On behalf of USRowing, the national governing organization for rowing, I am writing so that we may once more request that you assign a high priority to the Schuylkill River Boat House Row and Racecourse Maintenance Dredging Project ("Project") in your FY 2018 North Atlantic

COPY



St. Joseph's Preparatory School
1733 Grand Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19130

P. 215.978.1951
F. 215.785.1710

www.sjprep.org

November 21, 2017

Brigadier General William H. Graham,
Commander and Division Engineer
US Army Corps of Engineers
302 General Lee Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11252

Re: FY 2018 Work Plan – Operations and Maintenance
Schuylkill River Boat House Row and Racecourse Maintenance Dredging Project

Dear Brigadier General Graham:

On behalf of Saint Joseph's Preparatory School, I am writing to request that you assign a high priority to the Schuylkill River Boat House Row and Racecourse Maintenance Dredging Project ("Project") in your FY 2018 North Atlantic Division Work Plan—Operations and Maintenance



Paul Laskow
Chair, River
Restoration
Committee

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(to avoid crisis in the future)



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
215 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 686-2181
FAX (215) 686-2180

JAMES F. KENNEY
Mayor

January 17, 2018

Brigadier General William H. Graham
Commander and Division Engineer, North Atlantic Division
North Atlantic Division
302 General Lee Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11252

Dear General Graham:

For the past two years, the Army Corp of Engineers has ignored the recommendation of the North Atlantic Division to dredge the Schuylkill River. We urge you to reconsider that decision. Failure to routinely dredge the Schuylkill River has resulted in unsafe conditions, threatening its use as an economic engine for the entire Philadelphia region. The river is home to internationally acclaimed regattas and used on a near daily basis by amateur and student rowing teams. Failure to keep it properly dredged is a life safety issue.

The undersigned who have joined me in this letter are Presidents of Philadelphia's Colleges and Universities and leaders of the organizations who use the river. Also included is a more comprehensive list of all schools and organizations that utilize and enjoy the river.

A healthy Schuylkill River is essential to the safety of the athletes who use the river, and is vitality indispensable to student recruitment.

We understand that dredging resources are scarce, but ignoring this effort will only cost more in the long run: more in lost tax revenue and more in public safety expenses. We encourage you to sustain the recommendation of your own experts, heed to good common sense, adhere to the Congressional mandate and do the right thing by funding the dredging of the Schuylkill River without further delay.

Sincerely,

Honorable James F. Kenney
Mayor

John Fry
Drexel University

Dr. Amy Gutmann
University of Pennsylvania

Richard M. Englert
Temple University

Stephen K. Klasko, MD, MBA
Jefferson University

Colleen Hanycz, Ph.D.
La Salle University

Mark C. Reed, Ed.D.
Saint Joseph's University

Paul Laskow
Schuylkill Navy of Philadelphia



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
215 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 686-2181
FAX (215) 686-2180

JAMES F. KENNEY
Mayor

January 17, 2018

Brigadier General William H. Graham

John Fry
Drexel University

Dr. Amy Gutmann
University of Pennsylvania

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Sincerely,

Honorable James F. Kenney
Mayor

La Salle University

Mark C. Reed, Ed.D.
Saint Joseph's University

Paul Laskow
Schuylkill Navy of Philadelphia



Paul Laskow
Chair, River
Restoration
Committee

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(to avoid crisis in the future)

Ongoing Maintenance to Avoid Lurching from Crisis to Crisis



A SUMMARY OF OUR FOCUS

RESTORATIVE

"Big Dig"

Funding: Plan A (Federal Funds)

Funding: Plan B (Private Funds)

MAINTENANCE

Ongoing

Funding: Everyone Contributes



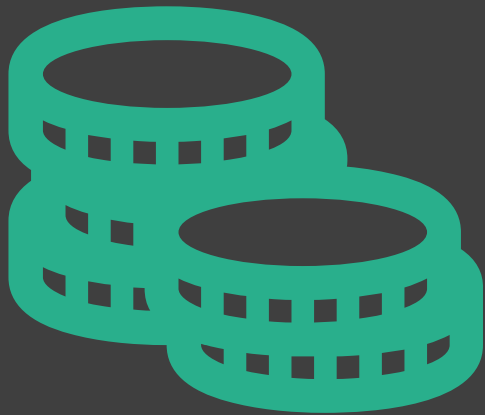
Margaret Meigs
Chair, Public
Engagement

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WHAT CAN I DO TO
INCREASE THE
LIKELIHOOD OF
RESTORATIVE PLAN A
FUNDING?

The US ACE has provided EXPLICIT directions on what will influence Washington, DC



May 4, 2018

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
Headquarters
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear General Semonite:

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, representing 600,000 employees from thousands of member organizations across northern Delaware, southern New Jersey, and southeastern Pennsylvania, I write to join the numerous area universities, institutions and congressional members in urging the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to prioritize funding for the Schuylkill River Maintenance Dredging Project in its 2018 Work Plan for Operations and Maintenance.



Philadelphia City Rowing

Brigadier General William H. Graham,
Commander and Division Engineer
US Army Corps of Engineers
302 General Lee Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11252

Re: FY 2018 Work Plan – Operations and Maintenance
Schuylkill River Boat House Row and Racecourse Maintenance Dredging Project

Dear General Graham:

On behalf of the more than **90** crew parents of Philadelphia City Rowing, I am writing to request that you assign a high priority to the **Schuylkill River Boat House Row and Racecourse Maintenance Dredging Project** ("Project") in your FY 2018 North Atlantic Division Work Plan–Operations and



What can I do to influence Restorative
Plan B Funding?

Launching a Capital Campaign

1. Share your ideas and contacts
2. Activate your role as an alumnus or influencer with all key stakeholder institutions (ie, TALK ABOUT THIS NEED WITH EVERYONE)
3. Support all river users and encourage their participation in our efforts



What can I do to influence ongoing
Maintenance?

WHY MAINTENANCE? WHY NOW?

The River won't stop silting.

Government funding will be absent.

It's a DIY future for river users.

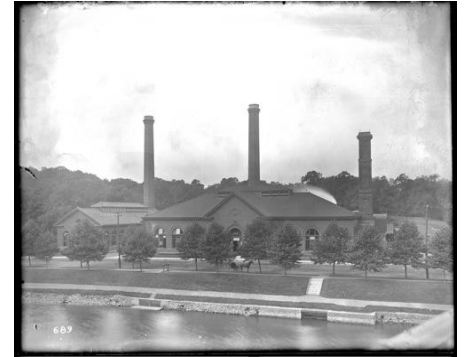
It's a partnership future.

“Maintenance”
is a new world
*(with significant
implications)*



PHILADELPHIA
PARKS &
RECREATION

PHILADELPHIA
WATER
EST. 1801



PLANNING FOR A PUBLIC/ PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

River infrastructure is not just a recreational problem.



Activating the River District is a Must

- We are citizens of the Park
- We are partners in the City and Park's mission to bring the benefits of the Park to all citizens and visitors
- We must – and will – continue to lead the way
- River Infrastructure is only one part of the River District

The background features three overlapping teal circles of varying shades, arranged horizontally. The circles overlap in the center, creating a darker teal area. The background is a dark grey color.

How can I actively support
maintenance dredging in the River
District?

Continued Stewardship

- **Of the Schuylkill**
- **Of the Park**
- **Of our organizations**
- **Of our next generation of leaders**

Continued Public Engagement

- **With City stakeholders**
- **With the Park and other agencies who touch the River District**

Continued Support to Enhance Benefits of River for All

- **Safe access and inclusion to river recreation opportunities**
- **Brainstorm additional creative ways to bring people to the river**



Jen Wesson
Exec Director,
Head of the
Schuylkill Regatta

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PANELISTS

DOTTY BROWN

*Boathouse Row: Waves of Change in
the Birthplace of American Rowing*

ANDY QUINN

Urban Engineers

EMILIA RASTRICK

Schuylkill Paddlers Inc

CATHERINE REDDICK

Philadelphia City Rowing