



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: March 4, 2020

Members,

RE: CORPS' MISSISSIPPI RIVER MAINTENANCE FORUM MEETING NOTES

The Corps' Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) holds monthly meetings to discuss channel conditions and related issues directly with the maritime industry. These meetings are usually scheduled for 0900 hours on the first Wednesday of the month. LAMA encourages our members to attend these meetings, which are open to the public (with advanced notice of attendance provided to MVN). The agenda for this meeting as provided by the MVN is attached.

Maintenance Forum Notes March 4, 2020

1) Introductions

2) Southeast Waterways Update:

Tiger Pass: The MVN received \$9 million to dredge Tiger Pass in Fiscal Year 2019 but did not receive any bids that could be awarded to the cutterhead dredge advertisement of September 2019. The MVN also attempted to convert the dredging of Tiger Pass into a BUDMAT (Beneficial Use of Dredged Material) project but did not receive the necessary federal funding to do so.

The MVN now expects to advertise a contract for a cutterhead dredge in late April (2020), the contract will by design request a cutterhead dredge to arrive within three months. The longer than usual reporting time is designed to increase the odds of securing a cutterhead dredge. The MVN indicated the funding would be sufficient to restore the channel to reduced dimensions of 12 feet through removing approximately 1.9 million cubic yards of sediment.

Baptiste Collette: The cutterhead dredge CROSBY DREDGER (Crosby Dredging) dredged Baptiste Collette from July 29, 2019 to completion on February 18, 2020. The latest surveys show significant shoaling in areas of the recently dredged areas of the channel. The Corps is concerned about the new shoaling and plans to run additional surveys to see if the identified shoaling was an anomaly or related to light material ("fluff") above the hard bottom. The MVN previously awarded a contract for rock work to TKTMJ Incorporated. The contractor began placing rock along the western jetty on February 21, 2020 and is expected to complete this contract by mid-April.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

Current Stage New Orleans (Carrollton Gauge): 16.7 feet at the time of the meeting.

- **Long range projections predict a crest of 16.9 feet tomorrow (March 5, 2020) and then beginning a slow fall to 13.6 feet by April 1, 2020.**

Current Stage Baton Rouge: 41.8 feet at the time of the meeting.

- **Long range projections predict a crest of 42.1 feet tomorrow (March 5, 2020) and then beginning a slow fall to 32.7 feet by April 1, 2020.**

A. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans:

The latest survey details for the Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans are included in the attached agenda. The surveys identify significant shoaling on the Crossings, the MVN stated that surveys show approximately 28 feet of shoaling at Red Eye Crossing and over 20 feet at several others. The dustpan dredges are expected to return to the Crossings in June or during the next substantial period of low water.



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B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN expects to dredge the New Orleans Harbor during the summer or during the next substantial period of low water.

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

There are three dredges working in the area of Southwest Pass, the hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction), the cutterhead CAPTAIN FRANK (Weeks Marine) and the cutterhead dredge E.W. ELLEFSEN (Weeks Marine). There is significant shoaling in multiple locations from Cubits Gap to the Bar Channel. The NEWPORT is dredging at the Head of Passes; the E.W. ELLEFSEN is dredging on assignment on the west side of the channel from Mile 2.5 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 3.4 BHP; the CAPTAIN FRANK is dredging on the west side from Mile 9.1 BHP to Mile 10.1 BHP.

The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is expected to start dredging in SWP on March 20, 2020 under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #13-19.

MVN's hopper dredge WHEELER is now expected to start dredging in SWP by mid-April.

D. Head of Passes, Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA):

The cutterhead dredge E.W. ELLEFSEN was scheduled to resume work on the HDDA but is being utilized to work on the Ship Channel first due to the emergency channel conditions (high-water event).

Multiple cutterhead dredges have worked on this project and all material removed from the HDDA has been beneficially placed in the Pass A'Loutre Wildlife Management Area (PALWMA). Supplemental funding allowed the MVN to increase the amount of material to be removed from the HDDA to a total of 15.075 million cubic yards (mcy). The cutterhead dredges have now beneficially utilized approximately 13 mcy of material from the HDDA and restored roughly 1,040 acres. When this project is completed in mid-2020, approximately 1,200 acres will have been restored in the PALWMA.

E. Fiscal Year 2019 (FY 19) Supplemental Funding:

The MVN confirmed today that it has received additional FY 19 supplemental funding. The funding is reported to be sufficient to fund an additional dredge contract in the HDDA, conduct additional rock work in Southwest Pass and most notably to dredge South Pass. The amount of funding has not been released but is apparently sufficient to fund the three projects. South Pass has not been dredged since 2007, the MVN expects to remove 10.5 million cubic yards of material and to restore the channel to a depth of 17 feet with 3 feet of advanced maintenance. The material would be beneficially used in the Pass A Loutre Wildlife Management Area and should restore approximately 800 acres of critical marsh and wetland habitat.

4) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at the MVN District Assembly Room A.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
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Executive Vice President

Attachment