



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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Issue Date: May 3, 2019

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). The agenda for this meeting as provided by the MVN is attached.

### **Maintenance Forum Notes**

**May 1, 2019**

#### **1) Introductions**

#### **2) Southeast Waterways Update:**

**Tiger Pass:** The MVN was awarded \$9.5 million for the dredging of Tiger Pass through the Corps Fiscal Year 2019 Work Plan. Updated channel surveys of Tiger Pass have now been completed although the jetty end (Mile 12.5 to Mile 13.25) was too shallow to be surveyed. The MVN estimates that approximately 2.7 million cubic yards (mcy) of material would have to be removed to restore the shallow-draft channel to near full channel dimensions. Although, the funding is not expected to be sufficient to restore fully authorized channel dimensions. The authorized dimensions on the inner channel are 14 feet by 150 feet and 16 feet by 150 feet on the jetties. The Corps anticipates awarding this contract late in Fiscal Year 2019.

**Baptiste Collette:** The Corps previously received \$13.9 million in supplemental funding to perform dredging operations (\$6.5 million) and rock work to fortify the jetties and channel boundaries (\$7.4 million). The MVN then received an additional \$3 million from the Corps Fiscal Year 2019 Work Plan. The latest channel surveys identified a controlling depth of approximately 4 feet on the west side of the channel near Mile 9.25 (jetty end) with 3-4 feet being added by the gauge. Crosby Dredging was the apparent low bidder of this cutterhead dredge contract, the contract should be awarded on May 17, 2019.

The MVN also intends to issue a contract for the rock work in July and expects those operations to commence in August 2019. The Baptiste Collette foreshore rock channel borders will be repaired along with the jetties, the jetties may also be extended.

#### **3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:**

Current Stage New Orleans: 16.4 feet (At 1400 hours today the reading was 16.54 feet)

\* Projected to crest at 16.7 feet from May 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> and then begin a slow fall.

Current Stage Baton Rouge: 41.5 feet (At 1500 hours today the reading was 41.54 feet)

\* Projected to crest at 42.5 feet from May 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 24<sup>th</sup> and then begin a slow fall.

**\* NOTE: The long-term Stage Forecasts are attached and based only on future rainfall over the next 48-hours only.**

#### **A. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans:**

The latest surveys for the Crossings Between Baton and New Orleans are included in the attached agenda. The surveys identify considerable shoaling on the Crossings with up to 32 feet of shoal material at Red Eye Crossing. **The Corps intends to commence dredging at Red Eye Crossing and Alhambra Crossing on Sunday, May 5, 2019.**



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## **A. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans: (continued)**

**HURLEY:** The Corps dustpan dredge is HURLEY is expected to commence dredging at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 AHP) on Sunday, May 3, 2019.

**WALLCE McGEORGE:** The industry dustpan dredge WALLCE McGEORGE is expected to commence dredging at Alhambra Crossing (Mile 190.5 AHP) on Sunday, May 3, 2019. **The White Castle Anchorage (Mile 191.1 AHP to Mile 190.4 AHP) will be off limits for vessel usage while dredging operations are conducted at Alhambra Crossing. The closure of this anchorage is expected to begin on the morning of Sunday, May 3, 2019.**

## **B. New Orleans Harbor:**

The Port of New Orleans confirmed significant shoaling that is being buffered by the elevated river stages. The MVN intends to conduct dredging operations in the New Orleans Harbor when the stages recede below 12 feet or so.

## **C. Southwest Pass (SWP):**

The MVN continues the effort to restore channel dimensions in SWP with three industry hopper dredges and the government hopper dredge WHEELER working under a Red Flag Emergency Callout.

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

The R.S. WEEKS previously removed approximately 2.5 mcy of material from the HDDA before moving to dredge in SWP on December 15, 2018. The R.S. WEEKS resumed the HDDA project on April 24, 2019. The cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK is now also working in the HDDA to clear a path for the hopper dredges so they can utilize the HDDA for disposal.

## **E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore Dike & Jetty Repair:**

A contract was awarded to EFT Diversified, Inc. on July 16, 2018 to make repairs to the foreshore rocks and the jetties that protect the deep-draft channel in Southwest Pass. The rock placement operations continue, and the contractor is working closely with the Pilot Associations to assist in maintaining navigational safety around the rock placement operations.

## **F. Fiscal Year 2019 Funding Update:**

The MVN recently received an additional \$33.5 million for Operations and Maintenance of the Mississippi River Ship Channel establishing a historic record of funding raising the total to \$191,329,000 (Fiscal Year 2019). The MVN will advertise a bid opening for a hopper dredge contract on Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

## **4) Next Meeting:**

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on June 5, 2019, at the MVN District Assembly Room A.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.  
Maritime Advocate  
Executive Vice President

Attachment