



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

---

Issue Date: September 2, 2020

Members,

## RE: CORPS' MISSISSIPPI RIVER MAINTENANCE FORUM MEETING NOTES

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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. Today's meeting was conducted via teleconference only based on the social distancing requirements of COVID-19. The agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

### Maintenance Forum Notes September 2, 2020

#### 1) Introductions

#### 2) Southeast Waterways Update:

**Tiger Pass:** The MVN held a bid opening yesterday (September 1, 2020) to re-advertise a cutterhead dredge rental contract to dredge Tiger Pass. The contract received one response, but the bid was non-awardable based on the amount being significantly over the Government Estimate. The contract proposal has been converted to the Request for Proposal process. More details will be provided as they become available. The contract calls for the removal of approximately 1.9 million cubic yards (mcy) of material from the deficient shallow-draft channel. The contract is expected to restore a depth of 12 feet by 150 feet across the length of the channel. Tiger Pass was last dredged in 2012.

**Baptiste Collette:** The cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK (Weeks Marine) has completed the dredging of Baptiste Collette. As the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lock is dewatered, Baptiste Collette will be utilized as the alternate route for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway shallow-draft traffic.

**The dewatering of the IHNC Lock is scheduled to begin on Friday, September 4, 2020 and is scheduled to require a full closure for 60 days.** The MVN reported the channel is in good condition now and that channel surveys will be kept up to date. The U.S. Coast Guard reported that all Aids to Navigation are in place and online properly marking the alternate channel route, the Marine Safety Information Bulletin with complete details is attached.

#### 3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

##### New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 3.68 feet

- Long range projections predict a slight rise of approximately 0.3 feet and cresting at 4.1 feet and remaining steady a few days before resuming a slow fall to 3.0 feet on September 29, 2020.

##### Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 12.42 feet

- Long range projections predict a slight rise of approximately 1.7 feet and cresting at 14.1 feet and remaining steady a few days before resuming a slow fall to 10.9 feet on September 29, 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 dustpan dredges are working at the following locations: WALLACE McGEORGE at Baton Rouge Front (Mile 230.5 Above Head of Passes [AHP]) and the JADWIN at Alhambra Crossing (Mile 190.5 AHP). The hopper dredge BAYPORT is working at Medora Crossing (Mile 212 AHP). The dustpan dredge HURLEY is transiting downriver from the last shallow-draft assignment at Winchester (Mile 901 AHP) to a new shallow-draft assignment at Tunica Bend (Mile 294 AHP). The HURLEY is expected to resume dredging on the Crossings in late September.

#### B. New Orleans Harbor:

There are no plans to dredge in the New Orleans Harbor until conditions change in Fiscal Year 2021.



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

---

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

There are presently no dredges working in Southwest Pass and the Ship Channel is in good condition. The MVN's hopper dredge WHEELER completed Readiness Exercise #2-2020 at 2200 hours last night September 1, 2020. The WHEELER is transiting to the Calcasieu Ship Channel to begin work on Readiness Exercise #3-2020.

The MVN is processing two cutterhead dredge contracts designed to begin Phase 1 of the Mississippi River Ship Channel Deepening to 50 feet. The first contract (SWP Cutterhead #1-2020) would secure the cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK (Weeks Marine) and the second contract (SWP Cutterhead #2-2020) would secure the cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction). The two cutterhead dredge contracts are expected to be awarded by next week and the deepening work is expected to start by the end of September (2020). Phase 1 of the Ship Channel Deepening to 50 Feet is from Venice to the SWP Sea Buoy, Weeks Marine and Manson Construction are the apparent low bidders to the two contracts. The two historic contracts should both be finalized and awarded over the next 10 days, work on the deepening contracts should begin by the end of September (2020).

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

The cutterhead dredge R.S. WEEKS (Weeks Marine) will resume work on the HDDA contract to remove the remaining 1.9 million cubic yards (mcy) of material. Weeks Marine previously removed 13.2 mcy of material from the HDDA. Weeks' has utilized multiple cutterheads to restore approximately 1,000 acres of wetlands in the Pass A' Loutre Wildlife Management Area through the beneficial use of dredged material.

A new HDDA contract, Hopper Dredge Disposal Area Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019, was awarded to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock.. This contract will require the installation of a submerged dredge pipeline to place the material in the West Bay Receiving Area. The placement of the submerged pipeline will require temporary closure(s) of the Ship Channel estimated to last 12-hours at a time. The pipeline will cross the Ship Channel from the HDDA into West Bay at a location between Mile 0 and Mile 1.5 AHP. The contract includes the removal of 10 mcy in the base with options to add an additional 4 mcy and is expected to start in December (2020). The pipeline placement and closures will be scheduled prior to the next period of high water.

## **E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:**

The MVN awarded the contract to place foreshore rock in SWP to EFT Diversified, Inc. The MVN expects this work begin later this year and to take approximately one year to complete.

## **F. South Pass:**

The MVN will hold a bid opening for a cutterhead dredge contract to dredge South Pass on September 15, 2020, South Pass has not been dredged since 2007. The MVN has drafted the contract to allow up to six months for the cutterhead dredge to begin work in an effort to secure an awardable bid. The contract is expected to remove approximately 10.5 mcy. The contract will be designed to restore a depth of 17 feet with 3 feet of advanced maintenance (20 feet). The material will be beneficially used in the PALWMA 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, October 7, 2020, and will also be conducted via conference call only (COVID-19).

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