



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: May 4, 2022

Members,

RE: USACE MISSISSIPPI RIVER MAINTENANCE FORUM MEETING NOTES

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 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, the agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

Maintenance Forum Notes May 4, 2022

1) Introductions

2) Southeast Waterways Update: The President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2022 recommends a record amount of funding, \$19.755 Million for the shallow-draft passes.

Tiger Pass: The USACE terminated the contract to dredge Tiger Pass with Crosby Dredging on October 15, 2021 and released the cutterhead dredge, CROSBY DREDGER. The cutterhead dredge completed approximately forty-eight percent of the assignment before the contract was terminated. The contract was cancelled because of the inability to provide accurate depth of cover surveys over multiple pipelines extending from Mile 10.2 to Mile 13.0. The shallow-draft channel was dredged from Mile 6.0 to Mile 10.2. The USACE hopes to return to complete the dredging the remaining section (approximately 2.0 miles) later this Fiscal Year, but the dredging cannot proceed without first obtaining accurate pipeline surveys.

Baptiste Collette: The MVN advises mariners transiting this shallow draft channel to utilize the online channel surveys that indicate multiple shoals. MVN now expects to advertise a bid opening for a cutterhead dredge by early June (2022) for a contract to restore authorized channel dimensions to Baptiste Collette and expects to have sufficient funding to dredge in Tiger Pass once the pipeline survey anomalies are properly identified (depth).

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 11.8 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will slowly recede to 9.0 feet on June 1, 2022.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 32.9 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will recede to 25.0 feet on June 1, 2022.

The long-range (16-day) experimental precipitation-based model that are published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service indicate the stage at New Orleans and Baton Rouge may rise again around May 20, 2022 – New Orleans to just under 12 feet and Baton Rouge to approximately 34.0 feet.

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 USACE will resume dredging operations next week with the dustpan dredges: the WALLACE McGEORGE is expected to start dredging at Smoke Bend (Mile 175 AHP) early next week and the JADWIN will start at Belmont Crossing (Mile 154 AHP) later in the week.

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN plans to dredge in the New Orleans Harbor during low water conditions in Fiscal Year 2022 indications are this work will begin in June or July.



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C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is undergoing repairs but is expected to return to SWP by early next week. The GLENN EDWARDS is now working on an early award hopper dredge rental contract (Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract # 2-2021). The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE is working in SWP under Southwest Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #2-2020 from Mile 12.2 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 16.0 BHP on the eastern side of the channel. The USACE hopper dredge WHEELER completed working in SWP under Readiness Exercise #4-2022, Readiness Exercise #5-2022 is scheduled to be performed from May 17 to May 30 (2022).

The industry hopper dredge TERRAPIN ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock) is now working in Galveston (TX) under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #1-2021 due to the channel present conditions in SWP. The two USACE Districts utilized the Regional Dredge Contract approach that allowed the hopper dredge to work in Galveston where it is needed.

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

The USACE now expects to advertise a bid opening for a HDDA cutterhead rental contract in late May or early June (2022).

E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:

The USACE awarded BIS Services, LLC a contract to install foreshore rock in SWP during Fiscal Year 2022. BIS Services started work under this contract on March 4, 2022 and is presently working from Mile 14.6 BHP to Mile 14.8 BHP and from Mile 15.5 BHP to Mile 15.8 BHP on the eastern side of the channel. The Pilots reported good cooperation with the representatives of BIS and report no challenges at this time.

F. South Pass:

The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) dredged under South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #1-2020 from April 3, 2021 to February 8, 2022. The cutterhead removed approximately the 14.0 million cubic yards of material and restored approximately 850 acres of marsh in the environmentally sensitive birds-foot delta surrounding South Pass. This contract restored a depth of approximately 17 feet with 3 feet of advanced maintenance (20 feet). This is the first dredge project in South Pass since 2007.

4) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, and will also be conducted via conference call.

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Attachment