



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: December 2, 2020

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 based on the social distancing requirements of COVID-19. The agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

Maintenance Forum Notes December 2, 2020

1) Introductions

2) Southeast Waterways Update:

Tiger Pass: The MVN awarded a cutterhead dredge rental contract to dredge Tiger Pass to Crosby Dredging on September 28, 2020. The CROSBY DREDGER is now expected to start work under this contract in February 2021. The Tiger Pass contract is 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 MVN reports several shallow areas across Baptiste Collette most notably a shoal between Mile 5.4 and 5.6. The MVN recommends mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel utilize the latest online channel surveys. The dewatering of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lock was completed on November 25, 2020. The IHNC Lock is operational and Baptiste Collette is no longer serving as an alternate route for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway shallow-draft traffic. The MVN is developing plans to dredge Baptiste Collette later in Fiscal Year 2021, that dredging will most likely occur after the next highwater event (mid-2021).

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 4.6 feet

- Today's long-range projections predict a rise to 6.1 feet on December 12, 2020 and then a slow fall to 4.9 feet on December 30, 2020.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 14.6 feet

- Today's long-range projections predict a rise to 17.9 feet on December 10, 2020 and then a slow fall to 13.8 feet on December 30, 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 USACE is finishing up dredging on the Crossings with the dustpan dredge WALLACE McGEORGE working at Medora Crossing (Mile 212 AHP). The dustpan is expected to clean up areas on several Crossings before being released for the season – expected to complete work by the end of December (2020).

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN plans to dredge in the New Orleans Harbor during low water conditions in Fiscal Year 2021 although shoaling is noted at the Julia Street Cruise Terminal and at the Napoleon Avenue Container Terminal Complex.

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

There are presently no dredges working on channel maintenance in Southwest Pass and the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC) is in good condition. However, three cutterhead dredges are actively working under two of the contracts for the historic Ship Channel deepening project (50 feet).



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C. Southwest Pass (SWP): (continued)

The CAPTAIN FRANK (Weeks Marine) began work on the deepening project on September 11, 2020, the cutterhead dredge has been undergoing repairs but is expected to resume dredging on assignment from Mile 13 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 18 BHP on the eastern side of the Ship Channel. The E.W. ELLEFSEN (Weeks Marine) is also working under the same deepening contract on assignment from Mile 1 BHP to Mile 6 BHP on the western side of the Ship Channel. The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) continues working on assignment from Mile 9 BHP to Mile 15 BHP on the western side of the Ship Channel.

The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) will complete the final portions of the Ship Channel deepening project with an expected start in mid-2021.

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

The cutterhead dredge R.S. WEEKS (Weeks Marine) completed work on the long-term HDDA contract on December 1, 2020. Weeks Marine removed a total of approximately 15.0 million cubic yards (mcy) of material from the HDDA utilizing 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.

An additional HDDA contract, Hopper Dredge Disposal Area Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019, was awarded to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock. Great Lakes intends to respond to this contract with their cutterhead dredge ILLINOIS. **This contract will require the installation of a submerged dredge pipeline to place the removed dredge 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 1.4 AHP and Mile 1.2 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 are expected to be conducted on December 21 and December 23 but those plans remain tentative, more details are expected once plans are confirmed.

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 to begin in December 2020 and that the work will take approximately one year to complete.

F. South Pass:

The MVN has awarded South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contact #1-2020 to Manson Construction. Manson is expected to begin this contract with the ROBERT M. WHITE after it completes work on the MRSC deepening project. The contract is expected to remove approximately 10.5 mcy. The dredge is expected to restore a depth of 17 feet with 3 feet of advanced maintenance (20 feet) and start work by June 2021. The material will be beneficially used in the PALWMA and should restore approximately 800 acres of critical marsh and wetland habitat. South Pass was last dredged in 2007.

4) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, and is also expected to be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
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