



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: June 2, 2021

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 June 2, 2021

1) Introductions

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

Tiger Pass: The MVN awarded a cutterhead dredge rental contract to dredge Tiger Pass to Crosby Dredging on September 28, 2020. The cutterhead dredge CROSBY DREDGER began work under this contract on March 4, 2021 to remove 1.9 million cubic yards of material. The MVN discussed complications of dredging this severely deficient shallow-draft channel that was last dredged almost a decade ago. The controlling draft restored to this shallow-draft channel is expected to be approximately 9 feet Mean Low Gulf with a width of 110 feet with some areas of the channel deepened to approximately 12 feet Mean Low Gulf. The MVN expects the dredging on Tiger Pass to be completed by the end of the year (2021). Tiger Pass was last dredged in 2012.

Baptiste Collette: The MVN updated information on several large shoals across Baptiste Collette one at Mile 2.75 that is marked with a U.S. Coast Guard shoal buoy and another large shoal near Mile 3.8. The MVN encouraged mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize the latest online channel surveys. The MVN is developing plans to dredge Baptiste Collette during a low water period, this contract will most likely be married with one to dredge in the New Orleans Harbor later this Fiscal Year.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

The President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2022 recommends a record amount of funding for the Mississippi River Ship Channel of \$126 Million for the Mississippi River Ship Channel. Actual funding levels may vary. The previous record amount for the project in the President's Budget Request was \$91.97 Million and the five average is \$82.4 Million.

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 10.10 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages to remain near 10.00 feet the next ten days and then to begin a slow fall to 7.6 feet on June 30, 2021.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 28.60 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will begin a slow fall reaching 20.30 feet on June 30, 2021.

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 dredging with the dustpan dredges HURLEY at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 AHP) and WALLACE McGEORGE at Sardine Point (Mile 219 AHP). The hopper dredge STUYVESANT is dredging at Alhambra Crossing (Mile 191 AHP).

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN plans to dredge in the New Orleans Harbor during low water conditions in Fiscal Year 2021 and expects to hold a bid opening soon. The USACE expects to marry this contract with the one to dredge at Baptiste Collette and is coordinating the timing of this contract with representatives from the Port of New Orleans.



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

There are currently no dredges working on channel maintenance in Southwest Pass on the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC).

The industry hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) was dredging this morning but has now departed SWP to undergo emergency repairs. The hopper dredge is expected to resume dredging by the end of the week. The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is also being repaired and is expected to return in mid-August. The industry cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) is presently dredging in South Pass but will return to complete work in Southwest Pass in early 2022.

The MVN continues working to identify proper alignment and depths over two pipelines and one utility cable between Mile 12 AHP and Mile 11 AHP before fully opening the Phase 1 portion of the Mississippi River Ship Channel to drafts of 50 feet. The Phase 1 deepening assignments were from Mile 13 AHP to Mile 22 BHP and the dredging for the deeper channel was completed May 7, 2021.

The Bar Pilots raised their maximum freshwater draft recommendation to 48 feet this afternoon. The Notice from the Bar Pilots is attached. However, the Crescent River Port Pilots maximum draft remains at 47 feet freshwater at this time.

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

The cutterhead dredge ILLINOIS (Great Lakes Dredge and Dock) is working under Hopper Dredge Disposal Area Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019. The contract includes the removal of 10 mcy in the base with options to add an additional 4 mcy. The ILLINOIS commenced dredging in the HDDA on January 27, 2021 and has now removed approximately 6.5 mcy of material that is being beneficially utilized in the West Bay Receiving Area. The installation of a submerged dredge pipeline was completed on January 19, 2021. The pipeline crosses the Ship Channel between Mile 1.4 AHP to Mile 1.2 AHP from the eastern side of the channel into the West Bay. The submerged pipeline will have to be removed upon completion of the project and the retrieval will require at least one complete channel closure. The dredge ILLINOIS is expected to be released in mid-June and replaced by the cutterhead dredge ALASKA in mid-July.

E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:

The MVN awarded the contract to place foreshore rock in SWP to EFT Diversified, Inc. The rock work began on December 19, 2020 and two subcontractors are actively working on the rock placement. The USACE expects to advertise a similar contract for additional rock work later this Fiscal Year.

F. South Pass:

The MVN awarded South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contact #1-2020 to Manson Construction. Manson's cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE began dredging under this contract on April 3, 2021. The cutterhead will remove approximately 10.5 mcy by January 2022. The dredge is expected to restore a depth of 17 feet with 3 feet of advanced maintenance (20 feet). South Pass was last dredged in 2007.

4) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 and is also expected to be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

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

Attachment