



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: September 8, 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 September 8, 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.

Tiger Pass: The cutterhead dredge, CROSBY DREDGER remains idle after seeking safe harbor due to the approach of Hurricane Ida. MVN awarded a cutterhead dredge rental contract to dredge Tiger Pass to Crosby Dredging on September 28, 2020. Crosby began work under this contract to remove 1.9 million cubic yards of material on March 4, 2021. The controlling draft restored to this shallow-draft channel is expected to be approximately 9 feet Mean Low Gulf (MLG) with a width of 110 feet critical areas of the channel could be deepened to approximately 12 feet MLG. Dredging has been completed from Mile 6.5 to Mile 9.2 with the assignment extending to Mile 13, post-Hurricane Ida surveys are expected.

The MVN is coordinating with Crosby Dredging as they work to get staff and survey assets on scene, dredging could resume by the end of next weekend (September 18, 2021). Tiger Pass was last dredged in 2012.

Baptiste Collette: The MVN has not been able to perform channel surveys post Hurricane Ida's coastal surge impacted the Mississippi River Delta. The MVN awarded a cutterhead rental contract to Weeks Marine that was completed by the C.R. McCASKILL between August 12 and August 23 (2021).

The MVN encouraged mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize the latest online channel surveys with extra caution until new surveys can be posted online.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 3.5 feet

- The long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow rise to 5.4 feet on September 15 and then begin a slow fall to 2.9 feet by October 6 (2021).

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading yesterday morning was: 21.0 feet

- The long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow rise to 15.7 feet on September 16 and then begin a slow fall to 5.9 feet by October 6 (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 at least the central 250 feet of channel on the Crossings with the dustpan dredges WALLACE McGEORGE at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 AHP); and the JADWIN at Belmont Crossing (Mile 154 AHP).

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN completed dredging operations in the New Orleans Harbor for Fiscal Year 2021.



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C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

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

The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is expected to return to dredging on the Mississippi River Ship Channel in late September (2021). The dredge will most likely be utilized to deepen the Ship Channel (50 Feet) at Fairview Crossing (Mile 115) to begin Phase 2 of the Ship Channel deepening project on the lower four Crossings Above New Orleans. A revised Phase 2 of the Channel Deepening Project will focus on deepening upriver from Fairview and then deepen the next three Crossings: Belmont [Mile 154 AHP]; Rich Bend [Mile 158 AHP]; Smoke Bend [Mile 175 AHP] deepening up to Mile 175 AHP. The dustpan dredges HURLEY and JADWIN are expected to work on the deepening at the listed Crossings. The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) will return to complete work in Southwest Pass in early 2022. There are also two Early Award Hopper Dredges Contracts for Fiscal Year 2022 with the TERRAPIN ISLAND due in SWP in February 2022 and the GLENN EDWARDS due in March 2022.

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

The cutterhead dredge ILLINOIS (Great Lakes Dredge and Dock) resumed post-Ida dredging under Hopper Dredge Disposal Area Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019 on September 6, 2021 and should complete this contract over the next few days. The contract includes the removal of 12 million cubic yards, the ILLINOIS began dredging in the HDDA on January 27, 2021. The dredged material is being beneficially utilized in the West Bay Receiving Area. The pipeline crosses the Ship Channel between Mile 1.4 AHP to Mile 1.2 AHP. **The submerged dredge pipeline will be removed during two full channel closures (scheduled for 12-hours) in the area of the Head of Passes. (Schedule coming soon)**

The ILLINOIS has removed and beneficially utilized approximately 11.25 million cubic yards (mcy) of material from the HDDA under Hopper Dredge Disposal Area Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019.

E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:

The MVN reported that BIS Services, LLC was the apparent low bidder for a foreshore rock placement contract to be installed in Fiscal Year 2022.

F. South Pass:

The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) expects to resume work under this contract (South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #1-2020) over the next week or so. 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, October 6, 2021 and is also expected to be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

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Attachment