



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: April 6, 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 based on the social distancing requirements of COVID-19. The agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

Maintenance Forum Notes April 6, 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 and the USACE hopes to return to complete the dredging the remaining section (approximately 2.0 miles).

The USACE has utilized the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) to try and locate the three obstructions in the Venice Corridor. There remain two pipelines and one utility cable in the Venice Corridor (Mile 11.0 AHP to Mile 12.0 AHP) that have not been successfully surveyed to determine their depth of burial (below river bottom). The ERDC survey teams have also been to Venice and Tiger Pass several times over the last six months with multiple pieces of sophisticated survey equipment, the release of the information from this coordinated survey effort could be released in early May (2022).

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 in May 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: 12.2 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will slowly recede to 5.3 feet on May 4, 2022. Although the NOAA's National Weather Service's experimental forecasts 2- and 16-day forecasts predicts the stages will remain elevated near 12 feet for the next 16-days, this is an experimental forecast that includes future precipitation.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 33.4 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will recede to 17.5 feet on May 4, 2022. The NOAA's National Weather Service's experimental forecasts 2- and 16-day forecasts predicts the stages will remain elevated between 30 and 35 feet for the next 16-days, this is an experimental forecast that includes future precipitation.

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 for Fiscal Year 2022 after the first significant high-water period and upon updated channel surveys and conditions, indications are dredging would start in May or June (2022).

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN plans to dredge in the New Orleans Harbor during low water conditions in Fiscal Year 2022 (Summer).



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C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) continues dredging on assignment near Venice on two different assignments: from Mile 10.5 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 10.0 AHP and from Mile 9.0 AHP to Mile 8.5 AHP. The hopper dredge is working under a previously awarded dredge contract (Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #3-2020). The hours remaining on this contract will be used in SWP and are expected to be completed by mid- to late-April (2022), the GLENN EDWARDS will then start work on an early award hopper dredge rental contract (Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract # 2-2021) that should keep the hopper in SWP until August (2022). The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE is working in SWP under Southwest Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #2-2020 from Mile 11.0 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 11.0 BHP on the eastern side of the channel. The USACE hopper dredge WHEELER completed working in SWP under Readiness Exercise #3-2022, Readiness Exercise #4-2022 is scheduled to be performed from April 19 to May 2 (2022).

There are also two Early Award Hopper Dredges Contracts for Fiscal Year 2022 with the TERRAPIN ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge and Dock) due in SWP later this month and the previously referenced second contract for the GLENN EDWARDS (March 2022).

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 April (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 13.1 BHP to Mile 13.4 BHP. 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, May 4, 2022, and will also be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

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Attachment