



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: May 5, 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 May 5, 2021

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 cutterhead dredge CROSBY DREDGER began work under this contract on March 4, 2021 to remove 1.9 million cubic yards of material. The MVN update 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 reaches 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 across the channel between Mile 8.5 and Mile 10.5. 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, dredging will most likely occur by August 2021.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 10.74 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate a slow rise in stages cresting at 12.4 feet from May 17-21 before beginning a slow fall to 10.0 feet on June 2, 2021.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 29.70 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate slow rise in stages cresting at 34.10 feet from May 16-18 before beginning a slow fall to 24.80 feet on June 2, 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 expects to commence dredging on the Crossings by the end of May based on stage forecasts.

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN plans to dredge in the New Orleans Harbor during low water conditions in Fiscal Year 2021 and could hold a bid opening later this month. The USACE will this with a representative of the Port of New Orleans first.

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

There are currently two hopper dredges working on channel maintenance in Southwest Pass on the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC). The industry hopper dredge STUYVESANT (Dutra Group) is performing channel maintenance from Mile 13.0 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 12.0 AHP. The MVN hopper dredge WHEELER is dredging under Readiness Exercise #1-2021 from Mile 11.6 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 15.1 BHP.



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C: Southwest Pass (SWP): (continued)

The industry hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) is currently undergoing repairs but is expected to resume channel maintenance dredging by the end of the week. The GLENN EDWARDS began dredging on the Ship Channel deepening project on January 14, 2021 and is presently dredging on assignment in SWP on assignment from Mile 8.8 BHP to Mile 10.1 BHP.

Today, the MVN announced challenges related to pipelines in the area of Venice from approximately Mile 13 AHP to Mile 11 AHP in an area of shoaling reported by the Crescent River Port Pilots. The USACE is unable to dredge from approximately Mile 12 AHP to Mile 11 AHP due to multiple utility pipelines in this area. The MVN is working to identify proper alignment and depths over these pipelines. The MVN expects to release the hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS next week indicating the Phase 1 portions of the Ship Channel have been deepened outside of the controlling draft related to shoaling in the area of this utility pipeline corridor. The GLENN EDWARDS is also under contract for channel maintenance dredging in SWP.

The Crescent Pilots have since today's meeting implemented a reduced draft recommendation of 46 feet freshwater based on the channel conditions along this pipeline corridor as several vessels have reportedly touched bottom (shoaling) recently.

The Phase 1 of the historic MRSC deepening project from Venice to the Gulf of Mexico was last reported to be over 80% complete before the pipeline issues at Venice were discovered. The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS could be released from Channel Deepening next week but is also under contract for channel maintenance

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 5.0 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.

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.

F. South Pass:

The MVN awarded South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #1-2020 to Manson Construction. Manson's cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE began dredging under this contract on April 3, 2021. The cutterhead is working at approximately Mile 5.5 in South Pass and 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, June 2, 2021 and is also expected to be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

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Attachment