



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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Issue Date: June 8, 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, the agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

### Maintenance Forum Notes June 8, 2022

#### 1) Introductions

**2) Southeast Waterways Update:** The President's Budget Request (P Bud) for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 22) was a record amount of funding (\$19.755 Million) while the P Bud for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 23) is only \$3.75 M.

**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. The USACE now hopes to return to completely dredge the remaining section (approximately 2.0 miles) in early FY 23, but the dredging will not proceed without first obtaining accurate pipeline surveys indicating depth of cover.

The USACE still anticipates utilizing FY 22 funds to complete the dredging of Tiger Pass although the dredging will continue to be delayed by the inability to accurately survey the pipelines on the jetty end (western side). The intent now is to dredge in FY 23, the funding will be able to be carried over, but there is no agreed upon timeline for having accurate pipeline surveys.

**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 later this month with the dredging expected to begin in mid-August (2022) the contract will restore authorized channel dimensions to Baptiste Collette.

#### 3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

**New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 10.1 feet**

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will slowly recede to 8.6 feet on July 6, 2022.

**Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 28.5 feet**

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will recede to 23.6 feet on July 6, 2022.

#### 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 commenced dredging operations on the Crossings on May 10, 2022. All three dustpan dredges are actively working on the Crossings at the following locations: the HURLEY is working at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 AHP); the WALLACE McGEORGE is actively dredging at Alhambra Crossing (Mile 192 AHP); the JADWIN is dredging at Belmont Crossing (Mile 154 AHP). All three dredges are expected to continue at these same locations through next week as the USACE reports that the dustpans are being impacted by heavy shoaling, elevated river stages and heavy marine traffic.

#### B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN awarded a contract for the cutterhead dredge MIKE HOOKS, the dredge is expected to start dredging in the New Orleans Harbor next week. The dredges first assignment is expected to be near the Cruise Terminal from the Orange Street to Poydras Street.



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## **C. Southwest Pass (SWP):**

The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is working on assignment at Mile 11.5 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 12.0 BHP. The GLENN EDWARDS is working under an early award hopper dredge rental contract (Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract # 2-2021). The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE is undergoing scheduled repairs but will return to SWP in August to complete work under Southwest Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #2-2020. The cutterhead will have 30-45 days of work left in SWP when it returns.

The industry hopper dredge TERRAPIN ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock) is now working for the USACE Galveston District under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #1-2021. The two USACE Districts utilized the Regional Dredge Contract approach that allowed the hopper dredge to work in Galveston where it was truly needed, the channel in SWP is in very good condition.

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

The USACE will continue to monitor the amount of dredged material within the HDDA before advertising a cutterhead contract to dredge the HDDA. The USACE has sufficient funding to award a large cutterhead contract when surveys indicate the presence of approximately 8 to 14 million cubic yards of material within the HDDA.

## **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 in the following reaches all on the western side of the Ship Channel: Mile 8.3 BHP to Mile 8.5 BHP, Mile 9.1 BHP to Mile 9.8 BHP and on the eastern side near the jetty end of SWP from Mile 19.0 BHP to Mile 20.0 BHP. The Pilots reported good cooperation with the representatives of BIS with no operational 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.

## **4) Next Meeting:**

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, and will also be conducted via conference call.

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Executive Vice President

Attachment