



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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

### Maintenance Forum Notes July 6, 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 intends to provide updated surveys of Tiger Pass up to Mile 10.2 later this month, beyond that point there is insufficient water to provide access for the survey vessels. The USACE previously terminated the contract to dredge Tiger Pass with Crosby Dredging 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 continues working with advanced survey technologies to try and provide accurate data demonstrating the depth of the pipelines and flowlines in the last few miles of Tiger Pass. These efforts are similar to those to locate the two pipelines in the Venice Corridor between Mile 13 Above Head of Passes (AHP) and Mile 12 AHP.

**Baptiste Collette:** The MVN advises mariners transiting this shallow draft channel to utilize the online channel surveys that indicate multiple shoals. MVN will advertise a bid opening for a cutterhead dredge contract on August 11 (2022) the anticipated dredging should commence in early September (2022). The contract will be sufficient to restore authorized channel dimensions to Baptiste Collette.

#### 3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

**New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 4.0 feet**

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will slowly recede to 2.5 feet on August 2, 2022.

**Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 13.5 feet**

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will recede to 7.9 feet on August 2, 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 Bayou Goula (Mile 197.8 AHP); the JADWIN is dredging at Philadelphia Crossing (Mile 183 AHP). The industry hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS is currently being repaired but is expected to resume dredging at Medora Crossing (Mile 212 AHP). The USACE reports the dredges are being impacted by heavy shoaling, the rapidly falling river stages and heavy commercial marine traffic.

##### B. New Orleans Harbor:

The industry cutterhead dredge MIKE HOOKS, continues dredging on assignment in the New Orleans Harbor in the area of the Julia Street Cruise Terminal between the Orange Street Wharf and the Poydras Street Wharf.



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

There are currently no dredges working in Southwest Pass, the hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is currently being utilized on the Crossings and the cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) is expected to return to complete its contract in SWP next month (August 2022).

## **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 worked under this contract from March 4 to June 16 (2022). The USACE anticipates issuing another larger foreshore rock contract later this Fiscal Year.

## **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, August 3, 2022, and will again be conducted via conference call (only).



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Attachment