



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: October 5, 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 October 5, 2022

1) Introductions

2) Southeast Waterways Update: The President's Budget Request (P Bud) Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 23) is \$3.75 Million.

Tiger Pass: The USACE reported today that representatives of David Evans & Associates had completed field work on their efforts to try and locate the pipelines or obstructions on the jetty end of Tiger Pass. The USACE expects the initial report to be released over the next few weeks but surveying challenges continue and efforts to fine-tune the survey process and equipment needed to identify the depth of cover over the buried pipelines in both Tiger Pass and in the Venice Corridor. The USACE has been unable to dredge or survey the areas of Tiger Pass beyond Mile 10.2.

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 the obstructions (pipelines) extending from Mile 10.2 to Mile 13.0. The shallow-draft channel was dredged from Mile 6.0 to Mile 10.2.

Baptiste Collette: The MVN recently awarded a cutterhead dredge rental contract to dredge Baptiste Collette to Manson Construction, Manson expects to commence dredging at Baptiste Collette with their cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE. The ROBERT M. WHITE is expected to complete the deep-draft assignment in Southwest Pass over the next month. The USACE advises mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize the online channel surveys that indicate multiple shoals. The dredge contract will be sufficient to restore authorized channel dimensions to Baptiste Collette through the removal of approximately 2.0 million cubic yards of sediment.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading yesterday morning was: 2.7 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will begin a slow fall to 2.3 feet by Saturday (10/8/22) and then begin a slow rise and remain steady near 3.0 feet until October 21 before slowly falling to 2.5 feet on November 2 (2022).

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading yesterday morning was: 5.5 feet

Today's long-range projections indicate stages will remain steady near the present level and then begin a slow rise to 6.3 feet (October 15) and then begin a slow fall to 4.5 feet on November 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 continues channel maintenance operations on the Crossings with the dustpan dredge WALLACE McGEORGE that was working Bayou Goula Crossing (Mile 198 AHP) this morning but moved upriver to begin dredging at Granada Crossing (Mile 205 AHP) this afternoon. The dustpan dredge is expected to work at Medora Crossing (Mile 212 AHP) next and will continue to hit areas of shoaling on the Crossings over the next few weeks.

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The industry cutterhead dredge MIKE HOOKS completed the dredge contract for the New Orleans Harbor from June 18 to July 29 (2022).



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C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The industry cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE continues working on assignment from Mile 16 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 17.5 BHP on the eastern side of the Ship Channel. The dredge is currently located at Mile 16.05 BHP, this assignment should be completed over the next month, then the dredge will move to begin the assignment on Baptiste Collette.

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

The USACE awarded the HDDA contract to Weeks Marine who continues to work on the coordinated effort to install the submerged dredge pipeline across the channel. Weeks Marine will utilize their cutterhead dredge E.W. ELLEFSEN to commence the HDDA dredging, dredging could begin by this weekend. The second and final scheduled complete channel closure related to the pipeline installation across the channel is expected to be completed tomorrow during a 12-hour closure (0600 hours to 1800 hours) of the Ship Channel from Mile 2.0 AHP to Mile 0 (Head of Passes). The base contract is expected to be for 4 million cubic yards of material with options for additional cubic yardage to be added noted within the contract. The first few steps to install the submerged pipeline with one-way traffic restrictions and another 12-hour closure have been conducted with excellent communication between government officials, pilots, industry representatives and the members of Weeks Marine.

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). Stone placement resumed on July 21, 2022 and was completed on September 1 (2022). The USACE anticipates issuing a larger foreshore rock contract in December 2022 for foreshore rocks and jetty repairs in both Southwest Pass and South Pass with the work to be conducted in Fiscal Year 2023.

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, November 2, 2022, this meeting will most likely be conducted via conference call also, but in person meetings may resume by the end of the calendar year.

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Attachment