



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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Issue Date: November 2, 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 USACE expects to resume in person meetings in early 2023. The agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

### Maintenance Forum Notes November 2, 2022

#### 1) Introductions

**2) Southeast Waterways Update:** The President's Budget Request (PBud) Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) is \$3.75 Million.

**Tiger Pass:** The USACE reported today that the sub-bottom profiler surveys have still been unable to provide accurate deep of cover information over the multiple pipelines identified on the western end of Tiger Pass. The USACE has been unable to dredge or survey the areas of Tiger Pass beyond Mile 10.2, the area from Mile 6.0 to Mile 10.2 was successfully dredged by the CROSBY DREDGER (2021). 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 USACE continues to work with hydrographic survey professionals to utilize additional technologies to provide accurate survey data for the multiple identified pipelines and anomalies.

**Baptiste Collette:** The MVN awarded a cutterhead dredge rental contract to dredge Baptiste Collette to Manson Construction. Manson commenced dredging at Baptiste Collette with their cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE on October 15, 2022. 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 this morning at 1000 hours was 2.87 feet with a 24-hour change of - 0.24 feet.**

• Today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow rise to 4.0 feet by November 12, 2022, and then begin a slow fall to 3.4 feet on November 30 (2022).

**Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning at 1100 hours was 4.45 feet with a 24-hour change of - 0.18 feet.**

Today's long-range projections indicate stages will slowly rise to 5.6 feet on November 11 and then begin a slow fall to 4.9 feet on November 30 (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 has temporarily halted channel maintenance activities on Crossings, the dustpan dredge WALLACE McGEORGE completed work at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 AHP) this morning. The dredge will work on the shallow-draft project (Port Allen Lock Forebay and Wilkerson Point) before returning to a few assignments on the Crossings.



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## **B. New Orleans Harbor:**

The industry cutterhead dredge MIKE HOOKS resumed dredging in the New Orleans Harbor this morning and is working on assignment from the Thalia Street and Poydras Street City Front Wharves (Cruise Terminal Area).

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

There are no dredges presently working in Southwest Pass. However, the USACE has both additional contract hours and Early Award Contracts for the industry hopper dredges GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) and TERRAPIN ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock). The GLENN EDWARDS is expected to return in January and the TERRAPIN ISLAND in March (2023).

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

The USACE awarded the Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA) contract to Weeks Marine who inserted a submerged dredge pipeline across the Ship Channel from the HDDA (east) the West Bay Receiving Area (west) on October 6, 2022. The cutterhead dredge E.W. ELLEFSEN continues working on assignment in the HDDA, the cutterhead began dredging operations in the HDDA on October 7, 2022. The base contract is for 4 million cubic yards of material with options for additional cubic yardage to be added as noted within the contract. Weeks is expected to replace the E.W. ELLEFSEN with the cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK later this week.

## **E. Saltwater Sill:**

Weeks Marine successfully completed the construction of the saltwater sill with their cutterhead dredge J.S. CHATRY from October 11 to October 22 (2022). The saltwater sill was surveyed to be between 55 feet and 51 feet at the first targeted elevation. The barrier sill was constructed to USACE approved elevations within acceptable limits as noted above at Mile 63.8 Above Head of Passes (AHP). The USACE reported that the sill seems to be working and when coupled with the increased river stages the need to build the sill to a higher elevation is considered doubtful.

## **F. Southwest and South Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:**

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.

## **G. South Pass:**

The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) dredged under South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contact #1-2020 from April 3, 2021, to February 8, 2022.

## **4) Next Meeting:**

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, December 7, 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.

*Sean M. Duffy, Sr.*

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.  
Maritime Advocate  
Executive Vice President

Attachment