



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: November 4, 2020

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 November 4, 2020

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 CROSBY DREDGER was expected to start work under this contract by mid-November (2020) but the cutterhead may be delayed and used to respond to shoaling that occurred during Hurricane Zeta at Port Fourchon. The Tiger Pass contract calls for the removal of approximately 1.9 million cubic yards (mcy) of material from the deficient shallow-draft channel. The contract is expected to restore a depth of 12 feet by 150 feet across the length of the channel. Tiger Pass was last dredged in 2012.

Baptiste Collette: Baptiste Collette serves as the alternate route for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway shallow-draft traffic while the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lock is dewatered. The MVN reports several shallow areas in the alternate route that have been marked by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) but that there is sufficient depth outside of the shoals. The MVN recommends mariners transiting the alternate route ensure they are utilizing the latest channel survey (online).

The dewatering of the IHNC Lock began as scheduled on September 4, 2020 the full closure was originally scheduled to last 60 days. However, the repeated shutdowns related to recurring storms systems have delayed the repair efforts. The MVN now expects to complete the IHNC Lock repairs on November 25, 2020. The Marine Safety Information Bulletin as issued by the USCG with complete details is attached.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 4.4 feet

- Long range projections predict a rise to 6.6 feet on November 12, 2020 and then a slow fall to 5.0 feet on December 1, 2020.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 10.86 feet

- Long range projections predict a rise to 19.0 feet on November 11, 2020 and then a slow fall to 12.6 feet on December 1, 2020.

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. There are two dustpan dredges working on the Crossings: the HURLEY completed dredging at Sardine Point (Mile 219.3 Above Head of Passes [AHP]) and moved upriver to begin dredging at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 AHP) and the WALLACE McGEORGE is working at Granada Crossing (Mile 204.3 AHP).

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN plans to dredge in the New Orleans Harbor during low water conditions in Fiscal Year 2021 although shoaling is noted at the Julia Street Cruise Terminal and at the Napoleon Avenue Container Terminal Complex.



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

There are presently no dredges working on channel maintenance in Southwest Pass and the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC) is in good condition. However, two cutterhead dredges are actively working on the historic Ship Channel deepening project (50 feet). The CAPTAIN FRANK (Weeks Marine) began work on the deepening project on September 11, 2020. The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) started work on the deepening project on October 23, 2020. The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) will complete the final portion of the Ship Channel deepening project with an expected start in mid-2021.

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

The cutterhead dredge R.S. WEEKS (Weeks Marine) resumed work on the HDDA contract on September 23, 2020 and continues working to complete this contract. Weeks Marine previously removed 13.2 million cubic yards (mcy) of material from the HDDA and has approximately 1.9 mcy left to complete this contract. Weeks has utilized multiple cutterheads to restore approximately 1,000 acres of wetlands in the Pass A' Loutre Wildlife Management Area through the beneficial use of dredged material.

An additional HDDA contract, Hopper Dredge Disposal Area Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019, was awarded to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock. Great Lakes intends to respond to this contract with their cutterhead dredge ILLINOIS. **This contract will require the installation of a submerged dredge pipeline to place the removed dredge material in the West Bay Receiving Area. The placement of the submerged pipeline will require temporary closure(s) of the Ship Channel estimated to last 12-hours at a time. The pipeline will cross the Ship Channel from the HDDA into West Bay at a location between Mile 1.4 AHP and Mile 1.2 AHP.** The contract includes the removal of 10 mcy in the base with options to add an additional 4 mcy and is expected to start in December (2020). The pipeline placement and closures will be scheduled prior to the next period of high water and most likely be conducted in November (2020).

E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:

The MVN awarded the contract to place foreshore rock in SWP to EFT Diversified, Inc. The MVN expects this work to begin in December 2020 and that the work will take approximately one year to complete.

F. South Pass:

The MVN has awarded South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contact #1-2020 to Manson Construction. Manson is expected to begin this contract with the ROBERT M. WHITE after it completes work on the MRSC deepening project. The contract is expected to remove approximately 10.5 mcy. The dredge is expected to restore a depth of 17 feet with 3 feet of advanced maintenance (20 feet). The material will be beneficially used in the PALWMA and should restore approximately 800 acres of critical marsh and wetland habitat. South Pass was last dredged in 2007.

4) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, and is also expected to be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

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

Attachment