



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: December 1, 2021

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 December 1, 2021

1) Introductions

2) Southeast Waterways Update: The President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2022 recommends a record amount of funding, \$19.755 Million for the shallow-draft passes. MVN is working to secure funding based on the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) needs under the ongoing Continuing Resolution for the Federal Budget (FY 2022).

Tiger Pass: The USACE terminated the contract to dredge Tiger Pass with Crosby Dredging on October 15, 2021, releasing the cutterhead dredge, CROSBY DREDGER. The cutterhead dredge completed approximately forty-eight percent of the assignment before being 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 USACE recently tested specialized survey equipment through the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) on the two pipelines and utility cable in the Venice Corridor (Mile 11.0 AHP to Mile 12.0 AHP) and on the pipelines in Tiger Pass. The ERDC survey team is expected to return to the area soon to finalize the survey efforts on both channels. The intention is to provide accurate surveys so that critical decisions can be made on the channel deepening conditions in the Venice Corridor and on the remaining channel maintenance assignments in Tiger Pass.

Baptiste Collette: The MVN posted new channel surveys on November 4 (2021) and because of new shoals encouraged mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize these new surveys. MVN expects to open a bid opening for a cutterhead dredge in January 2022.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 3.4 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate a very slow fall in stages down to 2.0 feet on December 29, 2021.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 9.6 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate a very slow fall in stages down to 5.2 feet on December 29, 2021.

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.

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN completed dredging operations in the New Orleans Harbor for Fiscal Year 2021. The cutterhead dredge C.R. McCASKILL (Weeks Marine) dredged in the New Orleans Harbor from July 10, 2021 to August 2, 2021.

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

There are currently no dredges working in Southwest Pass on the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC).



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C. Southwest Pass (SWP): (continued)

The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) will return to complete work in Southwest Pass after completing the present assignment in South Pass (early 2022). There are also two Early Award Hopper Dredges Contracts for Fiscal Year 2022 with the TERRAPIN ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge and Dock) due in SWP in February 2022 and the GLENN EDWARDS due in March 2022.

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

The cutterhead dredge ILLINOIS (Great Lakes Dredge and Dock) dredged in the HDDA from January 27 to September 10, 2021 under Hopper Dredge Disposal Area Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019. The ILLINOIS removed a total of approximately 11.5 million cubic yards (mcy) of sediment that was beneficially utilized in the West Bay Receiving Area.

E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:

The MVN awarded a new contract to place foreshore rock in SWP to BIS Services, LLC. The rock work is expected to begin in early 2022.

F. South Pass:

Manson Construction's cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE began dredging under South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #1-2020 on April 3, 2021. The dredge is expected to restore a depth of 17 feet with 3 feet of advanced maintenance (20 feet) through the removal of approximately 10.5 mcy of material that will be beneficially used. The contract is expected to be completed in late December. The dredge is expected to resume work in Southwest Pass in January 2022. South Pass was last dredged in 2007.

4) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, January 12, 2021, and is also expected to be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

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Maritime Advocate
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Attachment