



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: December 8, 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 December 7, 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 been unable to provide accurate depth of cover information over multiple pipelines identified on the western end of Tiger Pass. The USACE has been unable to dredge or accurately survey the areas of Tiger Pass beyond Mile 10.2. The reach 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 pursue additional hydrographic survey technologies to provide accurate survey data of the identified obstructions that continue to limit the ability to safely dredge the last 2.8 miles of the shallow-draft channel.

Baptiste Collette: The MVN awarded a cutterhead dredge rental contract to dredge Baptiste Collette to Manson Construction. Manson commenced dredging with their cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE on October 15 and is expected to complete this assignment over the next few days. The USACE advises mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize the online channel surveys, noting one shoal remaining near the confluence with the Mississippi River. The cutterhead contract will 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) at the time of yesterday's meeting the stage was 2.6 feet, the reading this morning at 0900 hours was 2.07 feet with a 24-hour change of - 0.10 feet.

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow rise to 4.0 feet on December 26, 2022, and then begin a slow fall to 2.6 feet on January 5, 2023.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading at the time of yesterday's meeting was 7.1 feet, the reading this morning at 1000 hours was 7.17 feet with a 24-hour change of + 0.06 feet.

Today's long-range projections indicate stages will rise to 12.0 feet on December 21 and then begin a slow fall to 6.3 feet on January 5, 2023.

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 completed channel maintenance dredging with the dustpan dredges and one hopper dredge on the Crossings for Fiscal Year 2022 on November 21, 2022.

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The industry cutterhead dredge MIKE HOOKS dredged in the New Orleans Harbor from June 18 to July 29 and November 4 to November 11 (2022).



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

There are no dredges presently working in Southwest Pass. However, the USACE has two 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 begin dredging in February and the TERRAPIN ISLAND is scheduled for 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 began the HDDA assignment on October 7, 2022, and was replaced by the cutterhead CAPTAIN FRANK on November 5, 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 has beneficially used approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of material and is expected to complete this assignment by the end of the year.

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 effectively prevented the saltwater wedge from advancing upriver, the increased river stages have also helped repel the saltwater from advancing. The saltwater wedge was last reported to be at Mile 45.0 AHP.

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

The USACE now anticipates issuing a large foreshore rock contract in January 2023 for foreshore rocks and jetty repairs in both Southwest Pass and South Pass with the work to be conducted in 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, January 11, 2023, this meeting will be hosted “in-person” at the USACE New Orleans District with conference call capability. This will be the first in person meeting at the USACE New Orleans District since Covid protocols were first required.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

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

Attachment