



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: January 6, 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 January 6, 2021

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 is now expected to start work under this contract in early February (2021). The Tiger Pass contract is 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: The MVN reports several shallow areas across Baptiste Collette most notably a larger shoal between Mile 1.5 and Mile 5.6. The MVN encourages mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel utilize the latest online channel surveys. The MVN is developing plans to dredge Baptiste Collette later in Fiscal Year 2021, that dredging will most likely occur after the next highwater event (mid-2021). The MVN update included an update on the authorization to deepen Baptiste Collette, although the deepening project must still be funded.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 6.3 feet

- Today's long-range projections predict a rise to 9.1 feet on January 15, 2021 and then a slow fall to 5.7 feet on February 3, 2021.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 14.6 feet

- Today's long-range projections predict a rise to 27.4 feet on January 17, 2020 and then a slow fall to 17.9 feet on February 3, 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. The USACE is finishing up dredging on the Crossings with the dustpan dredge WALLACE McGEORGE expected to complete dredging in the area of the Arlington Lights (Mile 212 Above Head of Passes [AHP]) by the end of the week and then be released for the season.

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.

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, three cutterhead dredges are actively working under two of the contracts for the historic Ship Channel deepening project (50 feet).



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C. Southwest Pass (SWP): (continued)

The CAPTAIN FRANK (Weeks Marine) began work on the deepening project on September 11, 2020, the cutterhead dredge continues dredging on assignment from Mile 13 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 18 BHP on the eastern side of the Ship Channel. The E.W. ELLEFSEN (Weeks Marine) is also working under the same deepening contract on assignment from Mile 1 BHP to Mile 6 BHP on the western side of the Ship Channel. The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) continues working on assignment from Mile 9 BHP to Mile 15 BHP on the western side of the Ship Channel.

The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) will complete the final portions of the Ship Channel deepening project with an expected start in mid-January (2021). The GLENN EDWARDS is also under contract for channel maintenance and will be moved between the two contracts by the MVN dependent upon channel conditions.

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

The USACE previously awarded Hopper Dredge Disposal Area Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019 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 be placed under and across the Ship Channel so that the removed dredge material can be pumped into 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 be submerged under the Ship Channel and into the West Bay at a location between Mile 1.4 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 mid-January (2021). The submerged pipeline will have to be removed when the contract is completed in approximately one year – the removal will also require at least one scheduled channel closure. **The tentative dates of the closures are January 13, 2021 and January 15, 2021. The first closure will be utilized to dredge a trench across the Ship Channel and the second one to place the submerged dredge pipeline across the channel (east to west). These dates remain tentative and will be confirmed once final details are made available – updated by the end of the week.**

E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:

The MVN awarded the contract to place foreshore rock in SWP to EFT Diversified, Inc. The MVN confirmed the rock work began on December 19, 2020. The Bar Pilots reported no issues with the operations and the work is expected to 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) and start work in June 2021. 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, February 3, 2021 and is also expected to be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

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

Attachment