



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: February 1, 2023

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 agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

Maintenance Forum Notes February 1, 2023

1) Introductions

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

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 in 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. The USACE also detailed a future datum shift from Mean Low Gulf to Mean Lower Low Water a datum adjustment equivalent to a plus 3.0 feet adjustment on Tiger Pass.

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. The datum adjustment referenced above indicates the datum difference between the two on Baptiste Collette is a plus 3.5 feet.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update: The FY23 P-Bud is \$209 Million.

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge): the stage this morning was 7.8 feet.

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow rise to 8.4 feet on February 5, 2023, remain steady for about a week before beginning a slow fall to 6.0 feet on March 1, 2023.

Baton Rouge Gauge: the stage this morning was 24.7 feet.

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow rise to 25.5 feet on February 4, 2023, remain steady for five days and will then begin a slow fall to 19.0 feet on March 1, 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. The USACE typically begins dredging on the Crossings after periods of high water – estimate June 2023 to resume dustpan dredge activity.

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The USACE will look to dredge the New Orleans Harbor after highwater impacts – expected late summer or early fall 2023. The industry cutterhead dredge MIKE HOOKS last dredged in the New Orleans Harbor last year from June 18 to July 29 and November 4 to November 11 (2022).



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C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) began dredging under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #2-2021 at the Head of Passes (Mile 2.0 Above Head of Passes [AHP] to Mile 1.0 Below Head of Passes [BHP]) earlier this week (January 29, 2023). The GLENN EDWARDS is expected to complete the hours left over on this contract by the end of the month and will then begin work under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #1-2022 another early award hopper dredge rental contract. The second FY 23 early award hopper contract was awarded to Great Lakes Dredge & Dock who expects to fulfill Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #2-2022 with either the DODGE ISLAND or PADRE ISLAND with work expected to start in late March 2023. The USACE hopper dredge WHEELER continues undergoing repairs but is expected to dredge in Southwest Pass under Readiness Exercise #1-2023 from February 23 to March 8 (2023).

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

Weeks Marine completed the HDDA contract by removing approximately 4.0 million cubic yards of material from the HDAA from October 7 to December 2022. The submerged dredge pipeline was removed from across the Ship Channel at approximately Mile 1.4 AHP on January 17, 2023. The beneficial use of dredge material created approximately 320 acres in the West Bay receiving area, official acreage numbers will be verified by the USACE later this year.

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

The USACE now anticipates advertising a large foreshore rock contract in February/March 2023 for foreshore rock and jetty repairs in both Southwest Pass and South Pass with the work to be conducted later this year.

G. South Pass:

The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) dredged under South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #1-2020 from April 3, 2021, to February 8, 2022. There are no plans to dredge in South Pass this year.

4) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, this meeting will be conducted via conference only again due to continuing COVID concerns.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

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

Attachment