



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: February 2, 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 based on the social distancing requirements of COVID-19. The agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

Maintenance Forum Notes February 2, 2022

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.

Tiger Pass: The USACE terminated the contract to dredge Tiger Pass with Crosby Dredging on October 15, 2021 and released the cutterhead dredge, CROSBY DREDGER. 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 multiple pipelines extending from Mile 10.2 to Mile 13.0. The shallow-draft channel was dredged from Mile 6.0 to Mile 10.2 and the USACE hopes to return to complete the dredging the remaining section (approximately 2.0 miles).

The USACE has been working with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) to try and locate the three obstructions in the Venice Corridor. There remain two pipelines and one utility cable in the Venice Corridor (Mile 11.0 AHP to Mile 12.0 AHP) that have not been adequately surveyed to determine their depth of burial (below river bottom). The ERDC survey teams have also been to Venice and Tiger Pass several times over the last four months with sophisticated survey equipment, the release of the information from this coordinated survey effort should be released later this month.

Baptiste Collette: The MVN advises mariners transiting this shallow draft channel to utilize the online channel surveys that indicate multiple shoals. MVN expects to advertise a bid opening for a cutterhead dredge in April 2022 for a contract to restore authorized channel dimensions.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 8.1 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will slowly recede to 6.2 feet on February 12, 2022 and then begin a rise to 8.7 feet on February 24, 2022 before falling to 7.6 feet on March 2, 2022.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 20.8 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will recede to 15.3 feet on February 11, 2022 and then rise to 22.2 feet on February 22, 2022 before falling to 18.5 feet on March 2, 2022.

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 will resume dredging operations for Fiscal Year 2022 after the first significant high-water period and upon updated channel surveys and conditions.

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN plans to dredge in the New Orleans Harbor during low water conditions in Fiscal Year 2022 (Summer).



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C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) continues dredging on assignment from Mile 5.0 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 2.3 AHP under previously awarded dredged contract (Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #3-2020). The hours remaining on this contract will be used in SWP and are expected to be completed by early March (2022), the GLENN EDWARDS will then start work on an early award hopper dredge rental contract (Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract # 2-2021) that should keep the hopper in SWP until August (2022). The USACE hopper dredge WHEELER is working in SWP under Readiness Exercise #2-2022 from Mile 1.0 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 3.7 BHP.

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 later this month and the previously referenced contract for the GLENN EDWARDS (March 2022).

The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) is expected to return to SWP to complete hours related to Southwest Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #2-2020. The ROBERT M. WHITE is expected to complete dredging in South Pass next week and will then resume work in SWP.

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

The USACE expects to advertise a bid opening for a HDDA cutterhead rental contract in March (2022).

E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:

The USACE awarded BIS Services, LLC a contract for foreshore rock to be installed in SWP during Fiscal Year 2022. The new rock work contract is expected to begin in March (2022).

F. South Pass:

The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) continues dredging under South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #1-2020. The cutterhead is under contract to remove approximately the 10.5 mcy with completion expected next week. This contract should restore a depth of approximately 17 feet with 3 feet of advanced maintenance (20 feet). South Pass was last dredged in 2007.

4) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, and will also be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

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Attachment