



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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Issue Date: March 2, 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. Yesterday's meeting was conducted via a hybrid of teleconference and in person participation. The agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

### Maintenance Forum Notes March 1, 2023

#### 1) Introductions

**2) Southeast Waterways Update:** The President's Budget Request (PBud) Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 23) is \$3.75 Million.

**Tiger Pass:** The USACE advised today that it will advertise a bid opening to dredge Tiger Pass this summer (2023), the USACE intends to have most of the FY 23 funds available to attempt to restore this shallow draft channel. 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) when approximately forty-eight percent of the assignment was completed the USACE terminated the contract. 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 – dredge advertisement expected to allow dredge contractors flexibility in proposal of methods, noting pipeline and anomalies remain.

**Baptiste Collette:** The USACE does not expect to dredge in Baptiste Collette this year, as the cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) recently completed dredging (December 10, 2022). The USACE advises mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize the online channel surveys, noting at least one remaining shoal.

#### 3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

The PBud FY 23 is \$209 Million with an additional \$22.5 Million recently granted in the FY 23 Work Plan.

**New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) at the time of yesterday's meeting the stage was 9.9 feet, the reading this morning at 1000 hours was 9.98 feet with a 24-hour change of + 0.20 feet.**

• Today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a rise projected to crest at 12.5. feet on March 23 and then begin a slow fall to 10.6 feet on March 30 (2023).

**Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading at the time of yesterday's meeting was 27.8 feet, the reading this morning at 1100 hours was 28.28 feet with a 24-hour change of + 0.37 feet.**

Today's long-range projections indicate stages will rise to 34.5 feet on March 22 and then begin a slow fall to 27.8 feet on March 30 (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 is expected to commence dredging on the Crossings during low water season, typically dustpan dredges commence in the June/July timeframe.

#### B. New Orleans Harbor:

The USACE will look to dredge the New Orleans Harbor after highwater impacts and reported shoaling in usual locations that will be addressed by a cutterhead dredge during low water (summer or early fall 2023).



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## **C. Southwest Pass (SWP):**

There are two hopper dredges presently working in Southwest Pass. The industry hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) continues working under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #2-2021 at the Head of Passes (Mile 1.0 Above Head of Passes [AHP] to Mile 1.0 Below Head of Passes [BHP]). The GLENN EDWARDS is expected to complete the hours left over on this contract next week and will then seamlessly begin work under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #1-2022 another early award hopper dredge rental contract. The USACE hopper dredge WHEELER continues dredging from Mile 6.6 BHP to Mile 9.5 BHP in Southwest Pass under Readiness Exercise #1-2023 from February 23 to March 8 (2023). 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.

**D. Head of Passes, Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA):** The USACE expects to advertise a bid opening in Summer 2023 to remove sediment from the HDDA.

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

The USACE now anticipates issuing a large foreshore rock contract later this month (March 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 USACE has no plans to dredge in South Pass in Fiscal Year 2023. South Pass was last dredged by the cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) under South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #1-2020 from April 3, 2021 to February 8, 2022.

## **4) Next Meeting:**

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, this meeting will be hosted “in-person” at the USACE New Orleans District with conference call capability.

*Sean M. Duffy, Sr.*

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Maritime Advocate  
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Attachment