



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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Issue Date: March 3, 2021

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 March 3, 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 cutterhead dredge CROSBY DREDGER is now expected to start work under this contract by the end of the week. 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 was originally expected to restore a depth of 12 feet by 150 feet across the length of the channel but based on increased shoaling and limited funding the MVN now expects to restore channel dimensions of 9 feet by 150 feet on the inside and 9.0 feet by 16 feet on the jetty end. Tiger Pass was last dredged in 2012.

**Baptiste Collette:** The MVN updated information on several large shoals across Baptiste Collette between Mile 1.5 and Mile 5.6 and encouraged mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize the latest online channel surveys. The MVN is developing plans to dredge Baptiste Collette during a low water period, dredging will most likely occur in July or August 2021.

#### **3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:**

##### **New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 7.4 feet**

- Today's long-range projections predict a rise to 13.0 feet on March 20, 2021 and then a slow fall to 9.7 feet on March 31, 2021.

##### **Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 23.0 feet**

- Today's long-range projections predict a rise to 34.0 feet on March 19, 2021 and then a slow fall to 27.5 feet on March 31, 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 completed dredging on the Crossings for Fiscal Year 2020 on January 9, 2021.

#### **B. New Orleans Harbor:**

The MVN plans to dredge in the New Orleans Harbor during low water conditions in Fiscal Year 202. Although there is significant shoaling (10 feet or so) in key areas. A representative from the Port of New Orleans acknowledged the Corps schedule and raised no significant concerns at this time.

#### **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, although the forecast predicts the first rise above 12 feet by the end month. However, two cutterhead dredges and one hopper dredge are actively working on historic contracts to deepen the Ship Channel to 50 feet.



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

The CAPTAIN FRANK (Weeks Marine) began work on the historic deepening project on September 11, 2020 and has completed its final deepening assignment from Mile 2.0 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 6.0 BHP on the east side of the channel. The E.W. ELLEFSEN (Weeks Marine) is working under the same deepening contract on its final assignment from Mile 6.0 BHP to Mile 9.0 BHP on the eastern side of the Ship Channel. The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) is also working on its final assignment on the deepening from Mile 9.0 BHP to Mile 13.0 BHP on the eastern side of the Ship Channel. The cutterhead reaches for deepening the Phase 1 deepening will be completed over the next few weeks leaving only the areas for the hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction). The GLENN EDWARDS began dredging on the Ship Channel deepening project on January 14, 2021 and is presently dredging on assignment from Mile 0 (Head of Passes) to Mile 2.0 BHP on the eastern side of the channel. The GLENN EDWARDS is also under contract for channel maintenance and will be moved between the two contracts by the MVN dependent upon relevant channel conditions. The industry hopper dredge STUYVESANT is expected to arrive in SWP on March 15, 2021 and the industry hopper dredge NEWPORT is expected to arrive in SWP by April 10, 2021. The hopper dredges will be working on channel maintenance contracts.

The government hopper dredge WHEELER will dredge in SWP under Readiness Exercise #1-2021 from March 7 to March 13 (2021).

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

Great Lakes Dredge and Dock was awarded Hopper Dredge Disposal Area Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019. Great Lakes is responding this contract with the cutterhead dredge ILLINOIS. The installation of a submerged dredge pipeline was completed on January 19, 2021. The pipeline crosses the Ship Channel between Mile 1.4 AHP to Mile 1.2 AHP from the eastern side of the channel into the West Bay. The contract includes the removal of 10 million cubic yards (mcy) in the base with options to add an additional 4 mcy. The project is expected to be completed late this year (2021). The submerged pipeline will have to be removed upon completion of the project and the retrieval will require at least one complete channel closure. The ILLINOIS commenced dredging in the HDDA on January 27, 2021

## **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 and that several subcontractors are working on the rock placement. The rock work operations have been delayed by recent weather events but is ongoing. The Bar Pilots requested an update on the expected completion date.

## **F. South Pass:**

The MVN awarded South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #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 cutterhead is now expected to start dredging in South Pass to remove approximately 10.5 mcy by the first week of April. The dredge is expected to restore a depth of 17 feet with 3 feet of advanced maintenance (20 feet). 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, April 7, 2021 and is also expected to be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

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Executive Vice President

Attachment