



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: March 9, 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 March 9, 2022

1) Introductions

2) Southeast Waterways Update:

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. Dredging was completed on the shallow-draft channel from Mile 6.0 to Mile 10.2, before the contract was cancelled. The USACE hopes to return to complete the dredging across the remaining section (approximately 2.0 miles) of the channel, further actions will be based on improved surveys over the noted obstructions.

The USACE continues working through the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) to try and locate the identified obstructions in the Venice Corridor and the pipelines in Tiger Pass. 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 been to Venice and Tiger Pass several times over the last six months with sophisticated survey equipment, the release of the information from this coordinated survey effort should soon be available for review with industry stakeholders.

The intention is to provide accurate surveys so that critical decisions can be made on the deepened channel through the Venice Corridor and on the remaining channel maintenance assignments in Tiger Pass.

Baptiste Collette: The most recent channel surveys from the MVN are posted online and indicate increased shoaling. The MVN encourages mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize these online channel surveys. MVN now expects to advertise a bid opening for a cutterhead dredge contract in May 2022.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 11.9 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate a continued rise in stages expected to crest at 12.4 feet on March 16, 2022 and remain steady for one week before beginning a slow fall to 26.0 feet on April 6, 2022.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 31.60 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate a slow rise in stages cresting at 33.2 feet on March 20, 2022 and then slowly falling to 26.0 feet on April 6, 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 elevated river stages provide additional water on the Crossings that are at operational or authorized channel dimensions. The USACE will expect to resume dredging operations based on future channel surveys, in June or July (2022).

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):

There are currently two dredges working on channel maintenance in Southwest Pass on the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC) and two more hopper dredges expected to arrive over the next few weeks.

The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is dredging at the Head of Passes from Mile 2.0 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 1.0 Below Head of Passes (BHP). The hours remaining on this contract will be utilized in SWP and should be completed in mid-April (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 cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) is dredging in SWP from Mile 9.0 BHP to Mile 12.0 BHP on the western side of the Ship Channel.

The USACE hopper dredge WHEELER is expected to dredge in SWP from March 15 to April 4 (2022) under FY 2022 Readiness Exercise #3-2022.

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 by early April 2022 and the previously referenced second contract for the GLENN EDWARDS (April 2022).

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

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

E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:

BIS Services, LLC commenced work under the foreshore rock placement contract in SWP on March 4, 2022 and will coordinate locations and equipment placement with the Pilot Associations to promote navigational safety.

F. 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 in South Pass. The cutterhead removed 14.0 million cubic yards of material to restore approximately 850 acres of marsh/wetlands in the surrounding area. This project restored 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, April 6, 2022, and will also be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

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Attachment