



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: April 6, 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 both in person and via teleconference the agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

Maintenance Forum Notes April 5, 2023

1) Introductions

2) Southeast Waterways Update: The President's Budget Request (P Bud) Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) is \$3.75 Million, and the P Bud for FY 24 is \$4.75 Million.

Tiger Pass: The USACE reported that hydrographic survey efforts to accurately document the depth of multiple pipelines or anomalies in Tiger Pass have not been successful to this point. The USACE has funds to dredge Tiger Pass that was last dredged completely in 2012 but continues working with survey professionals to identify the depths of these pipelines. The USACE is working to finalize the path forward for dredging and expects to advertise a cutterhead dredge contract in July 2023. The USACE is considering options to complete the dredging assignment in the reach from Mile 6.25 to Mile 13. The CROSBY DREDGER completed dredging from Mile 6.0 to Mile 9.75 in 2021 dredging approximately half of the channel assignment before being released due to safety concerns related to multiple pipelines or anomalies. 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 FY 23 funds are expected to be utilized to dredge Tiger Pass.

Baptiste Collette: The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) dredged Baptiste Collette from October 15 to December 10 (2022). The USACE advises mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize the online channel surveys, noting a shoal between Mile 4.0 and Mile 5.0 and another on the bar channel at the outer end of the project (Mile 10.75). The USACE expects to utilize the FY 24 funds for a new cutterhead contract for Baptiste Collette.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update: The FY23 P Bud is \$209 Million with an additional \$22.5 Million received in the Work Plan. The FY 24 P Bud is just over \$185 Million.

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge): the stage yesterday was 12.0 feet, and this morning is 11.9 feet.

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow rise to 12.6 feet on April 13, 2023, and then begin a slow fall to 10.5 feet on May 4, 2023.

Baton Rouge Gauge: the stage yesterday morning was 31.2 feet, and this morning is 32.32 feet.

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow rise to 34.2 feet on April 11, 2023, and then begin a slow fall to 28.0 feet on May 4, 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 reported up to 10.0 feet of shoaling on multiple Crossings that is being buffered by elevated river stages. A decision to commence dredging of the Crossings is expected later this month, the long-range stage forecasts and multiple factors will be considered. At least one dustpan dredge could start dredging by early May (2023) to begin channel recovery as river stage fall.



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B. New Orleans Harbor:

The USACE reported heavy shoaling at the Julia Street Cruise Terminal and will be coordinating with the Port of New Orleans to decide on when to advertise a cutterhead dredge contract. 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).

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) continues dredging in SWP under the FY 23 Early Award contact Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #1-2022. The hopper dredge is dredging on assignment in Southwest Pass from Mile 9.5 Below Head of Passes [BHP] to Mile 12.3 BHP. The DODGE ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock) is dredging at the Head of Passes from Mile 2.2 Above Head of Passes to Mile 1.0 BHP. The DODGE ISLAND is working under the second Early Award contract Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #2-2022. The USACE hopper dredge WHEELER completed dredging in Southwest Pass under Readiness Exercise #2-2023 from March 21 to April 2 and is scheduled for Readiness Exercise #3-2023 from April 18 to May 8.

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

The USACE remains prepared to advertise a cutter dredge contract bid opening later this Fiscal Year. The USACE reported having adequate funding to perform this beneficial use dredging when surveys indicate there is enough material in the HDDA to warrant dredging action.

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

The USACE anticipates advertising a large foreshore rock contract later this week 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. The USACE reported funding dedicated to dredging in South Pass was including in the FY 24 President's Budget Request.

4) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, this meeting is also expected to be conducted via the hybrid option within person and teleconference options.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Maritime Advocate
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Attachment