



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: April 7, 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 April 7, 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 began work under this contract on March 4, 2021. The USACE discussed complications of dredging this severely deficient shallow-draft channel that was last dredged almost a decade ago. The MVN is working with the contractor to try and adjust the contract to remove as much material as possible with the limited funding, the contract was intended to remove approximately 1.9 million cubic yards (mcy). The contract was expected to restore a depth of 12 feet by 150 feet across the length of the channel but based on increased shoaling, multiple challenges and limited funding the MVN is concerned it may have to further reduce the scope of work. Tiger Pass was last dredged in 2012.

Baptiste Collette: The MVN updated information on several large shoals across Baptiste Collette one at Mile 2.75 that is now marked with a U.S. Coast Guard shoal buoy and another large shoal across the channel between Mile 8.5 and Mile 10.5. The MVN 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: 14.4 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate cresting stages at 14.4 feet today and then beginning a slow fall to 7.3 feet on May 5, 2021.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 37.7 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate cresting stages at 37.7 feet today and then beginning a slow fall to 26.0 feet on May 5, 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 2021. Although there is significant shoaling (10 feet or so) in key areas.

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

There are two hopper dredges working on channel maintenance in Southwest Pass on the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC). The industry hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) is performing channel maintenance from Mile 4.5 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 5.0 BHP. The industry hopper dredge STUYVESANT (Dutra Group) is working on channel maintenance from Mile 10.5 BHP to Mile 11.8 BHP.



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

C: Southwest Pass (SWP): (continued)

The Phase 1 of the historic MRSC deepening project from Venice to the Gulf of Mexico is over 75% complete and the cutterhead dredges have completed their deepening assignments. The remaining Phase 1 areas of the deepening project (50 feet) will be completed by the hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS. The CAPTAIN FRANK (Weeks Marine) worked on the deepening project from September 11, 2020 to March 3, 2021. Weeks Marine responded to their deepening contract with a second cutterhead the E.W. ELLEFSEN (Weeks Marine) that worked on the deepening from November 18, 2020 to March 19, 2021. The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) worked under the second deepening contract for a cutterhead dredge from October 23, 2020 to March 18, 2021. The GLENN EDWARDS began dredging on the Ship Channel deepening project on January 14, 2021 and is presently dredging on assignment on the SWP jetty end from Mile 20.5 BHP to Mile 22.1 BHP. 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 government hopper dredge WHEELER sustained damage to a propeller after completing repairs and must return to a dry dock to fix the new damage. The WHEELER will dredge in SWP under Readiness Exercise #1-2021 once it has completed repairs.

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

The cutterhead dredge ILLINOIS (Great Lakes Dredge and Dock) is working under Hopper Dredge Disposal Area Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019. The contract includes the removal of 10 mcy in the base with options to add an additional 4 mcy. The project is expected to be completed late this year (2021). The ILLINOIS commenced dredging in the HDDA on January 27, 2021 and has now removed approximately 3.15 mcy of material that is being beneficially utilized in the West Bay Receiving Area. 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 submerged pipeline will have to be removed upon completion of the project and the retrieval will require at least one complete channel closure.

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 Bar and Federal Pilots continue to work with the contractors to try and limit the impact to vessels transiting in Southwest Pass.

F. South Pass:

The MVN awarded South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contact #1-2020 to Manson Construction. Manson's cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE began dredging under this contract on April 3, 2021. The cutterhead is working at approximately Mile 5.8 in South Pass and will remove approximately 10.5 mcy by January 2022. 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, May 5, 2021 and is also expected to be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Maritime Advocate
Executive Vice President

Attachment