



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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Issue Date: May 3, 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 May 3, 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 remain unable to accurately document the depth of multiple pipelines or anomalies in Tiger Pass. The USACE has funds to dredge Tiger Pass that was last dredged completely in 2012 but continues working with survey professionals to identify the available depths over the obstructions. The USACE hopes to open a dredge contract with "utility investigation" included in the terms of the contract – estimated advertisement July/August 2023 timeframe. The USACE is considering options to complete the dredging assignment from Mile 6.25 to Mile 13. The CROSBY DREDGER completed dredging from Mile 6.0 to Mile 9.75 in 2021 approximately half of the channel was dredged before the contract was cancelled due to safety concerns related to dredging over 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 shoals near Mile 3.75, 4.6, and Mile 10.75. The USACE expects to utilize the FY 24 funds for the award of a cutterhead dredge contract for Baptiste Collette bid advertisement not scheduled.

**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 this morning was 7.4 feet.**

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will remain near 7.0 feet over the next week with a crest of 7.8 feet expected on May 18 and to then begin a slow fall to 6.9 feet on May 31 (2023).

**Baton Rouge Gauge: the stage yesterday morning was 23.0 feet.**

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow fall the next few days to 21.8 feet on May 8 and then to crest at 24.7 feet on May 18 before beginning a slow fall to 21.2 feet on May 31 (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 began dredging on the Crossings on May 1, 2023, with the industry hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) working on assignment at Fairview Crossing (Mile 116 Above Head of Passes [AHP]) to restore fully authorized channel dimensions (500 feet by 53.0 Low Water Reference Plane). The GLENN EDWARDS is working under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #1-2022 a Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 23) early award hopper dredge rental contract. The USACE expects all three of the dustpan dredges to begin working on the Crossing later this month with assignments to be determined based upon channel conditions (surveys) prior to their arrival.



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

The USACE reported that Weeks Marine was the apparent low bidder for the recently advertised cutterhead dredge contract. The assignment will respond to heavy shoaling at the Julia Street Cruise Terminal and other berths in the New Orleans Harbor. The USACE expects Weeks to respond to this assignment with their cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK and estimates the dredging will start next week (May 11, 2023).

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

The DODGE ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock) is dredging near Cubits Gap (Mile 3.7 AHP to Mile 2.2 AHP) working under the second Early Award contract Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #2-2022. The USACE hopper dredge WHEELER continues working in Southwest Pass under Readiness Exercise #3-2023 as scheduled from April 18 to May 8 and Readiness Exercise #4-2023 is scheduled from May 16 to May 29. The USACE announced the industry hopper dredge PARDE ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock) will most likely join the DODGE ISLAND on this contract with arrival scheduled on May 17 (2023).

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

The USACE expects to advertise a cutterhead dredge contract bid this summer. The USACE also 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. The USACE announced that the work for SWP is expected to utilize larger rocks than in recent contracts. This adjustment is based upon concerns reported by the Bar Pilots and Big River Coalition on the continued instability of the foreshore rock that protects SWP.

## **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, June 7, 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  
Executive Vice President

Attachment