



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: June 8, 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. The meeting yesterday was conducted both in person and via teleconference the agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

Maintenance Forum Notes June 7, 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 or "undocumented utilities". The USACE plans to open dredge contracts with connections to securing accurate pipeline data or "utility investigation" possibly included in the terms of the contract – estimated advertisement July/August 2023. The USACE is considering options to complete the dredging assignment from Mile 6.25 to Mile 13. 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) completed dredging Baptiste Collette on 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 forthcoming.

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 morning was 4.2 feet and at 1000 hours today the reading was 4.41 feet with a 24-hour change of - 0.20 feet.

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue remain steady for a few days and then resume a slow fall to 2.6 feet on July 6, (2023).

Baton Rouge Gauge: the stage yesterday morning was 14.4 feet, reading at 1100 hours today the reading was 13.80 feet with a 24-hour change of - 0.47 feet.

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow fall to 7.7 feet on July 6 (2023).

*NWS long range projections account for rainfall projected to occur over the next 48-hours, due to precipitation impacts quickly impacting river stages.

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 has two dustpan dredges working to maintain the central 250 feet of channel on the Crossings with the dustpan HURLEY (USACE) is dredging at Medora Crossing (Mile 212 AHP) and the WALLACE McGEORGE (Pine Bluff Sand & Gravel) is dredging at Bayou Goula Crossing (Mile 197.8 AHP).



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A. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans: (continued)

The dustpan dredge JADWIN (USACE) was released temporarily to attend to dredging assignments on the Atchafalaya River (Port of Morgan City). The JADWIN is expected to resume dredging on the Crossings later this month and could be called back earlier to address shoaling on the Crossings, dredge assignments responding to low river stages already impacting inland navigation will also impact Ship Channel assignments. The USACE will work to maintain half channel width (250 feet).

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK returned to dredge areas in the New Orleans Harbor near the Riverwalk. The dredge will soon return to work clearing out the forebays on the Algiers and Harvey Locks.

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The industry hopper dredges, PADRE ISLAND and DODGE ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock) are both working on the second Early Award contract Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #2-2022. The PADRE ISLAND is dredging at the Head of Passes (Mile 2.2 AHP to Mile 1.0 BHP) and the DODGE ISLAND is dredging from Mile 1.0 BHP to Mile 3.8 BHP. The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is undergoing repairs but is expected to return to SWP by early July. The GLENN EDWARDS can be utilized in SWP or on the Crossings depending on shoaling at the time.

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

The USACE expects to advertise a cutterhead dredge contract later this Fiscal Year and is watching the material build up in the HDDA from the active hopper operations near the Head of Passes. The USACE is ready to execute contract when a threshold quantity of sediment material is confirmed within the HDDA footprint.

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

The USACE was scheduled to have a bid opening today for a large rock job with work in Southwest Pass and South Pass, details will be forthcoming. There are portions of this work that will be with much larger stone (5,000 pound) than previous work. The rock work will be trickier this time because of the larger rocks, the USACE will ensure the contractors host pre-construction meetings to coordinate on impacts with navigation industry, pilots and USCG.

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, July 12, 2023, this meeting is also expected to be conducted via the hybrid option within person and teleconference options.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

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Attachment