



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: July 11, 2024

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. This meeting was conducted via teleconference only the USACE will conduct these meetings virtually only until approximately August (2024) due to room limitations at the USACE New Orleans District. The agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

Maintenance Forum Notes July 10, 2024

1) Introductions

2) Southeast Waterways Update:

Tiger Pass: The USACE provided an update on the bid advertisement for a consolidated cutterhead dredge contract to dredge both Baptiste Collette and Tiger Pass. The bid was expected to be advertised this week, Baptiste Collette will be dredged first, dredging is estimated to begin by September assuming a contract can be awarded. Tiger Pass would be dredged after Baptiste Collette. The plan at Tiger Pass is for the cutterhead dredge to dredge from the river channel inward (east to west) until just short of the first utility obstruction (anomalies) previously identified at approximately Mile 9.75 feet (Phase 1). Beyond Mile 9.75 the USACE expects Phase 2 to work with a bucket dredge or similar equipment to remove material over the obstructions with a coordinated utility location survey effort included in the contract as a critical component of Phase 2. Recent surveys indicate areas of the channel are reduced to 2.0 feet MLLW from Mile 9 to Mile 12.

Baptiste Collette: The USACE intends to advertise a bid opening for a consolidated cutterhead dredge contract that should have a dredge working on Baptiste Collette. The USACE advises mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize the online channel surveys. Much of the sediment removed by the cutterhead dredge will be beneficially used with some material designated to extend one of the recently created bird islands in the vicinity of Gunn Island.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge): The river stage at 0800 hours yesterday morning was 4.0 feet and the reading at 0800 hours this morning rose to 4.31 feet with a 24-hour change of +0.19 feet. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) Extended Streamflow Prediction (28-Day) for the Carrollton Gage issued today forecasts stages will rise to 6.4 feet on July 23 and then begin a slow fall to 5.0 feet on August 8 (2024).

Baton Rouge Gauge: The stage yesterday was 14.9 feet at 0800 hours and rose to 15.57 feet at 0900 hours this morning with a 24-hour change of +0.62 feet. Today's NWS extended forecast indicates stages will continue a slow rise to 20.2 feet on July 21 and to then begin a slow fall to 15.3 feet on August 8 (2024).

A. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans:

The latest channel surveys for the Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans are included in the attached agenda. The USACE began dredging on the Crossings in Fiscal Year 2024 with the industry dustpan dredge WALLACE McGEORGE at Alhambra Crossing on June 14 followed by the government dustpan dredge HURLEY at Red Eye Crossing on June 17 (2024). The government dustpan dredge JADWIN is expected to begin dredging on the Crossings next week.

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The USACE expects to dredge the N.O. Harbor with a cutterhead dredge later this summer and is in the active process of evaluating the bids received for this contract advertisement. At this point it is hard to estimate a start date, but a rough approximation would be for dredging to start one month after the cutterhead contract is awarded.



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D. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The industry hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) continues dredging under assignment on Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Contract #2-2023, the first of the two early award hopper dredge contracts issued in Fiscal Year 2023 for work in Fiscal Year 2024. The dredge is presently working on assignment from Mile 3.7 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 1.0 Below Head of Passes (BHP). The industry hopper dredge PADRE ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock) was awarded the second FY 2024 early award contract Southwest Pass & Calcasieu Hopper Dredge Contract #11-2023 but the contract was shifted to another USACE District due to the channel conditions in SWP. The USACE hopper dredge WHEELER is expected to work the remaining days of Readiness Exercises on the Calcasieu River due to the channel conditions in SWP.

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

The USACE has funding to dredge the HDDA in Fiscal Year 2024 and is scheduled to open a bid advertisement on August 13 for a cutterhead dredge to remove approximately 8 million cubic yards of material from the HDDA. The dredge contractor will determine the proper disposal site after the contract is awarded, this will most likely be in the West Bay Receiving Area and would require temporary channel closures to install and remove a submerged dredge pipeline. Details will be provided once a contract is awarded.

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

The USACE has awarded two task orders for contracts for foreshore rock and jetty repairs to Pine Bluff Sand & Gravel for Southwest Pass and South Pass. The work under the first two task orders has been completed in Southwest Pass and there is still some work in South Pass. The USACE expects to award Task Order #3 for additional foreshore rock placement in Southwest Pass.

G. South Pass:

The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) dredged under South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contact #1-2020 from April 3, 2021 to February 8, 2022. The USACE does not expect to dredge South Pass this Fiscal Year, based on inadequate funding.

4) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, this meeting will be conducted virtually only.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

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Attachment