



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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Issue Date: July 8, 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 July 7, 2021

#### 1) Introductions

**2) Southeast Waterways Update:** The President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2022 recommends a record amount of funding of \$19.755 Million for these shallow-draft passes. Actual funding levels may vary.

**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 to remove 1.9 million cubic yards of material. The controlling draft restored to this shallow-draft channel is expected to be approximately 9 feet Mean Low Gulf with a width of 110 feet with some areas of the channel deepened to approximately 12 feet Mean Low Gulf. Dredging has been completed from Mile 6.5 to Mile 8.75 with the assignment extending to Mile 13. The MVN now estimates the dredging on Tiger Pass will be completed in early January 2022. Tiger Pass was last dredged in 2012.

**Baptiste Collette:** The MVN updated information on several large shoals across Baptiste Collette one reported near Mile 9.0, near Mile 2.75 and another shoal near Mile 3.8. The MVN encouraged mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize the latest online channel surveys to navigate around the shoaling. The MVN awarded a cutterhead rental contract to Weeks Marine that will be completed by the C.R. McCASKILL. The dredge should start work on Baptiste Collette in early August after completing assignments in the New Orleans Harbor.

#### 3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

The President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2022 recommends a record amount of funding for the Mississippi River Ship Channel of \$126 Million for the Mississippi River Ship Channel. Actual funding levels may vary. The previous record amount for the project in the President's Budget Request was \$91.97 Million and the five average is \$82.4 Million.

#### New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading yesterday morning was: 7.0 feet

- Today's reading at 0900 hours was 7.76 feet and today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow rise to 9.0 feet by July 14<sup>th</sup> and then begin a slow fall to 5.1 feet on August 5, 2021.

#### Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading yesterday morning was: 23.4 feet

- Today's reading at 1000 hours was 24.55 feet and today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow rise to 27.4 feet on July 13<sup>th</sup> before beginning a slow fall to 17.9 feet on August 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 is dredging the central 250 feet of channel on the Crossings with the dustpan dredges HURLEY at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 AHP); WALLACE McGEORGE at Sardine Point (Mile 219 AHP); and JADWIN at Philadelphia Crossing (Mile 183 AHP).

#### B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN expects to commence dredging in the New Orleans Harbor by this weekend, the contract is for the cutterhead dredge C.R. McCASKILL (Weeks Marine) that will dredge in the New Orleans Harbor and at the Lock Forebays before moving downriver to dredge the deficient shallow-draft channel at Baptiste Collette.



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

There are currently no dredges working on channel maintenance in Southwest Pass on the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC).

The hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) was released to do some work for the Galveston District but is expected to return to complete work in SWP in Mid-August (2021). The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is also being repaired and is expected to return in mid-August to work in SWP or on the Crossings. The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) is presently dredging in South Pass but will return to complete work in Southwest Pass in early 2022. The MVN's hopper dredge WHEELER is scheduled to dredge under Readiness Exercise #3-2021 from July 13 to July 21.

The MVN continues working to identify proper alignment and depths over three pipelines and one utility cable between Mile 12 AHP and Mile 11 AHP before fully opening the Phase 1 portion of the Mississippi River Ship Channel to drafts of 50 feet. The Phase 1 deepening assignments were from Mile 13 AHP to Mile 22 BHP and the dredging assignments for the deeper channel were completed on May 7, 2021.

## **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 and the MVN recently awarded an option for an additional 2 mcy bringing the contract total to 12 mcy to be beneficially used. The ILLINOIS commenced dredging in the HDDA on January 27, 2021 and has now removed approximately 8.5 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. The dredge ILLINOIS is expected to complete this project by late September (2021).

## **E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:**

The MVN awarded the contract to place foreshore rock in SWP to EFT Diversified, Inc. The rock work began on December 19, 2020 and is expected to be completed later this month. The USACE expects to advertise a similar contract for additional rock work later this month to be installed in Fiscal Year 2022.

## **F. South Pass:**

The MVN awarded South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #1-2020 to Manson Construction. Manson's cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE began dredging under this contract on April 3, 2021. The cutterhead 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). South Pass was last dredged in 2007.

## **4) Next Meeting:**

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 and is also expected to be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

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Executive Vice President

Attachment