



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: August 4, 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 August 4, 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 to remove 1.9 million cubic yards of material on March 4, 2021. The controlling draft restored to this shallow-draft channel is expected to be approximately 9 feet Mean Low Gulf (MLG) with a width of 110 feet critical areas of the channel could be deepened to approximately 12 feet MLG. Dredging has been completed from Mile 6.5 to Mile 9.2 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, one 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 cutterhead dredge is now expected to commence dredging operations on Baptiste Collette over the next week or so after completing assignments related to a coastal restoration contract in the Lower Venice Anchorage (Spanish Pass).

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: 6.4 feet

- The long-range projections indicate stages will continue a very slow and intermittent fall to 3.5 feet by September 1, 2021.

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading yesterday morning was: 21.0 feet

- The long-range projections indicate stages will continue a very slow and intermittent fall to 12.2 feet by September 1, 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 at least the central 250 feet of channel on the Crossings with the dustpan dredges WALLACE McGEORGE at Baton Rouge Front (Mile 230.5 AHP); HURLEY at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 AHP); and JADWIN at Granada Crossing (Mile 204.3 AHP).

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN has completed dredging operations in the New Orleans Harbor for Fiscal Year 2021 and the C.R. McCASKILL is moving downriver to work in the area of the Lower Venice Anchorage and 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 GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is expected to return to dredging on the Mississippi River Ship Channel by early September (2021) but will most likely be utilized to deepen the Ship Channel (50 Feet) on the lower Crossings Above New Orleans. The USACE expects to focus on deepening the Ship Channel as Phase 2 of the Ship Channel Deepening Project begins on the lower Crossings with the GLENN EDWARDS and the dustpan dredges HURLEY and JADWIN expected to work on the listed Crossings: (listed upriver to downriver) but dredging would most likely start on the downriver assignments. Lower Crossings: Smoke Bend (Mile 175 AHP), Rich Bend (Mile 158.8 AHP), Belmont (Mile 154.2 AHP) and Fairview (Mile 115.7 AHP). 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.

Progress is being made. The MVN continues working to identify proper alignment and available depths over four pipelines and one utility cable between Mile 12 AHP and Mile 11 AHP before vessels with deeper drafts can be accommodated to open up Phase 1 of the deeper Mississippi River Ship Channel to drafts up to 50 feet. The Phase 1 deepening or dredging assignments from Mile 13 AHP to Mile 22 BHP 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). **The submerged dredge pipeline will have to be removed during a future channel closure (thought to be 12-hours) in the area of the Head of Passes.**

E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:

The MVN awarded the contract to place foreshore rock in SWP to EFT Diversified, Inc. that was completed in SWP from December 19, 2020 to July 12, 2021. The USACE expects to advertise a similar contract for additional rock work later this week for foreshore rock placement 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, September 1, 2021 and is also expected to be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

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Executive Vice President

Attachment