



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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Issue Date: January 11, 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. This was the first in person Forum meeting at the USACE New Orleans District since COVID protocols were first required. The USACE expects to continue Forum meetings with the in-person option in 2023. The agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

### Maintenance Forum Notes January 11, 2023

#### 1) Introductions

**2) Southeast Waterways Update:** The President's Budget Request (PBud) Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) is \$3.75 Million.

**Tiger Pass:** The USACE reported that additional survey efforts have not been able to locate several obstructions or pipelines or anomalies between Mile 10 and Mile 13 and that it intends to advertise a dredge contract this summer possibly via the Request for Proposal process. Significant sedimentation over pipelines that have proven difficult to accurately locate subsurface depths on with deployment of advance hydrographic survey equipment has halted dredging.

The USACE has been unable to dredge or accurately survey the areas of Tiger Pass beyond Mile 10.2. The reach from Mile 6.0 to Mile 10.2 was successfully dredged by the CROSBY DREDGER (2021). The cutterhead dredge completed approximately forty-eight percent of the assignment before the contract was terminated

**Baptiste Collette:** The MVN awarded a cutterhead dredge rental contract to dredge Baptiste Collette to Manson Construction who dredged with their cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE from October 15 to December 10 (2022). The USACE advises mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize the online channel surveys, noting one shoal remaining near the confluence with the Mississippi River but that the channel is in "good-condition." The cutterhead contract restored authorized channel dimensions to Baptiste Collette through the removal of approximately 2.1 million cubic yards of sediment that was beneficially used including an additional by design bird island/wildlife sanctuary along the Mississippi Sound.

#### 3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

**New Orleans Gage (Carrollton Gage) the stage this morning was 5.2 feet.**

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow rise to 7.5 feet on January 18 and remain steady for a few days and begin a slow fall to 5.3 feet on February 8 (2023).

**Baton Rouge Gage reading this morning was 16.6 feet.**

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will continue a slow rise to 23.0 feet on January 17 and then begin a slow fall to 16.3 feet on February 8 (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 completed channel maintenance dredging with the dustpan dredges and one hopper dredge on the Crossings for Fiscal Year 2022 on November 21, 2022. Dustpan dredges will return to the Crossings after substantial highwater periods – seasonal start early summer as warranted based upon channel or river conditions.



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

The industry cutterhead dredge MIKE HOOKS dredged in the New Orleans Harbor from June 18 to July 29 and November 4 to November 11 (2022). The USACE will dredge in the Harbor based upon channel conditions in Fiscal Year 2023.

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

There are no dredges presently working in Southwest Pass. However, the USACE has two Early Award Contracts for the industry hopper dredges GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) and a hopper dredge from Great Lakes Dredge & Dock that are scheduled. The GLENN EDWARDS is expected to begin dredging in February and the second contract would begin in March (2023) with a to be nominated hopper dredge for Great Lakes.

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

The USACE awarded the Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA) contract to Weeks Marine who dredged in the HDDA from October 7 to December 28 (2023). The contract was completed by the cutterhead dredges E.W. ELLEFSEN and the CAPTAIN FRANK beneficially using approximately 4.0 million cubic yards of material in the West Bay Receiving Area with approximately 300 acres restored.

## **E. Saltwater Sill:**

The USACE reported that the saltwater wedge no longer warranted observation and that the USACE was monitoring the channels impact on the sill or sediment itself as the sill remains but will eventually wash downriver. Weeks Marine successfully completed the construction of the saltwater sill with their cutterhead dredge J.S. CHATRY from October 11 to October 22 (2022). The barrier sill was constructed to USACE approved elevations within acceptable limits as noted above at Mile 63.8 Above Head of Passes (AHP).

## **F. Southwest and South Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:**

The USACE now anticipates issuing a large foreshore rock contract in February 2023 for foreshore rocks and jetty repairs on both Southwest Pass and South Pass with the rock work to be conducted this year.

## **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.

## **4) Next Meeting:**

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, this meeting will be hosted “in-person” at the USACE New Orleans District with conference call capability.

*Sean M. Duffy, Sr.*

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Attachment