



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: August 3, 2022

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, the agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

Maintenance Forum Notes August 3, 2022

1) Introductions

2) Southeast Waterways Update: The President's Budget Request (P Bud) for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 22) was a record amount of funding (\$19.755 Million) while the P Bud for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 23) is closer to the average amount at \$3.75 M.

Tiger Pass: The USACE recently issued a contract for a professional survey company to once again attempt to locate and identify the pipelines that led to the last dredge contract of Tiger Pass being cancelled. The USACE has been unable to survey the areas of Tiger Pass beyond Mile 10.2. Beyond that point there is insufficient water to provide access for survey vessels. The USACE previously terminated the contract to dredge Tiger Pass with Crosby Dredging and released the cutterhead dredge, CROSBY DREDGER. The cutterhead dredge completed approximately forty-eight percent of the assignment before the contract was terminated. The contract was cancelled because of the inability to provide accurate depth of cover surveys over multiple pipelines extending from Mile 10.2 to Mile 13.0. The shallow-draft channel was dredged from Mile 6.0 to Mile 10.2. The USACE now hopes to return to completely dredge the remaining section (approximately 2.0 miles) in early FY 23, but the dredging will not proceed without first obtaining accurate pipeline surveys data.

The USACE continues working with advanced survey technologies to try and provide accurate data demonstrating the depth of the pipelines and flowlines in the last few miles of Tiger Pass. The same companies are being contracted to survey the two pipelines in the Venice Corridor between Mile 13 Above Head of Passes (AHP) and Mile 12 AHP and in other locations along the Mississippi River Ship Channel.

Baptiste Collette: The MVN advises mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel to utilize the online channel surveys that indicate multiple shoals. MVN will advertise a bid opening for a cutterhead dredge contract on August 11 (2022) the anticipated dredging should commence in early September (2022). The contract will be sufficient to restore authorized channel dimensions to Baptiste Collette.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 3.0 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will rise to 4.8 feet on August 11 and then fall to 3.3 feet on August 31 (2022).

Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 10.0 feet

- Today's long-range projections indicate stages will rise to 14.8 feet on August 10 and then fall to 10.2 feet on August 31 (2022).

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 commenced dredging operations on the Crossings on May 10, 2022. Two of the dustpan dredges are actively dredging full channel dimensions on the Crossings at the following locations: the HURLEY is working at Baton Rouge Front (Mile 232 AHP); the WALLACE McGEORGE is dredging at Medora Crossing (Mile 212 AHP); the JADWIN is working on the shallow-draft channel above Baton Rouge. The industry hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is currently being repaired but is expected to resume dredging on the Crossings next week.



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B. New Orleans Harbor:

The industry cutterhead dredge MIKE HOOKS completed the dredge contract for the New Orleans Harbor from June 18 to July 29 (2022).

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The industry hopper dredge TERRAPIN ISLAND is currently dredging in the area of the Head of Passes from Mile 1.3 Above Head of Passes to Mile 0 (Head of Passes). The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is currently being utilized on the Crossings and the cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) is expected to return to complete its contract in SWP later this month (August 2022). The USACE hopper dredge WHEELER is scheduled to perform Readiness Exercise #5-2022 from August 9 to August 23 (2022) and will either be assigned to work in SWP or on the Crossings based on channel conditions at the time.

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

The USACE will open a bid on August 9, 2022 for a cutterhead dredge rental contract to dredge the HDDA. The USACE has sufficient funding to award a large cutterhead contract although the amount of material presently in the HDDA is less than usual. The base contract is expected to be for 4 million cubic yards of material with options for additional cubic yardage to be added noted within the contract.

E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:

The USACE awarded BIS Services, LLC a contract to install foreshore rock in SWP during Fiscal Year 2022. BIS Services worked under this contract from March 4 to June 16 (2022). Stone placement resumed on July 21, 2022 and is expected to be completed in October (2022). The USACE anticipates issuing a larger foreshore rock contract later this year for foreshore rocks and jetty repairs in both Southwest Pass and South Pass for work to be conducted in Fiscal Year 2023.

F. 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.

4) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, this meeting will most likely be conducted via conference call also, but in person meetings may resume by the end of the calendar year.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Maritime Advocate
Executive Vice President

Attachment