



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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Issue Date: November 4, 2015

Members,

## RE: CORPS' MISSISSIPPI RIVER MAINTENANCE FORUM MEETING NOTES

The Corps' 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. LAMA encourages our members to attend these meetings, which are open to the public. The agenda for this meeting as provided by the MVN is attached.

### Maintenance Forum Notes November 4, 2015

#### 1) Introductions

#### 2) Southeast Waterways Update

The MVN advised that Weeks Marine completed dredging on Baptiste Collette with the cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK in mid-October. The dredging assignment was limited to reduced dimensions from Mile 8 to Mile 9.5 (only) because of inadequate funding. The new surveys of Baptiste Collette indicate 11 to 12 feet in the reach that was dredged. However, a controlling depth of 9.5 feet was identified near Mile 10.5 and Mile 6. The MVN last surveyed Tiger Pass in December 2014. Those surveys indicated a controlling depth of 5.5 feet MLG near Mile 10. Tiger Pass has not been dredged since 2012. Although, the channel remains deficient, funding to dredge the channel or to preform the required jetty repairs has not been appropriated. The MVN intends to preform new surveys over the next few months.

#### 3) Mississippi River Conditions Update

Current Stages: New Orleans 3.6 feet (Slight rise predicted to 4.6 feet on November 8, 2015)  
Baton Rouge 9.5 feet (Slight rise predicted to 12.8 feet on November 8, 2015)

##### A. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans:

The latest survey results for the Crossings are listed in the attached agenda. The MVN is now working to restore full channel dimensions (45 feet by 500 feet) on the Crossings with the dustpan dredges. **The MVN anticipates utilizing approximately \$20 million from the Fiscal Year 2016 (FY 16) Operations and Maintenance Budget to restore full channel dimensions on the Crossings by December 2015.** This unusual early fiscal year expenditure could lead to funding challenges in 2016 as the President's Budget request is just under \$86 million. However, the MVN must do what it can to recover the full channel dimensions on the Crossings.

The dustpan dredges being utilized on the Crossings are: the dustpan dredge WALLACE McGEORGE at Bayou Goula Crossing (approximately Mile 198.2 Above Head of Passes (AHP)); the cutterhead dredge HURLEY at Alhambra Crossing (Mile 190.5 AHP). The White Castle Anchorage is off limit to



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vessels until this assignment is completed; the cutterhead dredge JADWIN was released to work on the shallow-draft channel near Lake Providence. The JADWIN is expected to return to dredging on the Crossings by Monday, November 8, 2015 at Belmont Crossing (Mile 154 AHP).

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

The MVN discussed a mud lump that has recently been identified after being touched by several transiting vessels at Mile 100 AHP. The Corps presented a survey that indicates this shoaling was linked to a recent dredging contract in the New Orleans Harbor. Since this meeting the Port of New Orleans has responded and is working to address this area with their cutterhead dredge NED REED.

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

The fully authorized channel dimensions in SWP have been restored since the record crests early this year. There are presently no dredges working in SWP and the MVN plans to utilize either a hopper or cutterhead dredge contract at the first high river stage of FY 16.

## **D. South Pass:**

The MVN plans to update surveys over the next few months to ensure it is prepared to issue a dredging contract if funds become available. The channel remains deficient and, based on limited funding there are no immediate plans to dredge South Pass.

## **4) Next Meeting:**

**The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, at the MVN District Assembly Room A.**

*Sean M. Duffy, Sr.*

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

Attachment