



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: February 8, 2017

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 with advanced notice of attendance. The agenda for this meeting as provided by the MVN is attached.

Maintenance Forum Notes February 8, 2017

1) Introductions

2) Southeast Waterways Update:

No changes from previous report. The MVN surveyed Tiger Pass on September 1, 2016 and identified a controlling depth of approximately 1 foot MLG between Mile 9.5 to Mile 10.5 (jetty end). The Corps advised it does not expect to dredge Tiger Pass in Fiscal Year 2017 due to inadequate funding.

The MVN surveyed Baptiste Collette on December 7, 2016 identifying a controlling depth of 11 to 12.5 feet MLG near Mile 9. The President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2017 only proposes funding in the amount of \$1.45 million for the maintenance of these two shallow-draft channels. The Corps will only be able to dredge Baptiste Collette to reduced dimensions unless additionally funding is secured.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update

Current Stage New Orleans: 10.22 feet, *predicted to fall to 5.1 feet on March 7, 2017.

Current Stage Baton Rouge: 27.33 feet, *predicted to fall to 12.9 feet on March 7, 2017.

*The extended Streamflow Predictions do not account for precipitation beyond 48-hours.

A. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans:

The latest survey results for the Crossings are included in the attached agenda. The present plan is to wait until June (or so) to begin dredging the Crossings again, but the Corps will continue to monitor surveys and update industry as to when dredging on the Crossings may resume. The Corps may perform channel maintenance using a cutterhead dredge when working at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 Above Head of Passes) in an effort to completely remove the sediment from the channel. Normally the Crossings are dredged with dustpan dredges, the test of a cutterhead will be coordinated with navigation representatives and the NOBRA and Federal Pilots.



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B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN will be unable to fund dredging operations within the New Orleans Harbor unless the insufficient amount of \$82.8 million included in the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2017 is adequately increased. The latest surveys show up to 5 feet of shoaling in the area of the Julia Street Cruise Terminal, the increased stage on the Carrollton Gauge (New Orleans) is presently counteracting this shoaling. The Port of New Orleans is working their cutterhead dredge NED KELLY in this general vicinity.

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The latest Corps' surveys in the area of SWP show there is shoaling in several key areas of the channel, with shoaling predominantly on channel edges. The two most deficient areas are at the Head of Passes and on the lower end near the SWP jetties. The MVN hopper dredge WHEELER continues working under Readiness Exercise #1-2017 and is expected to complete this Exercise on February 12, 2017. The WHEELER continues working the SWP jetties and at the Head of Passes. The Corps intends to open bids for a cutterhead dredge contract over the next few weeks.

D. South Pass:

The channel remains deficient and, based on limited funding there are no plans to dredge South Pass.

E: Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA):

The HDDA contract was awarded to Weeks Marine and dredging commenced on October 8, 2016 with the cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK. The cutterhead E.W. ELLEFSEN replaced the CAPTAIN FRANK on October 18, 2016. Weeks has now removed a total of 6.5 million cubic yards and is presently working to remove a total of 7.8 million cubic yards (mcy). The Corps has received additional (Supplemental) funding that will be used for the HDDA project and will increase the total cubic yards removed to 12.7 mcy. The E.W. ELLEFSEN is expected to complete the 7.8 mcy by early March and then depart the project for scheduled shipyard maintenance and return to complete this work later this year.

5) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at the MVN District Assembly Room A.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

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Executive Vice President

Attachment
