



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

---

Issue Date: June 7, 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 June 7, 2017**

#### **1) Introductions**

#### **2) Southeast Waterways Update:**

No changes, the MVN last surveyed Tiger Pass on September 1, 2016 and identified a controlling depth of approximately 1 foot Mean Low Gulf (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.

No changes, the MVN last surveyed Baptiste Collette on May 2, 2017 identifying a controlling depth of 9 to 9.5 feet MLG between Mile 9 and Mile 9.5. 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 additional funding is secured.

#### **3) Mississippi River Conditions Update**

Current Stage New Orleans: 16 feet, slow fall projected to 8.8 feet on July 4, 2017.

Current Stage Baton Rouge: 39.7 feet, slow fall projected to 21.1 feet on July 4, 2017.

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

The latest survey results for the Crossings are included in the attached agenda. The MVN intends to delay dredging with the dustpan dredges until late June with the WALLACE McGEORGE and the other two dustpans are expected to start by mid-July. The Corps will continue to monitor surveys and update industry as to when and where the dustpans will be deployed.

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

The MVN was awarded an additional \$20.25 million through the Corps Work Plan allocation and will now be able to fund dredging operations in the New Orleans Harbor. The MVN reported 10 feet of shoal material in the Harbor and expects to open a cutterhead dredge contract bid as the river stage falls.



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

---

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

The latest Corps' surveys of SWP show there is severe shoaling in three key areas below Venice, the channel remains deficient in the area of: Cubits Gap (Mile 3.5 Above Head [AHP] to Mile 2 AHP), at the Head of Passes and on the lower end from approximately Mile 17 Below Head of Passes [BHP] to Mile 19 BHP. The MVN is working to restore the deficient channel through the use of three industry hopper dredges (NEWPORT, BAYPORT and GLENN EDWARDS), the Corps' hopper dredge WHEELER and the industry cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK. The Bar Pilots reduced the maximum recommended draft to 44 feet effective on May 26, 2017. The Bar Pilots plan to move two inbound vessels with drafts of approximately 45 feet tomorrow morning with restrictions for outbound vessels to be limited at 35 feet during their inbound transits (0800 hours to 1300 hours).

## **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):**

Weeks Marine has removed a total of 6.7 million cubic yards (mcy) of material from the HDDA and will remove another 6 mcy. The cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK is expected to resume dredging in September (2017) after it completes the channel maintenance contract in SWP. The remaining 6 mcy includes 1.7 mcy that will be transported to Spanish Pass (Venice). The Spanish Pass operations will require coordination with the navigation industry and the Bar, Crescent and Federal Pilots to ensure the transport upriver (pipeline or hoppers) has limited impact on navigation. Weeks Marine intends to meet with the involved stakeholders prior to commencing the work for Spanish Pass. All 12.7 mcy removed under this contract will be beneficially used to create marsh in the environmentally sensitive bird's-foot delta.

## **5) Next Meeting:**

**The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, July 12, 2017, at the MVN District Assembly Room A.**

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

Attachment