



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: July 12, 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 July 12, 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 10 to Mile 12 (jetty end). The Corps advised it will not be able to dredge Tiger Pass in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 or 2018 due to inadequate funding, barring unexpected supplemental appropriations.

The MVN last surveyed Baptiste Collette on June 30, 2017 identifying a controlling depth of 7 to 8 feet MLG between Mile 8 and Mile 10. The channel was negatively impacted by the storm surge associated with Tropical Storm Cindy. MVN only received \$1.45 million in the FY 2017 budget to maintain these two shallow-draft channels. The Corps will only be able to dredge Baptiste Collette to reduced dimensions with this amount of funding and the President's Budget Request for FY 18 is approximately \$1.49 million. MVN intends to advertise a bid opening in September 2017 to dredge Baptiste Collette.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:

Current Stage New Orleans: 8.2 feet, slight rise to 8.4 feet by July 16th and then a slow fall projected to reach 8 feet on August 8, 2017.

Current Stage Baton Rouge: 25.0 feet, slight rise to 26.4 feet by July 15th, and then a slow fall projected to 18.1 feet by August 7, 2017.

A. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans:

The latest survey results for the Crossings are included in the attached agenda. The MVN has all three dustpan dredges working on the Crossings. The WALLACE McGEORGE is dredging at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 AHP). The HURLEY is expected to commence dredging at Sardine Point (Mile 219.3 AHP) later today. The JADWIN continues dredging at Alhambra Crossing (Mile 190.5 AHP) and is expected to complete this assignment by Saturday, July 15, 2017 and then move upriver to Bayou Goula (Mile 198.2 AHP).



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

A. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN was able to fund the New Orleans Harbor dredging because of the additional \$20.25 million received through the FY 2017 Corps Work Plan allocation. The industry cutterhead dredge MIKE HOOKS commenced dredging at the Julia Street Cruise Terminal under Harbor Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2017 on Monday, July 10, 2017.

B. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The latest Corps' surveys of SWP indicate the dredges are making progress on recovering the channel below Venice. The MVN is working to restore the deficient channel through the use of three industry hopper dredges (NEWPORT, BAYPORT and GLENN EDWARDS) and the industry cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK. The Bar Pilots continue to recommend a maximum draft of 46 feet, that became effective at 1030 hours on July 11, 2017.

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 removed a total of 6.7 million cubic yards (mcy) of material from the HDDA earlier this year and will remove another 6 mcy this fall. The cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK is expected to resume dredging in September (2017) after it completes the present 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 these contracts 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, August 2, 2017, at the MVN District Assembly Room A.

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

Attachment
