



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: July 6, 2016

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 6, 2016

1) Introductions

2) Southeast Waterways Update:

The MVN last surveyed Tiger Pass in mid-December 2015 and the identified controlling depth was 1.5 feet MLG. Tiger Pass has not been dredged since 2012. Although, the channel remains deficient, funding to dredge the channel or to perform the required jetty repairs has not been appropriated.

The cutterhead dredge E STROUD began dredging Baptiste Collette to reduced dimensions on June 16, 2016. The assignment is to the reduced dimensions of 14 feet by 150 feet wide on the main channel and 14 feet by 200 feet on the bar channel. The contract is expected to be completed by August 15, 2016 and will prepare Baptiste Collette to be used as part of the alternate channel for usage along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway while the Inner Harbor Navigation Channel (IHNC) Lock is dewatered. The IHNC Lock cannot be dewatered until the river stage at New Orleans is 6 feet or less; however, the Corps continues to prepare for the dewatering that remains tentatively scheduled for August 1, 2016.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update

Current Stages: New Orleans: 5.1 feet and is projected to fall to 4.5 feet on July 10, 2016.
Baton Rouge: 18 feet and is projected to fall to 16.8 feet on July 10, 2016.

A. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans:

The latest survey results for the Crossings are included in the attached agenda. The MVN is presently dredging with the three dustpan dredges: HURLEY, WALLACE McGEORGE, and JADWIN. The HURLEY is presently dredging the central 250 feet at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 Above Head of Passes [AHP]). The WALLACE McGEORGE is dredging the central 250 feet at Granada Crossing (Mile 205 AHP). **The JADWIN is dredging full channel dimensions (500 feet) at Belmont Crossing (Mile 154 AHP), the Belmont Anchorage will be off limits for vessel usage while the JADWIN is dredging at Belmont Crossing.**



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B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MVN has identified significant shoaling along the uptown wharves along the Port of New Orleans; however, the MVN will be unable to dredge the New Orleans Harbor in Fiscal Year 2016 unless additional funding is secured. The Port of New Orleans is utilizing their cutterhead dredge the EDWARD S. "NED" REED and also plans to secure an industry cutterhead dredge to assist in dredging near high-use berths. The MVN indicated that it continues to request additional funding for the Port of New Orleans Harbor dredging assignment and remains hopeful that some funding will eventually be made available.

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The channel conditions in SWP continue to stabilize and the maximum draft recommendation remains 46 feet. The MVN hopper dredge WHEELER will commence dredging from Mile 9.6 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 11.6 BHP this evening and is expected to complete Readiness Exercise #2-2016 on Sunday (July 10, 2016). The WHEELER has two remaining Readiness Exercises to be utilized in SWP with the following tentative dates: #3-2016 from July 19 to August 8 (2016) and #4-2016 from August 16 to September 4 (2016).

D. South Pass:

The MVN posted new surveys of South Pass earlier this year and utilized them to update their dredging plans in order to respond if funds were to become available (unlikely). The channel remains deficient and, based on limited funding there are no plans to dredge South Pass.

4) Red Eye Dikes Scour:

The MVN discussed that it intends to place a rock layer (3-feet thick) between the soft dikes at Red Eye (approximately Mile 224.3 AHP) near the left descending bank in an effort to armor the bank and protect it from additional scouring. After the Forum meeting was completed there was a meeting to review this project and the MVN's upcoming Revetment work to be completed later this calendar year. A detailed report on the Revetment work is forthcoming.

5) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, August 3, 2016, at the MVN District Assembly Room A.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
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Attachment
