



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: August 3, 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 August 3, 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 near Mile 10. Although, the channel remains deficient, funding to dredge the channel or to perform the required jetty repairs has not been appropriated. The Corps and Coast Guard discussed an identified obstruction (tree) near Mile 5 and reported that efforts are ongoing to remove or mark this hazard.

The cutterhead dredge E STROUD began dredging Baptiste Collette to reduced dimensions on June 16, 2016. The dredge's first assignment was to dredge a pilot channel of 12 feet by 150 feet wide prior to the scheduled closure of Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lock. Baptiste Collette will serve as the alternate channel for usage along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway while the IHNC Lock is being repaired. The IHNC Lock closure began as scheduled on August 1, 2016 and is expected to be completed by November 29, 2016. The E STROUD is now working to deepen the pilot channel to 14 feet by 150 feet on the inner channel and 16 feet by 250 feet on the bar channel.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update

Current Stages: New Orleans: 4.7 feet with a slight rise projected to reach 5.0 feet on August 7, 2016.
Baton Rouge: 15.1 feet with a slight rise projected to reach 16.7 feet on August 7, 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 full channel dimensions of 500 feet at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 Above Head of Passes [AHP]). The WALLACE McGEORGE is also dredging full channel dimensions at Bayou Goula Crossing (Mile 198.2 AHP). The JADWIN is expected to begin dredging full channel dimensions (500 feet) at Rich Bend Crossing (Mile 158.8 AHP) over the next 12-hours. The Belmont Anchorage is once again open for vessel usage.



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B. New Orleans Harbor:

The Port of New Orleans is utilizing their cutterhead dredge the EDWARD S. "NED" REED and the industry cutterhead dredge MIKE HOOKS to dredge near high-use berths. The "NED REED" is presently dredging at Napoleon Avenue Wharf A and the MIKE HOOKS is dredging at the Erato Street Cruise Terminal.

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

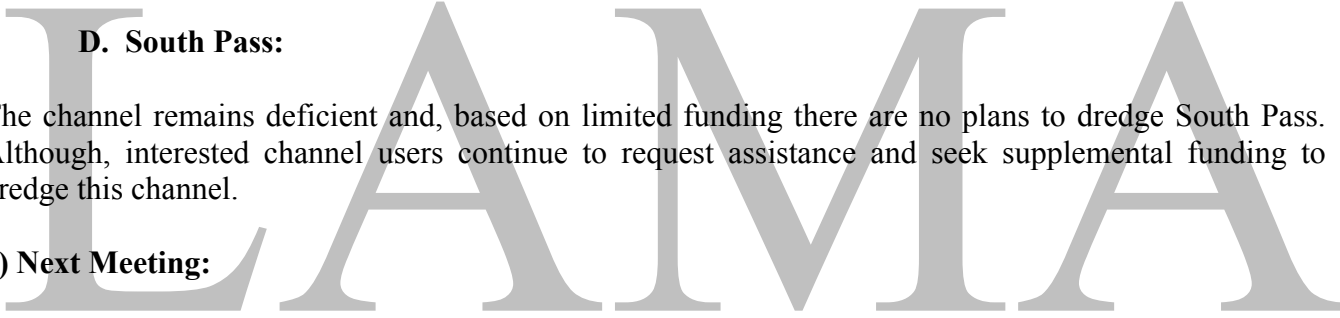
The channel conditions in the area of SWP have improved enough to allow the Bar Pilots, Crescent Pilots and Federal Pilots to restore their full maximum channel draft recommendations of 47/45 feet. Although there are areas of shoaling that the MVN and Pilots continue to monitor. The MVN hopper dredge WHEELER is dredging in the area of the Head of Passes (Mile 1.2 AHP to Mile 0.5 AHP) under Readiness Exercise #3-2016. The WHEELER is scheduled to complete this Readiness Exercise on August 8, 2016 and the final Readiness Exercise (#4-2016) is scheduled from August 16 to September 4 (2016).

D. South Pass:

The channel remains deficient and, based on limited funding there are no plans to dredge South Pass. Although, interested channel users continue to request assistance and seek supplemental funding to dredge this channel.

5) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, at the MVN District Assembly Room A.



Sean M. Duffy Sr.

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Maritime Advocate
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Attachment