



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: September 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 September 6, 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 will not dredge Tiger Pass in Fiscal Year 2017 (or FY 2018) due to inadequate funding.

No changes, 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 9.7. The Federal Funding for Fiscal Year 2017 remains at a total 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 and **now** expects to start dredging in December 2017.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update: (As of Septemeber 6, 2017)

Current Stage New Orleans: 5.0 feet, slight rise projected to 6.3 feet on September 13, 2017 and then a slow fall to 5.0 feet by October 2, 2017.

Current Stage Baton Rouge: 16.25 feet, slight rise projected to 20.5 feet on Septemeber 12, 2017 and then a slow fall to 14.9 feet on October 2, 2017.

A. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans:

The latest survey results for the Crossings are included in the attached agenda. The MVN continues working to restore full channel dimensions with the three dustpan dredges: WALLACE McGEORGE, JADWIN and HURLEY.

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The MIKE HOOKS has completed the work for the Port of New Orleans and will resume working for the Corps, the remaining assignments include areas in the Harbor and at the Lock forebays.



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C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The latest Corps' surveys of SWP are attached, the channel is in fairly good condition. The MVN continues working to restore full channel dimensions through the use of the industry cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK. The cutterhead's contract is expected to be completed by the weekend. The CAPTAIN FRANK will begin preparations to start dredging at the Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (Head of Passes) once it has completed this last assignment and set up at the HDDA. All material removed under these contracts is being beneficially used

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 over the last year and will soon return to remove another 6 mcy. The cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK is expected to resume dredging the HDDA over the next 10 days after completing 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, October 4, 2017, at the MVN District Assembly Room A.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

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Maritime Advocate
Executive Vice President

Attachment