



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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Issue Date: July 1, 2015

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. The agenda for this meeting as provided by the MVN is attached.

### Maintenance Forum Notes July 1, 2015

#### 1) Introductions

#### 2) Southeast Waterways Update

The MVN last surveyed Tiger Pass in February 2015. Those surveys indicated a controlling depth of 4.5 feet Mean Low Gulf (MLG) from Mile 10 to Mile 12. Tiger Pass has not been dredged since 2012. Although, the channel remains deficient, funding to dredge the channel or to preform the required jetty repairs remains unavailable. Baptiste Collette was recently surveyed (June 2015) and a controlling depth of 7 feet MLG was identified between Mile 9 to Mile 10. MVN intends to dredge Baptiste Collette later this year when the river stage is lower (August/September).

#### 3) Mississippi River Conditions Update

Current Stages: New Orleans 12.6 feet (Continued rise cresting at 14.5 feet on July 17, 2015)  
Baton Rouge 33.6 feet (Continued rise cresting at 36 feet on July 16, 2015)

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

The latest survey results for the Crossings are listed in the attached agenda. The Crossings are in fair condition due to the elevated river stages. However, the MVN reports that 20 feet of sediment material (shoaling) covers the majority of the Crossings. The dustpan dredge WALLACE McGEORGE began dredging at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 Above Head of Passes [AHP]) on June 7, 2015 and moved to Belmont Crossing (Mile 154 AHP) on June 27, 2015. The MVN anticipates utilizing the two other dustpans (JADWIN and HURLEY) once the stage level at Baton Rouge nears 20 feet.

##### B. New Orleans Harbor:

The representatives for the Port of New Orleans indicated that the channel remains in fair condition, although there is considerable shoaling around the Julia Street Cruise Terminal. The MVN indicates there is 12 feet of sediment material in this area. Dredging operations will commence as the stage level recedes, estimated to be around August/September (2015).



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

There are four dredges being utilized in this reach of the ship channel, the three hopper dredges: NEWPORT, WHEELER, STUYVESANT and the cutterhead dredge ALASKA. The industry hopper dredge NEWPORT is dredging in the area of Head of Passes. The MVN's hopper dredge WHEELER is presently working from Mile 12.5 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to 15 BHP. The industry hopper dredge STUYVESANT is presently working on the jetty end of SWP. The industry cutterhead dredge ALASKA is dredging at Mile 2.5 Above Head of BHP on the western side of the channel (right descending bank). The MVN reported being able to extend the contract of the ALASKA and STUYVESANT and that Corps' Headquarters approved the use of the WHEELER for 30-days of Red Flag Callout in an effort to maintain the channel during this third crest of over 14 feet (Carrollton Gauge).

## **D. South Pass:**

The latest surveys continue to show that this channel remains deficient and, based on limited funding there are no immediate plans to dredge South Pass.

## **E. Head of Passes, Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA):**

The cutterhead dredge C.R. McCASKILL has nearly completed the Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Project being co-sponsored between the MVN and Plaquemines Parish. This project was jointly funded by the co-sponsors and once again demonstrates the ability to immediately create land/marsh with the beneficial use of dredged material (sediment recycling).

## **4) Mississippi River 50 ft Deepening Study Update:**

The Corps' Senior Project Manager for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and General Reevaluation Report briefly discussed the status of the effort to update the economics of deepening the Mississippi River Ship Channel to 50 feet. Members can refer to the recently distributed presentation for more details.

## **5) Next Meeting:**

**The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, August 5, 2015, at the MVN District Office in District Assembly Room A.**

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.  
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Executive Vice President

Attachment