



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

Issue Date: January 7, 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.

Maintenance Forum Notes January 7, 2015

1) Introductions

2) Southeast Waterways Update

The MVN last surveyed Tiger Pass in December 2014. Those surveys indicated a controlling depth of 5.5 feet Mean Low Gulf (MLG) from Mile 10 to Mile 12. Tiger Pass remains deficient throughout, and no funding is available for dredging this channel or to perform the needed repair of the jetties. Baptiste Collette was surveyed at the same and the controlling depth of 9 feet MLG was identified between Mile 9 to Mile 10.

3) Mississippi River Conditions Update

Current Stages: New Orleans 5.6 feet (A rise to 7.3 feet is predicted for January 15, 2015)
Baton Rouge 19.2 feet (A rise to 22.8 feet is predicted for January 15, 2015)

A. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans:

The latest surveys for the Crossings are shown on the attached agenda. The Crossings are in good condition due to the recent river stage increase. The dustpan dredge WALLACE McGEORGE completed its last assignment at Baton Rouge Front (Mile 224 Above Head of Passes [AHP]) on December 13, 2015.

B. New Orleans Harbor:

The representatives for the Port of New Orleans indicated that the channel remains in good condition, although there is some shoaling around the Julia Street Cruise Terminal. The MVN intends to dredge the New Orleans Harbor in July 2015, depending on actual river conditions.



LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

C. Southwest Pass (SWP):

There are currently no dredges working the deep-draft navigation channel in SWP. The channel conditions continue to deteriorating with full depth availability reduced to 600 to 650 feet (750 feet authorization) above and below the Head of Passes. The MVN was unable to award a hopper dredge contract in December and began the Red Flag Emergency Procedure; however, the decision was made to try a cutterhead dredge to work on the channel in the area of Head of Passes. This has not been attempted in many years and concerns remain that the cutterhead's production will be limited while moving out of the way to accommodate passing ship traffic. The cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK will begin dredging in the area of Head of Passes tomorrow morning (January 8, 2015) the exact location will be based on new surveys. The cutterhead dredge G.D. MORGAN is expected to arrive SWP on Monday, January 12, 2015 and replace the CAPTAIN FRANK on the navigation project. The CAPTAIN FRANK will then return to resume the Hoper Dredge Disposal Area dredging project.

The Corps' hopper dredge WHEELER is expected to return to SWP and begin dredging under Readiness Exercise #1-2015 by February 4, 2015. The MVN may also issue a second hopper dredge contract depending on river conditions and available federal funding.

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 CAPTAIN FRANK began dredging in the HDDA on November 10, 2014 and has beneficially placed about 1.8 million cubic yards of material in the surrounding area. The contractor placed a dredge pipeline across the Mississippi River channel (under the ship channel) between the Head of Passes and the Pilottown Anchorage Area from east to west (near Mile 1.3 AHP) during two scheduled closures in December 2015. This pipeline will be utilized to pump the material from the HDDA and navigation dredging projects into the West Bay receiving area. The CAPTAIN FRANK will suspend this assignment to begin working on the navigation channel until the G.D. Morgan arrives. The CAPTAIN FRANK will return to the HDDA project once it is replaced by the second cutterhead.

4) Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, at the MVN District Office in District Assembly Room A.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

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

Attachment