

BIG RIVER COALITION, LLC



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Members,

RE: USACE MISSISSIPPI RIVER MAINTENANCE FORUM MEETING NOTES

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) monthly Maintenance Forum meeting was virtually hosted today to discuss channel conditions and related issues directly with the maritime industry. These meetings are usually scheduled for 0900 hours on the first Wednesday every month. The USACE will no longer hold these meetings in person and expects to conduct future meetings virtually (only). The USACE did not provide an agenda for today's meeting, the format below follows the historic USACE Agenda.

Maintenance Forum Notes April 1, 2026

Latest River Stage Updates:

New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge): The river stage at New Orleans this morning was 5.7 feet this morning. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) Extended Streamflow Prediction (28-Day) for the Carrollton Gage issued today forecasts that stages crested at about 8.0 feet last week and are forecast to continue a slow fall to 4.2 feet on April 6 then rise to 5.3 feet on April 17 and then being a slow fall to 3.5 feet on April 29 (2026).

Baton Rouge Gauge: The stage this morning was 17.6 feet. The NWS 28-Day extended forecast indicates stages will slowly fall to 12.2 feet by April 6 and then begin a rise to crest at 16.4 on April 18 and to then begin a slow fall to 10.3 feet on April 29 (2026).

There are **indications** due forecasted precipitation that the river stages could be higher in a second crest, long-range forecast are in no way an exact science and one strong storm system can change them quickly. The 168-Hour National Weather Service Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) forecasts predict heavy precipitation across the Mississippi and Ohio River Basins. A forecast for Cairo includes a possible rise to just below 35 feet, stages at Cairo take approximately 20-days to reach the Carrollton Gage (New Orleans). Long-range forecasting is far from an exact science.

1. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans:

The USACE did not provide the usual information for the Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans but the BRC, LLC has attached the latest USACE survey sheet issued today (April 1, 2026). There are no dredges working on the Ship Channel at this time, 2026 dredging on the Crossings will start during low water – historically summer months.

2. New Orleans Harbor:

There are no plans to dredge the New Orleans Harbor until the low water (summer) months, but the USACE continues to monitor the channel with a focus on the newly deepened approaches to 50-feet (completed in 2025).

3. Saltwater Sill

The USACE last measured the toe of the saltwater toe of the wedge at Mile 23.7 Above Head of Passes (AHP) on March 2, 2026. The USACE continues to track the location of the saltwater wedge and monitor the condition of the saltwater sill.

4. Southwest Pass (SWP):

The industry hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) dredged on the jetty end, the Head of Passes and from Mile 5.0 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 7 BHP from February 27 to March 14. The NEWPORT is working on the Calcasieu River and will return to the MRSC upon completion. The USACE requested to delay the arrival of the hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) due to the good channel conditions in SWP for another week – possible arrival next weekend. There are left over hours from a previous contract for the GLENN EDWARDS and Manson Construction was awarded both the large and small hopper contracts for the FY 26 Early Award Contracts.

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5. Head of Passes, Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA):

The USACE awarded the HDDA maintenance contract to Great Lakes Dredge & Dock (GLDD) to remove sediment from the HDDA. GLDD installed the submerged cross channel dredge pipeline on November 22, 2025. The cutterhead dredge TEXAS dredged in the HDDA from November 26, 2025 to January 27, 2026. GLDD's cutterhead dredge ALASKA resumed dredging on March 11, 2026 and is expected to complete the base contract of 4.0 million cubic yards (mcy) next week and will then depart the HDDA. The USACE expects to issue an option for this HDDA contract that could be for an additional 4.0 mcy (2-4 mcy most likely). GLDD will resume the contract for the awarded option later and upon final completion of dredging operations, GLDD will have to remove the submerged dredge pipeline. The pipeline removal will require at least one scheduled 12-hour complete channel closure.

6. Southwest and South Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:

The USACE indicated there was no funding for additional rock work at this time, but future supplemental funding might become available.

7. South Pass:

The USACE is undecided on the status of opening a bid opening for a cutterhead dredge to perform channel maintenance in South Pass. Dredging would occur after high water conditions.

8. Baptiste Collette:

No update. The USACE plans will utilize funds in Fiscal Year 2026 to dredge Baptiste Collette, later this year. The shallow-draft channel is in decent condition, but surveys should be checked before transiting.

9. Tiger Pass:

The USACE announced that a permit had been issued for the removal of 14 pipelines in Tiger Pass. The USACE expects the pipeline removal operations will start this summer. The USACE completed Phase 1 dredging with the cutterhead dredge NIMITZ from Mile 6.5 to Mile 9.75 (December 7, 2024 to January 25, 2025). Phase 2 dredging beyond Mile 9.75 has been on hold due to the inability to confirm the depth of these obstructions below the waterline. The USACE will decide later about dredging Tiger Pass after the work in the issued permit is completed.

Next Meeting:

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, this meeting will be conducted virtually only.



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
President and CEO