



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JANUARY 2015

Director's Comments:



As we begin a new year, my first as Executive Director of the AUCA, I wanted to once again say thanks to the Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity to serve in this role. I would also like to thank Philip Lee for all that he has done in growing and leading our association up to this point, and for mentoring me the past six months. I'm grateful that Philip will be staying on with AUCA in an advisory role throughout 2015.

Thanks to the many members that I have gotten to know in the short amount of time since coming on board. You have welcomed me with open arms, and I look forward to continuing the vision of the association each and every day. Together I believe we can work to achieve success for our industry, and for your individual companies. As we are now at membership renewal time, I hope that your company will once again commit to being part of what we are continuously working to accomplish.

I am also encouraged by two recent stories of Associate members that have garnered new business as a direct result of their involvement with AUCA. The key factor in both of these success stories was that these members were "actively" involved, and regularly attend our meetings and events. We are grateful for all of our members and their respective companies. However, unless you are actively involved, you will likely never realize the full value of your membership.

As we kickoff the new year and have local meetings scheduled throughout the state, try to find the time to come out and participate. You never know, your decision just might end up rewarding you.

Tim

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News & Notes:

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION 2015 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Voted In During General Meeting Held on October 16, 2014

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: RONNIE GOLDEN, *GOLDEN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY*

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: SHAUN GONZALES, *WESCO*

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: ERIC HUDGENS, *SLOAN CONTRACTING*

SECRETARY/TREASURER: GAVIN JONES, *BAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS INC.*

BOARD MEMBERS

RANDY BISHOP, *CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC.*

BILL McGOUGH, *W.R. MITCHELL*

LARRY LOGSDON, *WALLACE, JORDAN, RATLIFF, & BRANDT, LLC*

BILL CARTER, *ACIPCO*

STEVE WALKER, *JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.*

DOUG BLANKENSHIP, *BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING, INC.*

RIPP MITCHELL, *SOUTHERN PIPE*

JIM RIIS, *HANSON PIPE*

LANNY FIEVET, *ADVANCE TANK & CONSTRUCTION*

MARK MAYFIELD, *MILLER PIPELINE LLC*

RICHARD MURPHREE, *DRM UTILITIES LLC*

AARON SCHMIDT, *SCHMIDT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION INC.*



News & Notes:

AUCA Newest Members:

McCord Construction - Gurley, AL
Company Representative: Brian McCord

Federal Signal - Vector/Guzzler Manufacturing - Birmingham, AL
Company Representative: Kevin Fulkerson

Horizon Signal Technologies - Birmingham, AL
Company Representative: Matt Stubblefield

2015 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal

January begins the membership renewal period, and invoices were mailed out in December. We are off to a great start with our 2015 renewals. Special thanks to the many companies that have already paid their 2015 AUCA dues, and that have contributed to our Legislative PAC fund. For those that have not yet done so, please make arrangements to submit your dues as quickly as possible.

Should you have any questions, need another copy of the invoice sent to you, or wish to pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

Stay Involved

We have great meetings scheduled throughout the state for the 1st Quarter of 2015 (*full schedule on page #4*).

All of AUCA's meetings and events provide a great opportunity for current members to bring a guest or prospective member.

If your company would be interested in sponsoring an upcoming AUCA meeting, please contact the AUCA office.

Upcoming AUCA Events:

February 10, 2015 at 11:30 am – Huntsville Area Meeting

2015 Alabama Legislative Update & Preview

Representative Lynn Greer

Chairperson of the House Transportation, Utilities, & Infrastructure Committee

February 12, 2015 at 11:30 am – Tuscaloosa Area Meeting

2015 Alabama Legislative Update & Preview

Senator Gerald Allen

Chairperson of the Senate Transportation & Energy Committee

February 18, 2015 at 11:30 am – Birmingham Area Meeting

2015 Alabama Legislative Update & Preview

Senator Slade Blackwell

Chairperson of the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee

February 26, 2015 at 11:30 am – Mobile Area Meeting

2015 Alabama Legislative Update & Preview

Senator Rusty Glover

Vice-Chairperson of the Senate Finance & Taxation Education Committee

April 22, 2015: Spring Statewide General Meeting and Golf Tournament

Arrowhead Country Club - Montgomery

October 15, 2015: Fall Statewide General Meeting and Sporting Clay Shoot

Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - Montgomery

Mark your calendars today!





AUCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Gulf Coast Underground



3158 Old Shell Road
Mobile, AL 36607
251.472.6684

www.gulfcoastunderground.com

Gulf Coast Underground, LLC, (GCU) is a full service "find and fix" sewer rehabilitation contractor. Since it's founding in 2003, GCU has provided honest and dependable, long-term rehabilitation solutions across Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. In 2014, Tennessee and Georgia were added to that list.



Our firm began as a digging contractor, then evolved into a "trenchless" contractor performing manhole and wet well lining rehab (SpectraShield). Over the years, GCU has expanded it's services to include: full SSES (Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey), cured-in-place main line point repairs, and cured-in-place main to lateral connection seals (Interfit). All of our rehabilitation methods have unparalleled track records and are trenchless (no-dig) so as

to cause minimal sewer service disruption. From the outset, GCU was built upon relationships and our top priority has been and will continue to be to serve our clients with professionalism, provide them with cost and time saving solutions, and prove ourselves to be a trusted technical resource.

GCU's upper management team includes: Chris Gomel, President, Spencer Tuell, PE, Vice President, and Darren Wacha, Senior Project Manager. We are proud to be members of AUCA and appreciate all of the efforts that all of the members and staff take to promote and protect our profession.





Legislative News

Washington Update: **Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center**

On January 16, 2015, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy joined Vice President Biden to announce EPA's new Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center. The Center will serve as a resource to communities to improve their wastewater, drinking water and stormwater systems, particularly through innovative financing and increased resiliency to climate change. This Center supports the [Build America Investment Initiative](#) -- a government-wide effort to increase infrastructure investment and promote economic growth by creating opportunities for state and local governments and the private sector to collaborate, expand public-private partnerships, and increase the use of federal credit programs. Increasing investment that improves water systems across the U.S. is a key component of the Build America Investment Initiative.



The Water Infrastructure Finance Challenge

Communities across the country face the challenge of aging and inadequate water infrastructure. Most of our underground water infrastructure was built 50 or more years ago, in the post-World War II era. In some older urban areas, many water mains are a century or more old and an estimated \$2.6 billion is lost as water mains leak trillions of gallons of treated drinking water. Every year, billions of gallons of raw sewage are discharged into local surface waters from wastewater conveyance systems. This challenge is impacting the ability of communities to sustain their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure, reduce flooding, and provide recreational waters in which to swim and fish. The effects of climate change--including intense and frequent storms, drought, floods and rising sea level--exacerbate the challenge.

Over the next 20 years, the Nation needs to invest at least \$600 billion to meet these infrastructure needs. Innovation in financing and increased resiliency are key components to meeting these needs. Making these investments in water infrastructure has immense returns for communities. Clean, reliable water brings not only public health and environmental benefits but it also fuels the economy, creates jobs and increases the quality of life in communities.

Financing Innovation in the Water Sector

EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center will serve as a resource for communities, municipal utilities, and private entities as they seek to address water infrastructure needs with limited budgets. The Center will support communities and explore creative and innovative financing practices, including public-private partnerships. It will build on the highly successful State Revolving



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Fund and other EPA programs and those of its federal partners and explore ways to leverage these programs to increase investment in the water sector. The Center will build partnerships and support work that brings together investors and interested communities. It will be an avenue to expand technical assistance, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, workshops, case studies and toolkits for financing alternatives.

The Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center will:

- Explore innovative financial tools, public-private partnership opportunities and non-traditional finance concepts to better leverage existing federal funding programs.
- Explore ways to increase financing climate-resilient water infrastructure projects through integration of water efficiency, energy efficiency, water reuse and [green infrastructure](#).
- Support communities to develop sustainable sources of funding for water infrastructure, particularly through stormwater utilities and green infrastructure projects.
- Collaborate with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Services and other federal agencies to maximize its support for small community drinking water and wastewater systems and increase small systems' technical, managerial and financial capacities.

The Agency's [Environmental Finance Advisory Board](#) will play an important role in advising the Center. The initiatives of the Center will be closely coordinated with and build upon the EPA-supported Environmental Finance Centers across the country.

Reps. Duncan and Pascrell Introduce Sustainable Water Infrastructure Investment Act

On January 22, 2015, the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Investment Act, which would remove water and wastewater projects from private activity bond (PAB) state volume caps, encouraging public-private partnerships and enabling private capital investment in aging water and sewer infrastructure across the nation was recently introduced in the 114th Congress.

Rep. John "Jimmy" Duncan (R-Tenn.), who introduced the legislation with longtime PAB champion Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.), underscored the pressing need for innovative financing for America's environmental infrastructure.

"Much of our Nation's water infrastructure is more than 100-years old, and this bill will empower more states and towns to raise the funds needed to address this growing problem," Duncan said. "Our Nation's health, quality of life, and economic well-being rely on adequate wastewater treat-

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ment and access to clean water.”

“Our common sense solution not only invests in our nation's aging infrastructure, but it creates good paying construction jobs that are literally beneath our feet in a way that costs the taxpayers very little,” Pascrell said. “It's a win for our infrastructure, our environment and our economy.”

The legislation would generate as much as \$5 billion annually in private capital for water and wastewater projects with a marginal loss of federal tax revenue. PABs encourage state and municipal governments to collaborate with sources of private capital to meet a public need. The public-private partnership approach makes infrastructure repair and construction more affordable for municipalities and ultimately for users or customers.

Alabama Update: ***2015 AUCA Legislative Priorities***

Plumbers Bill:

AUCA continues to work with the Alabama Plumbers & Gas Fitters Examining Board in an effort to change the “definition of plumbing” in Alabama to wording similar to the new Louisiana law that went into effect in August 2014. This change would enable properly licensed utility contractors that do not hold a plumber’s license to perform utility work (currently defined as plumbing) on private property with certain restrictions.

Below is the current “definition of plumbing” as defined by the current Rule.

RULES OF THE ALABAMA PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS EXAMINING BOARD

Current Rule:

720-x-2-.01 *Definition of Plumbing.* With respect to a building sewer, the building sewer begins at the connection with the building drain and is considered plumbing until it reaches a public sewer or an individual disposal system. With respect to water service, the water line from the meter to the building, is considered plumbing.

Author: Ed Lawrence

Statutory Authority: Section 34-37-2 (Code of Alabama 1975 as amended)

History: New Rule

Certified: January 7, 1991



Legislative News

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At the December 4th Board Meeting, the AUCA Board of Directors voted to approve the following proposed wording changes. We will meet with the Plumbers & Gas Fitters Board on February 18th in an effort to come to a consensus agreement.

Proposed Rule Changes:

720-x-2-.01 Definition of Plumbing. With respect to the single-family residential dwelling domestic water supply, the water line from the meter to the building or from the outlet side of a well pump to the building is considered plumbing. With respect to the sewer, the building sewer begins at the connection with the building drain and is considered plumbing until it reaches the property line, an individual disposal system, or a point within an easement or right-of-way.

Non-residential domestic water supply and sewer represented by mechanical drawings signed and sealed by an engineer licensed in the State of Alabama shall be considered plumbing. Non-residential domestic water supply four inches in diameter and greater, and sewer lines six inches in diameter and greater, represented by civil drawings signed and sealed by an engineer licensed in the State of Alabama shall not be considered plumbing.

Sewage grinder pumps and sewage lift stations with discharge lines four inches and greater, and force mains four inches and larger shall not be considered plumbing.

State Revolving Fund (SRF) Programs:

AUCA will work closely with the League of Municipalities in an effort to maximize project funding levels, and to create more project opportunities for Municipal Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure projects. We will also continue to investigate changing the administration of the SRF Fund Programs from its current management by ADEM to the State Finance Department.

Others Bills to Watch:

Construction Management/G.C. Design-Build Bill:

AUCA continues to monitor the progress of this bill that is planned to be introduced by the Associated Builders and Contractors. A similar version of this bill was introduced and soundly defeated in the 2013 Legislative Session. The bill will once again be very controversial and already many opponents are digging in their heels for a fight on it. If you have any thoughts on this bill, or would like to receive a copy of the most current draft, please contact the AUCA office.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

Bob Briant—Chairman CWCC

CLEAN WATER CONSTRUCTION COALITION REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS

Coalition Representatives have met with Congressional leaders to discuss the Clean Water Construction Coalition's main priorities for the 114th Congress. As a result of last November's elections, there have been committee member changes as well as leadership changes in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The Coalition's priorities include, but are not limited to, the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act and the reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act as well as other key water infrastructure initiatives such as "W21: Water in the 21st Century" and the "California Emergency Drought Relief Act," that meet critical needs, promote economic development and generate jobs. The Coalition also noted to Congressional Representatives and staff that it is critical to increase the annual appropriations for the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF's. In a related public works matter, the Coalition noted that we support the reauthorization of MAP-21.

SENATOR BARBARA BOXER REINTRODUCES THE "WATER IN THE 21ST CENTURY ACT" TO FUND A NEW WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) reintroduced legislation that would fund a new water infrastructure program to address the Country's growing water resources needs. The bill "Water in the 21st Century Act" or "W21" and will provide grants and loans for projects and programs for water conservation, water storage, increased water efficiency or reuse, water quality improvement and research and development in these related areas.

The legislation will promote and fund residential water conservation projects as well as larger public works water systems. As we reported to you last Fall, the Coalition was successful in obtaining numerous specific changes to the measure. As a reminder, below are the specific changes:

- (1) We requested in the "WIFIA-like" loan and loan guarantee title that the language making eligible "any water infrastructure project not specifically authorized by law" (thereby allowing for more projects to receive funding);
- (2) We requested that the \$20M de minimus level regarding eligible project costs either be deleted or that language be included to allow for "bundling" of projects to meet the de minimus requirement. The bill allows for bundling and reduces the de minimus level from \$20M to \$10M;
- (3) We requested 100% percent project financing compared to 90% in the earlier draft and the bill allows for 100% project financing;



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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- (4) We requested flexibility in interest rates to allow for an interest rate "not more than" the Treasury rates which means it could be less;
- (5) We requested in the Water Storage Projects grant title that the word "wastewater" be added as another source of eligible projects and the bill includes this language;
- (6) We requested that projects not be required to have been previously authorized and the bill includes the phrase "eligible for assistance under this title" which avoids the need for prior authorization by the Congress.

The Clean Water Construction Coalition will continue to advocate in Congress for the passage of this legislation.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE STAFF CONFIRMS COALITION'S REQUEST THAT PRIVATE ENTITIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR LOANS UNDER THE WRDA LAW

During the WRDA/WRRDA legislative process last year, the Coalition advocated that private entities should be eligible for CWSRF funds. Last week, Coalition representatives met with the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee which confirmed our interpretation that, with respect to certain project types, private companies are now eligible for CWSRF funding. Pursuant to WRDA/WRRDA, there are now 11 eligible independent project types.

Some project categories are eligible only for public entities such as construction of publicly owned treatment works; development and implementation of certain conservation and management plans; water conservation, efficiency or reuse projects to reduce the demand for publicly owned treatment works capacity; and, energy consumption reduction projects for publicly owned treatment works. Other categories apply to both public and private entities such as construction, repair, or replacement of decentralized wastewater treatment systems that treat municipal wastewater or domestic sewage; measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture storm water or subsurface drainage water; development and implementation of watershed projects; reuse or recycling projects; projects to increase the security of publicly owned treatment works; and, for qualified nonprofit entities to provide assistance to owners and operators of small and medium publicly owned treatment works.

The CWCC wishes to thank the two staffers most responsible for these changes, Joaquin Esquivel from Senator Boxer's office (the Coalition worked with him on supporting Boxer's "W21: Water in the 21st Century" bill) and Geoff Bowman from the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee (Geoff was a guest "speaker" at one of the Coalition's Washington, D.C. luncheons).

The CWCC believes that this change will result in additional work/job opportunities for Coalition members.



Reminders:



AUCA Address Change

When mailing your 2015 membership dues, or any other correspondence, please make sure to send it to the current AUCA address:

***159 Highland Park Drive
Birmingham, AL 35242***

Also, if your company has any changes in address, phone #, personnel, etc., please include this information with your membership renewal form.

New Phone & Fax Numbers for AUCA:

The AUCA office phone and fax numbers have also changed.
The new numbers are:

Phone: (205) 582-9436

Fax: (205) 582-9155

Please remember to update this information in your database.

Before you renew your workers' compensation policy, ask your agent to get a quote from CompTrust. Make sure the agent mentions that you are an AUCA member. If you have questions, you or your agent may contact Terry Young from MRM at (256) 504-3288. MRM is the Third Party Administrator (TPA) for the CompTrust fund, and a valuable member of AUCA.

CompTrustAGC
Worker's Comp From People You Know.



Health & Safety:

Provided by Josh Broaddus @ J. Smith Lanier & Company

OSHA's Lockout/Tagout Standards – Why They Affect Everyone

[Reference 1910.147]

OSHA published their “control of hazardous energy” standard, also known as “Lockout/Tagout”, way back in 1989. This new standard required employers to develop and implement a program that effectively identified all hazardous energy sources so they could be isolated or controlled when one or more employees were performing maintenance or service on equipment or machinery which could be unknowingly started or release stored energy.

In spite of this comprehensive OSHA standard, many workers throughout the USA continue to suffer needless injuries, and some even die, because someone purposely takes a shortcut or accidentally commits an unsafe act without fully understanding the potential ramifications.

That is why OSHA requires that ALL workers be informed of their responsibilities when it comes to implementing an effective Lockout/Tagout program. To simplify this task, OSHA has identified three separate classes of employees in their Lockout/Tagout standard. They are:

- Authorized Employees – A person who performs servicing or maintenance on a machine or equipment under the protection of a Lockout/Tagout program;
- Affected Employees – An employee whose job requires him/her to operate or use a machine or equipment on which servicing or maintenance is being performed by an Authorized employee under Lockout/Tagout, or whose job requires him/her to work in an area in which such servicing or maintenance is being performed;
- Other Employees – An employee who may be in an area where Lockout/Tagout procedures might be utilized by others.

Obviously, the key to having an effective Lockout/Tagout program that protects everyone is for ALL to understand what roles they play, and when those roles could change.



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***AUCA IS A MEMBER-DRIVEN, NEEDS
FOCUSED TRADE ASSOCIATION CREATED
SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE
UTILITY INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF
ALABAMA.***

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ucaal.com**

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Training Needs**

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