



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OCTOBER 2016

2016 AUCA Award Winners:

Contractor of the Year:



Randy Bishop
CLS General Contractors
Mobile, AL

(Randy Bishop, Jr. shown accepting the award for his father)

Associate Member of the Year:



Mike Price
Knapheide Truck Equipment
Birmingham, AL

Legislator of the Year:



Senator Del Marsh

On October 13th, at the Fall General Meeting in Montgomery, I, along with AUCA President Shaun Gonzales had the privilege to present these annual awards.

We congratulate Randy and Mike, and their respective companies, for all that they do for AUCA. We also appreciate Senator Marsh and his continued legislative support.

A complete event recap and photos can be found on pages 7-14 of the newsletter, and also on the AUCA Facebook page.

Tim

Upcoming Events:

AUCA Quarterly Lunch Meeting

Mobile Area Meeting

Thursday November 3, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

Wintzell's Oyster House
6700 Airport Boulevard
Mobile, AL 36608

New Regulations for 'White Collar' Exemptions Under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Overtime Rule

Presented by:

J. Day Peak, III - Phelps Dunbar LLP

We are finalizing the dates and details for the remaining 4th Quarter local lunch meetings. Be on the lookout for updates.

Concrete Pipe and Box Culvert Installation Class

AUCA in collaboration with the American Concrete Pipe Association will host the final regional installation class for Contractors, Municipal Engineers, Consultants, and ALDOT staff. The previous five classes have been very informative, and offer 5 PDH's for those that requiring continuing education credits. To RSVP, please us the below link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L9dXtS5M2qGM72KpceM38R_B8R_VGCyGJqekhJwaV4Q/edit?usp=sharing

Mobile

Friday November 4, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

ALDOT SW Regional Office
1701 I-65 West Service Road North
Mobile, AL 36618



Upcoming Events:

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting
December 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
Montgomery, AL

**Third
Annual
Construction
Law
Summit**

**Construction Law Section
of the Alabama State Bar**

Litigation, Arbitration, and Insurance Update

The Latest in Claims, Investigation, and Trial
Technology

Scheduling, Weather Impacts, and Water
Intrusion Issues

Construction Industry Panel Discussion

Ethics

December 7, 2016

Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel
Birmingham, Alabama



News & Notes:

**ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
2017 LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The list of Officers and Directors below reflects the members elected to serve on the 2017 Leadership Team at the October 13, 2016 General Meeting in Montgomery.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: SHAUN GONZALES, *WESCO*

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: ERIC HUDGENS, *SLOAN UTILITY CONTRACTING*

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: AARON SCHMIDT, *SCHMIDT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION INC.*

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

BOARD MEMBERS

RANDY BISHOP, *CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC.*

DOUG BLANKENSHIP, *BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING, INC.*

ANDRU BRAMBLETT, *SOUTHERN LIGHT*

BILL CARTER, *AMERICAN DUCTILE IRON PIPE*

LAIN CHENEY, *FERGUSON WATERWORKS*

RONNIE GOLDEN, *GOLDEN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY*

JOHN PAUL LAMBERT, *LAMBERT, INC.**

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

MARK MAYFIELD, *MILLER PIPELINE, LLC*

BILL MCGOUGH, *W.R. MITCHELL CONTRACTOR, INC.*

RICHARD MURPHREE, *DRM UTILITIES, LLC*

STEVE WALKER, *JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.*

TERRY YOUNG, *MILLENNIUM RISK MANAGERS, LLC*

** Indicates New Board Member for 2017*

AUCA would like to sincerely thank Lanny Fievet from Advance Tank & Construction for his longstanding and dedicated service as he rolls off the AUCA Board.



News & Notes:

**Alabama Damage Prevention Summit
Montgomery - October 4-6, 2016**



The 3rd Annual Damage Prevention Summit was held at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery on October 4-6, 2016. The event was well attended by stakeholders from all aspects of the damage prevention industry.

AUCA was represented in attendance, along with several member companies including Alabama 811, Alabama Power, Alagasco, Ditch Witch of Alabama, Green Equipment Company, Miller Pipeline, Southern Light, and Vactor Manufacturing.



Topics Covered Included:

- *Work Zone Safety*
- *What keeps the locator from arriving on time to a locate?*
- *I hit a buried utility line, now what do I do?*
- *I've waited the two working days and the lines aren't marked, can I go ahead and dig?*



News & Notes:

***ACPA Pipe and Box Culvert Installation Seminar
Huntsville - October 14, 2016***



Alabama One-Call Notification System Study Commission Update:

The One-Call Commission met in Montgomery on October 25th and continues to make headway towards drafting legislation to be introduced during the 2017 Alabama Legislative Session. The group has found what appears to be common ground on the establishment of an effective enforcement program. However, the topic of mandatory membership in Alabama 811 for all underground utility owners continues to face opposition.

As a result, a "Membership Subcommittee" has been established, and AUCA Director Tim Ayers will be serving on this committee. We are hopeful that we can require mandatory participation for a Single One-Call Notification System to serve the entire state of Alabama to help improve safety for our industry. Without full participation, which is currently the case, the system is not a true "One-Call" program, and places Contractors in danger when working in unfamiliar areas where all underground utilities may not have been located.

The full committee will meet again on November 15th at the Alagasco Operations Center in Montgomery. The subcommittee will have a conference call at a yet to be determined date. If you have any feedback on this topic, please contact the AUCA office.



General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:

Thanks to the incredible support by AUCA members for making our 2016 Fall General Meeting, PAC Raffle, and Sporting Clay Shoot a tremendous success.



Gold Sponsors:



General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:

Silver Sponsors:



Bronze Sponsors:



J. Smith Lanier & Co.
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General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:

Station Sponsors:

W.R. Mitchell Contractor
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Truitt Insurance & Bonding
R.T. Crowe & Associates
Servis1st Bank

AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle Winners



Annette Reburn
Alabama 811
YETI Cooler Winner



Pam Vacca
J. Smith Lanier & Company
Berretta Shotgun Winner

Through the generosity of AUCA members, over \$5,000 was raised for our PAC Fund to help support our continued Legislative efforts at the federal, state, and local levels.



General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:

1st Place Team - Rental Inc.



Rental Inc. Team - Eric Floyd, Steven Ward, Blake Floyd, and Brian Jones
Each Team Member Received \$100 and a 1st Place Trophy

2nd Place Team - WESCO



WESCO Team - Gregg Tatum, Corey Howell, Billy Thomas, and Shaun Gonzales
Each Team Member Received \$75 and a Trophy

3rd Place Team - Cowin Equipment



Cowin Team - William Scott, Judson Scott, Shane Corbett, and Braxton Fuller
Each Team Member Received \$50 and a Trophy



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION





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Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC

Water Resources Development Act

Before leaving town, the House of Representatives, on September 28th by a vote of 399-25, passed its version (H.R. 5303) of the Corps of Engineers' Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). On September 15, by a vote of 95-3, the Senate passed its version of the bill (S. 2848) however, the bills won't be reconciled and finalized until after the election in the "Lame Duck" session, although staff negotiations are already underway. The two bills have significant differences, most particularly the House bill is a traditional Corps of Engineers only bill while the Senate bill also includes provisions on clean water, safe drinking water, innovative water financing and innovative water technologies. As an aside, both bills include funding for the Flint water crisis although the House bill authorizes less Flint related funding than the Senate bill. The House bill almost didn't pass because of Democrats' objection to a last minute change to the bill which eliminated language the engineering industry strongly supports regarding the mandatory drawdown of funding in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

Senate Bill

While the bill authorizes almost \$8B in funding for over 30 new Corps of Engineers projects and seven project modifications, it also contains significant provisions on clean water, safe drinking water and related matters. Highlights include:

- Authorizes \$1.8 B over 5 years for sewer overflow grant program to address CSO, SSO and storm water discharges.
- Authorizes \$15 M over 5 years for technical assistance to small communities (<10,000 population).
- Directs EPA to promote Green Infrastructure.
- Authorizes a pilot program related to innovative public-private partnership financing.
- Provides a number of changes/improvements to WIFIA, also stating that WIFIA appropriations must be in addition to "robust" appropriations to SRFs.
- Establishes a Water Infrastructure Investment Trust Fund. This would provide grants under the SRF with money coming from voluntary fees/labeling.
- This is modeled after H.R. 4468, the "Water Infrastructure Trust Act of 2016," introduced by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-3), which the Coalition supports. Under this program, the Secretary of Treasury and other Federal departments would design a label that businesses could choose to add to their product, with 3 cents being collected from every unit (e.g., bottle of water). Of the fees collected, 50% would go to the CWSRF and 50% to the DWSRF (this is a change from the Committee introduced and reported bill that specified 85% to the CWSRF and



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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\$15% to the DWSRF). It also includes a provision that no grants will be provided from this fund unless the SRF appropriations exceed the average of the last 5 years.

- Authorizes an Innovative Water Technology grant program at \$50M/year – subject to appropriations - supporting reuse. It also includes \$10M in direct spending (via EPA).
- Reauthorizes the Water Resources Research Act at \$1.5M annually from 2015-2020.
- Reauthorizes the Water Desalination Act at \$8M annually from 2015-2020.
- Directs EPA with other Federal agencies to develop drought resilience guidelines.
- Encourages use of SRF funding and additional subsidization for innovative technologies.

Regarding the above, of great interest to the Coalition is the Water Infrastructure Investment Trust Fund. While a voluntary program, this is the first significant step (in that it has a very high degree of being enacted into law) that the Congress has ever taken of putting both the clean water and safe drinking water programs on a path to a dedicated funding source. Like the Highway, Harbor Maintenance, and Oil Spill Liability Trust Funds, a “true” clean water/safe drinking water trust fund would represent a steady source of funding to more adequately address the nation’s public water needs. Such a fund would be free from political interference (not subject to the annual appropriations process but simply based on dollar in, dollar out), would not contribute to the national debt, and would ensure all Americans continued access to an essential resource. The Senate proposed Trust Fund is a first critical step toward that end. The bill does not re-authorize the Clean Water or Safe Drinking Water SRF’s. There may be an attempt to do so in conference, particularly given the interest of the House Democrats on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

House Bill

Generally, the bill does not include anything with respect to the Clean Water or Safe Drinking Water SRF’s or any other water program. It is a Corps of Engineers bill exclusively. Highlights include:

- Authorizes investment in ports, channels, locks, dams, and other infrastructure.
- Authorizes 28 Army Corps of Engineers Chief’s Reports received since WRRDA 2014.
- Authorizes studies for future water resources projects and makes modifications to previously authorized projects.
- Utilizes the new process reforms established under WRRDA 2014 for project selection.
- De-authorizes \$5 billion in previously authorized projects, off-setting the approximately \$5 billion in new authorizations.
- Sunsets new authorizations to prevent future project backlogs.
- Reduces the inventory of projects that are not needed for the missions of the Corps
- Contains no earmarks.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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- Follows the new transparent process developed in WRRDA 2014 to review and prioritize water resources development activities with Congressional oversight.
- Returns to the two-year cycle of considering WRDA legislation.

Specifically, the bill revises or authorizes various U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources development projects, feasibility studies, and relationships with nonfederal project sponsors. It sets forth a process to de-authorize projects with an aggregate estimated federal cost to complete of at least \$5 billion.

The bill authorizes various navigation, flood risk management, hurricane and storm damage, ecosystem restoration, recreation, or river shoreline projects in Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.



Tuesday, November 8th



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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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