



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OCTOBER 2017**

2017 AUCA Award Winners:

Contractor of the Year:



Bill McGough - W.R. Mitchell Contractor
Mobile, AL

Associate Member of the Year:



Bill Carter - AMERICAN Ductile Iron Pipe
Birmingham, AL

Legislator of the Year:



Senator Greg Reed
(Left receiving award from AUCA's B.T. Crowe)

Outgoing AUCA President:



Shaun Gonzales - WESCO, Inc.
Huntsville, AL

Upcoming Events:

*We are finalizing the dates and details for 4th Quarter Lunch Meetings in Birmingham, Dothan, Huntsville, Mobile, and Tuscaloosa.
Be on the lookout for email updates.*

4th Annual "Construction Law Summit"

December 5, 2017

Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel

Birmingham, AL

For questions regarding conference registration, contact

BEACON PROGRAMS

at (205) 887 - 3000 or beacon.programs@aol.com

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting

December 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Montgomery, AL

***AUCA 2018 Spring General Meeting
& Golf Tournament***

April 19, 2018

Arrowhead Country Club

Montgomery, AL



News & Notes:

**ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
2018 LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The list of Officers and Directors below reflects the members elected to serve on the 2018 Leadership Team at the October 19, 2017 General Meeting in Montgomery.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: AARON SCHMIDT, *SCHMIDT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.*

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: BILL MCGOUGH, *W.R. MITCHELL CONTRACTOR, INC.*

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: ERIC HUDGENS, *SLOAN UTILITY CONTRACTING, INC.*

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

BOARD MEMBERS

SHAUN GONZALES, *WESCO, INC. (IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT)*

RANDY BISHOP, *CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC.*

DOUG BLANKENSHIP, *BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING, INC.*

ANDRU BRAMBLETT, *UNITI FIBER*

ROBBIE BUTLER, *CLEARY CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

BILL CARTER, *AMERICAN DUCTILE IRON PIPE*

RONNIE GOLDEN, *GOLDEN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY*

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

MARK MAYFIELD, *MILLER PIPELINE, LLC*

RICHARD MURPHREE, *SOUTHERN PIPE & SUPPLY*

STEVE WALKER, *JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.*

TERRY YOUNG, *MILLENNIUM RISK MANAGERS, LLC*

** Indicates New Board Member for 2018*



News & Notes:

Alabama One-Call Notification System Study Commission Update:

The Alabama One-Call Study Commission (AOCSC) did not meet in October, after postponing the next meeting until November in order to allow additional time to prepare the final report. A draft copy of the report has been uploaded to the AUCA website.

When completed, and approved, the report will be sent to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President of the Senate. This report will serve as a blueprint for our future legislative efforts.

As a reminder, the AOCSC was established to develop a report on the expedience and validity of having a single One-Call notification system to serve the entire State of Alabama, including the appropriate governance, legislative oversight, and membership outreach practices of the organization; the adequacy of the enforcement provisions of current law; and other items related to the One-Call Law that may increase the level of safety of its citizens.

Bid Bond Guarantee Amount:

AUCA was recently contacted regarding clarification of the Bid Bond amount for Public Works Projects in Alabama. Legislation was passed in 2016 (Act 2016-260) that raised the amount to \$50,000 for Department of Transportation projects. However, a technicality with code 39-2-4 of the Competitive Bid Law caused legislation to be introduced in 2017 to make technical corrections to Act 2016-260 to solidify that the increase only applies to Department of Transportation projects.

Act 2017-279 was enacted this year and restored the prior maximum limit of \$10,000 on Bid Bonds required for state agencies other than the Department of Transportation. If you run across a specification for a non DOT project requiring a Bid Bond in excess of \$10,000, please contact the AUCA office.

Group Health Insurance Program:

AUCA recently met with representatives to discuss the logistics for offering an Association group Health Insurance program to member companies. We will continue to investigate the viability of the program, and how it could economically benefit many of our members and their employees.

If you have any questions, or insights into your company's current Healthcare policy that you would like to offer, please contact the AUCA office.



News & Notes:



Mock Line Strike Meetings



General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:

Thanks to the incredible support by AUCA members for making our 2017 Fall General Meeting, PAC Raffle, and Sporting Clay Shoot a tremendous success.

Platinum Sponsor:



Gold Sponsors:



General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:

Silver Sponsors:



A Forterra Company



Bronze Sponsors:



General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:

Participant & Door Prize Sponsors:

Tractor & Equipment Company
AMERICAN Ductile Iron Pipe
Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt, LLC
W.R. Mitchell Contractor
Servis1st Bank
R.T. Crowe & Associates

Dyas Human Resource Development
Go Build Alabama
Consolidated Pipe & Supply Company
Alabama 811
CompTrustAGC
Knapheide Truck Equipment

Refreshment Sponsor:

Drinks & Snacks During Sporting Clay Shoot
Courtesy of Tim Moody with **National Trench Safety**

AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle Winners



Mike Benton
YETI Cooler Winner



Scott Barrentine
Beretta Shotgun Winner



General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:



General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:

1st Place Team - Rental Inc.



Rental Inc. Team
Each Team Member Received \$100 and a 1st Place Trophy

2nd Place Team - WESCO, Inc.



WESCO Team
Each Team Member Received \$75 and a Trophy

3rd Place Team - Mobile Gas



Mobile Gas (Spire Energy) Team
Each Team Member Received \$50 and a Trophy



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION









Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC

Slow but Steady Progress in Administration Infrastructure Initiative

While details of the President's Infrastructure Initiative remain elusive, the recent extension of both the debt limit and funding of the Federal Government and the progress being made on tax reform, the deck is slowly but steadily being cleared for addressing the infrastructure issue.

On Sept. 26, Key Advocates held two meetings with key White House staff to discuss the initiative: Rick Dearborn, Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative, Intergovernmental Affairs and Implementation, and DJ Gribbin, Special Assistant to the President for Infrastructure Policy. In summary, they said that the President refers to his infrastructure initiative as "infrastructure large" – meaning multifaceted, and that he has reiterated the five goals.

- 1) Reduce the permitting time for project approval from 10 to 2 years;
- 2) Provide incentive funding to public and private sectors based on their level of investment funding;
- 3) Provide increased funding to rural areas;
- 4) Encourage and fund "visionary" projects; and
- 5) Give priority to projects that demonstrate a return on the Federal investment (i.e. SRF programs).

The administration's goal is to have policy principles ready sometime next month, although they will not be sending them to the Hill until after tax reform "clears." They stated that they expect pushback from Congress on the principles and they are open to change but they were not planning to "fall back too far." They also confirmed that they would be looking to Congress to draft the actual infrastructure bill. In the meantime, they said they have been talking to both parties and are still committed to a \$1trillion 10-year program.

According to Gribbin and Dearborn, the Administration's recent tax proposal includes a one-time repatriation of \$200B that can be leveraged to \$1 trillion. In addition to trying to get as much information as we could get from both, we made a strong pitch for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SRF's, citing the President's campaign proposal, needs and benefits.

The Administration has continued to be outspoken on its support for a \$1 trillion infrastructure investment that includes tripling the existing funding for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. That would take the former from approximately \$1.4 billion to \$4.2 billion and the latter from approximately \$1 billion to \$3 billion. While the needs would support much more than that, this would mark a long overdue step in the right direction - one that we have not seen for over a decade and one in which the Coalition has been, and continues to be, at the forefront. Particularly encouraging, is that these undertakings are being done on a bipartisan basis.



(Continued on page 16)

Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

Continued from Page 15

Senate Infrastructure Initiatives

On July 17, Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and the Committee's Ranking Democrat, Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del), put a call out to panel members for "infrastructure priorities, policy proposals and recommendations" for a committee-produced title of a comprehensive infrastructure bill. CWCC requested of the Senators that the following be included in their submission to the Committee:

- \$4.2B for the Clean Water SRF with at least \$100M increments for each fiscal year thereafter
- \$2.6B for the Safe Drinking Water SRF with at least \$100M increments for each fiscal year thereafter. The Committee is currently reviewing submissions and is expected to release its infrastructure plan soon, although that might be contingent on the release of the Administration's plan first.

House Infrastructure Initiatives

The good news in the lower house is that both parties have members jockeying for position on water issues, and that works in our favor. Most recently, on September 14, the House Democrats announced the creation of various task forces that are aimed to devise a jobs-focused legislative package. One of the task forces, "Rebuilding America," will focus on infrastructure issues. It will be led by Representatives Matt Cartwright (D-PA-17), Jimmy Gomez (D-CA-34), Donald Norcross (D-NJ-1), and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NY-12).

Below is a refresher on the other viable bills in the House, but there are two relevant points to made regarding congressional action: first, while none of these bills are expected to be enacted on their own, each is being positioned to have some influence in what is included in a final mega infrastructure bill; and, secondly, the Coalition has been a very active player in all of these efforts.

As we have previously reported, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce favorably reported H.R.3387, the "Drinking Water System Improvement Act," which reauthorizes the Safe Drinking SRF at \$8 billion over the next five fiscal years. This action is significant as the program has not been reauthorized since 2002 and because it has also triggered action in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to address reauthorization of the Clean Water SRF that falls under its jurisdiction. Of note, this is a bipartisan effort that has the most likely chance of advancing.

As a reminder, the aforementioned is in addition to efforts such as Rep. McNerney's "WEST" Act (H.R. 3275) introduced in July, and H.R. 2510 the "Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2017," introduced by Reps. DeFazio, Duncan, and Napolitano in May.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

Continued from Page 16

Similarly, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-3) introduced H.R. 1647, the "Water Infrastructure Trust Fund Act of 2017," with the Coalition cited as one of the supporting entities. The bill establishes a Water Infrastructure Investment Trust Fund and appropriates to it approximately \$7 billion from fees. Enactment of this legislation would be a critical first step in establishing a self-financed national clean water and safe drinking water trust fund.

FY18 Appropriations Status

This month Congress passed an FY18 Continuing Resolution funding the government at FY17 levels until December 8th. Pending that, the focus in the appropriations process has been on hurricane relief funding. Both of these actions have slowed up the normal appropriations process. However, in an attempt to expedite matters, on Sept. 14 the House of Representatives passed a package of funding bills (H.R. 3354) to provide all discretionary funding for the federal government for the 2018 fiscal year. The bill, also known as the Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, was passed on a vote of 211-198. The package of bills contains the full legislation and funding for all of the 12 annual appropriations bills and totals \$1.2 trillion. No Senate action to date.

FY18 Interior Appropriations

There has been no movement since July 18th, when the House Appropriations Committee approved the FY18 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill on a vote of 30-21. The legislation includes funding for the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, the Indian Health Service, and various independent and related agencies. In total, the bill provides \$31.4 billion, \$824 million below the FY17 enacted level and \$4.3 billion above the President's budget request. For the Clean Water SRF the bill provides \$1,143,887,000 (compared to \$1,393,887,000 for FY17) and for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, \$863,233,000 (the same amount appropriated for FY17). Also included is \$25M for WIFIA. No action to date in the Senate.

House Clean Water Caucus

The Caucus will host an event on Oct. 20 on recycled water: "Recycled Water 101" - a primer - what is recycled water; where does it come from; what is it used for; how much does it cost to produce; and, what are its benefits. Previously, the Caucus hosted a congressional field trip to the DC Water Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Alabama Utility Contractors Association
P.O. Box 383185
Birmingham, AL 35238-3185
Phone: 205-582-9436
Fax: 205-582-9155
E-mail: tim@aluca.org

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

**We're on the Web !
www.aluca.org**

Please print out this newsletter to share with others in your company. And, if you are receiving this for the company owner, please print out a copy for him/her.

**Let AUCA Be Your Source For All Your
Training Needs**

Contact the Association Office for more information

facebook



@AlabamaUCA

LinkedIn

