



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARCH 2017



AUCA Board Member Andru Bramblett from Southern Light in Mobile, and AUCA President Shaun Gonzales from Weaver Environmental Services Company in Huntsville visit with Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon, and Rules Committee Chairman Alan Boothe at the annual "Charge the Hill" Legislative Awareness Day held on March 8th at the State House Building in Montgomery.

Our recent efforts in Montgomery have helped to preserve the integrity and fairness of the transparent and competitive bid process on Public Works projects in Alabama. HB40, and SB59 are both bills that as introduced, were an assault on the system.

Thank you to the many members of AUCA that make time to stay involved and help fight for what is right. Whether attending a local meeting in your area, or trekking across the state, your voice and your passion make a positive impact for our industry.

Tim

Inside This Issue:

Upcoming Events	2-4
News & Notes	5-6
CWCC Report	7-8
Legislative News	9
Member Spotlight	10
Health & Safety	11

Upcoming Events:



AUCA 2017 Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

**Thursday, May 11, 2017
Arrowhead Country Club**

50 Ocala Drive Montgomery, AL 36117

**General Meeting & Buffet Lunch - 11:30 a.m.
Golf Tournament - 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start
Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil
(Immediately Following Golf Tournament)**



General Meeting & Buffet Lunch

Cost: \$20/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

Attend the statewide General Meeting, enjoy a southern buffet lunch and then hear a presentation from our special guest speaker.

9th Annual Golf Tournament 4-Person Scramble Format Cost: \$600/Team or \$150/Individual

Complete attached registration form and return ASAP.
Hole and Corporate Sponsorship opportunities available.
Sign up now before the event fills up!



Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil

Cost \$20/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

Come out and enjoy networking with your industry peers at our after tournament Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil.



MAY 11, 2017 - EVENT REGISTRATION FORM



To register, please complete this form and return to the AUCA office by fax or email.
A copy of the registration form should also be submitted with payment.

Registration Deadline is May 5, 2017

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

GOLF TOURNAMENT

4-PERSON TEAM - \$600 **INDIVIDUAL - \$150**

Includes: Lunch, golf/cart, goodie bag, beverage tickets, prizes, and Low Country Boil

1.) _____	Handicap: _____
2.) _____	Handicap: _____
3.) _____	Handicap: _____
4.) _____	Handicap: _____

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CORPORATE SPONSOR - \$250
Includes: Company logo on event signage and promotional materials, and admission for one (1) company representative to General Meeting & Low Country Boil

HOLE SPONSOR - \$100
Includes: Name recognition on hole signage and may set-up tent on course to network with golfers and distribute company prizes or literature during tournament

GENERAL MEETING

General Meeting Lunch: \$20/Person x Quantity () = \$ _____

LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP & CRAWFISH BOIL

Low Country Boil: \$20/Person x Quantity () = \$ _____

PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE OR ON DAY OF TOURNAMENT! Return form and payment to:
Alabama Utility Contractors Association

P.O. Box 383185

Birmingham, AL 35238-3185

Phone: (205) 582-9436

Fax: (205) 582-9155

Email: tim@aluca.org

To pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

Upcoming Events:

We are still finalizing the date and details for the next Huntsville Area Lunch Meeting. Also, due to the recent closure of the Huntsville location of Wintzell's Oyster House, we will be meeting at a new location. Be on the lookout for email updates.

Tuscaloosa Area Lunch Meeting

April 12, 2017

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

UA Construction Update

***Present by Tom Love - University of Alabama
Assistant Vice-President of Construction Administration***

Birmingham Area Lunch Meeting

April 19, 2017

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

***Project Opportunities with Jefferson County Environmental
Services Department presented by Hazen and Sawyer***

Washington, D.C. Fly-In & Clean Water Construction Coalition Conference

May 16-18, 2017

Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

October 19, 2017

Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - Montgomery



News & Notes:

Mobile Area Lunch Meeting - March 2nd
*New OSHA Recordkeeping Requirements and
OSHA Silica Rule for Construction*



"Charge the Hill" Legislative Awareness Day - March 8th
State House Building - Montgomery



News & Notes:

House and Senate Vote to Overturn OSHA Recordkeeping Rule:

The U.S. Senate has voted 50-48 to overturn an OSHA recordkeeping rule that was passed during the Obama administration and took effect in January. Earlier this month the House of Representatives voted 231 to 191 to also block the rule. It will now cross the desk of President Donald Trump, who is expected to sign it.

The OSHA Recordkeeping Rule, and its impact on our member companies was one of the presentation topic at the March 2nd AUCA Mobile Lunch Meeting. We had originally planned to present this topic in other areas of the state, but with the change, will no longer do so.

Ironically, this marks the 2nd time in recent months that we've done a presentation in Mobile only to see the rule changed shortly thereafter. In November, we presented on the new FLSA Overtime Rule that was to take affect in December 2016. However, a Federal Judge granted an injunction and stopped it.

Alabama One-Call Notification System Study Commission Update:

The One-Call Study Commission will meet again in Montgomery at the Alagasco office on April 17th. After nearly two years of work, the goal is to finally wrap-up our report to send to the Governor and the Legislature. We are hopeful this report will serve as a blueprint for future legislation pertaining to Mandatory Membership for a Single Statewide One-Call Program, as well as improved Enforcement for violations of the One-Call Law.

If you would like to attend the meeting, or provide any feedback, please contact the AUCA office.

2017 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal

If your company has not submitted your membership dues renewal, please make arrangements to submit your payment by April 30, 2017. If dues are not received by this date, your company will be considered delinquent, and will not be included in the upcoming AUCA Membership Directory.

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.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION INTRODUCES FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET

This month the Trump Administration introduced its federal Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Titled "America First - A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again," the \$1.1 trillion budget calls for a \$54 billion increase in military spending, while substantially cutting many domestic programs. Other Departments receiving increases are Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs.

The President's federal FY 2018 budget targets the Environmental Protection Agency with a 31% budget cut while eliminating 20% of its workforce. Approximately 50 EPA programs will be eliminated, including grants to fight air pollution, various energy saving programs, the office of environmental justice and funding for international climate change (the Clean Power Program). The President's budget guidance for EPA does prioritize funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF's and funding for the WIFIA program. Please note the following excerpt provided to us by Key Advocates:

Provides robust funding for critical drinking and wastewater infrastructure. These funding levels further the President's ongoing commitment to infrastructure repair and replacement and would allow States, municipalities, and private entities to continue to advance high priority infrastructure investments that protect human health. The Budget includes \$2.3 billion for the State Revolving Funds, a \$4 million increase over the 2017 annualized CR level. The Budget also provides \$20 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program, equal to the funding provided in the 2017 annualized CR. This credit subsidy could potentially support \$1 billion in direct Federal loans.

At this time, the federal FY 2018 budget process will be contentious and the Coalition will be intensely active in protecting all the funding sources for our industry.

CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS PREPARE BILLS IN ANTICIPATION OF TRUMP ADMINISTRATIONS \$1 TRILLION INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE

In preparation of the Trump Administration's \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal that is anticipated to be addressed prior to Congress's summer recess this August, Coalition representatives have been working with House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member, Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR), on a water infrastructure bill. Considered a marker bill to establish minority party priorities, the bill contains a number of Coalition priorities, in bold below:

- **Authorizes \$20 billion in Federal grants over five years to capitalize Clean Water**

(Continued on page 8)



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

Continued from Page 7

State Revolving Funds (“Clean Water SRFs”). These funds provide low-interest loans and additional loan subsidizations (e.g., principal forgiveness and negative interest loans) to communities for wastewater infrastructure.

- Authorizes \$1.5 billion over five years for grants for State water pollution control agencies to implement State water pollution control programs.
- Provides \$600 million over five years for Clean Water pilot programs (including Federal technical assistance and/or grants) for watershed-based or system-wide efforts to address wet weather discharges, to promote stormwater best management practices, to undertake integrated water resource management, and to increase the resiliency of treatment works to natural or man-made disasters.
- Authorizes technical assistance to rural, small, and tribal communities to assist them in gaining access to financing wastewater infrastructure.
- Includes economic incentives to encourage the adoption of energy- and water-efficient technologies and practices to maximize the potential for efficient water use, reuse, and conservation, and energy conservation, and realize the potential corresponding cost-savings for water treatment.

Title II – Grants

- **Authorizes \$2.5 billion over five years for grants to address combined and sanitary sewer overflows and recapture and reuse of municipal stormwater under section 221 of the Clean Water Act.**
- **Authorizes \$375 million in grants over five years for alternative water source projects under section 220 of the Clean Water Act, including projects that reuse wastewater and stormwater to augment the existing sources of water.**

In addition to Congressman DeFazio’s bill, Congressman Blumenauer (D-OR) and Congressman John Duncan (R-TN) will be introducing a voluntary fee/labeling trust fund bill. The measure is similar to the fee/labeling bill that moved through the Senate last year but was dropped during the Conference deliberation on the WRDA reauthorization bill. This year’s legislation differs from last year’s bill in that the revenue is allocated 50% for the Clean Water SRF and 50% for the Drinking Water SRF. The prior year’s measure funded the Clean Water SRF at 85% and the Drinking Water SRF at 15%. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) has agreed to sponsor the bill in the Senate. Coalition representatives will continue to work with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee representatives on the bills.



Alabama Legislative News:

The 2017 Alabama Legislative Session is nearing the midpoint, with 13 of the possible 30 Legislative Days now completed. The Legislature is currently taking a two week Spring Break recess, and will return to work in Montgomery on April 4th. Through the first 13 Legislative Days, there have been a total of 438 bills introduced in the House, and 336 in the Senate.

The controversial Prison Construction Bill has garnered much of the attention so far. The original bill (SB59), was voted favorably out of the Senate Judiciary Committee after adopting a Substitute and two Amendments. We are thankful that the "Alternative Project Delivery Methods" language that AUCA opposed was removed from the bill.

However, as negotiations continued on SB59, there were so many changes that the bill was reintroduced as a brand new bill, SB302. The new Prison Bill (SB302) is a smaller, scaled-down version of the previous bill (SB59), and would allow a bond issue of up to \$325 Million (vs. the originally proposed \$800 Million), and limit the state to building one new prison and renovating some of the existing prisons. The bill would allow a total of up to three new prisons, with local authorities building two of the facilities and leasing them back to the state. Most significantly, all construction would be required to be competitively bid based on Title 39, the Public Works Law.

The House has passed the \$1.8 Billion General Fund Budget, which now goes to the Senate for consideration. The Senate will begin to tackle this, as well as continue efforts to pass the \$6.4 Billion Education Budget after returning from their two-week Spring Break.

SB82, the Marshall James Walton Highway Safety Act has finally passed the Senate, and moved to the House where it was referred to the House Judiciary Committee. HB179, the bill that would specify that a water district is exempt from taxation has cleared the House and is now pending its third reading in the Senate.

Failing to move were HB40, the bill strongly opposed by AUCA that would allow for bidding preference for local contractors on Public Works projects; HB199, which would allow the Department of Transportation to let contracts for road construction or maintenance involving \$250,000 or less without advertising for sealed bids; and HB236, the proposed bill to make provisions for the submission of bids by electronic means.

Remember to check our weekly "Legislative Pipeline" email report for continuous Legislative updates



AUCA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

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Birmingham, Alabama 35214
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Fax: (205) 674-7441

Erosion Control Products

Since 1988, Sunshine Supplies, Inc. has served Alabama and the Florida panhandle as the largest company solely dedicated to providing erosion and sediment control solutions with the highest quality products to the D.O.T, construction, landscaping, civil engineering and mining industries. We pride ourselves in providing prompt service, on-time delivery, on-site evaluations and helpful office visits by our professional and knowledgeable staff. Every customer is important to us and we look forward to working with you in the future.

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Presto Geoweb & Geoblock

Pond Liners

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Storm Drainage Inlet Filters

Drainage Products

Hayblowers and Hydroseeders

www.erosionproducts.com

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Provided by Josh Broaddus @ J. Smith Lanier & Company and Alabama Struck-By Alliance

2016 Road Deaths Climb 6%

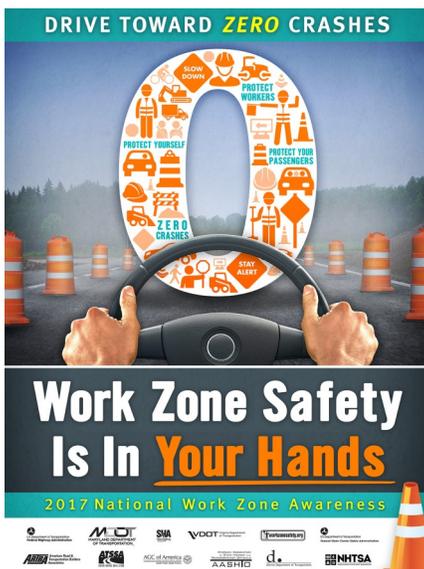
As many as 40,000 people in the U.S. died in motor vehicle crashes last year — a 6% increase compared to 2015 and a 14% jump compared to 2014, according to preliminary 2016 data from the National Safety Council.

That represents the most dramatic two-year escalation since 1964. This means 2016 may have been the deadliest year on the nation's roads since 2007.

An estimated 4.6 million roadway users were injured seriously enough to require medical attention in 2016, and the estimated cost to society was \$432 billion, according to NSC.

An NSC survey released February 15th provides a glimpse at the risky behaviors driving this trend. Although 83% of drivers surveyed believe driving is a safety concern, a startling number say they are comfortable doing the following:

- Speeding (64%)
- Texting either manually or through voice controls (47%)
- Driving while impaired by marijuana (13%)
- Driving after they feel they've had too much alcohol (10%)



National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week

April 3-7, 2017

“Work Zone Safety is in Your Hands”

Drivers need to be particularly alert traveling through highway work zones. When a road is not in its usual condition due to construction, it is a good idea to slow down. Fines for speeding DOUBLE in work zones when construction workers are present. Most work zone crashes are rear-end collisions resulting from speeding or inattentive driving.



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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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