

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARCH 2022

Director's Comments:



Our industry is in quite a predicament. At no time during my eight years with AUCA have I seen a situation where there is such an abundance of infrastructure projects, and millions of dollars more headed to our state in the near future to fund others. But, with the current supply chain issues, soaring inflation, and continued labor woes, this is shaping up to be a problem rather than a blessing.

So what are we to do? The infrastructure work is desperately needed, and will certainly have to get done. But who will do it, and at what cost? With such volatility in the market, at some point the risks of taking on a project (especially as the lump-sum low bidder) outweighs the potential benefits of the reward.

Are the rapidly increasing prices all legitimate, or do we have some companies that are taking advantage of uncertain times and raising their prices higher than is really needed? In some instances this might be the case. But, if the higher prices are justified, who should foot the bill? Contractors and Suppliers operate on thin margins. When prices continue to rise, long after a firm contract number has been agreed upon, there has to be a fair and equitable way to recoup for these uncontrollable increases.

Public Officials should be flexible and willing to consider this dilemma now before it really comes back to bite them. In some instances, public entities already purchase materials. Perhaps this will become more commonplace, with the Owner taking on the inflationary risk vs. having all of their bidders increase their bid prices in a desperate attempt to keep pace with rapid inflation on material costs. Another alternative is to allow Change Orders on documented price increases that are beyond the control of the Contractor or Supplier. The use of Allowances is another idea that could be incorporated, with the Owner agreeing to set aside a certain amount of funds that could be accessed if needed.

Right now, there's no definitive answer. However, we as an industry must stand strong to protect ourselves. Otherwise, there might not be any good Contractors and Suppliers left to work on the much needed infrastructure projects that we've lobbied so hard for to happen.

Speaking of public officials, we are pleased to have John Cooper - Alabama Department of Transportation Director as the guest speaker at our April 21st Spring General Meeting in Montgomery. We expect a great turnout, and hope to see you all there.

Tim

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Upcoming Meetings & Events:

The Battle of Goat Hill
House vs. Senate - Celebrity Softball Game
Benefiting Big Oak Ranch

Wednesday, March 30th - 6pm
The Montgomery Biscuits Stadium



Notable athletes, musicians and celebrities from the State of Alabama in attendance and participating.
Invite your friends... all of them.

Big Oak Ranch is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax-deductible.

***AUCA 2022 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***
Thursday, April 21, 2022
Arrowhead Country Club - Montgomery, AL



***AUCA 2022 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot***
Thursday, October 13, 2022
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - Montgomery, AL



AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Current Event Sponsors:

(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is April 15th)

Corporate Sponsors (to Date):





AUCA 2022 Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 21, 2022

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

Guest Speaker: John Cooper - ALDOT Director

Cost: \$20/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

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

13th 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.



APRIL 21, 2022 - 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 April 15, 2022

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.) _____
- 2.) _____
- 3.) _____
- 4.) _____

- Handicap: _____
- Handicap: _____
- Handicap: _____
- Handicap: _____

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



CORPORATE SPONSOR - \$250

Includes: Company logo on AUCA website, all event signage and promotional materials, and admission for two (2) company representatives 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.

Flagger Training with Field Exercises

Instructed by Nancy Hudson

This half-day workshop will be offered twice at each location. Attendees may choose to participate in the morning or in the afternoon session. Each workshop is limited to a maximum of 30 participants.

What is covered in this workshop?

- Qualifications for Flaggers
- Flagger Procedures
- High Visibility Safety Apparel
- Flagger Stations
- Temporary Traffic Control Devices
- Hand Signaling Devices

The cost to attend this workshop is \$100. Participants completing this workshop will receive 4.0 PDHs. For more information please visit eng.auburn.edu/atap

Pelham

April 12, 2022

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Huntsville

April 13, 2022

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Mobile

April 26, 2022

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Montgomery

April 27, 2022

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Disclaimer: Exposure to COVID-19 is an inherent risk in any public location where people are present. People who show no symptoms can spread the Coronavirus disease if they are infected, and any interaction with the general public poses an elevated risk of being exposed. By attending this workshop, you acknowledge and agree that you assume these inherent risks associated with attending. We cannot guarantee you will not be exposed during this workshop.

News & Notes:

National Work Zone Awareness Week - April 11-15:

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is a national event held each spring to focus on roadway work zone safety. The national kickoff event is hosted by a selected state department of transportation (DOT) and focuses on the safety of roadway workers and the importance of staying alert to work zones.

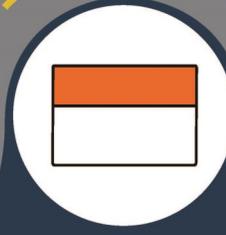
This year's event is April 11-15 and hosted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) with the theme of "Work Zones are a Sign to Slow Down."

The week features a special event each day:

- Monday, April 11 — Work Zone Safety Training Day
- Tuesday, April 12 — National kickoff event
- Wednesday, April 13 — Go Orange Day
- Thursday, April 14 — Social media storm
- Friday, April 15 — Moment of Silence. This is new for 2022 and remembers the people who lost their lives in a work zone incident.

2022 NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

WORK ZONES ARE A SIGN TO SLOW DOWN



News & Notes:

2022 AUCA Scholarship Program Award Winners:

The AUCA Board of Directors approved the nominations of two scholarship applicants at the March 9th Board Meeting in Montgomery. Both recipients have tremendous resumes, and are extremely deserving of these scholarships. Each scholarship awarded is worth \$1,500 per student and will be paid directly to their respective Universities.



The 2022 AUCA scholarship recipients are:

Haley Vinson

Haley is from Tuscaloosa, AL and will be a Freshman at the University of South Alabama in Mobile next fall. She will graduate in May 2022 from American Christian Academy and is the daughter of Jennifer Vinson from Warrior Tractor & Equipment Company.

Harrison Jones

Harrison is from Hoover, AL and will be a Junior at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He is the son of Gavin and Frances Jones from Bama Utility Contractors.

Chilton County Construction Trades Fair:

The City of Clanton will be hosting a Career Day event on May 16th and 17th where approximately 1,000 high school and post-graduate students will be available to interview for craft positions and internships.

All contractors looking to hire/employ high school and post-graduate interns receiving craft training from local high schools and community college are encouraged to attend an Interest Meeting being held on April 5, 2022 in the Chamber Room at Clanton City Hall (505 2nd Ave N, Clanton, AL 35045) from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

2022 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal:

AUCA 2022 Membership Dues Notices are finally being distributed. Please be on the lookout for the notice. We appreciate your past support of AUCA, and hope that your company will renew your membership with our group and help us continue to work towards our goals in 2022.

We ask that you please return your dues promptly to ensure no disruption in member benefits.



News & Notes:

Cogongrass Campaign Addresses Threat to Alabama:

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) has initiated a new social media campaign to raise awareness of the dangers cogongrass poses to the state. With agriculture and natural ecosystems at risk, ADAI is calling on Alabamians to recognize this threat and share the information.

Cogongrass has now infested more than 75 percent of Alabama's counties. This federally regulated noxious weed was introduced in the U.S. in 1911 as packing material in the port of Mobile. In the decades since, it has greatly expanded and become more dangerous.

Cogongrass chokes out forests and hunting lands, threatening habitats. It inhibits the growth of other plants and ruins pasturelands, as livestock have trouble eating or digesting it. The weed is also highly flammable and increases the risk of devastating wildfires.

Considering how widespread cogongrass is, the cost to eradicate the grass is high, exceeding \$300 per acre or \$60 million in taxpayer dollars. The annual loss of forest productivity alone is \$50 per infested acre or \$7.5 million.

Cogongrass is difficult to control due to the ease of which it spreads along rights of way. Some varieties are also sold at nurseries and used by landscapers, increasing the spread. Cogongrass contaminates machinery, clothing, soil and vehicles that come into contact with the weed. Because of this, if found, no attempt to remove it should be made. Rather, it should be reported immediately.

Visit www.alcogongrass.com to learn how to spot cogongrass and report it when it blooms again in the spring. To report cogongrass, call (334) 240-7225, or use the SEEDN (Southeast Early Detection Network) app, downloadable for Apple® and Android® devices at www.alcogongrass.com.



**DON'T LET
COGONGRASS
CHOKE
ALABAMA**

RECOGNIZE IT. REPORT IT.

**REPORT COGONGRASS
NOW BEFORE IT SPREADS.**

ALCOGONGRASS.COM

News & Notes:

Job Openings:

Alabama 811 currently has open positions that they are looking to fill. They are:

Damage Prevention Coordinator

<https://www.al811.com/wp-content/uploads/dp-coord-job-posting.pdf>

Contact Center Agent

<https://www.al811.com/wp-content/uploads/contactcenteragent.pdf>

If you know anyone that would be a candidate for either of these positions, please have them contact Annette Bowman, Alabama 811 Executive Director by email: abowman@al811.com.



Alabama Legislative News:

Alabama lawmakers have met for 23 legislative working days during the 2022 Alabama Legislative Session. After pausing for a Spring Break, legislators will reconvene in Montgomery on Tuesday, March 29th, for the 24th legislative day. With seven working days remaining in the 2022 regular session, there have been a total of 846 bills introduced, with 518 in the House and 328 in the Senate.

In their remaining days, legislators must complete work on the state's Education and General Fund Budgets. The \$2.7 billion General Fund Budget (SB106) passed the House on Tuesday with some modifications and was returned to the Senate for concurrence. The Senate opted to non-concur and take the bill to a Conference Committee to work out the differences. Conference Committee members from the House and Senate have been appointed and will address the General Fund Budget when they resume the session. The \$8.1 billion Education Trust Fund Budget (HB135) still awaits action from the Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation Education. Both budgets are at record levels this year, partly because of the flow of billions in federal COVID-19 relief money to Alabama's economy over the last two years.

Two new gaming bills were introduced in the House. HB501 and HB502 would allow for the vote on a Constitutional Amendment in November to create the Alabama Education Lottery Commission to regulate and supervise the Alabama Education Lottery. Unlike the gaming bills proposed in the Senate, the House bills would only allow for a traditional lottery with tickets sold at licensed retailers for multi-state games, instant games, and others approved by the Commission, and not include any casinos and sports betting. Both the Senate and House gaming plans face obstacles with just seven meeting days remaining and would need approval by three-fifths of Senators and Representatives to get to the ballot for voters.

Bills of Interest Already Signed Into Law:

Act #2022-1 (HB1) - Supplemental Appropriations from the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund

To make supplemental appropriations from the American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, the American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Revenue Replacement Fund, and the American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022.

Act #2022-34 (HB21/SB17) - Crime of Unauthorized Entry of a Critical Infrastructure

Relating to critical infrastructure; to amend Section 13A-7-4.3, Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for the crime of unauthorized entry of a critical infrastructure, including by certain unmanned aircraft systems; to provide additional penalties; and in connection therewith to have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended by Amendment 890, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended.



Alabama Legislative News:

(Continued from page 11)

Act #2022-35 (HB34/SB68) - WWTP Loan Payback Period Extension

Relating to construction of wastewater treatment facilities; to amend Section 22-34-11, Code of Alabama 1975; to extend the loan payback period for a loan by the Alabama Water Pollution Control Authority to a local governing body to finance construction expenses of a wastewater treatment facility in certain circumstances.

Act #2022-73 (SB97) - Sunset Law Review for Alabama Construction Recruitment Institute

Relating to the Alabama Sunset Law; to continue the existence and functioning of the Alabama Construction Recruitment Institute until October 1, 2023.

Act #2022-117 (SB125/HB255) - Broadband (Constitutional Amendment)

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901; to authorize the state, a county, or a municipality to grant certain monies to public or private entities for broadband infrastructure.

Act #2022-125 (SB123/HB189) - Broadband

Relating to the Connect Alabama Act of 2021; to amend Sections 41-23-271, 41-23-273, and 41-23-274, Code of Alabama 1975; and to specify the minimum service threshold; to authorize the Alabama Digital Expansion Division chief to enter nondisclosure agreements; and to revise the expenditure of the Connect Alabama Fund and allow for annual revision of the program funds.

Act #2022-138 (SB124/HB298) - Broadband

Relating to the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act; to amend Sections 41-23-211, 41-23-212, 41-23-213, and 41-23-214, Code of Alabama 1975; to increase the minimum threshold speeds for broadband service grants; to include references to the Alabama broadband mapping program and state-wide connectivity plan; to revise criteria and eligibility for the awarding of grants; to revise the window for grant applications; to revise the grant application procedures; and to allow for a project extension in certain circumstances.

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



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Dan Kennedy - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

March 14, 2022

Congress took final action on the FY22 appropriations situation by passing an omnibus bill funding all 12 appropriations bills for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Included in the bill are \$1.638B for the Clean Water SRF, \$1.126B for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, \$35.693M for the traditional Title XVI program, and \$17.5M for Title XVI WIIN grants.

These funding amounts are over and above those included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - \$2.127B for the Clean Water SRF, \$6.702B for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, and \$500M for Title XVI and the Title XVI WINN programs combined.

As a result, for the current fiscal year total funding for the Clean Water SRF is \$3.765B, \$7.828 for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, and \$553.193M for both Title XVI programs.

The Coalition's FY22 appropriations advocacy goal was to secure robust FY22 appropriations funding levels above the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

CWCC DC "Fly-In" / Business Meeting

We will be getting back to business in person in DC this spring. In order to give some more time for DC to open up and the weather to improve, we have chosen to align the trip with ARTBA's Federal Issues Program and Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC) Fly-in on Sunday, May 15th through Tuesday, May 17th at the Hyatt Regency Washington (on Capitol Hill). You do not need to register for the ARBA program to participate. Details are as follows:

CWCC Business Meeting Monday, May 16th 4:00 – 6:00 PM Hyatt Regency Washington (400 New Jersey Ave NW) Capital Room

We invite you to join us in person or virtually. Please RSVP by Friday April 29th. Please email Dan Kennedy at kennedy@utcanj.org including who is planning on attending in person or virtual. Virtual access will be provided well in advance of May 16th. We will be endeavoring to get through business by 5:30, concluding with some pre-dinner refreshments and light fare.

The \$335 per night room rate is guaranteed through April 22. DC is projected to be very busy and hotels will be at a premium. We recommend that if you are planning to attend you do not wait until the last minute to book.

CLICK HERE to access the group booking link for the Hyatt Regency Washington.

For those that are interested, ARTBA events will begin with optional activities on Sunday, followed by a full slate of meetings and sessions on Monday. The TCC portion will begin with a reception

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Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 13)

Monday evening, then group briefings on Tuesday, with the opportunity to do hill visits on Tuesday into Wednesday as needed. For those that wish to do in-person hill visits, please start planning early as pandemic-related restrictions are still likely to be in place.

CWCC members are also invited to attend the Water Week virtual programs, scheduled for April 24-30th, by nature of our partnership with the US Water Alliance. We will share details of those events closer to the event.

You will be receiving a draft of our congressional "asks" in the coming weeks. These asks can be delivered to your delegation members in person in DC, in person in your home states or remotely, at your preference. What is most important is that they are delivered in a way that works best for your organization.

Focus on BIF Rollout / "Carve Out" Priorities from BBB

The \$1.9T Build Back Better (BBB) package is procedurally dead at this point. That said, there is a chance that some BBB priorities (some related to infrastructure) get carved out and move forward as stand alone bills.



Fleet Safety:

Provided by Marsh McLennan Agency—Southeast Risk Control Services

April - Distracted Driving Awareness Month

April is recognized as Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The event is intended to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving and encourage motorists like us to minimize potential distractions behind the wheel.

Distracted Driving Overview

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, distracted driving refers to any activity that may divert a motorist's attention from the road. There are three main types of distractions that can interfere with drivers' attentiveness behind the wheel, including:



- **Visual Distractions:** These distractions involve motorists taking their eyes off the road. Some examples of visual distractions include reading emails or text messages, focusing on vehicle passengers, looking at maps or navigation systems, and observing nearby activities (e.g., accidents, traffic stops or roadside attractions) while driving.
- **Manual Distractions:** Such distractions entail motorists removing their hands from the steering wheel. Key examples of manual distractions include texting, adjusting the radio, programming navigation systems, eating, drinking or performing personal grooming tasks (e.g., applying makeup) while driving.
- **Mental Distractions:** These distractions stem from motorists taking their minds off driving. Primary examples of cognitive distractions include talking on the phone, conversing with vehicle passengers or daydreaming while driving.

Regardless of distraction type, distracted driving is a serious safety hazard that contributes to a significant number of accidents on the road. In fact, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that more than 2,800 people are killed and 400,000 are injured in crashes involving a distracted driver each year - equating to approximately eight deaths and 1,095 injuries per day.

Distracted Driving Prevention Tips

Whenever you get behind the wheel, keep these distracted driving prevention measures in mind:

- Put away your phone. Silence your phone and store it in a location that is out of reach while driving to lower the temptation to check it.
- Plan your trip before you leave. Program your navigation system prior to hitting the road to get familiar with your journey and feel confident in your route.
- Don't fumble with your playlist. Select a radio station or plug in a predetermined playlist before



Fleet Safety:

(Continued from page 15)

- driving to limit the need for music adjustments.
- Secure passengers. Ensure kids are properly situated in car seats (if needed) with seat belts fastened. Keep pets stationary in the back seat.
- Avoid multitasking. Never complete additional tasks—such as eating or personal grooming—behind the wheel.
- Stay focused. Concentrate your mind on the road by keeping distracting conversations to a minimum and looking straight ahead.



“Nearly 80% of crashes and 65% of near-crashes involved some form of driver inattention within three seconds before the event.” (NHTSA)



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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.***

**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

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