

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARCH 2023



Director's Comments:

The 2023 Alabama Legislative Session convened in Montgomery on March 7th. Governor Kay Ivey delivered her State of the State address that evening at the State Capitol in which she issued a proclamation calling for a Special Session to begin the next day, to appropriate the remaining \$1.06 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund. The Regular Session was suspended while the Legislature went into Special Session.

On the first day of the Special Session, HB1 was introduced which stipulates that up to \$660 million shall be used for eligible water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure investments. Of this total, up to \$400 million shall be used to improve access to clean water to the citizens of Alabama through investments in water and sewer infrastructure projects and an additional \$260 million to improve and expand broadband throughout the state.

The Special Legislative Session concluded on March 16th with tremendous news for our industry. HB1 passed and was promptly signed into law by Governor Ivey as Act #2023-1. The funds from Act #2023-1 are in addition to the \$225 million for water and sewer projects and \$276 million for broadband funding received from Alabama's first round of ARPA relief money that was awarded last year.

Worth noting, ARPA requires the state to commit funds to its chosen projects by the end of 2024, and to spend the money by the end of 2026. AUCA will be working with the regulatory agencies responsible for administering the money for these needed infrastructure projects to hold meetings to keep our members informed on which ones will be available for bid in their areas.

Speaking of meetings, the AUCA Spring Meeting, Golf Tournament & Crawfish Boil will be held on April 20th in Montgomery. We hope you can make plans to join us for a great event!

Tim

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Upcoming Meetings & Events:

***AUCA Industry Lunch Meetings
Alabama Damage Prevention Law Updates***

McKay Lyvers - Damage Prevention Education Manager from Alabama 811 will be presenting on the new updates to the Alabama Damage Prevention Law and the enforcement process for the Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority.

Birmingham Area Lunch Meeting
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Huntsville Area Lunch Meeting
Thursday, April 13, 2023
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



***AUCA 2023 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***
Thursday, April 20, 2023
Arrowhead Country Club
Montgomery, AL



***AUCA 2023 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot***
Thursday, October 12, 2023
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
Montgomery, AL



AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Current Event Sponsors:

(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is April 13th)

Corporate Sponsors (to Date):





AUCA 2023 Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 20, 2023

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: Chris Stewart

Cost: \$25/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.

14th 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 \$25/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 20, 2023 - 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 13, 2023

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 & HOLE SPONSOR - \$250

Includes: Company logo on AUCA website and all event signage and promotional materials & admission for two (2) company representatives to General Meeting & Low Country Boil



HOLE SPONSOR - \$100

Includes: Name recognition on golf 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: \$25/Person x Quantity () = \$ _____

LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP & CRAWFISH BOIL

Low Country Boil: \$25/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

Mobile

April 4, 2023

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Montgomery

April 5, 2023

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Huntsville

April 25, 2023

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Birmingham

April 26, 2023

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM



THESE HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS WILL BE OFFERED TWICE AT EACH LOCATION. CHOOSE ONLY ONE WORKSHOP

REGISTRATION \$100

EARN

4.0 PDHs

MAXIMUM CLASS

30 SEATS

THIS WORKSHOP WILL COVER:

- Qualifications for Flaggers
- High Visibility Clothing
- Hand Signaling Devices
- Types and Colors of Devices
- Traffic Control Devices
- Sign Placement
- MUTCD
- Flagger Stations
- Field Exercises
- Outside Work Zone Setup
- Flagger Procedures
- Summary and Review

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION
PLEASE VISIT ENG.AUBURN.EDU/ATAP

workshop presented by the
Alabama Transportation Assistance Program
1301 Shelby Center, Auburn, AL 36849 • (800) 446-0382 • atap@auburn.edu



News & Notes:

National Work Zone Awareness Week - April 17-21:

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.

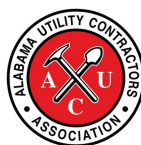
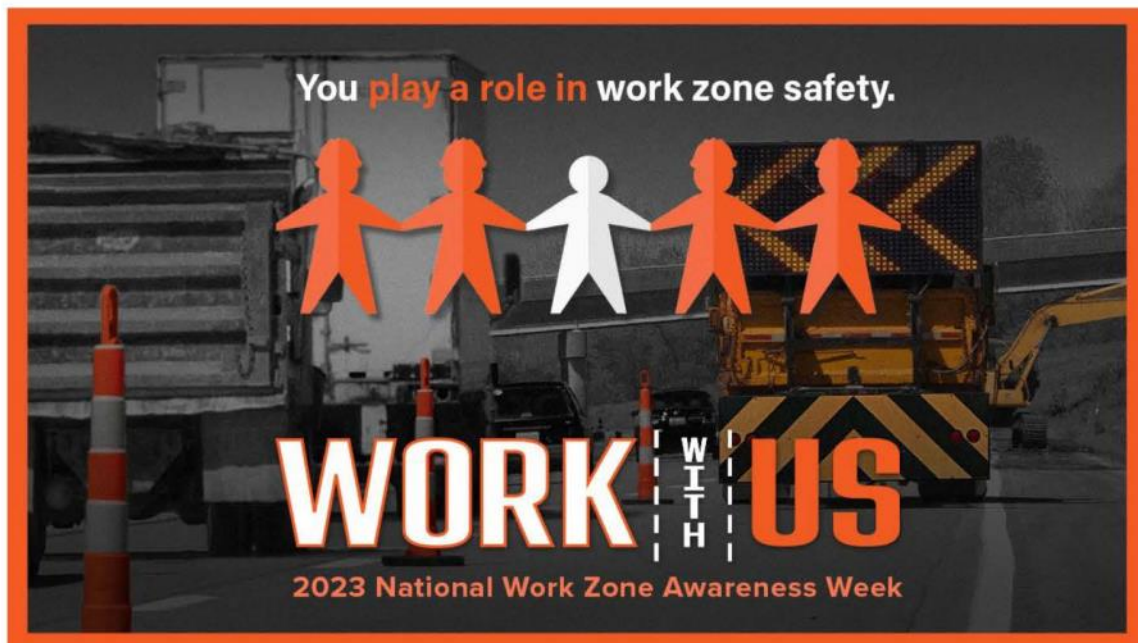
The 2023 National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is scheduled for April 17-21. It will be hosted by the Missouri Department of Transportation. This year's theme is "You play a role in work zone safety. Work with us!" The kick-off event is scheduled for April 18.

Everyone plays a role in work zone safety. NWZAW highlights the deadly dangers of inattention at highway work areas.

The 2023 weeklong commemoration include:

- Work Zone Safety Training Day - April 17
- National kickoff event - April 18
- Go Orange Day - April 19
- Social media storm - April 20
- Moment of Silence - April 21

The moment of silence was started in 2022 to remember the men and women whose lives were lost in a work zone incident. Learn more on how you can participate and make your voice count on the importance of work zone safety.



News & Notes:

AUCA New Member Company:

Trux Inc.

Boston, MA

Company Representatives: Dan Hall and Jeremy Bell

www.truxnow.com

"Charge the Hill" Legislative Awareness Day - March 9th State House Building & Capitol - Montgomery



On March 9th, AUCA hosted a Charge the Hill Legislative Awareness Day event. This provided a great opportunity to witness HB1 pass out of committee. HB1 will allocate over \$660 million of ARPA funds for much needed utility infrastructure. Attendees then witnessed the special legislative ceremony at the Alabama Capitol honoring former U.S. Senator Richard Shelby for his faithful service.

2023 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal

We are grateful to the companies that have already paid their 2023 AUCA dues. For those that have not yet renewed, please make arrangements to submit your payment promptly to ensure no disruption in member benefits.

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.

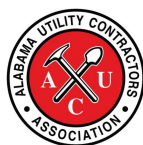


News & Notes:

Mobile Area Industry Lunch Meeting - March 16th
Alabama Damage Prevention Law Updates
Presented by Alabama 811



Tuscaloosa Area Industry Lunch Meeting - March 29th
Alabama Damage Prevention Law Updates
Presented by Alabama 811



News & Notes:

AUCA 2023 Scholarship Program:

AUCA received a record number of applications for our 2023 scholarship program. All information was provided at the March 9th AUCA Board of Directors Meeting in Montgomery. Due to the volume of applications, additional time was needed by the Board of Directors for review and to select the winning applicants.

Applicants selected to receive scholarships will be announced in April.



Chilton County Career Day:

On March 23rd, AUCA, along with several member companies were on hand for the Chilton County Career and Training Day.

This was the second year for the event which was attended by Juniors and Seniors from all six Chilton County High Schools, as well as adult job seekers from the area. Approximately 80% of the high school graduates in Chilton County do not go to college.

With graduation taking place soon, there will be a large number of prospective job candidates available. As such, our workforce development efforts must include attending events like these to raise awareness to help fill some of the much needed positions in our industry.



New Leadership for the Alabama Road Builders Association:

Skip Powe has taken the role as the new Executive Director for the Alabama Road Builders Association (ARBA).

Skip has over 30 years of experience in the construction and contract administration industry. Prior to coming to the ARBA, he served as Principal for Smith Seckman Reid's (SSR) expansion into Alabama and Arkansas from October 2020 through February 2023. He retired from the Alabama Department of Transportation as the State Construction Engineer in October 2020, where he had oversight for all federal-aid and state-funded construction projects. He served in a variety of roles in the 4th Division, 5th Division, and Construction Bureau during his career and was the Construction Subject Matter Expert for the development of ALDOT's Construction and Materials Management System (CAMMS).

AUCA has many shared members with ARBA, and we look forward to working with Skip and his group on critical issues that impact infrastructure in Alabama.



News & Notes:

April is National Safe Digging Month:

April is recognized by Congress and most Governors across the U.S. as National Safe Digging Month (NSDM). During the month, campaigns and activities will focus on promoting safe digging to the general public and professionals nationwide.

Know what's below, 811 before you dig!



**SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.**

April is National Safe Digging Month

811beforeyoudig.com

The background of the graphic features a silhouette of an excavator against a sunset sky, with a worker visible in the cab. The overall color palette is warm, with oranges and yellows from the sunset.



MAKING THE 811 SYSTEM MORE EFFICIENT **HOW EXCAVATORS CAN HELP**

WHEN MAKING LOCATE REQUESTS...

PROVIDE QUALITY INFORMATION

Specific dig site location & dimensions

Correct contact name & phone number

Detailed description of work being performed

MANAGE TICKET QUANTITY

Give sufficient notice

Eliminate unnecessary requests

Stop locates on completed jobs



LEARN MORE WAYS TO HELP
VISIT CALL811.COM/EXCAVATOR



Alabama Legislative News:

The 2023 Alabama Legislative Session convened for the new 4-year quadrennium in Montgomery at noon on Tuesday, March 7th. Governor Kay Ivey delivered her State of the State address that evening at the State Capitol in which she issued a proclamation calling for a Special Session to begin the next day, Wednesday, March 8th to appropriate the remaining \$1.06 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund. The Regular Session was suspended while the Legislature went into Special Session.

On the first day of the Special Session, HB1 was introduced which stipulates that up to \$660 million shall be used for eligible water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure investments. Of this total, up to \$400 million shall be used to improve access to clean water to the citizens of Alabama through investments in water and sewer infrastructure projects and an additional \$260 million to improve and expand broadband throughout the state.

The Special Legislative Session concluded on March 16th with a tremendous win for our industry. HB1 passed and was promptly signed into law by Governor Ivey as Act #2023-1. The funds from Act #2023-1 are in addition to the \$225 million for water and sewer projects and \$276 million for broadband funding received from Alabama's first round of ARPA relief money that was awarded last year. Worth noting, ARPA requires the state to commit funds to its chosen projects by the end of 2024, and to spend the money by the end of 2026.

With the Special Session completed, the 2023 Alabama Regular Legislative Session resumed in Montgomery on March 21st where lawmakers met for a three-day work week and introduced 112 new bills in the House and 80 in the Senate. To date, they have met for 4 Legislative Meeting Days and introduced a total of 221 bills in the House and 145 bills in the Senate.

The Legislature is currently off to observe Spring Break, and will return to work in Montgomery on Tuesday, April 4th for the 5th Legislative Day.

The length of the Regular Session is limited to 30 meeting days within a period of 105 calendar days. The pause for the Special Session, plus the Spring Break means that lawmakers will have to stay busy for the remainder of the Session to get their work accomplished.

There have already been many bills introduced that we have identified as of interest. We will continue to keep a watchful eye on these, and update our members on their status, as well as any newly introduced bills of interest, throughout the remainder of the 2023 Legislative Session.

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

DRAFT CWCC 2023 PRIORITIES

OVERALL GOAL - To ensure that commitments for robust funding for programs of interest to the Coalition are met and expanded. More funding means more projects and more projects means more jobs.

PRIORITY #1: Fully Fund Commitments (IIJA + Base FY Appropriation) and Increase Funding

- Fund Drinking Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, Water Reuse Programs to IIJA levels + Base FY Appropriation Levels for FY24:
 - Clean Water SRF Funding at minimum of \$4.58 Billion (\$2.95 Billion IIJA + \$1.63 Billion FY Base). In addition:
 - Drinking Water SRF Funding at minimum of \$4.05 Billion (\$2.95 Billion IIJA + \$1.10 Billion FY Base)
 - Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), including State WIFIA (SWIFIA) at a minimum of \$80 Million
- If Congress chooses to continue the use of Congressionally Directed Spending (earmarks) for water infrastructure projects, these funds must be additive to the overall EPA budget and **NOT** come out of the baseline SRF funding moving forward.
- Inclusion of additional funding for the SRFs, Alternative Water Source Program and other water programs of interest in the final version if anything emerges from the "Build Back Better" framework.
- Enactment of Title XVI WIIN grant funding and Federal share increase.

PRIORITY # 2: Accelerate the Work

- Enactment of legislation, policies, regulations, and specifications that accelerate the project pipeline and bring more water projects to construction in a timely manner. Advocate that EPA require State SRF's to streamline review and approval processes for the replacement or improvement of existing water infrastructure assets.

PRIORITY #3: Price Escalation / Build America, Buy America Requirements

- Recognize near-term challenges, such as inflation, disruptions to supply chains, and lack of domestic capacity or supply when implementing new domestic preference procurement requirements for construction materials and manufactured products. Protecting public health and the environment, while maintaining affordable user rates, requires the flexibility to source the most cost-effective materials and best available technologies.

PRIORITY #4: Offset Decreased Revenues

- Water utilities nationwide are experiencing decreased revenues from customers for various reasons. This matter must be addressed in infrastructure legislation. If this issue is not resolved, planned capital programs will undoubtedly suffer.



Fleet Safety:

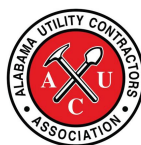
Provided by Marsh McLennan Agency - Southeast Risk Control Services

Spring is here – be prepared for the new driving hazards

While there is still snow falling in parts of the country, Spring brings some different driving hazards that drivers need to be prepared for. While roads are not typically as hazardous as they are during Winter conditions, here are some thoughts and tips to keep in mind for safe Spring driving:



- **Spring Break** – over the next few weeks, traffic headed to traditional Spring Break areas of the country is going to increase significantly and many of the drivers may be more than a little distracted. While “Spring Break” is an economic boom for the host areas, the increased traffic and risk of injury driving to those areas is very real. A recent University of Miami study, that examined fatal passenger vehicle crashes at 14 popular spring break destinations, found that the weekly death toll from car crashes was 9.1% higher during the spring break season compared to other weeks of the year. Even if you are not in a typical spring break destination area, you may have spring breakers traveling through your area and increasing hazardous conditions.
- **Hazardous Road Conditions** – Winter weather is tough on road surfaces – especially in areas where water collects and freezes and thaws periodically during the winter – and some roads are going to have potholes or broken and loose concrete and asphalt. This is often the case in more remote areas where pot holes may be present for months before they get repaired. When you are driving in areas where there is significant visible road damage, watch your speed and following distance and “give yourself a way out” of danger. You should drive at a speed that will allow you to see and react to hazards without reflexive swerving that could cause you to lose control of your vehicle. If you are following the vehicle in front of you too closely, and they swerve at the last minute to avoid a hazard that you can’t see, you could make contact with the hazard at a speed that could seriously damage your vehicle and possibly lead to an accident.
- **Road Construction Crews** – Road construction companies have been gearing up, and are just waiting for warmer and longer days so they can get out on the roads to repair the winter damage. Remember that speed limits are reduced in construction zones and fines are often increased to the state maximum; Don’t put yourself, your passengers, or the construction workers in danger by speeding and stay aware of your surroundings.
- **“Share the road”** – Warmer weather also means more motorcyclist, bicyclist, and pedestrians, and you need to be stay alert and share the road. Due to their slim profile, cyclists are harder to see and it can be hard to judge their speed, so be more cautious when passing or approaching from behind. Pedestrians can be distracted by their phones or just enjoying their surroundings, so expect the unexpected when you observe people walking near the roadway.



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

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