



## ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**APRIL 2021**



*ESPN and AL.com personality Lauren Sisler speaks at the AUCA Spring General Meeting on April 22nd in Montgomery, and later poses with friend, and AUCA Board of Directors Member, Ryan McClendon from J. Smith Lanier & Company.*

On April 22nd, AUCA members and guests gathered at Arrowhead Country Club in Montgomery for the Spring General Meeting, Golf Tournament, and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil. After having to cancel the 2020 event due to COVID-19, it was great to be back in person and seeing everyone having fun. Lauren Sisler provided a powerful speech about overcoming adversity and cherishing the time we are given, and to always be wise with how we spend it.

18 teams played golf and \$940 of mulligans were sold at the event to help fund the AUCA Scholarship Program. Additionally, the winners of the 1st place team from Empire Pipe & Supply graciously donated their \$400 prize winnings back to the Scholarship Fund.

### **Inside This Issue:**

AUCA Spring Meeting &	2-11
News & Notes	12-17
Upcoming Events	18
Legislative News	19
CWCC Report	20-21

Thank you to our many sponsors, volunteers, and attendees that made the event a tremendous success.

*Tim*

# AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:

## Corporate Sponsors:



A Forterra Company



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

**Hole Sponsors:**

**Alabama 811**  
**BenSource Employee Benefits**  
**Cleary Construction Inc.**  
**Core & Main**  
**Foley Products Company**  
**Johnson & Associates Engineering**  
**Knapheide Truck Equipment**  
**Slaughter Construction Company**  
**Southern Pipe & Supply**

**Door and Player Prize Items:**

**Alabama 811**  
**AUCA**  
**CompTrust AGC**  
**Consolidated Pipe & Supply**  
**Go Build Alabama**

**John Deere Financial**  
**SET Logistics**  
**Southern Linc**  
**Spire**  
**Trench Plate Rental Company**

We appreciate the many sponsor companies, volunteers, and participants that graciously made this event possible.

***Thanks for your continued support of AUCA!***



# *AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:*



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# AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:

## Team and Individual Golf Prize Winners:



**1st Place Team:**  
**Empire Pipe & Supply**



**2nd Place Team:**  
**CLS General Contractors**



**3rd Place Team:**  
**Alabama 811**



**Closest to Pin:**  
Pete Mackey



**Longest Drive:**  
Josh Boyd



**Longest Putt:**  
Adam Lewis



## News & Notes:

### **Alabama Damage Prevention Alliance (ADPA) - Large Project Committee:**

The ADPA Large Project Committee held another virtual meeting on April 14th. Several AUCA Contractor members, along with AUCA Director Ayers, participated in the call. The group is continuing to determine "best practice" parameters for defining a large project as it pertains to the Alabama One-Call Law. Determining what is a large project can be considered as either distance/footage of job, length of time to conduct work, or both. Complexity of the area where the work is occurring is another key factor to consider.



The next call for the ADPA Large Project Committee is scheduled for Monday, May 10th at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to participate and help have a voice for your industry, please contact the AUCA Office for additional details.

## Do you currently work in the Alabama construction industry?



Participate in an

## AUBURN UNIVERSITY INTERVIEW STUDY

exploring occupational stressors and coping behaviors

Earn a **\$50 Amazon e-gift card** for approximately 30 minutes of your time

For more info: [aubsci0021@auburn.edu](mailto:aubsci0021@auburn.edu)



A Qualitative Exploration of Stressors and Coping Behaviors in Managing Stress for Professionals in the Construction Industry

AU IRB #21-121 EX 2103



## News & Notes:

### **Alabama to Keep 7 Congressional Districts:**

Based upon results released this month by the U.S. Census Bureau, Alabama's official population count came in at 5,030,053. This number is significantly higher than population estimates from earlier this year and will allow Alabama to keep its seven Congressional seats for another 10 years.

### **April is National Safe Digging Month:**



One free online request or call gets member utilities marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

For example, if you need to dig on a Saturday, state law requires that you must wait two full working days not counting the day of notification to Alabama 811 to allow for the locate request to be completed and underground facilities located.



**Safe Digging Is No Accident:  
Contact 811 Before You Dig.**

### **In Memory of Roland Pugh:**

Industry veteran Roland Pugh passed away on April 19, 2021 after a battle with cancer. Please keep the Pugh family in your thoughts and prayers.



## News & Notes:

### **National Work Zone Awareness Week - April 26-30:**

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is an annual spring campaign held at the start of construction season encourages safe driving through highway work zones. The key message is for drivers to use extra caution in work zones.



### **Job Openings:**

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

***Member Services Coordinator***

***Contact Center Agent – Part Time***  
*(Bilingual Skills Preferred)*

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](mailto:abowman@al811.com).



## News & Notes:

### **CVSA International Roadcheck set for May 4-6**

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) has set May 4-6 as the dates for this year's International Roadcheck. Over that 72-hour period, commercial motor vehicle inspectors in jurisdictions throughout Canada, Mexico and the U.S. will conduct inspections on commercial motor vehicles and drivers. The 2020 results had more than 50,000 North American inspections with an overall vehicle OOS rate of 21%.

The focus for this year's roadcheck will focus on two categories driver operating requirements and vehicle mechanical fitness. For the driver category, hours of service will be highlighted this year, and for the vehicle category, inspectors will be paying special attention to lighting.

Vehicles that successfully pass inspection, without any critical vehicle inspection item violations found after a completed Level I or Level V Inspection, should receive a CVSA decal. In general, vehicles with a CVSA decal are not re-inspected during the three-month period during which the decal is valid. Instead, inspectors focus their efforts on vehicles without a valid CVSA decal.

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### **AUCA Newest Member Company:**

**LowBird Outdoors, LLC**

Atlanta, GA

Company Representative: Tom Powell

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### **OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program:**

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will hold a teleconference meeting May 19, 2021, to solicit public comments and suggestions on key issues facing OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program.

This is the seventh in a series of meetings on how the agency can improve the whistleblower program. Open to the public, the meeting will be held from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. CDT via telephone. Those interested in joining or participating in the meeting must [register by May 12, 2021](#). Call-in information will be provided to all registrants. There is no fee to register.



## News & Notes:

### **AUCA 2021 Scholarship Program:**

- AUCA has budgeted to award six (6) Scholarships worth \$1,500 each.
- Money will be paid directly to the College or Trade School of the applicant's choice.

#### Application Criteria:

- Must be a resident of Alabama.
- Must be enrolling in, or attending a community college, technical school, or university in Alabama.
- Open to any field of study, but preference may be given to applicants enrolled/enrolling in a construction-related curriculum.
- Must be either employed by, or have a parent or grandparent employed by a current AUCA member company.
- Application must be received by April 30, 2021.
- Applications are available on the AUCA website:

<http://www.aluca.org/scholarship-program.html>



### **2021 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal**

We are grateful to the many companies that have already paid their 2021 AUCA dues. For those that have not yet renewed, please make arrangements to submit your payment as soon as possible to ensure no interruption of membership 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:

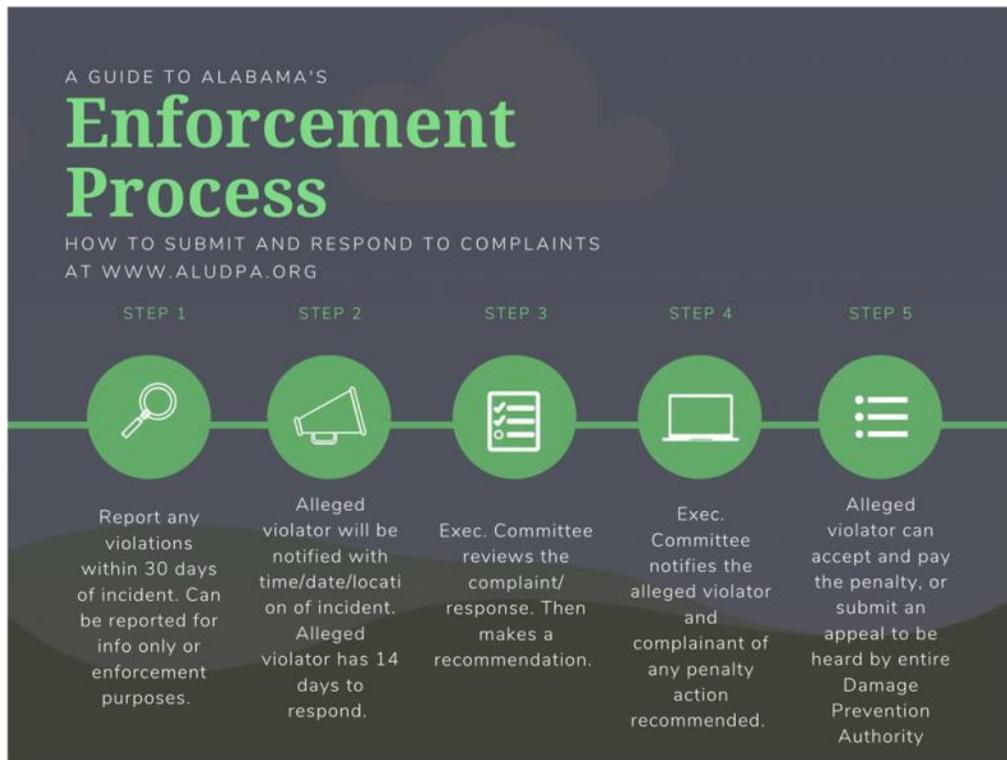
### Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority

The Alabama Underground Damage Prevention Authority (ALUDPA) was established for the purpose of enforcing the Alabama Underground Damage Prevention State Law, for reviewing penalty provisions, and for reviewing the adequacy of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Program.



The Enforcement Program is a complaint-driven process where a complaint may be submitted against an entity for violation of the Alabama Underground Damage Prevention State Law. A complaint may be submitted as information only and not designated for enforcement penalties.

A complaint may be submitted using the Complaint Form [at this Website](#) no later than 30 days after the occurrence of an alleged violation. The submitted Complaint Form is reviewed by the ALUDPA for determination of an alleged violation and for penalty provisions that may apply. The reported violator is then notified by the ALUDPA that a response may be submitted using the Response Form at this Website no later than 14 days after the ALUDPA notification.



*Upcoming Meetings & Events:*



**ADPA Virtual Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**

<https://v.ringcentral.com/join/938891757>

Meeting ID: 938891757

Smartphone Connect: +16504191505,,938891757#

Dial In: 1-650-419-1505

Access Code/Mtg ID: 938891757



**BMSS Presents: Biden's First 100 Days Webinar**

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

**8:30 a.m. — 10:30 a.m.**

Join us as we discuss the first 100 days of Biden's Administration. We are honored to have Phil Williams, Chief Policy Officer & General Counsel for the Alabama Policy Institute, as our keynote speaker who will provide a global policy/Washington D.C. update. This will be followed by a panel discussion of prominent local leaders who will discuss economic, legal, market and tax updates.

No cost to attend / [Registration](#) is required



***AUCA 2021 Fall General Meeting  
& Sporting Clay Shoot***

**Thursday, October 14, 2021**

**Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - Montgomery, AL**



## *Alabama Legislative News:*

As of the writing of this report, Legislators will be convening in Montgomery for the 27th legislative meeting day of the 2021 Alabama Legislative Session. The Legislature is limited to no more than 30 legislative meeting days within a 105 day calendar day period. The current plan is for lawmakers to meet on Thursday, April 29th, return for two days the week of May 3rd, followed by a week off before returning for the final day of the session on May 17th. To date, there have been a total of 1,051 bills introduced: 646 in the House and 405 in the Senate.

The Senate has approved a record \$7.7 Billion Education Trust Fund Budget for fiscal year 2022. The House this week also approved the largest education budget in the history of the state of Alabama. The House passed a substitute version of the Senate-originated budget by a vote of 101-1. The legislation returns to the Senate, where Senators could agree to changes made by the House and give the bill final passage, or send it to a conference committee. The \$2.5 Billion General Fund Budget, which had previously passed the House, is still awaiting passage in the Senate.

The headline news of the month was the Senate passage of a comprehensive gaming bill. After an effort to pass the originally proposed gaming legislation failed earlier in the session, many thought the issue was dead for 2021. However, the gaming legislation moved to the House of Representatives, where Speaker Mac McCutcheon has indicated that it is a priority to vote on before the session concludes. If it passes the House it would go on the ballot as a Constitutional Amendment for the November 2022 general election.

As proposed, the first \$750 Million of gaming revenue generated would be used to expand high-speed broadband internet access across the state. This could have a tremendously positive impact on AUCA member companies that are involved in the broadband segment of the utility contracting industry.

Also of significance to AUCA members is the advancement of HB483 and SB277. These are companion bills that deal with the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board (AOWB). Both bills await a final reading after having advanced with a substitute that includes the additional AUCA endorsed wording: "A general contractor licensed by the State Licensing Board for General Contractors, with a municipal and utility endorsement, while installing or maintaining wastewater systems as described in subdivision (2)." The passage of either of these two bills remains a high legislative priority for AUCA during the remainder of the 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

**April 1, 2021**

### **PRESIDENT BIDEN RELEASES BROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSAL**

President Biden's Infrastructure Proposal was released with some details, with more details forthcoming. A follow-up email will be sent when more details become available. The Biden Infrastructure Plan is set for \$2.25T over 8 years, containing broad infrastructure program funding such as:

- \$111B for water infrastructure; assuming most of this funding would be for the SRFs, annual funding levels are roughly consistent with the House Proposal (\$13.2 B / year) detailed further in this report; and
- \$621B for highways (\$115B to modernize 20,000 miles of highways, roads, and main streets) and bridges (to fix the most economically significant large bridges and repair the worst 10,000 smaller bridges), highway safety (\$20B); and
- Transit (\$85B for modernization and system expansion) and rail (including \$80B for Amtrak's repair backlog and to modernize the Northeast Corridor); and
- Ports and inland waterways and ferries (\$17B), airports (\$25B); electric vehicles (\$174B to accelerate the shift to electric vehicles, consumer rebates and tax incentives to buy American-made electric vehicles; and
- High-speed broadband (\$100B); and
- New grant and incentive program to build a national network of 500,000 charging stations by 2030, replace 50,000 diesel transit vehicles, and electrify at least 20% of yellow school buses).

In addition, funding for programs argued as connected/related to infrastructure are included. For example, billions are slotted for housing, manufacturing, health care, research, community colleges, VA hospitals and federal buildings. Whether Congress accepts this additional funding and includes these programs into their infrastructure proposal(s) is unknown.

The combined price tag for this package and the second one to be announced within weeks (health care, child tax credit, paid medical and family leave, etc.) could come in at more than \$4T. Spending would be offset by a tax increase of up to \$3T targeted at wealthier Americans and corporations – an increase in the top individual tax rate for those making over \$400,000 from 37% to 39.6% and an increase in the corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%. Also possibly included, though not verified, taxing capital gains as normal income and imposing a minimum tax on profits companies make from foreign subsidiaries. Not included are an increase in the gas tax and the imposition of a vehicle mileage tax.

# Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 20)

National infrastructure and business interest groups have been quoted celebrating the focus on a broad range of infrastructure programs while calling out challenges with the “pay for” targets and potential imposition of new regulatory and other measures related to labor. CWCC plans to focus on funding levels in its advocacy and recommends all CWCC members review the proposal details as state-by-state conditions related to regulations and labor vary greatly.

## **HOUSE & SENATE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING PROPOSALS**

On March 24th, the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee unanimously approved legislation to provide about \$35 billion over five years for the drinking water and clean water programs. The measure, which the EPW committee cleared by a bipartisan 20-0 vote, has as its centerpiece \$14.65 billion each for the Drinking Water and Clean Water SRFs.

As previously reported, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) moved forward with a proposal that would authorize \$50 billion in direct infrastructure investment over the next five years. The Clean Water Construction Coalition is listed as an early supporter of this bill as it meets our funding level objectives for the Clean Water SRF programs and more.

The following is a simplified comparison, all showing how the proposals are all improvements over FY '21 funding levels. As previously stated, the President’s proposal for water (assuming the funding is targeted for SRF programs) is in line with the House funding levels.

	<b>FY '21 Funding Level</b>	<b>Senate Proposal (5 years)</b>	<b>House Proposal (5 Years)</b>
<b>Clean Water SRF / Year</b>	\$1.6 B	\$2.9 B	\$8.0 B
<b>Drinking Water SRF / Year</b>	\$1.1 B	\$2.9 B	\$5.2 B
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$2.7 B	\$5.8 B	\$13.2 B



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](http://www.aluca.org)**

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