

## ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**APRIL 2023**



On April 20th, AUCA members and guests gathered at Arrowhead Country Club in Montgomery for the 2023 Spring General Meeting, Golf Tournament, and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil. Chris Stewart from the University of Alabama's Crimson Tide Sports Network served as the special guest speaker, and even stayed to participate in the golf tournament. The weather was absolutely perfect, and a great time was had by all attendees. A complete event wrap-up and photos can be found in the Newsletter on pages 2-11.

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

*Tim*

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# AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:

## Corporate & Hole Sponsors:



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

### **Hole Sponsors:**

**BenSource Employee Benefits**

**U.S. Pipe**

**C&H Construction Services, LLC**

**Johnson & Associates Engineering**

**Alabama Chapter - International Society of Explosives  
Engineers**

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### **Door & Player Prize Items:**

**Alabama 811**

**AUCA**

**Avadian Credit Union**

**CompTrust AGC**

**Go Build Alabama**

**Knapheide Truck Equipment**

**National Trench Safety**

**Servis1st Bank**

**Southern Linc**

**Southern Pipe & Supply**

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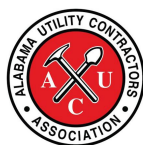
We appreciate the many sponsor companies, volunteers, and participants that graciously made this event possible.

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





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



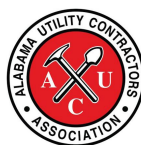


## *AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:*





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

### **Team and Individual Golf Prize Winners:**



**1st Place Team:**  
**Ferguson Waterworks - Pelham**



**2nd Place Team:**  
**Consolidated Pipe & Supply**



**NTS Putting Contest Winner:**  
Pete Mackey



**3rd Place Team:**  
**CLS General Contractors**



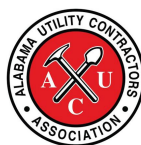
**Closest to Pin Hole #7:**  
Chris Brannon



**Longest Drive:**  
Tom Sims



**Closest to Pin Hole #16:**  
Ty Patterson





## News & Notes:

### **Birmingham Area Industry Lunch Meeting - April 12th** **Alabama Damage Prevention Law Updates** **Presented by Alabama 811**



### **Huntsville Area Industry Lunch Meeting - April 13th** **Alabama Damage Prevention Law Updates** **Presented by Alabama 811**



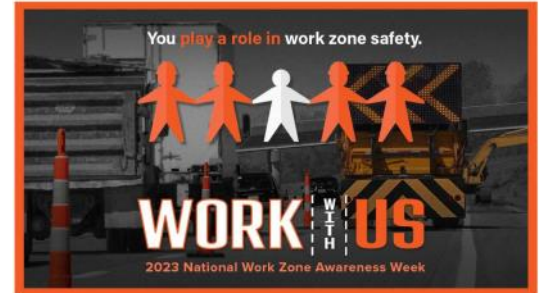


## News & Notes:

### **National Work Zone Awareness Week - April 17-21:**

The 2023 National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) was held April 17-21. 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 host was the Missouri Department of Transportation and the theme was "You play a role in work zone safety. Work with us!"

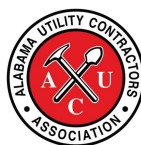


### **2 -Day Locator Certification Seminar (LCS)**

**Birmingham, AL  
May 11-12th**

Staking University is having a 2-Day Locating Seminar (LCS) May 11-12. It will be the first-ever public locating class in the state of Alabama and it will be hosted by Pipehorn Utility Tool Company.

Register information:  
<https://lnkd.in/grWzQEJt>





## News & Notes:

### **AUCA New Member Company:**

**CG Jones, LLC**

Tuscumbia, AL

Company Representatives: Trey Alexander, Doug Moomaw & Ronnie Golden

[www.gocgjones.com](http://www.gocgjones.com)

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### **Truitt News Radio:**

On April 1, AUCA Director Tim Ayers was once again a guest on the Truitt Radio Network Show. The show is co-hosted each Saturday morning by Tony Truitt, from AUCA member company Truitt Insurance & Bonding. The show is broadcast on Talk 99.5 in Birmingham, as well as on FM Talk 106.5 in Mobile and 103.9 The UMP in Huntsville.

A link to the show can be found here:

[INTERVIEW: Tim Ayers, Executive Director of the Alabama Utility Contractors Association, from our April 1, 2023 TRUITT NEWS RADIO SHOW \(buzzsprout.com\)](https://www.buzzsprout.com/1000000/episodes/1000000)

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### **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 soon.



### **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:

### **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 focus on promoting safe digging to the general public and professionals nationwide.

Know what's below, contact 811 before you dig!





## *Upcoming Meetings & Events:*

***AUCA Industry Lunch Meetings***  
**Dates and Locations To Be Announced**

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***AUCA Board of Directors Meeting***  
**Thursday, June 8, 2023**  
**Montgomery, AL**

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### ***Upcoming Auctions:***

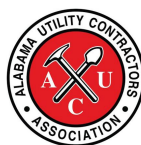
**Alabama Department of Transportation**  
**MAY 10 - 11, 2023**  
**Montgomery, AL**

**50th Annual Summer Auction**  
**June 13 - 15, 2023**  
**Montgomery, AL**

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



## *Alabama Legislative News:*

The 2023 Alabama Legislative Session has reached the midpoint, completing 15 of the possible 30 Legislative Meeting Days. To date, there have been 406 bills introduced in the House, and 267 in the Senate.

One of the impactful bills for the Construction Industry, SB24, which relates to indemnification agreements in construction contracts, had a public hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 19th. After hearing testimony from proponents and opponents, the bill was carried over for further consideration. The consensus is that SB24 will not be brought up again this session.

Another recently introduced bill of interest for our industry is HB299 that would specify that the Director of Transportation may order the relocation of utilities located within the public right-of-way and would clarify the process for a utility receiving a reimbursement for its relocation expenses.

The headline news this month was the introduction of a four-bill economic incentive package called the "Game Plan" to fuel job creation and secure Alabama's economic future. The bills deal with economic incentives packages including renewing and expanding the Alabama Jobs Act and Growing Alabama program which are set to sunset this year.

The four bills of the "Game Plan" passed both chambers of the legislature and were promptly signed into law by Governor Kay Ivey. The legislature's next priority will be to pass the State's 2024 Fiscal Year General Fund and the Education Trust Fund Budgets.

We have identified many of the bills introduced 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

## **April 2023 Insights**

### **Issues of Interest**

a. Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SRF's and WIIN Grant Funding: FY24 and Beyond

Support continued increase funding for the CWSRF and SDWSRF and the WIIN grant program, building upon traditional funding of the past few years in the annual appropriations process coupled with funding provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. That Law appropriates \$3B for FY24 and \$3.25 B for FY's 25 and 26 for both SRF's. It also appropriates \$500M for Title XVI for FY22-26, most of which is expected to go for WIIN grants.

b. Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SRF's Funding Versus Earmark Funding

Oppose what happened last year in the appropriations process regarding final funding of both SRF's and related earmarks. Going into final deliberations of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Bills, funding for the CWSRF and SDWSRF was basically about the same in both bills - @\$1.7B and \$1.2B respectfully. Then came the decision to reduce spending overall. Instead of reducing earmark spending – owing to Member pressure – basic programs were cut including the SRF's which were reduced to accommodate related earmarks. Continuance of that approach for FY24 and beyond is a real problem and counter to the goal of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which was to increase SRF funding over and above increases in the traditional appropriations process and not in lieu of reductions by that process.

c. Alternative Water Source Program (AWSP): FY24 and Beyond

Support funding of \$125M for the AWSP which was authorized in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and funded at \$125M in the House-passed Build Back Better bill.

d. FY24 Earmarks

Support continuance in FY24 appropriations bills but as a separate funding category and not as a takedown from the basic SRF programs.

e. STREAM Act

Support the STREAM Act (see separate section below) to be introduced by Senator Feinstein probably in April.

f. WIIN Grant Reform Bill

Regarding the Napolitano WIIN grant reform bill (see separate section below), her staffer said that the major features of the bill - increased funding, federal share increase, and repeal of prior approval appropriations requirement - were all included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and that now

## **Clean Water Construction Coalition Report**

*(Continued from page 18)*

they are focusing on smaller items, if any, that were not included. This is an issue that the Coalition needs to research further because the Coalition's view is that the Napolitano bill, which authorizes the WIIN grant program, is different than the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which appropriated WIIN grant funding, and thus, is still needed to support funding beyond the life of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to codify the Federal share increase which was done this year by the USBR administratively and not by law and thus, could be undone as well, etc. Also, if the Napolitano bill of last Congress is not needed because it was overtaken by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, then why is Feinstein pursuing the STREAM Act which addresses the same issues as the Napolitano bill bill????!! More to learn and report on this.

### **President's FY24 Budget**

For the CWSRF \$1.638B and the SDWSRF \$1.126B. The President's Budget rejects earmarks as a takedown from the basic SRF funding. For Title XVI, \$4M, the same as the FY23 Biden Budget but increased by the appropriators to \$60M, oh which \$20M was for WIIN grants.

### **FY24 Appropriations Bills and Coalition Earmark Requests**

Hearings on the FY24 appropriations bills are underway. No markups to date. A CR, once again, is expected. Regarding earmarks, Members' application forms are available. Many submission deadlines have already passed.

### **Pending 2022 Coalition WIIN Grants Awards Status and 2023 WIIN Grant Timetable**

Title XVI 2023 WIIN Grants – the USBR announced that \$150M plus what is provided in the FY23 appropriations bill (\$20M) would be available for 2023 WIIN grants. We're hearing closer to \$134M. As previously reported, for 2023 WIIN Act funding opportunities, the USBR is still developing the schedule but the plan is to first release the funding opportunity for the large-scale water recycling program in the spring with funding opportunities for WIIN grants and desalination construction to follow in the summer

### **Bills of Interest**

#### **1) Non-Controversial Infrastructure Items**

If there is an effort to pursue non-controversial infrastructure items like what Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) have indicated, advocate for programs of interest.

Included in the House-passed "Build Back Better" bill:

- \$30B for Safe Drinking Water SRF lead service line replacement projects;





## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

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- \$100M for state public water systems;
- \$700M to reduce lead in school drinking water;
- \$100M for large scale water recycling projects;
- \$1.15B for emergency drought relief;
- \$125M for Alternative Water Source Program grants;
- \$2B for sewer overflow and storm water reuse grants;
- \$4B for reduction of carbon in the surface transportation sector;
- \$4B for affordable and safe transportation access; and,
- \$6B for local surface transportation projects.

No funding for the Clean Water SRF is included in the House BBB. It does include new taxes.

Unofficially, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee released its BBB title which includes \$9B for SDWSRF-funded lead remediation projects, \$225M for rural and low-income water assistance grants, \$125M for Alternative Water Source Program grants, and \$500M for sewer overflow and storm water reuse municipal grants.

- 2) H.R. 5118, the "Wildlife Response and Drought Resiliency Act" and S. 4231, the "STREAM Act" (Support to Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture and Municipalities Act) NOTE: both Last Congress.

H.R. 5118 authorizes \$600M for WIIN grants. This is in addition to the \$550M appropriated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for both traditional Title XVI and WIIN grants. The bill also increases the Federal share from \$20M to \$50M, provides priority project funding and authorizes \$700M (again, this is in addition to the \$450M appropriated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) for large water recycling projects with total estimated cost of at least \$500M.

S. 4231 authorizes \$300M for FY24-28 for WIIN grants. These funds are over and above the BIF WIIN grant appropriated amount of \$550M. The Federal share is increased from \$20M to \$50M. Priority funding is given to projects that meet certain criteria.

### **118th Congress Composition**

As of this date, in the House, Republicans have 222 members and the Democrats 213. In the Senate, there are 51 Democrats and 49 Republican.

### **Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023**

To review, included in the FY23 omnibus appropriations bill is \$1.639B (state allotments and ear-



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

*(Continued from page 20)*

marks) for the Clean Water SRF, which is in addition to the \$2.750B provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act aka the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, \$1.126B (state allotments and earmarks) for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, which is in addition to the \$2.750B provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act aka the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and “not less than \$20M” for WIIN grants.

### **Bill Tracking**

Many bills are introduced. Most of them for political reasons. Most do not advance beyond introduction – committee hearing, markup, Floor action. Accordingly, we will only note bills of interest that are advancing through the legislative process and/or come to our attention.



[cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org](http://cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org)



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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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