

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AUGUST 2020

Director's Comments:



Charles Dickens wrote in his novel *A Tale of Two Cities* "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair..."

That seems to be a fittingly appropriate description for how this year has gone, and for the current state of our world right now. I know I speak for most everyone when I say that I'm tired of writing about COVID-19. Yet, it remains a serious reality that we must all continue to contend with. However, I feel brighter days are definitely ahead.

While in some areas, governments are still restricting businesses from operating, schools have safely reopened, and even high school football games have been played. College football will also return next month. And though some conferences have opted not to play, thankfully the good ones that win championships are still planning to.

In our slow return to normalcy, AUCA will hold our first in-person Board Meeting since the pandemic on September 9th in Montgomery. We are also planning to safely hold our Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot on October 15th in Montgomery, where Jeremiah Castille is scheduled to be our guest speaker. Jeremiah is a man committed to faithfulness in every area of life and we hope you'll make plans to come out and hear his uplifting message.

Let's also continue to pray for an immediate end to this pandemic, and for more "it was the best of times" for us all.

Tim

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Proceeding With Caution

UPDATED STATEWIDE COVID-19 HEALTH ORDER FOR ALABAMA

AMENDED SAFER AT HOME

The Safer at Home order extends until October 2nd at 5 p.m.



WHAT'S STAYING THE SAME:

MASKS IN SCHOOLS

Masks required in schools and colleges, where possible, for employees and students in second grade and above

MASKS

Masks required in public when interacting within 6 feet with people of another household, subject to certain exceptions

ENTERTAINMENT VENUES (SUCH AS ARCADES, THEATERS, BOWLING ALLEYS)

May open subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines

ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Allowed subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

May open subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines

CHILD DAY CARE FACILITIES

May open subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines

SUMMER CAMP

May open subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines

INDIVIDUALS

Encouraged to stay home and follow good sanitation practices

EMPLOYERS

Businesses may open subject to sanitation and social-distancing guidelines

RETAIL STORES

All retail stores may open subject to 50% occupancy rate, social-distancing and sanitation rules

MEDICAL PROCEDURES

Allowed unless prohibited in the future by the State Health Officer to preserve resources necessary to diagnose and treat COVID-19; providers must follow COVID-19-related rules and guidance from state regulatory boards or public health authorities

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS

Regular programming still suspended except meals still available through curbside pick-up or delivery

HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES

Still must implement policies to restrict visitation

NON-WORK GATHERINGS

Still required to maintain 6 feet of distance between persons not from same household

RESTAURANTS, BARS AND BREWERIES

May open with limited table seating, 6 feet between tables and subject to additional sanitation rules and guidelines

ATHLETIC FACILITIES (SUCH AS FITNESS CENTERS AND COMMERCIAL GYMS)

Athletic facilities may open subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines

CLOSE-CONTACT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Close-contact service providers (such as barber shops, hair salons, nail salons, tattoo services) may open subject to social-distancing and sanitation rules and guidelines

BEACHES

Open with no limit on gatherings. Must maintain 6 feet of separation.

Upcoming Events:

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting
September 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.



A CGA REGIONAL PARTNER EVENT

September 22 - 24, 2020
The Grand Hotel, Point Clear



***Construction, Trucks and
Forestry Equipment Auction***

Montgomery, AL
September 22-25, 2020

For more information visit
www.jmwood.com



***AUCA 2020 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot***

Thursday, October 15, 2020

Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club - Montgomery, AL



AUCA Local Industry Lunch Meetings
Meeting Dates and Locations To Be Announced



ALABAMA
damage prevention
Summit
A CGA REGIONAL PARTNER EVENT

811

September 22 - 24, 2020



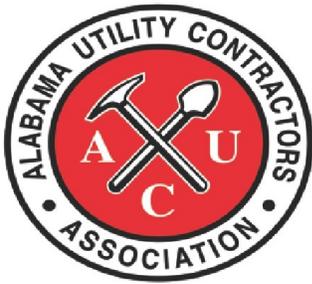
*Room Block
Extended to
September 4*

2020
Alabama
Damage
Prevention
Summit
The Grand Hotel,
Point Clear

www.alabama.damagepreventionsummit.com

expert led sessions
exhibits
demonstrations
networking with industry stakeholders
latest legislative information

plus GIS Track



AUCA 2020 Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

Thursday, October 15, 2020
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
4758 Lower Wetumpka Road Montgomery, AL 36110

General Meeting & Steak Lunch - Begins at 11:00 a.m.
Raffle Drawing - 12:30 p.m.
Sporting Clay Shoot - Begins at Approximately 1:00 p.m.



General Meeting & Steak Lunch Guest Speaker: Jeremiah Castille

Cost: \$20/Non-Shooters

(Lunch Included with Clay Shoot Registration or Sponsorship)

Come network with your peers, win great door prizes, and enjoy a delicious steak lunch while listening to our distinguished guest speaker. We will also vote on the 2021 AUCA Board of Directors and Officers, and present the AUCA "Member of the Year" Awards.

Annual Sporting Clay Shoot

Cost: \$600/Team or \$150/Individual

(Participants must provide own Gun and Shells)

Complete attached Registration Form and return ASAP.

Corporate Sponsorship opportunities available.

Sign up now before the event sells out!



AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle

This year we are again raffling two great prizes that anyone can use:

Prize #1: \$1,000 Cash

Prize #2: \$500 Cash

Tickets are \$10 each and allow two (2) chances to win.

(You do not have to be present to win)

All money raised from the raffle will go towards the AUCA PAC Fund to help support our continued Legislative efforts in Montgomery and Washington.

News & Notes:

USDA Funding \$6 Million in Upgrades to Water Systems in Rural Alabama:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced this month that it is investing over \$6 million to improve the water infrastructure in four rural Alabama towns. The Alabama investments are part of a nationwide package of \$462 million the USDA is spending to modernize the drinking water and wastewater systems in rural areas across the country.

The project descriptions for the four investments, per the USDA:

- The town of Bear Creek located in Marion County will use a \$1,227,000 loan and a \$828,000 grant to make much-needed upgrades and repairs to the water system. The existing system is experiencing a high volume of water loss due to the age and condition of the water system.
- The city of Clio will use a \$792,000 loan and a \$466,000 grant to make upgrades and repairs to the water system located in Barbour County. The repairs will include updating three existing steel water elevated storage tanks components by adding overflows, vents, ladders and other safety features, and cleaning and repainting the interior and exterior of the tanks with a protective coating.
- In Houston County, the town of Columbia will use a \$256,000 loan to make essential improvements to the existing water system. Currently, all the water meters are still manually read and beyond their useful life. There are also issues with some of the meters that fail to provide accurate readings and detect water loss. The project will replace all the old meters with new radio-read meters that will allow one person to obtain the readings, a two-day task, in one day.
- The Lemoyne Water System, Inc., will use a \$2,473,000 loan to make necessary upgrades and improvements to the existing water system located in Mobile County. These improvements include replacing one of three wells, adding a generator to one of the existing wells, adding new hydrants at the end of lines, and will include the extension of water mains to make water service available to unserved households in the area.

USDA Rural Development State Director for Alabama Chris Beeker said in a statement accompanying the announcement: "I am pleased to see Alabama rural water systems receive Water and Environmental Program (WEP) funding to upgrade and repair infrastructure. These types of investments are vital in delivering safe and adequate water supplies to our rural communities. Rural Development stands ready to help rural communities across the state by providing financial assistance, because when rural America prospers, all of America prospers."



News & Notes:

AUCA 2021 Board of Directors Nominations:

AUCA is seeking nominations from members interested in serving on the 2021 AUCA Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving, or know someone that you think would be an asset to the AUCA Board, please submit the recommendation by August 31st.

Nomination Forms have been sent out electronically to all member companies. The Nominating Committee will review the nomination forms of those desiring to serve on the 2021 Board at the September 9th AUCA Board Meeting. The proposed slate of nominees will be announced to the membership and the candidates will be voted on by the members in attendance at the October 15th General Meeting in Montgomery.

2020 U.S. Census - Alabama Counts!



THE STATE CURRENTLY TRAILS BOTH OF ALABAMA AND AUBURN'S OPENING SEC OPPONENTS IN 2020 CENSUS PARTICIPATION. LET'S STEP IT UP!



COVID-19 Guidance for the Construction Workforce

OSHA is committed to protecting the health and safety of America's workers and workplaces during these unprecedented times. The agency will be issuing a series of industry-specific alerts designed to keep workers safe.

When working in the construction industry, the following tips can help reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus:

- Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick.
- Allow workers to wear masks over their nose and mouth to prevent them from spreading the virus.
- Continue to use other normal control measures, including personal protective equipment (PPE), necessary to protect workers from other job hazards associated with construction activities.
- Advise workers to avoid physical contact with others and direct employees/contractors/visitors to increase personal space to at least six feet, where possible. Where work trailers are used, all workers should maintain social distancing while inside the trailers.
- Train workers how to properly put on, use/wear, and take off protective clothing and equipment.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes.
- Promote personal hygiene. If workers do not have immediate access to soap and water for handwashing, provide alcohol-based hand rubs containing at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Use Environmental Protection Agency-approved cleaning chemicals from [List N](#) or that have label claims against the coronavirus.
- To the extent tools or equipment must be shared, provide and instruct workers to use alcohol-based wipes to clean tools before and after use. When cleaning tools and equipment, workers should consult manufacturer recommendations for proper cleaning techniques and restrictions.
- Keep in-person meetings (including toolbox talks and safety meetings) as short as possible, limit the number of workers in attendance, and use social distancing practices.
- Clean and disinfect portable jobsite toilets regularly. Hand sanitizer dispensers should be filled regularly. Frequently-touched items (i.e., door pulls and toilet seats) should be disinfected.
- Encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns.

For more information, visit www.osha.gov/coronavirus or call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

*OSHA issues alerts to draw attention to
worker safety and health issues and solutions.*

Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

August 3, 2020

UPDATE ON WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

On July 31st the House passed its mega infrastructure bill by a mostly partisan vote of 233-188. The cornerstone of the bill is the reauthorization of the FAST Act – the highway/transit program.

“Water items of interest” included:

- Alternative Water Source Program - \$600M - see p. 49 of the Section-by-Section and pp.1122-1124 of the Bill Text;
- Clean Water SRF -\$40B (\$8B annually for 5 years) - see p.50 of the Section-by-Section and pp.1132-1133 of the Bill Text;
- Safe Drinking Water SRF - \$4.140B for FY22; \$4.8B for FY23; and \$5.5B for FY 24 and 25 - see p.61 of the Section-by-Section and p.1463 of the Bill Text; and,
- Title 16 WIIN Grants - \$500M - sec p.78 of the Section-by-Section and pp.1781-1783 of the Bill Text; and,
- Rewrite of the Huffman omnibus bill including a process to de-authorize inactive USBR water projects

So far the discussion of a Senate infrastructure bill has focused only on the bipartisan FAST Act and WRDA reauthorization bills reported by the Environment and Public Works Committee. COVID-19 Recovery Bills have not included water infrastructure funding to any noteworthy degree. The House Bills "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020" (AWIA) and the "Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020") funding levels are favored by, but are not expected to move in the Senate.

HOUSE WRDA BILL

On July 29, the House passed H.R. 7575, the “Water Resources Development Act of 2020” which would authorize an estimated \$8.6 billion in federal funds to help finance 34 new Army Corps of Engineers construction projects subject to appropriations. Counting the projects' nonfederal shares, it is estimated that the projects' total funding will be at about \$13 billion.

The bill is a Corps of Engineers bill only and is trending as a bipartisan effort. No other water programs included such as reauthorization of the CWSRF. The Senate bills, already reported from committee, include non-Corps items (see above). However, of interest is H.R. 1497 (details included in Key Advocates report) which, while a separate bill, will probably link up with the House WRDA bill as



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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it goes to conference, thereby creating a situation where reauthorization of the CWSRF (a high priority for the CWCC) has a good chance of happening.

Among other provisions in the new WRDA is a priority for committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), language to “unlock” the surplus in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. DeFazio is quoted saying that the bill would allow about \$10 billion in already collected Harbor Maintenance Taxes to be used for port improvements and harbor dredging around the U.S.

WRDA authorizes Corps projects while the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill provides funding.

FEDS ADOPT REGULATIONS TO MODERNIZE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEPA

On July 15th, the Trump Administration announced it has finalized the recent NEPA proposal supported by the UTCA. The changes aim to streamline environmental reviews that can take many years to complete. The White House states that these reforms will reduce review time to two years or less.

According to the new proposal, its revisions would modernize the NEPA regulations and facilitate more efficient, effective, and timely NEPA reviews. The proposed changes to NEPA will result in a more expeditious, while still thorough, review process, without impacting existing environmental standards. Projects that trigger NEPA reviews are not put out to bid until its processes (and any litigation) play out. Efforts to streamline and modernize NEPA are long overdue and welcome to the infrastructure construction industry.

As a reminder, CWCC added a policy position to encourage streamlining approvals for infrastructure projects in 2019. Although most water infrastructure projects do not trigger NEPA review, a lot of underground utility work critical to the economic outlook for our members comes alongside transportation projects. Associations engaged in advocacy for energy utility project work and flooding / hardening and/or coastal resiliency should pay close attention to this proposal.

CWCC members supported this proposal with the expectation that streamlined procedures and clearer requirements will allow projects to proceed without sacrificing a thorough and efficient review. We expect that these reforms will lead to more projects moving to bid faster than in the past. This will result in providing for faster and longer-lasting improvements to highway and utility infrastructure in New Jersey and throughout the United States.

Fleet Safety:

Provided by J. Smith Lanier & Co., a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC company

BRAKE SAFETY WEEK SET FOR AUGUST 23-29

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) Brake Safety Week will proceed as scheduled, August 23-29.

Brake Safety Week is part of CVSA's Operation Airbrake program, in partnership with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators.

It is part of law enforcement's effort to reduce brake-related crashes by conducting roadside inspections and identifying and removing unsafe commercial motor vehicles from roadways.

Inspections

Enforcement officials will inspect commercial motor vehicles throughout the week and vehicles found to have critical out-of-service brake violations, or other critical vehicle out-of-service inspection item violations, will be restricted from traveling until those violations are corrected. Vehicles that pass eligible inspections may receive a passed-inspection CVSA decal.

"Despite the pandemic, commercial motor vehicle safety inspectors continue to prioritize vehicle and driver safety by conducting inspections every day," said CVSA President Sgt. John Samis with the Delaware State Police. "Safety is always our top priority and it's our mission to ensure the vehicles on our roadways have met all safety standards and regulations. This is especially important as we rally behind truck drivers as they transport essential goods during this public health crisis. We need to do everything we can to ensure that the vehicles truck drivers are driving are as safe as possible."

Brake System Components

Checking brake system components is always part of the roadside inspection process; however, inspectors will be paying special attention to brake hoses/tubing during this year's Brake Safety Week to highlight the importance of those components to vehicle mechanical fitness and safety.

The brake systems on commercial motor vehicles are comprised of components that work together to slow and stop the vehicle, and brake hoses/tubing are essential for the proper operation of those systems. Brake hoses/tubing must be properly attached, undamaged, without leaks and appropriately flexible. Brake hoses/tubing are an important part of the braking system so when they do fail, they can cause problems for the entire braking system.



Fleet Safety:

(Continued from page 11)

2019 Inspection Results

During last year's International Road Check inspection and enforcement initiative, brake system and brake adjustment violations accounted for 45.1% of all out-of-service conditions. That's more than any other vehicle violation category. Additionally during last year's Brake Safety Week, 13.5% of the commercial motor vehicles inspected had brake-related vehicle inspection item violations and were placed out of service.

Brake Safety Month

In addition to CVSA's Brake Safety Week, August is also Brake Safety Awareness Month. Along with inspections and enforcement, law enforcement agencies also engage in outreach and awareness efforts to educate drivers, motor carriers, mechanics, owner-operators and others on the importance of proper brake maintenance, operation and performance.

"Brakes are one of the most important systems in a vehicle," added Sgt. Samis. "Failure of any component of a brake system could be catastrophic. Routine brake system inspections and component replacement are vital to the safety of commercial motor vehicles."

*Sources: <https://www.cvsa.org/news-entry/2020-brake-safety-week/>



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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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www.aluca.org**

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