

## ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**SEPTEMBER 2017**

### **Director's Comments:**



Over the course of the past few weeks, the Caribbean and parts of our nation have been rocked by two major Hurricanes, Harvey and Irma. Additionally, our neighbors in Mexico were impacted by devastating earthquakes. Our first priority is to pray that the lives and resources that cannot be replaced are protected. Secondly, we need to help with the rebuilding efforts in every humanitarian way.

However, as the rebuilding process begins to take shape, the economic impact will be felt by all - even those not directly in the path of the disasters. How so? The already difficult task of finding quality workers on jobsites here in Alabama will now be even more complicated. Skilled workers that have unlimited opportunities in other markets may go where there is demand. Material prices on many materials have already spiked, and will only worsen as the rebuilding really cranks up. These issues pose a serious challenge for even the most savvy business owners, superintendents, or project managers.

What are some solutions? We need to be proactive in our efforts to attract and train workers to enter our industry. However, we desperately need the help of the government for this to happen. No, not by starting or funding yet another bureaucratic program, but by ending some of the ones they already have. Too many able-bodied citizens that could be working, are instead collecting a check not to. As long as this is an option, there will never be an incentive for some people to go to work.

AUCA has our statewide Fall General Meeting coming up on October 19th in Montgomery, with Brodie Croyle as our special guest speaker. At the meeting we will vote on our Officers and Board of Directors to lead us into 2018. I hope to see you there!

*Tim*

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Upcoming Events:

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

**Current Event Sponsors:**

*(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is October 13th)*

**Platinum Sponsor:**



**Tractor & Equipment Company**  
*Serving the Southeast Since 1943.*

**Gold Sponsors:**



**Silver Sponsors:**



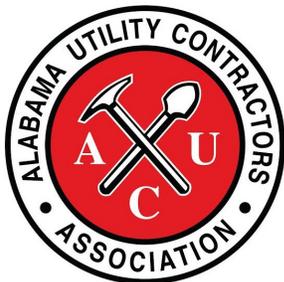
A Forterra Company



**Bronze Sponsors:**



## Upcoming Events:



### **AUCA 2017 Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot**

**Thursday, October 19, 2017**  
**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: Brodie Croyle**

**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 special guest speaker. We will also vote on the 2018 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**

We are raffling two great prizes:

Prize #1: YETI Tundra 35 Cooler

Prize #2: Beretta A300 Outlander 12 Gauge Shotgun



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.



## OCTOBER 19, 2017 - 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 October 13, 2017

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPORTING CLAY SHOOT TEAM & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



**PLATINUM SPONSOR - SOLD!!!**



**Tractor & Equipment Company**

*Serving the Southeast Since 1943.*



**GOLD SPONSOR - \$1,000**

**Includes:** 4-man team, cart, name recognition and company logo on AUCA website, event signage, promotional materials, and four (4) station sponsorships



**SILVER SPONSOR - \$650**

**Includes:** 4-man team, cart, name recognition on event signage, and station sponsorship



**BRONZE SPONSOR - \$250**

**Includes:** Admission for two (2) company representatives to attend General Meeting Lunch, name recognition on event signage, station sponsorship, and may provide trappers on course to network with shooters and hand out company prizes or give-a-ways



**4-PERSON TEAM & CART - \$600**

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_



**INDIVIDUAL SHOOTER & CART - \$150**

3.) \_\_\_\_\_

4.) \_\_\_\_\_

**CART NEEDED: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_**

Carts provided for all shooters (you may also bring your own cart/ATV)

You must provide your own shells (Factory shells only - #7-1/2 or higher shot load)

Safety rules must be followed; signed waiver required; ear plugs and eye protection recommended

### SPORTING CLAY SHOOT TEAM PRIZES

1st Place Team: \$400 + Trophies    2nd Place Team: \$300 + Trophies    3rd Place Team: \$200 + Trophies

### GENERAL MEETING LUNCH (INCLUDED w/ TEAM REGISTRATION or SPONSORSHIP)

General Meeting Lunch: \$20/Non-Shooter x Quantity ( ) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT REQUESTED BEFORE OR ON DAY OF EVENT! Return form and payment to:**

Alabama Utility Contractors Association

P.O. Box 383185

Birmingham, Alabama 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.**

*Upcoming Events:*



***Mock Line Strike Meetings***

**Zone 11** (*Blount, Jefferson, Walker*)  
**October 3rd**

**Zone 15** (*Autauga, Dallas, Elmore, Lowndes, Montgomery*)  
**October 5th**

**Zones 1/2** (*Mobile/Baldwin*)  
**October 10th**

**Zone 6** (*Hale, Perry, Tuscaloosa*)  
**October 17th**

**Zone 9** (*Cullman, Limestone, Madison, Morgan*)  
**October 19th**

During the Mock Line Strikes, presented by Alabama 811, excavators will learn the local one-call system requirements and processes, responsibilities during a line locate, an understanding of pipeline markers and the process of reporting pipeline damage in a more hands-on learning format.

Emergency Officials will witness proper response procedures, and observe local firefighters, police officers and pipeline operators work in a unified command during a simulated pipeline rupture.

By attending this meeting, you will receive the following:

- Presentation geared to target emergency responders, public officials, excavators, and contractors
- Local Pipeline and Distribution Emergency Contact Information
- Meet Local Pipeline and Distribution Representatives

If you should have any questions, please contact McKay Lyvers at Alabama 811 by phone at (205) 731-3207, or email at [mlyvers@al811.com](mailto:mlyvers@al811.com).



*News & Notes:*

***ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
PROPOSED 2018 LEADERSHIP TEAM***

To Be Voted On At General Meeting Scheduled For October 19, 2017

***OFFICERS***

**PRESIDENT:** AARON SCHMIDT, *SCHMIDT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.*

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:** BILL McGOUGH, *W.R. MITCHELL CONTRACTOR, INC.*

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:** ERIC HUDGENS, *SLOAN UTILITY CONTRACTING, INC.*

**SECRETARY/TREASURER:** GAVIN JONES, *BAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS, INC.*

***BOARD MEMBERS***

SHAUN GONZALES, *WESCO, INC. (IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT)*

RANDY BISHOP, *CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC.*

DOUG BLANKENSHIP, *BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING, INC.*

ANDRU BRAMBLETT, *UNITI FIBER*

ROBBIE BUTLER, *CLEARY CONSTRUCTION, INC.*

BILL CARTER, *AMERICAN DUCTILE IRON PIPE*

RONNIE GOLDEN, *GOLDEN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY*

LARRY LOGSDON, *WALLACE, JORDAN, RATLIFF, & BRANDT, LLC*

MARK MAYFIELD, *MILLER PIPELINE, LLC*

RICHARD MURPHREE, *SOUTHERN PIPE & SUPPLY*

STEVE WALKER, *JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.*

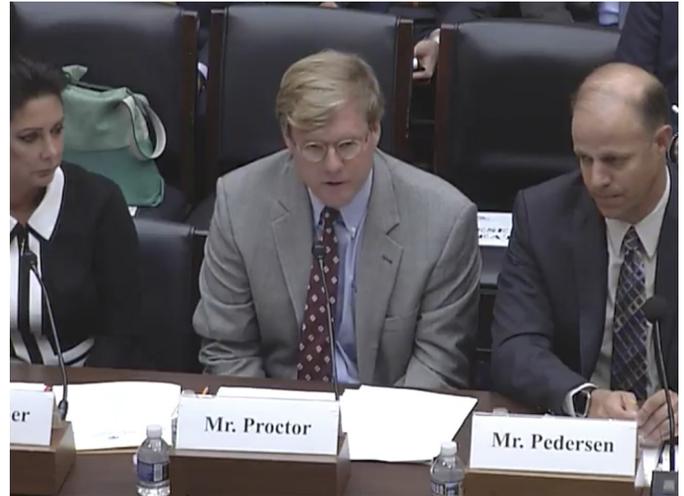
TERRY YOUNG, *MILLENNIUM RISK MANAGERS, LLC*



## News & Notes:

### **AUCA Member Company Testifies Before Congress:**

McWane Senior Vice President and General Counsel Jim Proctor testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment during a September 26th hearing on "Building a 21st Century Water Infrastructure for America: Water Stakeholders' Perspective."



Proctor explained that America's water and wastewater infrastructure is nearing its end and more than \$1 trillion is needed over the next 20 years to rebuild and rehabilitate these systems. However our water infrastructure challenges cannot be solved by simply providing more federal funding. A fundamental shift away from the traditional approaches must occur, through a combination of new sources of funding, greater accountability, and improved governance.

### **U.S. Senate Republican Runoff:**

On September 26th, Judge Roy Moore handily defeated incumbent Luther Strange in the Republican runoff for the United States Senate. This, despite the endorsements of President Trump and Vice-President Pence, who both came to the state this month to campaign for Strange. Moore will now face Democratic challenger Doug Jones in the December 12th primary.

Strange was the incumbent by being appointed to the post in February by former Governor Robert Bentley, who resigned two months later as part of plea deal related to campaign finance and ethics violations. Strange will remain in office until the next Senator is sworn in following the election in December.

After having gone 20 years without a change in Senators, Alabama will now have 3 different individuals hold the office with a span of 12 months.



**News & Notes:**

**Huntsville Area Lunch Meeting - September 21st**

*Guest Speaker: Madison County Commission Chairman Dale Strong*



Madison County Commission Chairman Dale Strong visited with AUCA and discussed recent growth in the Huntsville and Madison County area, as well as continued Economic Development efforts to attract new industries.

**Birmingham Area Lunch Meeting - September 26th**

*Guest Speaker: Jefferson County Manager Tony Petelos*



Jefferson County Manager Tony Petelos met with our Birmingham group to talk about his role in helping Jefferson County successfully emerge from Bankruptcy. Special thanks to Truckworx for hosting the meeting.



News & Notes:

**Alabama Damage Prevention Summit  
Montgomery - September 27-28, 2017**



The 4th Annual Damage Prevention Summit was held at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery on September 27-28th. The event was well attended by stakeholders from all aspects of the damage prevention industry.

AUCA was represented in attendance, along with several member companies. An overview of the work of the One-Call Study Commission was given, and educational session topics covered issues such as Making sense out of DOT Permitting, Locating 101, and the Impact of Damaging Cable.



*Sam Hall - Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration presenting on "Why you should care what PHMSA thinks about your state's dig law"*

**Alabama One-Call Notification System Study Commission Update:**

The One-Call Study Commission met on September 18th at Alabama Power's office in Clanton and reviewed a draft copy of the final report. There were a few suggested changes, which will result in another draft being issued before the report is completed in October. When completed, the report will be sent to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President of the Senate. The report will serve as a blueprint for our future legislative efforts.

As a reminder, the group was established to develop a report on the expedience and validity of having a single One-Call notification system to serve the entire State of Alabama, including the appropriate governance, legislative oversight, and membership outreach practices of the organization; the adequacy of the enforcement provisions of current law; and other items related to the One-Call Law that may increase the level of safety of its citizens.



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC

### **HOUSE SEES MOVEMENT ON CLEAN WATER AND DRINKING WATER SRF'S**

UTCA staff and CCLE representatives recently met with Ranking Member on House Energy and Commerce Committee. Congressman Frank Pallone, to thank him for his efforts to pass Congressman Harper's "Drinking Water System Improvement Act." During the meeting, the Congressman stated that his colleagues on House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee were working to introduce and move legislation to reauthorize the Clean Water Act with similar Clean Water SRF language as contained in the Drinking Water measure shortly after they return from recess.

As we reported to you, on July 27, by a bipartisan voice vote, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce favorably reported to the House H.R.3387, the "Drinking Water System Improvement Act," which, in part (per below) reauthorizes the Safe Drinking SRF. Key sections are noted as follows.

- Allows the use of those funds for siting, associated pre-construction activities, and replacing or rehabilitating aging treatment, storage, or distribution facilities of public water systems
- Extends the application of the American iron and steel requirements in section 1452(a)(4) to DWSRF funds for the life of the funding authorization in the bill
- Requires public water systems serving more than 10,000 persons to certify to their State that they have considered the costs and effectiveness of the relevant processes, materials, techniques, and technologies used in the project or activity supported with DWSRF funds
- Increases the amount of loan subsidies available for disadvantaged communities to 35 percent and extends the repayment schedule for DWSRF loans for disadvantaged communities from 30 years to 40 years
- Prohibits the use of those funds for Clean Water Act compliance
- Amends section 1452(k)(2) of the SDWA to allow States to use a portion of their DWSRF allocation to delineate, assess, and update their source water protection plans

Lastly, the bill amends section 1452(m) of the SDWA to reauthorize \$8 billion in capitalization grants for FY 2018 through FY 2022. Specifically, it authorizes:

- \$1.2 billion in FY 2018
- \$1.4 billion in FY 2019
- \$1.6 billion in FY 2020
- \$1.8 billion in FY 2021
- \$2.0 billion in FY 2022



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

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Coalition representatives will continue to advocate for H.R.3387 as it moves to the floor of the House as well as urge the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to reauthorize the Clean Water Act.

### **SENATE INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES**

Last month, Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and the Committee's Ranking Democrat, Senator Carper (D-Del), put a call out to panel members (and likely beyond) for "infrastructure priorities, policy proposals and recommendations" for a committee produced title of a "comprehensive infrastructure bill". At that time, Coalition representatives submitted to all staff and 40 Senators (those represented by State Coalition members) the following (condensed version):

On behalf of the Clean Water Construction Coalition, with Association membership in your State, I am writing to respectfully request that the following be included in the Senator's submission per the article below:

*\$4.2B for the Clean Water SRF (triple funding per the President's campaign proposal) ... note...this amount is for FY19, if the bill is a multiyear bill, then we recommend increasing the \$4.2B by at least \$100M for each fiscal year thereafter*

*\$2.6B for the Safe Drinking Water SRF (triple funding per the President's campaign proposal) ...note...this amount is for FY19, if the bill is a multiyear bill, then we recommend increasing the \$2.6B by at least \$100M for each fiscal year thereafter*

*The Committee is reviewing the submissions and is expected to release its infrastructure "plan" in September. Other Senate committees—including, but not limited to, Banking, Commerce and Finance— have not taken any action to date on the infrastructure issue.*

At the same time, the "gang of eight" Democratic Senators' continue to build the outline of a \$1T 10-year infrastructure plan, as reported last month. Senator Schumer and Congresswoman Pelosi held a joint conference on the issue, with a target of \$1T over 10 years.

### **ADMINISTRATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE**

The Trump Administration has been somewhat quiet regarding its infrastructure initiative, as other

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## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

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issues (health care, tax reform, Russia) continue to take priority. The President made a speech last month again referencing a \$1T infrastructure package with \$200B in direct Federal spending including \$25B for rural infrastructure, \$15B for transformative projects (not defined), and \$100B for local infrastructure, leaving \$60B undefined. No more specifics have been seen, but a legislative proposal is expected before the end of September.

On August 17, President Trump ended plans for an Advisory Council on Infrastructure, a little over a month after it was created by an Executive Order per the following. The move came a day after Trump disbanded two other councils – the Manufacturing Council and the Strategy & Policy Forum.

### **FEDERAL FY2018 HOUSE AND SENATE TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL COMPARISON**

Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have now approved federal FY'18 funding bills for DOT. However, with the start of the new fiscal year on October 1st, it is likely that a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) will be required to keep the programs funded.

The Senate bill provides more money than the House bill for a number of programs including FTA's Capital Improvement Grant (CIG) program which funds transit New Start, Small Start, and Core Capacity projects. The Senate bill provides \$2.13B versus the House level of \$1.75B, although less than the current funding of \$2.4B. The Senate funding level, should it prevail in the final bill, is sufficient to fund FY18 grants to all 13 CIG projects (New Starts and Core Capacity) with existing FFGAs and well as approximately \$600M in funding for New Start and Core Capacity projects which expect to sign FFGAs during FY18. These projects potentially include the Maryland Purple Line, Santa Ana, CA Streetcar, Seattle Lynwood Link Extension, and two projects in Minneapolis. The Administration had not requested any funding for projects without an existing FFGA. \$150M is provided for existing Small Start projects and \$168.4M for new Small Starts. The Senate included language similar to that in the House report which directs the DOT Secretary to continue to advance eligible projects through the CIG rating and approval process.

The Senate bill funds the TIGER program at \$550M compared with the House which zeroed out the program as did the Administration in its FY18 budget request. Current funding is \$500M. The Senate bill appropriates the full FY18 FAST Act authorized funding levels for highway and transit formula programs - as does the House bill.



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

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Also, the Senate bill funds Amtrak at the full amount authorized in the FAST Act - approximately \$1.6B which includes funding for both the Northeast Corridor and the National Network (long distance lines). The Administration had proposed to eliminate funding for the long-distance lines.

Lastly, the Senate includes language increasing the FAA's Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) cap from the current \$4.50 up to \$8.50 for originating airports. However, neither the pending House nor the Senate FAA authorization bills include such an increase. The Senate bill also increases funding for the construction-related Airport Improvement Program (AIP) from the current \$3.35B up to \$3.6B.

### **HOUSE CLEAN WATER CAUCUS**

The Caucus has decided to host a fall event on recycled water: "Recycled Water 101"-a primer-what is recycled water; where does it come from; what is it used for; how much does it cost to produce; and, what are its benefits. Previously, the Caucus hosted a congressional field trip to the DC Water Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant.

### **CWCC CONFERENCE CALL**

CWCC will be hosting a conference call with Lobbyist Sante Esposito on Monday, October 2nd at 1:00 p.m. CST to update members on Coalition efforts regarding the federal budget, the Trump Administration's infrastructure initiative, and the reauthorization of the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF's. The call-in information is below.

Date: Monday, October 2, 2017

Time: 1:00 PM Central Standard

Call-in number: 515-603-3127

Access code: 1084460

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



## Health & Safety:

*Provided by Josh Broaddus @ J. Smith Lanier & Company*

### **THE HAZARDS OF SILICA DUST**

Fortunately, the body's respiratory system does a good of job filtering out dust and most foreign bodies. Fine particulates such as asbestos and silica, however, are so tiny they can get past our filtering system. This may cause serious lung problems over an extended period of time if protection or controls are not used. Use the appropriate personal protective equipment and safety precautions.

For Protection:

- Wetting the work to eliminate visible dust is most effective.
- Use dust control systems when they are available and keep them well maintained - hepa vacuums.
- Use proper respiratory protection when point of operation controls cannot keep exposures below the recommended exposure limit.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke in areas where silica dust is being generated.
- Wash your hands and face before eating, drinking, or smoking and vacuum (don't blow) dust from your clothing.
- Do not dry sweep dust containing silica.
- Shower if possible and change into clean clothes before leaving the job site to prevent contamination of cars, homes, and other work areas.
- Recognize when silica dust may be generated and plan ahead to eliminate or control the dust at the source - methods are outlined for specific activities.

Reminder: OSHA begins enforcement of the respirable crystalline silica standard for construction on September 23rd, while offering compliance assistance to employers making good faith efforts to comply during the first 30 days. See the September 20, 2017 [memorandum](#). OSHA's silica page (<https://www.osha.gov/silica/>) has all the information regarding this standard with Fact Sheets, a Small Entity Compliance Guide and many other compliance and training resources.



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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.***

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