

## ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**SEPTEMBER 2021**

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



On September 9th, President Joe Biden announced an order that will require all private employers with 100 or more employees to mandate vaccinations, or require a negative COVID test from employees each week. The official rule will be issued from the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Biden also signed an executive order to require vaccination for employees of the executive branch, and contractors who do business with the federal government — with no option to test out.

There is much discussion regarding the constitutionality of Biden's vaccine mandate. Alabama Congressman (and U.S. Senate candidate) Mo Brooks is a co-sponsor of a bill that would block the mandate and prevent the federal government from requiring employees to require COVID vaccines for, or testing of, employees. Brooks believes the decision whether or not to receive a vaccine should be left to the individual rather than the federal government.

Regardless of whether you are in favor of vaccines or not, this is certainly a battle worth watching as it potentially impacts the federal government's ability to further regulate the freedoms and liberties of individuals and private businesses.

AUCA will hold our Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot on October 14th at Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club in Montgomery. At the meeting we will also vote on our Officers and Board of Directors to lead us into 2022. We are expecting a tremendous turnout. If you plan to attend, and have not already sent in your registration form, please do so immediately in order to guarantee your space.

#### **Inside This Issue:**

AUCA Fall Meeting	2-5
News & Notes	6-8
Upcoming Events	9
CWCC Report	10-12
Fleet Safety	13

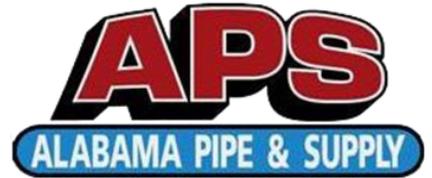
*Tim*

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

## **Current Event Sponsors:**

*(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is October 8th)*

## **Gold Sponsors (to Date):**



**Southern  
Linc**



# AUCA Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

## Silver Sponsors (to Date):



AN ARTERA COMPANY



## Bronze Sponsors (to Date):



### W.R. Mitchell Contractor, Inc.





## AUCA 2021 Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

**Thursday, October 14, 2021**  
**Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club**  
**4758 Lower Wetumpka Road Montgomery, AL 36110**

**Morning Sporting Clay Shoot - 9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start**  
**General Meeting & Steak Lunch - 11:00 a.m.**  
**Door Prizes & Raffle Drawing - 12:30 p.m.**  
**Afternoon Sporting Clay Shoot - 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start**



### General Meeting & Steak Lunch

**Guest Speaker: Miss Alabama - Lauren Bradford**  
**(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 2022 AUCA Officers and Board of Directors, and present the AUCA "Member of the Year" Awards.

### Annual Sporting Clay Shoot

*(Participants must provide their 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.



## OCTOBER 14, 2021 - 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 8, 2021**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### SPORTING CLAY SHOOT TEAM & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- GOLD TEAM SPONSOR - \$1,000** *Includes:* 4-man team, cart, lunch, company logo on AUCA website w/ link to sponsor's website, event signage, promotional materials, & four (4) station sponsorships
- SILVER TEAM SPONSOR - \$750** *Includes:* 4-man team, cart, lunch, name recognition on AUCA website, event signage, promotional materials, & one (1) station sponsorship
- 4-PERSON TEAM - \$600** *Includes:* 4-man team, cart, lunch
- BRONZE EVENT SPONSOR - \$250** *Includes:* Admission for two (2) company representatives to attend General Meeting Lunch, name recognition on AUCA website, event signage, one (1) station sponsorship, and may provide trappers on course to network with shooters and hand out company prizes or give-a-ways

**TEAM MEMBERS:**

- 1.) \_\_\_\_\_ 3.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_ 4.) \_\_\_\_\_

**MORNING SHOOT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AFTERNOON SHOOT:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

4-person golf carts provided for all teams (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 required

### 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](mailto:tim@aluca.org)



**To pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.**

*News & Notes:*

***ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION  
PROPOSED 2022 LEADERSHIP TEAM***

To Be Voted On At General Meeting Scheduled For October 14, 2021

***OFFICERS***

**PRESIDENT:** TIM GILLIAM, *JOHN PLOTT COMPANY*

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:** ANDRU BRAMBLETT, *PRAUS MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC*

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT:** DOUG BLANKENSHIP, *BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING, INC.*

**SECRETARY/TREASURER:** ROBBIE BUTLER, *CLEARY CONSTRUCTION, INC.*

***BOARD MEMBERS***

RANDY BISHOP, *CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC.*

BILL CARTER, *BILL CARTER CONSULTING, LLC*

RONNIE GOLDEN, *GOLDEN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY*

SHAUN GONZALES, *WEAVER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMPANY, INC.*

JAY HOLCOMB, *LAMBERT, INC.*

GAVIN JONES, *BAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS, INC.*

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

MARK MAYFIELD, *MILLER PIPELINE, LLC*

RYAN McCLENDON, *J. SMITH LANIER & COMPANY*

BILL McGOUGH, *W.R. MITCHELL CONTRACTOR, INC.*

RICHARD MURPHREE, *EMPIRE PIPE & SUPPLY*

AARON SCHMIDT, *SCHMIDT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.*

CHARLES SMITH, *VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY*

CHAD TUBBS, *FERGUSON WATERWORKS*

STEVE WALKER, *JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.*



## News & Notes:

### **AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle:**

Tickets have been distributed to AUCA member companies for the annual AUCA PAC Raffle. All proceeds from the raffle will be directed to the AUCA PAC Fund to help support our continued legislative efforts for improved infrastructure funding, as well as fair and consistent governmental policies that impact business, taxes, and environmental regulations.

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

- \$1,000 Cash - Prize #1
- \$500 Cash - Prize #2

Tickets are \$10 each, and will allow you two (2) chances to win. The drawing will be held at our October 14th General Meeting / Sporting Clay Shoot in Montgomery. You do not have to be present at the event to win.

We hope that you will consider purchasing these tickets for yourself, or provide the opportunity to your employees or co-workers. If you would like to purchase any additional tickets, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

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### **Alabama Governor Calls Special Legislative Session:**

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey issued a proclamation this month notifying lawmakers that she has called a special session of the Legislature beginning Monday, September 27th. The purpose of the special session is to debate a \$1.3 billion prison infrastructure replacement and modernization plan, as well as specified criminal-justice reform bills.

Alabama is being sued by the U.S. Department of Justice for alleged unconstitutional treatment of incarcerated men, including a lack of basic health care and mental health care in understaffed and deadly facilities. Senate President Pro Tem Greg Reed, R-Jasper, said in a statement that if lawmakers don't act, the federal government could take control of Alabama's prisons.

A special session is limited to 12 legislative days within 30 calendar days, called by the governor for a specific purpose set out in the proclamation. Any measures not specifically included in the call require a 2/3 majority vote for consideration and passage.



## News & Notes:

### **OSHA Targets Heat Hazards:**

The U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has announced it would issue an advance notice of proposed rulemaking to develop a workplace heat standard.

In October 2021, OSHA will take a significant step toward a federal heat standard to ensure protections in workplaces across the country by issuing an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on heat injury and illness prevention in outdoor and indoor work settings. The advance notice will initiate a comment period allowing OSHA to gather diverse perspectives and technical expertise from construction, among other business sectors, on topics including heat stress thresholds, heat acclimatization planning, exposure monitoring, and strategies to protect workers.

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### **President Biden Announces Vaccine Mandate:**

On September 9th, President Joe Biden announced an order that will require all private employers with 100 or more employees to mandate vaccinations or require a negative COVID test from employees each week. The official rule will be issued from the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and is expected in the coming weeks.

Biden also signed an executive order to require vaccination for employees of the executive branch and contractors who do business with the federal government — with no option to test out.

There is much discussion regarding the constitutionality of the vaccine mandate. Alabama Congressman (and U.S. Senate candidate) Mo Brooks is a co-sponsor of a bill that would block Biden's vaccine mandate and prevent the federal government from requiring employees to mandate COVID vaccines for, or testing of, employees.

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### **Alabama Census Results:**

The U.S. Census Bureau has released official population counts for cities and counties from the 2020 Census. Huntsville is now officially the largest city in Alabama, with significant growth occurring over the last decade. While Huntsville is now the new largest city in the state, its metropolitan area remains less than half the size of the Birmingham-Hoover Metro. Overall, the state added around 245,000 people since 2010, which exceeded expectations. This growth also ensures that Alabama will retain its seven Congressional Seats in the United States Congress.



*Upcoming Meetings & Events:*



**September 28 - 30, 2021**

**Perdido Beach Resort - Orange Beach, AL**

**[www.alabama.damagepreventionsummit.com](http://www.alabama.damagepreventionsummit.com)**



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

**Thursday, October 14, 2021**

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



***AUCA Board of Directors Meeting***

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021**

***AUCA 2022 Spring General Meeting,  
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***

**Thursday, April 21, 2022**

**Arrowhead Country Club - Montgomery, AL**

***AUCA "In-Person" Industry Lunch Meetings***

**Dates and Locations To Be Announced Soon**



## Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Dan Kennedy - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

### **The Infrastructure Bills: Here's Where We Stand as of September 24, 2021**

There are two - the "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act," the core infrastructure bill passed by the Senate and pending in the House, and the "Build Back Better Act," the human infrastructure plus other core infrastructure items bill pending in both Houses.

#### **"Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act"**

On August 10 the Senate passed a bipartisan core infrastructure bill - with all Democrats and 19 Republicans supporting - totaling \$550B in new spending for FY22-26. The bill is both an authorization and an appropriation bill. That means that it will make "real" money available (not just authorize it).

Of interest to the Coalition: the bill appropriates \$12.838B for FY22-26 for the Clean Water SRF, starting at \$2.127B in FY22 and going to \$2.828B in FY26, and \$35.713B for FY22-26 for the Safe Drinking Water SRF, starting at \$6.702B in FY22 and going to \$7.403B in FY26. Also of note is that the annual regular appropriations may be in addition to these amounts. For the USBR, the bill appropriates \$8.3B for FY22-26 with an annual cap of \$1.66B per year. The bill lists a number of programs under USBR's jurisdiction with specific appropriated amounts but does not specify annual funding amounts for each program. Either the Interior Appropriations bill will make that decision or the USBR. For water recycling, the bill appropriates \$1B for FY22-26, broken down to \$550M for Title XVI and WIIN Act grants and \$450M for "large scale" water recycling projects (those with project costs >\$500M). Again, regarding the \$550M, the bill doesn't break this down between the two programs, presumably leaving that to either the Interior Appropriations bill or the USBR. The bill also includes \$400M for FY22-26 for WaterSMART programs, \$1.2B for water storage and groundwater, and \$25M for desalination projects. To finance the \$550B bill, no new taxes were included.

Other core infrastructure included:

- \$110B for Roads, Bridges and Major Infrastructure Projects
- \$40B for Bridges
- \$16B for Major Surface Transportation Projects
- \$11B for Transportation Safety
- \$39B for Transit
- \$66B for Passenger and Freight Rail
- \$65B for Broadband



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

*(Continued from page 10)*

- \$17B for Ports
- \$25B for Airports
- \$7.5B for Zero and Low-Emission Buses and Ferries
- \$7.5B for Plug-In Electric Vehicle Chargers
- \$65B to Rebuild the Electric Grid
- \$21B for Superfund and Brownfield sites

Regarding the House, on August 24 the House agreed to vote on the Senate passed core infrastructure bill, without amendments, this coming Monday, September 27. This was a deal struck between the Speaker and a group of a dozen or so moderate Democrats. The latter wanted to insure a vote on the bill because they see it as good legislation and a substantive and political win for all. The President also wants a vote. The Speaker did not want a separate vote on the bill but wanted to tie the vote with the vote on the human infrastructure bill. In that the Speaker can lose only three Democratic votes - given the Democrats slim majority in the House - she was basically forced into the deal. All seemed well on the September 27 vote until a group of progressive Democrats then said they would not vote for the bill because disengaging it from a vote on the human infrastructure bill, which they very much support, would potentially tank the latter. The current dilemma has triggered numerous meetings with the President, the leadership, and between various Democratic factions as well as intense negotiations. Deliberations are on-going. The Democratic leadership says the vote is still on for Monday, September 27th.

### **"Build Back Better Act"**

On August 11, the Senate passed a \$3.5T budget resolution proposal. Passage of the budget resolution by both chambers unlocks the ability for Democrats to use reconciliation (only requires a simple majority for passage, not 60 votes in the Senate) to pass a human infrastructure bill on a party-line vote addressing health care, aid for families, the climate crisis and more, including funding for core infrastructure programs. The budget resolution also required all committees to draft their portion of the \$3.5T target by Sept.15. The goal for passage of the bill is October 1.

All House committees met the Sept. 15 deadline, none in the Senate. Of interest in the House, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee included appropriations of \$125M for FY22 for the Alternative Water Source Project program and \$2B for sewer overflow and storm water reuse grants. No funding was included for the generic Clean Water SRF program. The Natural Resources Committee included appropriations of \$100M for large scale water recycling and \$1.15B for emergency drought relief. The Energy and Commerce Committee included Safe Drinking Water SRF appropriations of \$30B for lead service line replacement projects, \$100M for state public water systems, and



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

*(Continued from page 11)*

\$700M to reduce lead in school drinking water. To finance the \$3.5T bill, the House included numerous tax proposals including raising individual and corporate tax rates.

In the Senate, the reason for non-action is that some Democrats - at the very minimum Senators Manchin and Sinema - have said that they cannot vote for a bill at \$3.5T. Manchin has also said that he prefers putting the entire effort off until 2022 to see then if it is really needed. The President has weighed in and indicated flexibility on the \$3.5T figure. So far, the Democratic progressives in both Houses are intransigent, holding the line on \$3.5T.

### **A Call to Action**

From the outset of the infrastructure effort months ago, the Coalition has been in the forefront, advocating for significant funding for the SRF's and other water programs of interest. The Coalition has never been as close as it is today in achieving its goals. The House needs to pass the Senate core infrastructure bill on Monday or soon thereafter. Your support, which has been invaluable all along, is needed to make this happen. Please contact your Member of Congress and urge a "aye" vote on the bill. Let's pass it and declare victory. And then we can turn our attention to round two.



## ***Fleet Safety:***

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

### **Deer Strike Prevention**

#### **Deer in the Headlights?**

As the deer populations grow and urban habitats continue to encroach upon rural environments, there has been an increase in deer-car collisions. In some instances, deer dash into traffic because they are "spooked." They have incredible hearing and can bound into the road when they think they hear a predator. However, the main reason for these collisions is that deer are more focused on reproducing than safety. Deer-vehicle collisions are dangerous and costly. While a collision with an animal is typically covered under the comprehensive portion of an auto insurance policy, it's always preferable to avoid an accident in the first place.

#### **To avoid hitting a deer, use these defensive driving tips**

- Be especially attentive during peak deer hours. From sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions.
- Use extra caution when driving through deer-crossing zones. Also be especially careful in places known to have a large deer population and in areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forestland.
- Know that deer seldom run alone. If you see one deer, others may be nearby.
- Use high beam headlights if driving at night, when there is no oncoming traffic. The higher light will better illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway.
- Slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away.
- Brake firmly but stay in your lane when you notice a deer in or near your path. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars.
- Always wear your seat belt. Most people injured in car-deer crashes were not wearing their seat belt.
- Do not rely on deer-detering devices. Deer whistles, deer fences and reflectors have not been proven to reduce deer-vehicle collisions.

If your vehicle strikes a deer, do not touch the animal. A frightened and wounded deer can hurt you or further injure itself. The best procedure is to get your car off the road, if possible, and call the police.



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Phone: 205-582-9436  
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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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