ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OCTOBER 2025

2025 AUCA Fall General Meeting:

Contractor of the Year:
Schmidt Environmental Construction

Associate Member of the Year:
Vulcan Materials Company

The 2025 AUCA Fall General Meeting was held on October 16 at the Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club in Montgomery, where attendees enjoyed a beautiful fall afternoon. A capacity crowd gathered for a delicious steak lunch before conducting association business, including the election of the 2026 AUCA Officers and Directors.

Following lunch, attendees received industry updates, heard from a U.S. Senate candidate, and enjoyed a presentation from newly appointed ADEM Director, Ed Poolos. The meeting concluded with an exciting round of door prizes and the PAC Raffle drawing.

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The accompanying AUCA Sporting Clay Shoot featured 37 teams competing in morning and afternoon rounds. We extend our sincere appreciation to the many sponsors, volunteers, and participants whose support and enthusiasm made this event a success.

Tim

ADEM Director Ed Poolos presenting at the 2025 AUCA Fall Meeting in Montgomery.

Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:

Thanks to the incredible support by AUCA members for making our 2025 Fall General Meeting, PAC Raffle, and Sporting Clay Shoot another tremendous success.

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EMPIRE Pipe & Supply
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Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:

Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:

AUCA Executive Director Tim Ayers (above) provides opening remarks at the AUCA Fall Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot.

United States Senate candidate Morgan Murphy (below) addresses the crowd with a few words regarding his recently launched Senate campaign.

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AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle Winners

$1,000 Cash Prize Winner:
John Ballard
Ballard Construction

$500 Cash Prize Winner:
Buck Christian
Southern Pipe & Supply

Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot Recap:

1st Place Team - Alabama Pipe & Supply

Alabama Pipe & Supply - Rodney Breland Team
Each Team Member Received $100 and a 1st Place Trophy

2nd Place Team
Tractor & Equipment Company

Tractor & Equipment Company Team
Each Team Member Received $75 and a Trophy

3rd Place Team
Elevation Development & Const.

Elevation Development & Construction Team
Each Team Member Received $50 and a Trophy

News & Notes:

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION 2026 LEADERSHIP TEAM

The list of Officers and Directors below reflects the members elected to serve on the 2026 Leadership Team at the October 16, 2025 Fall General Meeting in Montgomery.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: ROBBIE BUTLER, *CLEARY CONSTRUCTION, INC.*

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: RONNIE GOLDEN, *CG JONES, LLC*

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: RANDY BISHOP, *CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC.*

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

BOARD MEMBERS

JIM BALLINTINE, *ACIPCO*

DOUG BLANKENSHIP, *BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING, INC.*

JAKE BROWN, *RUSSO CORP.*

BILL CARTER, *BILL CARTER CONSULTING, LLC*

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

ANDY HARSHMAN, *JOHN PLOTT COMPANY*

JAY HOLCOMB, *LAMBERT, INC.*

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

MARK MAYFIELD, *MILLER PIPELINE, LLC*

RYAN McCLENDON, *MARSH McLENNAN AGENCY*

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:

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Office of the Director
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Kay Ivey
Governor

Bill Poole
Director of Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2025

Contact: Ethan Girona
ethan.girona@finance.alabama.gov

State of Alabama Launches Centralized Website for Public Works Bid Advertisements

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Department of Finance's Division of Real Property Management today announced the launch of a new centralized website – https://alabamabuilds.gov – designed to modernize the way sealed bid opportunities for public works projects are posted and accessed.

The new platform, established under ACT 2025-383, provides a single, electronic location for Awarding Authorities to post official Notices of Advertisement for sealed bids, effective October 1, 2025. While the statutory requirement to advertise in newspapers remains in place when available, this digital resource makes it easier for contractors, architects, engineers, and the general public to stay informed.

"This centralized system will streamline the procurement process, provide consistent access to information, and ensure compliance with Alabama's Public Works law," said **Mickey Allen**, Assistant Finance Director, RPM. "By increasing visibility of advertisements, we expect more competition among qualified contractors, which will drive lower bids and ultimately reduce costs for public works projects."

Key features of the website include:

- **Daily Updates:** Anyone may sign up to receive email notifications of new bid postings added within the previous 24 hours.
- **Low-Cost Access:** Awarding Authorities may publish advertisements for a $25 posting fee.
- **Future Enhancements:** The site will soon expand to include bid results and project completion notices, further enhancing public accountability.

"This is an important step forward for transparency and efficiency in state government," said Finance Director **Bill Poole**. "By centralizing bid postings in one public location, we are ensuring equal access to information, reducing administrative burdens, and providing taxpayers with a clearer view of how their dollars are being invested in infrastructure and public facilities."

For more information, visit https://alabamabuilds.gov or contact the Division of Construction Management at (334) 242-4082 or alabamabuilds@rpm.alabama.gov.

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News & Notes:

AUCA 2026 Calendars:

AUCA has received a limited supply of 2026 Calendars. If you would like to have one of these hanging on your office wall, please plan to attend one of our upcoming Industry Lunch Meetings, or contact the AUCA office and we will make arrangements for delivery before they're all gone.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, December 4, 2025

AUCA 2026 Spring General Meeting, Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil
Thursday, April 23, 2026
Arrowhead Country Club
Montgomery, AL

Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Kyle England - Chairman CWCC & Ted Mondloch - Current Strategies

October 2025 Report

Shutdown Showdown and FY2026 Appropriations

Efforts to pass FY26 appropriations legislation ground to a halt in the last week of September as negotiations between party leaders hit a stalemate. The federal government then officially shut down on October 1. Four weeks later, we are now in the second longest government shutdown in U.S. history, inching closer to the record-setting 35-day shutdown that started in December 2018.

In September, the House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution (CR) to maintain current federal spending levels through mid-November. This would allow more time for bipartisan negotiations in the House and Senate on a full FY26 appropriations agreement. Most Democrats in both chambers have stated that they will not vote for this deal unless Republicans negotiate on key provisions.

At the top of Democrats' list is negotiating an extension of the enhanced tax-credits under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that have been in place since 2021. Democrats are also seeking to pass legislation to prevent further claw backs of appropriated funds by the Trump Administration, amongst other issues.

Very little progress has been made throughout October to resolve the situation. Despite this, every day the shutdown continues, additional pressure mounts on both sides to come to the negotiating table. Key factors that are on the mind of lawmakers and the public right now include:

- **Nutrition assistance programs**: SNAP, WIC, and school lunch programs were able to continue without interruption for the first few weeks of the shutdown, but some states began to run out of reserve funds as early as October 16. By November 1, it is expected that USDA will be out of resources to keep these programs afloat, and roughly 40 million Americans will be at risk of losing access to benefits.
- **Federal employee/military paychecks:** The majority of federal agency personnel and congressional staff have not received paychecks for October. This includes personnel deemed "essential" or "excepted," who have continued to work, as well as furloughed personnel who have not been working. They are legally required to receive retroactive paychecks once funding is restored, but the immediate impacts of over two million workers missing paychecks places pressure on legislators to act. Active-duty military personnel did receive a paycheck on October 15 through the repurpose of unspent Department of Defense funds, but there is no guarantee at this time that the military will be paid on November 1.
- **TSA staffing and holiday travel:** As TSA agents and air traffic control personnel continue to delays have spiked in recent days and officials warn that there could be significant disruptions to Thanksgiving travel if the shutdown drags on into November.

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Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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- **November 2025 elections:** There are several state-level elections on November 4, including gubernatorial races in New Jersey and Virginia. The shutdown and its impacts are a hot topic in these races, and the results will certainly be watched closely and interpreted by decisionmakers in DC.

While these and other pressure points may force policymakers closer to a resolution, most negotiations currently center around how to manage the impacts of the shutdown as opposed to ending it. Several bills, including legislation to fund SNAP benefits or pay certain types of personnel, are being floated in the Senate this week, but are not likely to pass. Many senior lawmakers are urging President Trump to get more directly involved in negotiations, viewing the White House's input as key to breaking the stalemate.

It is important to remember that the direct impacts to water infrastructure funding are minimal. The majority of the FY25 funding for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs was allocated before the shutdown and is in state coffers ready to be awarded on schedule to eligible projects. The exception to this is the FY25 funding for lead service line replacements, which is stalled at EPA as staff finalize their allotment formula for distribution to states. These funds are likely to remain in limbo until the shutdown concludes.

Current Strategies will continue to monitor the state of play around the government shutdown and will share any breaking developments with the coalition.

Reauthorization of EPA Water Programs

The five-year authorizations and direct appropriations for water infrastructure programs under the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) are set to run out after FY26. Accordingly, the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction for water infrastructure issues are beginning to consider how they will advance legislation to reauthorize those programs.

The first step in this process is expected to come at the conclusion of the government shutdown, when the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee will release preliminary legislation to reauthorize EPA programs for wastewater, stormwater, and related issues. The House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee, which has jurisdiction over drinking water issues, is expected to follow suit and release its version of a bill, likely in early 2026. On the Senate side, the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, which has jurisdiction over all water infrastructure issues in the upper chamber, is also expected to act in early 2026.

Current is staying in touch with key congressional staff on this legislation and will be engaging with the committees to advocate for increased authorized levels of spending as well as for direct appropriations for water infrastructure.

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Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 21)

As part of this, Current has recommended that CWCC endorse a coalition letter led by the American Public Works Association (APWA) that urges Congress to reauthorize EPA water infrastructure programs at increased levels. This same coalition is also organizing a congressional staff briefing tentatively scheduled for early December, and Current is directly engaged with the planning process for this event. Current will also be drafting an individual letter on this legislation for CWCC, as well as providing template materials for CWCC members to reach out to their own state delegations.

Water Week 2026

CWCC is actively planning coalition activities for Water Week 2026. Water Week is an annual event organized by several of the national water utility trade associations in DC. It includes an afternoon of programming on key issues, sector-wide social events, and policy meetings with lawmakers on Capitol Hill. This year's event is scheduled for the week of April 13.

CWCC engaged with Water Week 2025, holding a coalition meeting in DC that was attended by Illinois, New England, and New Jersey members, followed by policy meetings with those members' delegations on Capitol Hill. For 2026, we are seeking to ramp up our engagement with the event. We will be sharing detailed information on what to expect and how to get involved in the coming weeks.

CLEAN WATER CONSTRUCTION COALITION
CWCC

cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org

Health & Safety:

Halloween Safety Reminder:

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that Halloween is consistently one of the top three days for pedestrian injuries and fatalities, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that children are four times more likely to be struck by a motor vehicle on Halloween than any other day of the year.

Tips for helping keep young ones and yourself safe this Halloween:

- Slow down in residential neighborhoods and obey all traffic signs and signals. Drive at least 5 mph below the posted speed limit to give yourself extra time to react to children who may dart into the street.
- Many young children start trick-or-treating in the late afternoon/early evening, so be alert all day long. Watch for children walking on roadways, medians, and curbs.
- Look for children crossing the street. They may not be paying attention to traffic and cross the street mid-block or between parked cars.
- Turn on your headlights to make yourself more visible – even in the day light and especially at sunset.
- Broaden your scanning by looking for children left and right into yards and front porches.

TRENCHING SAFETY

5 Things You Should Know to Stay Safe

SLOPE IT
800-321-OSHA (6742)
SHORE IT
SHIELD IT

1 Ensure there's a safe way to enter and exit.

See 1926.651(c)

2 Trenches must have cave-in protection.

See 1926.652(a)

3 Keep materials away from the edge of the trench.

See 1926.651(j)

4 Look for standing water or other hazards.

See 1926.651(h)

5 Never enter a trench unless it has been properly inspected.

See 1926.651(k)

OSHA Occupational Safety and Health Administration

WWW.OSHA.GOV/TRENCHING • 800-321-OSHA (6742) • TTY 877-889-5627

OSHA 3974-06 2019

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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.

We're on the Web !
www.aluca.org

Please print out this newsletter to share with others in your company. And, if you are receiving this for the company owner, please print out a copy for him/her.

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