



**CWCC**

Clean Water Construction Coalition  
P.O. Box 728 \* Allenwood, NJ 08720  
(732) 292-4300 \* FAX: (732) 292-4310

**ROBERT A. BRIANT, JR.**  
Chairman

**September 7, 2016**

## **CONGRESS RECONVENES FOR BRIEF PERIOD PRIOR TO ELECTION RECESS**

Congress has returned to Capitol Hill to begin a short four week legislative session to address several issues before recessing again for the November elections. While funding for the battle against the Zika virus epidemic will dominate the nation's attention, Congress will need to approve a "Continuing Resolution" in order to fund the federal Government past September 30th when the federal fiscal year ends. With only four weeks to work, Congress is expected to pass a continuing resolution, fund a Zika prevention program and work on several issues concerning health, taxes/finance, energy and several other issues.

## **HOUSE AND SENATE WRDA REAUTHORIZATION BILLS STILL ON HOLD**

Congressional passage of the WRDA has yet to be completed in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. After Committee approval of the WRDA reauthorization measures in both Chambers, floor votes were halted due to concerns that the legislation would be amended with various EPA amendments that would not be acceptable to Republican leadership.

The Senate WRDA measure, S2848, contains funding for port, dam and flooding projects. Also contained in the legislation is \$1.8 billion for storm water construction projects as well as other significant provisions for clean water and drinking water projects. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee also reported its WRDA reauthorization legislation. Originally, the House reauthorization bill was going to include significant funding for Clean Water and Drinking Water projects, however, those provisions were not included in the final House Committee bill.

Coalition Representatives had worked with members of the House T & I Committee to include Clean Water and Drinking Water provisions in the House bill but were disappointed when the provisions were not included in the bill. Coalition representatives will work with members of both Chambers to advocate for inclusion of Clean Water and Drinking Water funding language to be added to the final legislation during conference negotiations on the bill between the House and Senate. The Senate has begun floor consideration of its WRDA bill today, however, it is unclear if the House will vote on its WRDA measure prior to Congress's lame duck session after the November elections.

- AGC of America
- AGC of Texas
- Alabama Utility Contractors Association
- Arizona Utility Contractors Association
- Associated Pennsylvania Constructors
- Associated Utility Contractors Of Maryland \*
- Connecticut Construction Industries Association
- CIC of Westchester County & Hudson Valley \*
- Engineering Contractors Association
- General Contractors Association Of New York
- Georgia Utility Contractors Association
- Indiana Constructors Inc.
- Long Island Contractors Association
- Maryland Transportation Builders & Materials Association
- Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association
- Minnesota Utility Contractors Association\*
- National Rural Water Association
- New Mexico Utility Contractors Association
- Ohio Contractors Association
- Public Works Contractors Association of Maryland
- Southern California Contractors Association
- Tennessee Road Builders Association
- Underground Contractors Association of Illinois \*
- United Contractors \*
- UCA of Anne Arundel County
- Utility Contractors Association of New England \*
- Utility & Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey \*
- Contractors Association Of West Virginia
- Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association

\* Steering Committee Member

## **FY 2017 Interior, Environment Appropriations Bill**

The full House has approved its FY 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill while the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its companion spending bill but has yet to post the measure for a floor vote. The House measure funds the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs at \$2.1 billion. This represents an overall annual decrease to the combined CWSRF (\$1 billion) and DWSRF (\$1.07 billion) programs of approximately \$186 million. The House measure also funds the new WIFIA program at \$50 million. The Senate fiscal year 2017 Interior bill funds the Clean Water SRF at \$1.35 billion, the Drinking Water SRF at \$1.02 billion and \$30 million for the WIFIA program. This represents an increase of \$113 million over the FY 2016 enacted level. While the Senate Appropriations Committee did approved the measure on June 16, 2016, the Senate is not anticipated to move to bill to a full Senate floor vote prior to the November elections. If this is the case, a Continuing Resolution will need to be moved in order to continue funding for these programs at the current FY 2016 funding levels.

## **Coalition Meeting**

The Clean Water Construction Coalition has again been asked to participate in a two-day meeting with a new utility organization. The meetings are being held on October 20th and 21st at the offices of the Underground Contractors Association of Illinois located in Itasca, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Attached is the information on the meeting schedule and logistics. It would be good for as many members of the Coalition as possible attend this meeting as a way of broadening our influence and efforts. On Thursday morning during the meeting Sante Esposito will provide an update on Congressional legislative activities. Please let me know by September 28th if you are planning on attending. You may email Dennis Hart with any questions at [dennis@utcanj.org](mailto:dennis@utcanj.org)

## **KEY ADVOCATES SEPTEMBER REPORT**

Included with this notice is Key Advocates September 2016 report.



