

# Arizona Utility Coordinating Committee

## Annual Report

To: APWA

From 2020 Officers: Chairperson – Dennis Aust, Vice Chair – Jamie Lando, Treasurer – AJ Kerin, Secretary – Ann Griffin,  
Previous Chairperson – Dan Nissen

In the year of 2020 the AUCC had 4 regular meetings and 4 working group session meetings scheduled. The meetings are typically held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month and all municipalities, utility providers and industry representatives with a stakeholder interest are welcome to attend and participate in meetings. January and March meetings were held in person at AZ811 while all of the rest of the meetings for 2020 were virtual due to the pandemic.

At the AUCC regular meetings we usually have a guest presenter. This year we had Ryan Peters give us a legislative update at our meeting in March on the current status of bills at the legislature we might have an interest in as well as the typical process for how a bill is negotiated through the legislature using the Small Wireless bill of 2017 and the Uniform Video Service License bill of 2018 as examples. SRP gave a presentation on how to read and understand their plans and Sandra Holmes from AZ811 gave a presentation on their system and how it looks and works behind the scenes as well as a detailed update on the unknown line process and abandoned facilities, particularly from those companies that are no longer active. In December our presentation will be from Kimley-Horn on how they navigate the utility coordination process of a municipal road widening project and a private development project from the side of the design consultant.

At regular meetings updates and reports are presented from members who also serve on other committees of similar interests such as the nationwide APWA UPROW Committee, the Arizona Coalition for Damage Prevention, and the Underground Alliance, as well as MAG updates for any updates that may be of concern to the stakeholders of the committee.

The AUCC working group has primarily been focused on getting an update to the PIPG done, which hasn't been done since 2011. The primary focus of the update is to include a new section about how to coordinate Small Wireless Facility projects. The update is nearly finished and we anticipate voting on approval for incorporation into the PIPG at one of our next two upcoming regular meetings.

Other topics worked on directly by the AUCC working group are the MAG Section 360 update and Small Wireless Infrastructure development concepts, such as potentially allowing for electric meter cabinets on streetlight poles and how to deal with electrical services and fiber service lines from the provider to the site in terms of locating and whether or not they can and should be within a joint trench.

Topics discussed for future action are the HB2486 update and how to handle private irrigation facilities within the right-of-way.

HB 2486 is a law that was passed a few years ago which allows for Telecommunications companies to seek reimbursement for some of their relocations costs during a municipal road widening project where voter approved bonds are used as a funding source. This could potentially start impacting certain municipalities in as early as 2022 so this will be a hot item for the 2021 calendar year.

Private irrigation facilities that remain in municipal rights-of-way are often not maintained in the AZ811 database and generally tend to be a hold-over issue for older downtown areas where roads were widened and these facilities were left in place rather than moved back out of the right-of-way as municipalities require and pay to relocate today. Often these facilities are owned by multiple private landowners with water rights that are unaware of the locations of their commonly owned ditches or pipes. In many cases there are box valves and stand pipes that remain in the right-of-way and get damaged on occasion and most municipalities have no method for getting these facilities repaired or replaced as the often times the burden officially belongs to the private land owners with water rights. The AUCC intends to develop a common method or plan municipalities can use as a guide to follow to implement some form of private irrigation districts system to get these facilities identified and mapped into the AZ811 system so they can be located and so that municipalities have a method to work with the landowners to either abandon unused facilities properly or have them manage them together as a district.

**The AUCC will vote on our 2021 officers at our December meeting. We would like to request that the unused funds we usually use for snacks and the holiday party get reallocated for 2022 due to the virtual meeting requirement of 2021.**

**Future AUCC meetings are scheduled for 2021 as follows:**

**Regular AUCC Meetings: 3/2/21, 6/1/21, 9/7/21, 12/7/21**

**AUCC Working Group Meetings: 1/5/21, 4/6/21, 7/6/21, 10/5/21**

**All interested are welcome to join us.**

**Dennis Aust, 2020 AUCC Chairperson**