USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM ORIENTATION

Lori Kuczmanski
Public Affairs Officer
Lower Rio Grande Field Office
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CITIZENS FORUM PURPOSE

• To facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the local community regarding ongoing and future USIBWC projects in the area

• The Citizens Forum is intended to bring together community members enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, water managers, government agencies, etc.
BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

• Attend public meetings three times per year
• Meetings held at the Mercedes Field Office
• Board term is for two years
• Board members are expected to be available to the public to facilitate the exchange of information
BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

- Review and comment on technical documents and activities associated with USIBWC projects in the area
- Discuss plans and issues related to ongoing and future USIBWC projects
- CF is not a federal advisory board; goal is to exchange information and to receive feedback from a diversity of viewpoints
- Board Members will not be disruptive to the Board or during the meetings
- Board Members will not serve as spokespeople for the IBWC
- Members serve as volunteers. There is no reimbursement for expenses
Board Member Duties

• Board Members understand that being on the Citizens Forum Board entails a willingness to work cooperatively with other members to ensure the efficient and effective use of time.

• Board Members will discuss topics ideas for the next meeting and the Co-Chair will send requests to the Public Affairs Officer no later than 2 weeks after the meeting.
PAST TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

• HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY LONG RANGE PLAN – ERIC DAVILA, P.E., CHIEF DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER, HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY

• ILLEGAL DUMPING ON THE LEVEES – HIDALGO COUNTY DEPUTY CONSTABLES LEOBARDO ORTIZ AND SANDY ALONZO, PRECINCT #2

• LOWER RIO GRANDE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE – FRANK MARTINEZ, ASSISTANT AREA OPERATIONS MANAGER, MERCEDES FIELD OFFICE, USIBWC

• IBWC SAFETY OF DAMS PROGRAM – LORENA SORIANO, CIVIL ENGINEER, SAFETY OF DAMS OFFICER, USIBWC

• LOWER RIO GRANDE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – JOE TRITZ, MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR, USIBWC
CITIZENS FORUM LEADERSHIP

• Two Co-Chairs- they may alternate

• USIBWC Co-Chair
  • Area Operations Manager Juan Uribe

• Community Co-chair
  • Selected by the board