Board Members in attendance:
Curtis L. Cloud: Retired, Bureau of Reclamation
Elston K. Grubaugh: Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District
Trina Hamby: Resident of Brawley, CA
Africa Luna-Carrasco: City of San Luis, Councilmember
P. Brian McNeece: Imperial Valley Coalition for Fair Sharing of Water
Patrick O’Dowd: Salton Sea Authority
Lowell Perry, Jr.: Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area
Meghan Scott: Yuma County Agriculture Water Coalition
Tina Shields: Imperial Irrigation District

USIBWC Staff in attendance:
Jayne Harkins, Commissioner
Anna Morales, Area Operations Manager
Ramon Macias, Principal Engineer, Engineering
Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary
Lori Kuczmanski, Public Affairs Officer
Daniel Ramirez, IT Specialist

Welcoming and Introduction Remarks:
At 4:00PM Citizens Forum Co-Chair Anna Morales convened the meeting by welcoming the group and provided a brief description of the meeting agenda items. Jayne Harkins, Commissioner, USIBWC, provided opening remarks to the group, thanking the Board Members for volunteering their time to the IBWC. Comm. Harkins stated due to the virtual meetings, we can get more people on the webinar and she is happy she is able to participate in more meetings.

New Board members were introduced, and they gave a brief background on themselves.

Curtis Cloud—Born and raised in Yuma, AZ. Cloud has a background in construction – he worked as a construction inspector with Reclamation for 32 years and retired in 1994. He worked on the Yuma Desalting Plant. His interest is in Morelos Dam and the canal. Cloud noted his father worked for Reclamation, too.

Elston Grubaugh—General Manager at Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District. Has been in the water business for 40 years. His interest is in the irrigation districts. Grubaugh stated that 60,000 acre-feet of water produces $1 million of agriculture.

Trina Hamby—Resident of Brawley, CA. Works at Imperial County in Environmental Health. Hamby is interested in the Salton Sea and the New River and would like to learn more about it and further her knowledge.

Africa Luna-Carrasco—City of San Luis, Councilmember, for 3 years. Ms. Luna-Carrasco’s concern is the shortage of Colorado River water and agriculture is important. She would like to learn more about the IBWC and contribute to the Board.

Patrick O’Dowd—Executive Director at the Salton Sea Authority, is a Board member of the Association of California Water Agencies, where he serves on the Executive Committee and chairs the Federal Affairs...
committee and serves on the Board of the National Water Resources Association. He was previously a Board Director at the Coachella Valley Water District. His interest is in the work at the Salton Sea and region, including collaboration with our friends to the South.

P. Brian McNeece—McNece started on the 1st IBWC Colorado River Citizens Forum Board, and this is about his sixth term as a Board Member. Background in philosophy, linguistics, and education. McNeece is a retired professor. He will write Op Eds for newspaper, stays informed on the New River and pollution issues and has continued efforts to bring the New River up to standards, similar to efforts already undertaken for the Tijuana River.

Lowell Perry, Jr.—Executive Director at the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area. Perry is originally from Detroit, Michigan. Perry’s interest is in creating and maintaining wetlands in Yuma, AZ and the agriculture business.

Meghan Scott—Asst. Coordinator at the Yuma County Agriculture Water Coalition and is counsel for several water districts in Imperial County. Scott served on the IBWC Board last term and was a Co-Chair. Her interest is in the Colorado River as its main water source and to understand what is going on in Mexico and our relationship.

Tina Shields—29 years at Imperial Irrigation District as the water manager. Shields is a civil engineer and works in water resources planning. Her focus is on the Colorado River. Interests include water resources, conservation, the New River issues, and water as energy.

Presentation One—Overview of the History, Mission, and Projects of the International Boundary and Water Commission—Sally Spener, U.S. Secretary, USIBWC

Ms. Spener began her presentation by going over the agency’s mission, which is to apply the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico. She provided a brief overview of some of the boundary Treaties and the structure of the IBWC per the 1944 Water Treaty. The International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) has a U.S. Section and a Mexican Section, each headed by a Commissioner. Under the Convention of 1906, the United States delivers Rio Grande water to Mexico at Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua; this water is stored at Elephant Butte Dam in New Mexico and then released downstream into the Rio Grande. A 1933 treaty was enacted to stabilize the international boundary at El Paso-Ciudad Juarez by straightening the Rio Grande channel and erecting flood control levees in both countries. This part of the Rio Grande is known as the Rectification Project. To settle a longstanding boundary dispute at El Paso-Ciudad Juarez after the Rio Grande channel shifted, the 1963 Chamizal Convention provided for the relocation of the Rio Grande to a concrete-lined channel through the central part of the sister cities. IBWC Minutes were discussed, which are binding Commission agreements intended to implement treaty. There are currently 325 Minutes approved. Under the 1944 Water Treaty, Mexico delivers Rio Grande water to the United States from its tributaries while the United States delivers Colorado River water to Mexico. The 1970 Boundary Treaty charged the Commission with maintaining the Rio Grande and Colorado River as the international boundary. Ms. Spener then discussed the USIBWC field offices along the border from South Texas to San Diego, CA and what their mission is in relation to the agency’s mission. Commission responsibilities include boundary demarcation, operation of international wastewater treatment plants, operation of international dams, flood control, and water delivery. Minute 323, signed in 2017, is a Colorado River agreement that includes various elements including U.S. investment in water conservation projects in Mexico in exchange for a share of conserved water (the initial water exchange occurred in December 2020), water for the environment and investment in habitat restoration, salinity management, and efforts to control daily flow variability in deliveries to Mexico.
**Question:** Which entities received the water provided in December under Minute 323?

**Answer:** Southern Nevada Water Authority, Metropolitan Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Central Arizona Water Conservation District.

**Presentation Two: An Overview of Commission Activities in the Colorado River Area—Anna Morales, Yuma Field Office USIBWC**

Ms. Morales began with the 1944 Treaty, which authorized the construction of Morelos Dam to divert the Colorado River water for Mexico’s use. Constructed in 1950, Morelos Dam spans 1400 feet across the Colorado River; it has 20 river gates. 12 of the intake gates divert the water into Mexico for their use through the Reforma Canal (capacity 170 cubic meters per second (cms) or 8000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The Dam is designed to convey a maximum flow of 140,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The dam is operated and maintained by Mexico under IBWC supervision. The Morelos Diversion Dam is located within the limitrophe section of the lower Colorado River (LCR), approximately 1.1 miles downstream from the California-Arizona land boundary.

The limitrophe is the segment of the lower Colorado River that serves as the international boundary between the U.S and Mexico above and below Morelos Dam and is approximately 24 miles long. Approximately 1.36 million acre-feet (maf) of Colorado River water is delivered to Mexico at the Northerly International Boundary (NIB) and diverted at Morelos Dam. This water serves the states/cities of Baja California and Sonora (Cities: San Luis, Sonora and Mexicali, Tecate, Tijuana, and Ensenada BC). Water is used for agriculture and municipal use. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is the water master of the Colorado River tasked with delivering these waters.

The remaining 140,000 acre-feet of Mexico’s 1.5 maf annual allotment, is delivered at the Southerly International Boundary (SIB) at the San Luis, AZ/Sonora boundary. SIB flows are a combination of groundwater wells and run-off from Yuma valley fields. Water is delivered into the Sanchez Mejorado Canal in Sonora Mexico.

Along with the NIB gauging station, there are 12 other gauging stations for water accounting and water quality for the 24-mile stretch of the river to the SIB. Stations are established and measured per U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) standards. A Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation establishes collaboration in the operation, maintenance and data sharing of these stations. The shared data on the flow of the river and canals is vital to ensure water deliveries are delivered to Mexico per the 1944 Treaty and to safeguard lives and protect property for the two countries.

Ms. Morales also presented on Colorado River Salinity Control: The 1944 Treaty guaranteed Mexico the 1.5 maf of Colorado River water annually but it does not contain specific provisions regarding the quality of the water to be delivered. Minute 242 (1973) regulates the salinity of water delivered to Mexico. Water delivered to Mexico must be similar in quality to water delivered to U.S. users at Imperial Dam.

Collected water samples are calculated monthly with annual salinity differential between Imperial Dam in the U.S. and Morelos Dam in Mexico, assuring compliance with Treaty and Minute requirements.

Under Minute 248, the Wellton Mohawk bypass drain, which terminated below Morelos Dam, was extended to the Santa Clara Slough upstream from the Gulf of California. This bypass drain extension is 50.4 miles in length in which 16.04 miles is in the U.S. and 34.36 miles in Mexico territory. Minute 284 ensures the integrity and capacity of the drain.
The Minute provides the process for joint operation and maintenance inspections/recommendations for the 34.36 miles in Mexico and secures the funds from the U.S. for the operations and maintenance activity.

In coordination with the Mexican Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission and representatives of the Mexican government, the USIBWC Yuma field office monitors the water quality in the New River in Calexico, CA/Mexicali, BC, through observations and the collection of samples. Mexicali Sanitation observations are conducted bi-monthly and samples collected twice a month at several locations on the New River in the U.S. and Mexico.

The USIBWC Yuma Office area of responsibility for boundary demarcation is San Luis, Arizona and the Andrade, California Ports of Entry. For this, the personnel maintain the boundary buttons and plaques.

**Presentation Three: Colorado River Citizens Forum New Board Orientation**- Lori Kuczmanski, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC

Ms. Kuczmanski presented the background on the Citizens Forum and expectations of board members.

The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission activities and related projects in Yuma and Imperial Counties. The meetings offer a means to share information with the board and hear about what is happening in different areas. The Citizens Forum is intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued 2-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, water managers, irrigators, neighborhoods, environmentalists, recreational interests, government agencies, etc.

Meetings are open to public. There are emails sent out for reminders and information is posted on the Citizens Forum webpage: [http://www.ibwc.gov/Citizens_Forums/CF_Colorado.html](http://www.ibwc.gov/Citizens_Forums/CF_Colorado.html).

All Board members are volunteers and receive no payment. Board members are expected to attend all meetings. Members are encouraged to help share what is happening with their organizations. A wide range of topics is discussed. There will be three meetings per year and will be via Teams until further notice.

Board Member duties were reviewed and discussed. Interested Board Members for the Co-Chair are Meghan Scott, and Patrick O’Dowd. Lori Kuczmanski will poll the board via email to select the co-chair. One option is for one person to chair the first year and the other to chair the second year. Once decided who the Co-Chair is, they will alternate chairing the meetings with Anna Morales.

**Public Comments:**
None

**Board Discussion and Suggested Future Agenda Items:**
- Salinity management in the Lower Colorado River – how Reclamation manages drainage and flows in the Yuma area to meet the salinity requirements of Minute 242.
- Ten-Year Plan for Imperial Dam extraordinary maintenance – we are spending $40-50 million on the Dam over the next 10 years. Suggested presenter is David Escobar of the Imperial Irrigation District.
- Current health of the Cienega de Santa Clara.
o Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCRMSCP) update – current projects around Laguna Dam and wildlife impacts.

o New River Improvement Project in Calexico, CA Same time as Salton sea presentation

o Reclamation presentation of their effectiveness study of the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead that was completed in December.

o Increasing river flow in the lower Colorado River. Impact of cities such as Phoenix and Los Angeles siphoning off water

o Salton Sea update. The state is breaking ground on a major mitigation project. The board indicated this would be a good presentation toward the end of the year. It was suggested to combine this with a New River presentation for a meeting focused on Imperial County issues.

Any other suggested meeting topics should be emailed to Public Affairs Officer Lori Kuczmanski.

The board discussed that it will meet the third Wednesday of every fourth month, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. There was discussion that the Citizens Forum used to meet four times per year but now all the USIBWC Citizens Forum Boards are moving to three meetings per year. Next meeting is May 19, 2021 via Teams webinar. The meeting adjourned at 5:55pm.

*Meeting notes are tentative and summarize in draft the contents and discussion of Citizens Forum Meetings. While these notes are intended to provide a general overview of Citizens Forum Meetings, they may not necessarily be accurate or complete, and may not be representative of USIBWC policy or positions.