



USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM ORIENTATION

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Public Affairs Officer
Rio Grande Citizens Forum
October 22, 2020

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
- Meeting will be held virtually until further notice
- In-person meetings alternate between El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico
- 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

- CF is not a federal advisory board; goal is to exchange information and to receive feedback from a diversity of viewpoints
- 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
- 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

- Border Patrol trends in 2019 (Border Patrol)
- Environmental Impacts of the Border Wall (Southwest Environmental Center)
- Upper Rio Grande Sediment Removal (IBWC)
- Letter of Map Revision (El Paso Water)
- Lower Rio Grande River –Aquatic Species and Habitat (New Mexico Department of Game and Fish)
- 10-year Implementation of the Record of Decision for the Rio Grande Canalization Flood Control Project and Future Management (IBWC)
- Water Quality in the Desert: Supply Challenges and Treatment Solutions (El Paso Water)
- Design and Construction of the Rio Grande Channel Maintenance Alternatives for Sediment Control (IBWC)

PAST TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- Desalination of Brackish Water in the Southern Mesilla Valley: Preliminary Planning (NMSU, Professor and Associate Dept. Head, Dept. of Civil Engineering)
- Rincon WHEN (Water, habitat, Energy, and Nexus) Elephant Butte Irrigation District
- Doniphan Drive Corridor Plan (Texas Dept. of Transportation)
- Orange Trees in Summer? Saltcedar and Diorhabda in New Mexico (NMSU & State Entomologist, NM Dept. of Agriculture)
- Interior Drainage Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analysis for El Paso, Texas (El Paso Water)

BOARD ITEMS TO DISCUSS

- Currently, meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday quarterly
- Meeting time is 5:00-7:00
- Alternating locations
 - Pima County
 - Santa Cruz County
- Meeting Minutes
- Notices go out 2 weeks prior to meeting via email
- Board Member tours
- Reminder phone call the day prior

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION UNITED STATES SECTION



[https://www.ibwc.gov/Citizens Forums/CF_URG.html](https://www.ibwc.gov/Citizens%20Forums/CF_URG.html)

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