



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
January 12, 2011

USIBWC SELECTS CITIZENS FORUM BOARD MEMBERS; MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 20

Commissioner Edward Drusina of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has appointed nine people to serve on the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum Board. The purpose of the Citizens Forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related activities in Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz Counties.

Commissioner Drusina has appointed the following board members, who will serve a two-year term:

- Alejandro Barcenas, Nogales, extensive experience with various groups involved in regional water and environmental issues.
- James Barr, Nogales, Mariposa Properties, active in regional water management groups.
- Emily Brott, Tucson, Sonoran Institute, Project Manager for Southern Arizona, working on natural resources and watershed issues.
- Rosanna Gabaldón, Town of Sahuarita, Council Member.
- Robert Gumtow, Tucson, U.S. Border Patrol, Public Lands Liaison Agent.
- John W. Ladd, Bisbee, rancher along the Mexico border and San Pedro River.
- Ben Lomeli, Rio Rico, Friends of the Santa Cruz River Board of Directors.
- Bill Odle, Palominas, border resident.
- Jenny Neeley, Tucson, Sky Island Alliance, Conservation Policy Director.

John Light, Area Operations Manager of the USIBWC's Nogales office, will serve as the USIBWC representative on the board.

Commissioner Drusina will attend the first public meeting with the new board on Thursday, January 20, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Town of Sahuarita Council Chambers, 375 West Sahuarita Center Way, Sahuarita, AZ 85629. At the meeting, USIBWC staff will provide an overview of Commission history, mission, and projects, with a focus on activities in Southeast Arizona, and will discuss the role of the board. The Commission is responsible for applying the boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico. In Southeast Arizona, the USIBWC operates the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant, addresses a variety of transboundary sanitation and water issues, and demarcates the international boundary.

The USIBWC maintained an active Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum program from 2002 until 2007. With increasing interest in transboundary water issues in the region, Commissioner Drusina decided to re-establish the board to help promote the exchange of information with the community about the Commission's work.

"I look forward to working with the new board as we address many infrastructure and environmental challenges along the Arizona-Mexico border. The board members have a wealth of experience in addressing these challenges and I know they will help the USIBWC improve our outreach in the community as well as give the Commission insight into developing issues," said Commissioner Drusina.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 520-281-1832 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

For more information:

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, January 20, 2011

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Sahuarita Town Hall, Council Chambers

375 W. Sahuarita Center Way

Sahuarita, AZ 85629

Agenda

- Call to Order – John Light, USIBWC Area Operations Manager
- Introduction of New Board Members
- USIBWC Expectations for the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum Board - Edward Drusina, Commissioner, USIBWC
- Board Member Orientation – Sally Spener, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC
 - Overview of Commission History, Mission, and Projects
 - Board Member Roles and Responsibilities
 - Discussion of Meeting Locations and Times
 - Selection of a Community Co-Chairperson
- Overview of Commission Projects in Southeast Arizona – John Light, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion/Suggested Future Agenda Items

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time at 915-832-4175 or sally.spener@ibwc.gov.