



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
April 25, 2018

USIBWC SELECTS 11 CITIZENS FORUM BOARD MEMBERS TO SERVE 2-YEAR TERM IN LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Commissioner Edward Drusina of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has appointed 11 residents to serve on the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum Board (LRGCF). 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 the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. The first public meeting with the new board will take place on **Wednesday, May 9, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Mercedes Field Office, 325 Golf Course Road, Mercedes, TX.**

The new board members are:

- **Jim Chapman:** Friends of the Wildlife Corridor
- **Tricia Cortez:** Rio Grande International Study Center
- **Eric Davila:** Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority
- **Joel Espinoza:** Citizen, La Joya Lake Recreation Club Assoc., Member
- **Melisa Gonzales:** City of Alamo
- **John Goolsby:** U.S. Department of Agriculture
- **Javier Guerrero:** University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
- **Michael McNew:** Citizen
- **Daniel Moreno:** Hidalgo County

- **Omar Rios:** City of Harlingen
- **Carlos A. Sanchez:** City of Harlingen

The board will also include Juan Uribe, Area Operations Manager for the USIBWC's Mercedes Field Office. Board members will serve as volunteers for a two-year term.

USIBWC Public Affairs Officer Lori Kuczanski will provide an overview of the history of the International Boundary and Water Commission, from its early days surveying and marking the U.S.- Mexico border, to its growing role in water management, based on the Convention of 1906 and the 1944 Water Treaty. She will also discuss the Commission's current responsibilities all along the border, including maintaining the boundary monuments, operating international storage dams and hydroelectric power plants, providing flood control, and operating international wastewater treatment plants.

Juan Uribe of the USIBWC will present an overview of Commission activities in the Lower Rio Grande region, including maintain flood control levees, removing obstructions from the floodway, maintaining and operating diversion dams, maintaining drainage and irrigation structures, and measuring flows in the Rio Grande.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 956-565-3150 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.

News media may contact:

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USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

USIBWC Conference Room

325 Golf Course Road*

Mercedes, TX 78570

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions** – Juan Uribe, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC, and Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- **Overview of the History, Mission, and Projects of the International Boundary and Water Commission** – Lori Kuczanski, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC
- **Overview of Commission Activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas** – Juan Uribe, USIBWC Area Operations Manager
- **Public Comment**
- **Break**
- **Orientation for New Citizens Forum Board Members** – Lori Kuczanski, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC
- **Board Discussion/Suggested Future Agenda Items**

*Directions: From Expressway 83, exit Mile 2 W. Travel south for approx. 1.5 miles to Golf Course Rd. Turn left. The USIBWC is the first building on your left.

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For information, call 956-565-3150 or e-mail lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov