



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For Immediate Release
April 27, 2016

USIBWC APPOINTS CITIZENS FORUM BOARD MEMBERS; AGENCY PROJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING MAY 11 PUBLIC MEETING IN MERCEDES, TEXAS

Commissioner Edward Drusina of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has appointed ten individuals to serve on the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (LRGCF) board. The first public meeting with the new board will take place on **Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 3:00pm to 5:00pm** at the **USIBWC Field Office Conference Room, 325 Golf Course Road, Mercedes, TX**. The new board members are:

- **Rick Cavazos**, Mayor of Los Indios
- **Lawrence Drake**, Drake Farms, San Benito
- **Joel Espinoza**, court coordinator, community volunteer, Edinburg
- **Ricardo Garcia**, Mercedes City Manager
- **John Goolsby**, USDA Research Entomologist, Edinburg
- **Sonny Hinojosa**, Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 2, President of Texas Irrigation Council, San Juan
- **Sonia Lambert**, Cameron County Irrigation District #2, Vice Chair of Rio Grande Regional Water Authority, San Benito
- **Henry Leo**, Patrol Agent in Charge, Harlingen Border Patrol Station
- **Bill Lewis**, civil/environmental engineer (retired), Edinburg
- **Omar Rios**, City of Harlingen Environmental Services

USIBWC Area Operations Manager Juan Uribe will serve as the USIBWC's representative on the board.

Board members serve a two-year term.

USIBWC Secretary Sally Spener will present a briefing on the history and projects of the USIBWC, from its early days erecting boundary demarcation monuments to the modern-day Commission's responsibilities applying the various boundary and water treaties between the United States and Mexico. The presentation will

include an overview of treaty requirements and the Commission's structure. She will also cover the Commission's current activities related to water delivery, sanitation, flood control, and operation of international dams.

In other business, USIBWC Assistant Area Operations Manager Frank Martinez will present an overview of the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project, which includes 270 miles of levees, 30,000 acres of interior floodways, and 2 diversion dams. USIBWC personnel are responsible for measuring Rio Grande flows to determine the national ownership of waters, maintaining the levees and dams, demarcating the international border, and overseeing the operation of a salinity control project known as Morillo Drain.

The USIBWC established the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum in 2003 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. The LRGCF brings community members together, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, government agencies, irrigation districts, municipalities, and other interested parties.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 956-565-3150 or contact shellie.munoz@ibwc.gov.

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LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

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 and Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- History and Projects of the International Boundary and Water Commission – Sally Spener, Secretary, USIBWC
- USIBWC Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project – Frank Martinez, Assistant Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Break
- New Board Member Orientation – Sally Spener, Secretary, USIBWC
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions:** From Expressway 83, exit Mile 2 W. Travel south for approximately 1.5 miles to Golf Course Road. 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 more information, call 956-565-3150.