



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
April 30, 2014

RIO GRANDE WATER QUALITY AND FLOOD CONTROL ON AGENDA FOR MAY 14 PUBLIC MEETING IN WESLACO

The results of Rio Grande water quality monitoring and the status of Rio Grande flood control levee construction will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 14, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the Texas A & M Research and Extension Center, 2415 E. Business 83, Weslaco, Texas 78596. The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) established the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities and related issues in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

USIBWC Environmental Protection Specialist Leslie Grijalva will discuss the water quality of the Rio Grande in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The USIBWC Texas Clean Rivers Program collects water quality information throughout the river basin. Ms. Grijalva will discuss bacteria and salinity, monitoring activities, outreach activities, and both ongoing and future projects in the Lower Rio Grande Valley affecting water quality.

In other business, USIBWC Civil Engineer Ramon F. Navarro will give a presentation about the USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande levee rehabilitation projects in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, Texas. The presentation will provide an update on the status of levees under construction and will cover projects planned for the future. The USIBWC is rehabilitating its

levees to meet standards established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Communities protected by levee systems accredited by FEMA benefit from both enhanced flood protection and better rates on flood insurance.

The presentation will also include information on navigating the USIBWC's website to access maps depicting the status of levee improvement projects. These status maps delineate the different projects along the existing Rio Grande levee system with labeled, color-coded lines. The maps include a table, which reports the status of these projects. The maps are available at: http://www.ibwc.gov/GIS_Maps/levee-rehab-status_tabbed.html

A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

Sally Spener
915-832-4175
sally.spener@ibwc.gov

LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Wednesday, May 14, 2014
3:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Texas A & M Research and Extension Center at Weslaco
2415 E. Business 83*
Weslaco, TX 78596

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Omar Rios, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Water Quality in the Lower Rio Grande: Annual Water Quality Update and Basin Advisory Meeting – Leslie Grijalva, Environmental Protection Specialist, USIBWC Texas Clean Rivers Program
- Lower Rio Grande Levee Rehabilitation Projects in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties – Ramon F. Navarro, Civil Engineer, 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. For more information, call 956-565-3150.

***Directions:** From Interstate 2 (formerly Expressway 83), exit FM 1015 and turn south onto FM 1015. Make a right at the first entrance to your right (approx. 300 yards from intersection). Parking lot is after 2nd stop sign. Note that GPS systems are unreliable in locating this address.