



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
June 28, 2018

USIBWC APPOINTS RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM BOARD MEMBERS TO SERVE 2-YEAR TERM; PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR JULY 12 IN EL PASO

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has appointed 11 residents to serve on the Rio Grande Citizens Forum (RGCF) Board. The purpose of the RGCF is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related activities along the Rio Grande between Percha Dam, NM and Fort Quitman, TX.

The USIBWC established the Rio Grande Citizens Forum in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of information regarding USIBWC activities in the greater El Paso, TX-Las Cruces, NM region. It is designed to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, irrigation districts, municipalities, and others interested in the Rio Grande.

The first public meeting with the new board will take place **Thursday, July 12, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at USIBWC Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa, Building C, El Paso, TX 79902.**

The meeting is open to the public.

The new board members are:

- **Jamie Barron, Ph.D.: Property owner**
- **Mark A. Calamia: Chamizal National Memorial**

- **Daniel Chavez: Hudspeth County Conservation & Reclamation District #1**
- **Kirk M. Clifton: National Hispanic Cultural Center**
- **Yvonne Curry: Professional engineer**
- **Walton Low: Retired, U.S. Geological Survey**
- **James W. Maxfield: Mid-West Textile Co., Save the Valley**
- **Philip J. Partridge: Outdoor recreation enthusiast**
- **Paul Tashjian: Audubon New Mexico**
- **Blanca Trout: Canutillo Independent School District**
- **John Unruh: Retired, U.S. Geological Survey**

Board members will serve as volunteers for a two-year term.

At the July 12 meeting, 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.

USIBWC personnel will present on the overview of Commission activities in the Rio Grande region, including maintaining 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 meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact Lori Kuczanski at 915-832-4106 or

lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov

RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, July 12, 2018
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
USIBWC Headquarters
4171 N. Mesa St., The Commons, Building C*
El Paso, TX 79902

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions – USIBWC**

- **Overview of the History, Mission, and Projects of the International Boundary and Water Commission – Lori Kuczmanski, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC**

- **Overview of Commission Activities in Upper Rio Grande area – USIBWC**

- **Public Comment**

- **Break**

- **Orientation for New Citizens Forum Board Members – Lori Kuczmanski, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC**

- **Board Discussion**

- **Suggested Future Agenda Items**

***Directions:** Exit I-10 at Executive Center Boulevard and head east toward Mesa St. Turn right on Mesa. USIBWC Headquarters building is in the Commons business complex to your right. Please arrive at least 30 minutes early because all visitors and employees must pass through security screenings.

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 915- 832-4106 or e-mail lori.kuczmanski@ibwc.gov