



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
September 29, 2017

MINUTE SIGNINGS WITH THE U.S. AND MEXICO AND SALT CEDAR LEAF BEETLE IN NEW MEXICO ON AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 12 PUBLIC MEETING IN LAS CRUCES

The Rio Grande Citizens Forum (RGCF) of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will discuss Commission agreements signed this year between the U.S. and Mexico, known as Minutes, and a beetle used to control saltcedar in New Mexico. The meeting will take place on **Thursday, October 12, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Las Cruces City Hall, 700 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88001**. The Rio Grande Citizens Forum was established to facilitate the exchange of information with the public about Commission activities and related matters.

Sally Spener, Foreign Affairs Officer and USIBWC Secretary, will explain the Minute process and Minutes over the last decade affecting the El Paso-Las Cruces region. Ms. Spener will also give an overview of the three Minutes signed this year. This year, the Commission has concluded three Minutes: Minute No. 321, “Official Means of Identification of Vehicles and Other Equipment Crossing the International Boundary on Official Business of the Commission or of Either Section,” Minute No. 322, “Extension of the Temporary Emergency Delivery of Colorado River Water for Use in Tijuana, Baja California,” and Minute No. 323, “Extension of Cooperative Measures and Adoption of a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in the Colorado River Basin.”

Dr. Carol Sutherland, Extension Entomologist, New Mexico State University, and State Entomologist, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, will give a presentation on efforts to use a beetle to control saltcedar, an invasive, exotic plant widely established in Western North America wherever its

roots can reach water. It's currently listed as a noxious weed in 14 Western states and two Canadian provinces. Previously managed with herbicides, heavy equipment and fire, biological control was added to the efforts to control this weed in the early 2000s. Four species of *Diorhabda*, leaf beetle from the Old-World homelands of saltcedar were vetted by United States Department of Agriculture scientists for over 20 years before they were permitted for release in the U.S. The beetles feed and reproduce exclusively on saltcedar and produce several generations annually and disperse—quite impressively, so far, all by themselves at no cost. Dr. Sutherland will provide the ins and outs with biocontrol.

The USIBWC established the Rio Grande Citizens Forum in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of information regarding USIBWC activities on the Rio Grande between Percha Dam, New Mexico and Fort Quitman, Texas. 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 river.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact 915-832-4106 or the Public Affairs Office at lori.kuczanski@ibwc.gov.

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RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, October 12, 2017

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Las Cruces City Hall

700 North Main Street *

Las Cruces, NM 88001

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Carlos Peña, Principal Engineer, USIBWC
- Minute signings with the U.S. and Mexico —Sally Spener, Foreign Affairs Officer and USIBWC Secretary
- Orange trees in Summer? What’s happening? Saltcedar and Diorhabda in New Mexico — Dr. Carol Sutherland, Extension Entomologist, New Mexico State University and State Entomologist, New Mexico Dept. of Agriculture
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions: *Directions:** From El Paso, take I-10 west. Take exit 142 Valley Drive. Keep left at the fork in the ramp and continue onto Valley Drive. Travel about ¼ of a mile and veer right onto Main Street. Continue on Main about 2.4 miles to City Hall.

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 email Lori.Kuczanski@ibwc.gov