USIBWC CITIZENS FORUM ORIENTATION

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Public Affairs Officer
Rio Grande Citizens Forum
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CITIZENS FORUM PURPOSE

• To facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the local community regarding ongoing and future USIBWC projects in the area

• The Citizens Forum is intended to bring together community members enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, water managers, government agencies, etc.
BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

• Attend public meetings three times per year
• Meeting will be held virtually until further notice
• In-person meetings alternate between El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico
• Board term is for two years
• Board members are expected to be available to the public to facilitate the exchange of information
BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

• CF is not a federal advisory board; goal is to exchange information and to receive feedback from a diversity of viewpoints

• Review and comment on technical documents and activities associated with USIBWC projects in the area

• Discuss plans and issues related to ongoing and future USIBWC projects

• Board Members will not serve as spokespeople for the IBWC

• Members serve as volunteers. There is no reimbursement for expenses
BOARD MEMBER DUTIES

• Board Members understand that being on the Citizens Forum Board entails a willingness to work cooperatively with other members to ensure the efficient and effective use of time.

• Board Members will discuss topics ideas for the next meeting and the Co-Chair will send requests to the Public Affairs Officer no later than 2 weeks after the meeting.
PAST TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

• Border Patrol trends in 2019 (Border Patrol)

• Environmental Impacts of the Border Wall (Southwest Environmental Center)

• Upper Rio Grande Sediment Removal (IBWC)

• Letter of Map Revision (El Paso Water)

• Lower Rio Grande River –Aquatic Species and Habitat (New Mexico Department of Game and Fish)

• 10-year Implementation of the Record of Decision for the Rio Grande Canalization Flood Control Project and Future Management (IBWC)

• Water Quality in the Desert: Supply Challenges and Treatment Solutions (El Paso Water)

• Design and Construction of the Rio Grande Channel Maintenance Alternatives for Sediment Control (IBWC)
PAST TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

• Desalination of Brackish Water in the Southern Mesilla Valley: Preliminary Planning (NMSU, Professor and Associate Dept. Head, Dept. of Civil Engineering)

• Rincon WHEN (Water, habitat, Energy, and Nexus) Elephant Butte Irrigation District

• Doniphan Drive Corridor Plan (Texas Dept. of Transportation)

• Orange Trees in Summer? Saltcedar and Diorhabda in New Mexico (NMSU & State Entomologist, NM Dept. of Agriculture)

• Interior Drainage Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analysis for El Paso, Texas (El Paso Water)
BOARD ITEMS TO DISCUSS

• Currently, meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday quarterly
• Meeting time is 5:00-7:00
• Alternating locations
  • Pima County
  • Santa Cruz County
• Meeting Minutes
• Notices go out 2 weeks prior to meeting via email
• Board Member tours
• Reminder phone call the day prior