



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
April 15, 2016

USIBWC SELECTS CITIZENS FORUM BOARD MEMBERS; PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR APRIL 21ST IN LAS CRUCES

Commissioner Edward Drusina of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has appointed 14 people to serve on the Rio Grande Citizens Forum Board. The first public meeting with the new board will take place on **Thursday, April 21st, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** at the **Las Cruces City Hall Council Chambers, 700 North Main Street, Las Cruces, NM 88001**. The new board members are:

- **John Balliew**, President/CEO, El Paso Water Utilities
- **Daniel Chavez**, General Manager, Hudspeth County Conservation & Reclamation District No. 1
- **John Cornell**, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, President of Doña Ana County Associated Sportsmen
- **Yvonne Curry**, American Society of Civil Engineers
- **Ricardo Dominguez**, city planner, retired Assistant Director of El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization
- **Francine Jefferson**, community volunteer
- **Leticia Jimenez**, property owner along Rio Grande
- **Travis Johnson**, attorney, former El Paso County Judge
- **Conrad Keyes, Jr.**, Chair, Paso del Norte Watershed Council, New Mexico State University Emeritus Department Head and Professor of Civil Engineering
- **Walton Low**, U.S. Geological Survey hydrologist (retired), Lower Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Technical Advisory Group
- **Sal Masoud**, Del Rio Engineering, El Paso Association of Builders Board of Directors
- **Gill Sorg**, City of Las Cruces City Council, President of Friends of the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks, Board Member of Mesilla Valley Audubon Society
- **Ray Spears**, Captain Game Warden, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- **Ryan Ward**, Policy Analyst, New Mexico Department of Agriculture

USIBWC Principal Engineer Carlos Peña will serve as the Commission's representative on the board.

"The new board members bring a commitment to the community and expertise in water issues. We look forward to working with them over the next two years," said Commissioner Drusina.

The USIBWC established the Rio Grande Citizens Forum in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of information with the community regarding Commission 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.

At the April 21 meeting, Commissioner Drusina will give an overview of expectations for the new board members, who will serve for a two-year term.

USIBWC Secretary Sally Spener will provide a briefing 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.

Antonio (Tony) R. Solo, USIBWC Area Operations Manager, will give a presentation of the activities performed by the Upper Rio Grande Field Office, including the main missions for the field office, which are flood control, water deliveries, and boundary demarcation, among other related topics.

A complete agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may call 915-832-4706 or e-mail shellie.munoz@ibwc.gov.

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RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Thursday, April 21, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Las Cruces City Hall
Council Chambers
700 North Main Street*
Las Cruces, NM 88001-3512

- Welcome and Introductions – Carlos Peña, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- USIBWC Expectations for the Rio Grande Citizens Forum Board – Edward Drusina, Commissioner, USIBWC
- History and Projects of the International Boundary and Water Commission – Sally Spener, Secretary, USIBWC
- USIBWC Projects and Activities in the El Paso-Las Cruces Region – Antonio (Tony) R. Solo, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Break
- New Board Member Orientation – Sally Spener, Secretary, USIBWC
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***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 915-832-4175 or e-mail sally.spener@ibwc.gov