



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
June 3, 2014

JUNE 19 PUBLIC MEETING IN BISBEE TO DISCUSS BORDER WATER ISSUES

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum to discuss water issues along the U.S.-Mexico border. The meeting will take place Thursday, June 19, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, Cochise County Complex, Building G, 1415 W. Melody Lane in Bisbee, Arizona. The purpose of the forum is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community regarding Commission projects and related activities in Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona.

Dr. James Callegary with the U.S. Geological Survey will present an overview of the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program for the San Pedro and Santa Cruz aquifers and the studies that are being produced in a joint, binational effort with researchers from Mexico. This effort will help foster collaboration and provide information that stakeholders could use for better, more informed decision making.

John Light, USIBWC Area Operations Manager, will discuss the latest efforts at watershed planning for Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Sonora. There has been a history of flooding in Agua Prieta with floodwater coming into the community from the north. There are two sources contributing to the flooding – Alamito Creek and Whitewater Draw. In May, the International Boundary and Water Commission met to discuss the flooding and a proposed study

to identify improvements in the stormwater conveyance system to mitigate the flooding. The Cities of Douglas and Agua Prieta expressed interest in sponsoring the study so the community could be eligible to apply for funding assistance from the Border Environment Cooperation Commission. The proposed study would estimate the amount of floodwater that affects different locations in the watershed, determine the flood conveyance capacity of existing channels, and explore potential flood mitigation alternatives, such as detention basins.

Mr. Light will also give an update on efforts to rehabilitate the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI), the aged pipe that conveys sewage from the international boundary to the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rio Rico. A contract was recently awarded to prepare the design for the rehabilitation project.

A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, June 19, 2014

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. MST

**Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
Cochise County Complex, Building G
1415 W. Melody Lane*
Bisbee, AZ**

Agenda

- Call to Order – Ben Lomeli, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program – James Callegary, Ph.D, United States Geological Survey
- Update on Douglas-Agua Prieta Watershed Planning – John Light, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Update on the International Outfall Interceptor Wastewater Pipe in Nogales – John Light, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion\Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions from Tucson:** Take I-10 east to Exit 302/AZ-90 S toward Ft. Huachuca/Sierra Vista. Take AZ-90 south to Sierra Vista, stay straight to go onto Buffalo Soldier Trail. Continue southeast on Buffalo Soldier Trail to AZ-92. Turn right onto AZ-92 and continue 27.3 miles to Melody Lane on right.

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time at 520-281-1832 or sally.spener@ibwc.gov.