



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
August 29, 2013

SEPTEMBER 19 PUBLIC MEETING IN DOUGLAS, ARIZONA TO DISCUSS REGIONAL FLOODING AND BORDER TRASH ISSUES

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens Forum on Thursday, September 19, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., in the Douglas City Hall Council Chamber, 425 10th Street in Douglas, 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.

Gerry R. Gonzalez, District Conservationist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service, will discuss various border flooding issues, including frequent flooding in Agua Prieta, Sonora. These floods pose an increasing threat to life and significant property damage. As the city continues to grow, flooding issues become a greater concern. Flooding along the border fence and related erosion can also be problems. Officials on both sides of the border are seeking solutions. For example, the "Douglas Lake" project consists of the construction of a regulating reservoir immediately west of Douglas, Arizona to capture and regulate floodwaters from the Whitewater Draw into the west side of Agua Prieta, Sonora.

Mr. Gonzalez will also discuss planning for the U.S./Mexico San Pedro River Water Quality Conference, a one-day bi-national gathering to present and discuss water quality issues on both sides of the border. Preliminary plans include inviting interested groups and organizations from both sides of the border to present their work and to explore the idea of

forming a bi-national watershed group to coordinate water quality efforts and issues on both sides of the border.

In other business, Amanda Stone, Director of the Southern Regional Office of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, will discuss the Arizona Border Trash Program, which consists of partnerships to clean up Arizona's borderlands. The collection and disposal of waste in remote areas along Arizona's 370-mile border with Mexico pose difficult challenges. An estimated more than 2,000 tons of trash is discarded annually in Arizona's borderlands. A variety of federal and state government entities, Native American tribes and private landowners are affected by the problem, and addressing it requires extensive coordination.

The State of Arizona, through the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), has worked with partners to develop the Arizona Border Trash Web site to provide a centralized location where stakeholders conducting border trash cleanups can find assessment and cleanup resources, and where data from cleanups can be tracked consistently. The presentation will provide an overview of the Web site, examples of successful cleanup projects, and available resources to facilitate future cleanups.

A complete meeting agenda follows.

For more information:

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

SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS FORUM

Thursday, September 19, 2013

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Douglas City Hall Council Chamber

425 10th Street

Douglas, AZ

Agenda

- Call to Order – John Light, USIBWC, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Border Flooding Issues in the Douglas-Agua Prieta Region – Gerry R. Gonzalez, District Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The Arizona Border Trash Program: partnerships to clean up Arizona's borderlands – Amanda Stone, Director, Southern Regional Office, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

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