



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
January 5, 2012

USIBWC APPOINTS LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM BOARD

Commissioner Edward Drusina of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has appointed new board members to the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (LRGCF). The LRGCF was established by the USIBWC to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The USIBWC is responsible for operation and maintenance of the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project, boundary demarcation, and certain activities related to water quality and water supply. The first public meeting with the new board will be held Wednesday, January 11, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Commission office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas. The new board members are:

- Salvador Alemany-Merly, Rio Grande Valley Urban Forester, Texas Forest Service/Texas A & M University, Weslaco
- Patty Alexander, grant writer for Cameron County Drainage District #1, Lower Rio Grande Valley Nature Center, Weslaco
- Sofia Benavides, Cameron County Commissioner, Brownsville
- Carl Boyd, National Active and Retired Federal Employees, retired USIBWC employee, Weslaco
- Hudson DeYoe, UT-Pan American, Chair of the Lower Rio Grande/Lower Laguna Madre Basin and Bay Expert Science Team, Edinburg
- John Goolsby, U.S. Department of Agriculture, expert in control of invasive weeds, Weslaco
- Julia Jorgensen, Lower Rio Grande Valley Sierra Club, McAllen
- Bill Lewis, Halff Associates, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Waterworks Association, McAllen
- Ramon Navarro, City of McAllen

- Louie Sanchez, Chief of Staff for State Senator Eddie Lucio, Brownsville
- Donnie Valdez, Minority Agriculture Producers, Weslaco
- John Wood, Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority, Good Neighbor Environmental Board, Brownsville

The appointments were made to fill expired board terms. USIBWC Lower Rio Grande Area Operations Manager Rodolfo Montero will serve as the agency representative on the board. Board members will serve a two-year term. The USIBWC appointed new board members to replace those whose terms had expired; several incumbent board members were appointed for another term.

At the January 11 meeting, USIBWC staff will give an overview of the mission, history, and projects of the Commission, with a focus on activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The meeting will also include an orientation session for the new board. See attached agenda for details.

For more information:

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

LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

USIBWC Conference Room

325 Golf Course Road

Mercedes, TX 78570

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction of New Board Members – Rodolfo Montero, Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Overview of the Mission, History, and Projects of the International Boundary and Water Commission – Sally Spener, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC
- Overview of the Responsibilities and Activities of the USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande Office – Rodolfo Montero, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- New Board Member Orientation – Sally Spener, Public Affairs Officer, USIBWC

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 956-565-3150.