



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
January 9, 2014

USIBWC APPOINTS RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM BOARD; PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR JAN. 14 IN EL PASO

Commissioner Edward Drusina of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has announced the appointment of 12 people to serve on the 2014-2015 Rio Grande Citizens Forum (RGCF) board. The purpose of the RGCF is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related activities along the Rio Grande between Percha Dam, NM and Fort Quitman, TX.

Commissioner Drusina has appointed the following individuals, who will serve as volunteers for a two-year term:

- John Balliew, El Paso Water Utilities, El Paso, TX
- Daniel Chavez, Hudspeth County Conservation & Reclamation District No. 1, Fort Hancock, TX
- John Cornell, Doña Ana County Associated Sportsmen, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, Hillsboro, NM
- Travis Johnson, attorney, El Paso, TX
- Conrad Keyes, Jr., Paso del Norte Watershed Council, Las Cruces, NM
- Carlos Leon, El Paso County Commissioner, El Paso, TX
- Zachary Libbin, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, Las Cruces, NM
- Austin Marshall, University of Texas at El Paso, Professor of Civil Engineering, El Paso, TX
- Suleiman "Sal" Masoud, Del Rio Engineering, El Paso Association of Builders, El Paso, TX
- Dale Reinhardt, Mayor, Town of Clint, TX
- Gill Michael Sorg, Las Cruces City Council, Audubon Society, Las Cruces, NM (Olga Pedroza, Las Cruces City Council, as Alternate)
- Miguel Teran, El Paso County Water Improvement District #1, Rosadales Neighborhood Association, El Paso, TX

"We had an outstanding group of applicants this year," said Commissioner Drusina. "I know this board will do a great job in helping us with outreach to the community about the region's water issues."

The first meeting with the new board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at USIBWC Headquarters, 4171 N. Mesa Street, Building C, El Paso, TX 79902 (see attached agenda). At the meeting, staff will give an overview of the Commission's history, mission, and projects followed by orientation for the new board. The meeting is open to the public.

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

For more information:

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RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM
Tuesday, January 14, 2014
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
USIBWC Headquarters
4171 N. Mesa St., The Commons, Building C*
El Paso, TX 79902

- Call to Order – Carlos Peña, Citizens Forum Co-Chair, USIBWC
- Welcoming Remarks – Commissioner Edward Drusina, USIBWC
- Introduction of New Board Members
- Overview of Commission History, Mission, and Projects – Sally Spener, Secretary, USIBWC
- Overview of Commission Projects and Activities in Southern New Mexico and West Texas – Tony Solo, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Public Comment
- Board Member Orientation – Sally Spener, Secretary, USIBWC
 - Board Member Roles and Responsibilities
 - Discussion of Meeting Locations and Times
 - Selection of a Community Co-Chairperson
- Board Discussion
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

***Directions:** From I-10, exit Executive Center Blvd. Go east to Mesa Street. Turn right on Mesa. The Commons office buildings are on the right.

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