



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
March 27, 2013

WATER TREATY ISSUES AND INVASIVE SPECIES ON AGENDA FOR APRIL 10 PUBLIC MEETING IN MERCEDES

Rio Grande water deliveries under the 1944 Water Treaty and invasive species affecting the Rio Grande are on the agenda for the next public meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (LRGCF) of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The LRGCF was established to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities and related issues in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 10, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at the USIBWC office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas.

USIBWC Secretary Sally Spener will present information about the 1944 Water Treaty, which requires Mexico to deliver water to the United States in the Rio Grande. Spener will discuss the treaty requirements and efforts to respond to water supply concerns in South Texas.

In other business, Dr. John Goolsby, Research Entomologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will share the latest information about invasive species control efforts with a focus on biological control efforts. The presentation will include a video documenting efforts in Mexico to control *Arundo donax*, also known as carrizo cane or giant reed. In some parts of the Rio Grande, the tall plant has grown into thick stands along the riverbank, pushing out native species. The ultimate goal of these control programs is to allow native vegetation to be restored.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information may contact the USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande Field Office at 956-565-3150 or sally.spener@ibwc.gov.

For more information:

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LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

USIBWC Conference Room

325 Golf Course Road*

Mercedes, TX 78570

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Hudson DeYoe, Citizens Forum Co-Chair
- Rio Grande Water Deliveries under the 1944 Water Treaty - Sally Spener, Secretary, USIBWC (via video teleconference)
- Invasive Species Biological Control Programs – Dr. John Goolsby, Research Entomologist, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- 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. For more information, call 956-565-3150.

***Directions:** From Expressway 83, exit Mile 2 W. Travel south for approximately 1.5 miles to Golf Course Road. Turn left. The USIBWC is the first building on your left.