



## **International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section**

For immediate release  
November 5, 2013

### **RIO GRANDE WATER QUALITY, HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE PROJECTS ON AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 13 PUBLIC MEETING IN MERCEDES**

The Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum (LRGCF) of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will discuss water quality and drainage issues in the Lower Rio Grande Valley during its November public meeting. 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, November 13, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the USIBWC office at 325 Golf Course Road in Mercedes, Texas.

Wayne Belzer, Environmental Protection Specialist from the USIBWC's Environmental Management Division, will present an overview of the Lower Rio Grande Water Quality Initiative (LRGWQI). In an effort to address water quality issues in the Lower Rio Grande, a binational initiative has been developed with cooperation from federal and state government from the United States and Mexico. The goals of the initiative are to review historical data, create a water quality model that will be used to assess impacts from recommended changes in the watershed, create a larger water quality monitoring network, and develop and implement recommendations for improving water quality from point and non-point sources.

The meeting will also cover drainage improvements that are planned or underway in Hidalgo County, presented by Godfrey Garza, Manager of the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1.

In other business, Rodolfo Montero, Area Operations Manager for the USIBWC, will give an update on the status of Mexico's Rio Grande water deliveries to the United States, which have increased significantly in recent months. He will also provide information about how members of the public can apply to serve on the Lower Rio Grande Citizens Forum board.

A complete meeting agenda follows. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting may contact the USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande Project Office at 956-565-3150 or [sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov).

For more information:

Sally Spener  
915-832-4175  
[sally.spener@ibwc.gov](mailto:sally.spener@ibwc.gov)

## **LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS FORUM**

**Wednesday, November 13, 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
- Lower Rio Grande Water Quality Initiative, binational efforts to address water quality in the Lower Rio Grande – Wayne Belzer, Environmental Protection Specialist, USIBWC (via video teleconference)
- Drainage Improvement Projects in Hidalgo County – Godfrey Garza, Manager, Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1
- Status Update on Mexico's Rio Grande Water Deliveries to the United States – Rodolfo Montero, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- Recognition of Outgoing Citizens Forum Board Members and Recruitment of New Board Members – Rodolfo Montero, Area Operations Manager, USIBWC
- 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.