

For immediate release  
March 24, 2004

## **USIBWC SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR CITIZENS' COMMITTEE**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is seeking applications from community members interested in participating in the Rio Grande Citizens' Forum (RGCF). The RGCF was established in 1999 to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities between Percha Dam, New Mexico and Ft. Quitman, Texas.

The RGCF is intended to bring together community members enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, government agencies, irrigation districts, municipalities, and other interested parties. Duties and responsibilities will include reviewing and commenting on technical documents and activities associated with USIBWC projects in the area.

The RGCF currently has eleven active board members. All board terms are expiring so the USIBWC has decided to open the application process to the general public. Incumbent board members who wish to continue their service are eligible for re-appointment.

The board conducts regular public meetings, approximately four times per year, to discuss plans and issues related to ongoing and future USIBWC projects. Meeting sites alternate between El Paso and Las Cruces. Board members are expected to serve a 2-year term and to attend all meetings. Participation in the Citizens' Forum is strictly voluntary and members will not be financially compensated.

Members of the public who would like an application for the Rio Grande Citizens' Forum can contact USIBWC Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener at (915) 832-4175 or via e-mail at [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov). The application and additional information also appear below. Applications are due April 23, 2004.

For more information:

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

# **RIO GRANDE CITIZENS' FORUM**

## **BACKGROUND**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) is seeking applications from individuals interested in serving on the Board for the Rio Grande Citizens' Forum (RGCF), a group established to promote the exchange of information regarding USIBWC activities between Percha Dam, NM and Ft. Quitman, TX. All RGCF meetings are open to the public and act as a focal point for the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the local community regarding ongoing and future USIBWC projects in the area and related matters. The RGCF is intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the general public, environmentalists, irrigators, government agencies, municipalities, etc. It is expected that the RGCF Board will consist of about ten volunteer members representing diverse interests. The Board will meet regularly in the greater El Paso, TX-Las Cruces, NM area approximately four times per year to discuss plans and issues related to ongoing and future USIBWC projects.

## **HOW TO BECOME A RIO GRANDE CITIZENS' FORUM MEMBER**

Application forms (see below) should be submitted by April 23, 2004. Board members to the RGCF will be selected by the USIBWC in consideration of the agency's interest in encouraging participation by diverse interests. Please return your completed application to: Sally Spener, USIBWC, 4171 N. Mesa, C-100, El Paso, TX 79902 or fax: 915-832-4195. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Spener at 915-832-4175 or [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov).



Those who do not serve directly on the Citizens' Forum Board may still participate in activities. Interested members of the community will be included on the mailing list and will be invited to attend all Forum meetings, which are open to the public. The public will be able to comment at the Forum meetings during a time set aside for public comments and input.

NOTE: Priority for Citizens' Forum Board membership will be given to local residents, groups or organizations which could be directly affected by USIBWC activities.

1. Please state why you would like to be considered for Citizens' Forum membership.

2. Describe your experience working as a member of a diverse group with common goals.

3. Non-USIBWC members of the Forum Board will select a community co-chairperson. Please indicate if you are interested in being the community co-chairperson by checking on the line below.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to be considered.

4. If you responded yes to question 3, please state why you would be interested in being the community co-chairperson.

5. By submitting this signed application, you:

- are aware that being a Citizens' Forum Board member will involve a set time commitment;
- understand that being a Citizens' Forum Board member entails a willingness to work cooperatively with other members to ensure the efficient and effective use of time;
- understand that serving on the Citizens' Forum will be voluntary and that members will not receive compensation for this service; and,
- understand the following Privacy Act information regarding providing your name, address and telephone number for this survey:

#### **PRIVACY ACT NOTICE**

Authority: 5 USC § 552a and 22 USC § 277

**Principal Purpose:** To identify members of the local community who are interested in participation in the Rio Grande Citizens' Forum.

**Routine Uses:** The requested information will be used to develop a list of interested persons from which the

community members of the Citizens' Forum will be selected. The information will also be used by the USIBWC to contact the individuals who are selected or who wish to be on the mailing list. Disclosure of the requested information is voluntary. Failure to provide all the requested information may prevent selection to the Citizens' Forum.

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Applicant Signature

Date

**Please return the completed form to: Sally Spener, USIBWC, 4171 N. Mesa Street, C-100, El Paso, TX 79902 or fax: 915-832-4195. Deadline is April 23, 2004.**