

For immediate release  
September 9, 2004

## **RIO GRANDE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR ON AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 22 PUBLIC MEETING**

The United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has scheduled a public meeting of its Lower Rio Grande Citizens' Forum (LRGCF) on September 22 at 4:00 p.m. at the Weslaco Public Library, 525 S. Kansas Avenue, Weslaco, Texas. The purpose of the LRGCF is to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Jeff Rupert of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge will discuss the effort to establish a wildlife corridor in the area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with the USIBWC and other organizations to establish a functional habitat passage for wildlife. The goal is to reconnect the remaining fragmented and isolated blocks of native habitat to ensure that wildlife populations in the Valley remain healthy and viable.

USIBWC Secretary/Foreign Affairs Officer Carlos Rivera will present information about the Binational Rio Grande Summit, which is planned for the Lower Rio Grande Valley in February of 2005. The International Boundary and Water Commission is organizing the summit in conformance with Minute 308, a 2002 Commission agreement. That agreement notes the desire of the United States and Mexico to convene a summit of experts and water users from each country for the purpose of providing the proper authorities and stakeholders information concerning sustainable management of the Rio Grande Basin. Taking the recommendations of the summit into account, the two Governments will consider a binational sustainable

management plan for the basin.

Also on the agenda, USIBWC Principal Engineer Carlos Marin will provide an update of ongoing Commission projects such as rehabilitation of flood control levees, improvements to Morillo Drain, and efforts to resolve Mexico's deficit in water deliveries under the 1944 Water Treaty.

A complete meeting agenda appears below. Members of the public who would like more information can contact the USIBWC's Lower Rio Grande Project Office at (956) 565-3150 or Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener at (915) 832-4175 or [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov).

For more information:

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## **LOWER RIO GRANDE CITIZENS' FORUM**

**Wednesday, September 22, 2004**

**4:00 - 6:00 P.M.**

**Weslaco Public Library**

**525 S. Kansas Avenue**

**Weslaco, Texas**

### **Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions
- South Texas National Wildlife Refuge Complex and the Wildlife Corridor - Jeff Rupert, Refuge Manager, Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- Binational Rio Grande Summit - Carlos Rivera, Secretary/Foreign Affairs Officer, USIBWC
- USIBWC Lower Rio Grande Updates - Carlos Marin, Principal Engineer, 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 or e-mail [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov).