

**Meeting Agenda  
U.S.-Mexico Border Field Coordinating Committee (FCC)  
April 22-24, 2008, El Paso, Texas**

**Tuesday, April 22, 2008 – Conference Room Camino Real Hotel, El Paso, Texas**

|                            |   |   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| <b>8:00 AM</b>             | Lorenzo Arriaga, USBR, FCC Chair  | <b>Welcome and Introductions</b>  |
| <b>8:10</b>                | Robert D. Andrade Assistant to City of El Paso<br>Mayor   |   |
| <b>8:30</b>                | EPA Panel Discussion– Gilbert Tellez / Maria<br>Sisneros of Region 6 EPA Water Infrastructure and<br>B2012 Water Task | <b>Welcome from the Mayor’s Office - Collaboration between Cities of<br/>El Paso, Juarez, Sunland Park on Border Environmental Issues.</b><br><br><b>Border 2012 Water / Air Activities</b> |
| <b>8:50</b>                | Ms. Sally Spener, IBWC PAO  | <b>Update IBWC Activities</b>   |
| <b>9:30</b>                | Center of Excellence for Border Security and<br>Immigration – University Texas – El Paso<br>General Riojas (retired)  | <b>Border / Homeland Security</b>   |
| <b>10:10</b>               | --15 minute break--<br>NPS  |   |
| <b>10:25</b>               | Mr. Aniceto Olais,<br>USGS  | <b>National Park Sister Parks Overview</b>  |
| <b>11:00</b>               | Jean Parcher  | <b>Border Mapping and Geospatial Data Overview</b>  |
| <b>11:30</b>               |   | <b>FCC Working Groups—Overview</b>  |
|                            | Greg Thomsen, BLM / Diana Papoulias USGS  |   |
| <b>12:00 – 1:00<br/>PM</b> | --Lunch--   | <b>Hotel has an excellent Buffet @ “Azulejos”<br/>(Lorenzo will facilitate)</b>   |

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| <b>1:10</b>      | Dr. Bobby Creel –New Mexico WRR<br>Dr. Alfredo Granados - Universidad Autonoma Cd. Juarez               | <b>Discussion presentation of University effort on Groundwater Data Exchange program.</b>   |
| <b>1:50</b>      | Ann Frances Ardis, P.G.USGS Jean Parcher - USGS<br>Fred Nibling (Bio Control) USBR, Lorenzo Arriaga BOR | <b>Working Group Discussion—Water (Ground Water, Aquatic Invasive Species, Flooding Mitigation)</b>                                       |
| <b>2:30</b>      | --15 minute break--   | <b>Working Group Discussion—Infrastructure (Monitoring and Adaptive Management) – <i>Impacts to Cultural and Historical Resources</i></b> |
| <b>2:45</b>      | Diana Papoulias, USGS,  |   |
| <b>3:30</b>      | Jean Parcher USGS   | <b>Working Group Discussion—Climate Change (Monitoring and Adaptive Management)</b>   |
| <b>4:15</b>      | <b>Kathryn Washburn</b>   | <b>Update on Department / International Programs</b>  |
| <b>4:45</b>      | Lorenzo Arriaga   | <b>Background on Field Trip</b>   |
| <b>5:00</b>      |   | <b>Adjourn</b><br><i>Facilitate dinner?? (action Item – Lorenzo)</i>  |
| <b>6:30-8:30</b> | All   | <b>No-host dinner, tbd</b>  |

**Wednesday, April 23, 2008 Business Meeting Part I, Hotel Breakfast Area?**

|                |                                  |   |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>8:00 AM</b> | Lorenzo Arriaga, USBR, FCC Chair | <b>Welcome</b>  |
| <b>8:15</b>    | All                              | <b>Discussion on Coordination w/SW Strategy, Border 2012, DOI Border Security Liaison, etc.</b>   |
| <b>9:00</b>    | All                              | <b>Discussion on Next Steps/ Vision for Working Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Election of FCC Vice Chair</i></li> <li>• <i>Discussion of Officers terms etc</i></li> <li>• <i>Schedule Fall Meeting—Place, Dates, Potential Agenda Topics</i></li> </ul> |
| <b>9:45</b>    |                                  | <b>Adjourn</b>  |
|                |                                  |   |

**Wednesday, April 23, 2008 Field Trip**

|                     |  |  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| <b>10:15</b>        |  | <b>Meet and Depart for Field Trip</b>                        |
| <b>10:30</b>        | Arrive @ IBWC boundary marker #1, American Diversion Dam. Briefing by IBWC and Homeland Security             | <b>Sally Spener, IBWC<br/>Melissa Meraz, DHS (tentative)</b> |
| <b>11:30</b>        | Depart American Diversion Dam Travel Downstream along River & Border Highway Briefed by DHS on Border Issues | <b>DHS / Border Patrol</b>                                   |
| <b>12:30-1:15PM</b> | Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Reservation, WINGS Restaurant  | <b>No host, sit down lunch</b>                               |

|                    |   |                          |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>1:15 – 2:00</b> | Ysleta del Sur Cultural Center / Museum | <b>Mr. Sam Gutierrez</b> |
| <b>2:00 – 2:15</b> | Travel to Socorro Misión                |                          |
| <b>2:15 – 3:00</b> | Tour Socorro Misión                     |                          |
| <b>3:00 – 3:20</b> | Travel To San Elizario Texas            |                          |
| <b>3:20 – 4:00</b> | Tour San Elizario Mission               |                          |

**Thursday, April 24, 2008 Business Meeting Part II, Hotel Breakfast Area?**

|                |                                  |  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>8:00 AM</b> | Lorenzo Arriaga, USBR, FCC Chair | <b>Welcome</b>   |
| <b>8:15</b>    | Lorenzo Arriaga / Greg Thomsen   | <b>Updating the FCC Strategic Plan (and Operating Plan?)</b> |
| <b>8:45</b>    | All                              | <b>Roundtable—Updates from FCC Members (5-10 min each)</b>   |
| <b>10:15</b>   | --15 minute break--              |  |
| <b>10:30</b>   | Lorenzo Arriaga, USBR, FCC Chair | <b>FCC Business:</b><br>• <b>Membership</b>                  |
| <b>10:45</b>   | New Bussiness – Action Items     | <b>Draft Newsletter Shela</b>                                |
| <b>11:30</b>   | Wrap Up                          | <b>Adjourn</b>   |

FCC meeting notes  
April 22, 2008 Tuesday

8:30 Water Infrastructure and Border 2012 Water Task: Maria Sisneros of Region 6 EPA (note that Lorenzo Arriaga is a co-lead on the Tri-state water task force). Ms. Sisneros gave an overview and history of the EPA Border Program from the La paz agreement through the International Border Environmental Plan then Border XXI and finally Border XX12. Border XXI was initiated to get more public input, but it was criticized because it was too top down and federally dominated. Border XX12 focused on correcting this and also the themes of reducing 1) H2O contamination, 2) air pollution, 3) land contamination, and 4) pesticide exposure especially to children. They are about half way through the XX12 program and are now doing a reevaluation. It was suggested that we provide a link on the FCC website so that FCC-DOI can provide comments during the review.

Regarding the Task Force, there are a couple of important programs: the BEIF (Border Environment Infrastructure Fund) administers \$ from EPA for construction of water projects related to health; the PDAP (Project Development Assistance Program) provides \$ for local communities to design infrastructure projects with public participation. Both of these programs rely on matching funds.

8:50 IBWC Update – Ms. Sally Spener

Ms. Spener covered a number of IBWCs projects.

South Bay International WWTP (Wastewater Treatment Plant) (California): built in 1990, already needing to upgrade and looking at several options including a public-private arrangement in Mexico that would involve pumping of effluents between the countries.

Colorado River Issues: IBWC is being used to expedite the discussion on issues such as water needs, a study of the effects of climate change on the hydrologic system of the CR (such as modeling how much water will be available/needed for the delta), the CR drought, among others. IBWC established a binational core group to address these issues consisting of the following working groups: conservation, new water sources (i.e. desal), environment, and systems operations

Nogales Sanitation: the binational Rio Rico WWTP will be upgraded by 2009 to provide better quality water to the Santa Cruz river. For a number of years, Mexico has exceeded its allotment to the WWTP, but the new upgrades will not address this problem because Mexico is expected to address it. However, Mexico is way behind in their projects due to a lack of funding.

Nogales Wash: the wash conveys water to the US through downtown Nogales, AZ. The 2007 flood damaged the wash. The Army Corps of Engineers is going to repair the wash. Upper Rio Grande Convention 1906: Snowpack is good this year, so everyone should get their allotments.

Canalization Project: El paso to the Percla Dam, NM (about 106 RM) provides water delivery and flood control. FY'08 to raise flood control levees to meet a 3ft FEMA standard. There has been an EIS but not signed yet because of stakeholder concerns in

the Elephant Butte district related to 'Safe Harbor' agreements. Hope to have this signed off on next year.

Rectification Project: 86 miles from El Paso to Ft. Quitman, TX to raise levees to FEMA standards and provide bank stabilization.

Programmatic EIS (Environmental Impact Statement): allows off of site-specific environmental projects and allows facilitation.

LRG Flood Control Project: There are levee deficiencies that need to be addressed. This would usually require about 20 yrs of work but a new bond issue will allow Hidalgo Co. to do it themselves. Unfortunately, having problems with DHS. Upgrades in Cameron Co. are not as extensive as in Hidalgo and therefore IBWC is on track for completion in Cameron in 2008.

Border Fencing Issues: IBWC's goal is that the fence is compatible with their projects. DHS must adhere to the 1970 Boundary Treaty such that there are no structures that could shift flows or the boundary.

Dam Safety: At Amistad, a study is underway to look at sink holes near dam. Situation is urgent as there may be seepage under the dam. At Falcon, the dam was found to be conditionally unsafe, there is seepage at the foundation, more study is required. More info at [IBWC.gov/PAO/CURPRESS/2005/dams.pdf](http://IBWC.gov/PAO/CURPRESS/2005/dams.pdf)

9:30 Center of Excellence for Border Security and Immigration – University of Texas, El Paso: General Riojas (retired)

The General was at Joint Task Force North (6) as commander, but now at University of Texas El Paso where a new office was created – office of strategic initiatives. This is a national center for border security and immigration (NCBSI) with a grant for 6 years. The Center is a result of a DHS request through a competitive process. UTEP has lead for developing an educational curriculum for future DHS personnel and has responsibility to conduct research in 8 different areas, and provide full support to those agencies and individuals developing national immigration and border security policy. They will need deliverables from their research in 8 years. (Note: there are 140 academic institutions with degrees in homeland security in the USA). They hope to kick off operations first of July with initiation of funding. Partners include Duke, NJ Institute of Technology, ND State University, University of WA etc. Research projects include surveillance and tracking technology, inspection processes, procedures at border crossings, command and control, operations analysis, multiagency coordination and review, migrant population flow, migrant population impacts on criminal justice system. Customers include: DHS Science and Technology, Customs and Border, TSA, Secret Service, Coast Guard, citizenship and immigration services.

At present, it is not part of their mandate to look at policy related to economics, cost/benefits, and alternative investments to help keep people in their countries. Riojas has been told by elected officials that terrorism is no longer a threat, rather the threats are to US jobs.

There will be collaboration with EPA for tracking hazardous materials crossing the border. Also, the UTEP center for environmental research will be involved.

Audience asked about access to border crossings in remote areas, for example from Presido to Del Rio there is 300 miles with no legal crossing.

Operation jump start. With 6000 national guardsmen is now being reduced.

Nearly 50 tunnels have been found along border.

General Riojas gave his personal opinion on the wall as a citizen. He said that it is not the solution. Need to start with a good immigration policy.

NPS. Aniceto Olais (from the Denver Regional Office stationed in Tucson) and Raymond Skiles, Big Bend NP, Sister Parks Overview:

Soon NPS will be selecting the intermountain regional director to be based out of the office in Denver and this person will be involved with FCC. Recently, Johnathan Putnam held a meeting on sister parks issue. Projects include: invasive plants for which NPS got permission to work together with Mexico along the river banks manually cutting and treating salt cedar for control. Giant cane is another weed problem. Buffel grass is starting to be a problem, as well as Lehman's love grass. Will be introducing the salt cedar eating beetle this spring/summer-have consulted with Mexico on this; trespass livestock is a problem; CEMEX (Mexican cement company) has bought 200,000 ac of land and is looking at doing some conservation projects; amphibian and bat surveys; fire protection: in Mexico the Diablos fire fighting crew is on-call basis; remote sensing of black bear population that has emigrated from Mexico to repopulate in US.

Of continuing concern are deterrents to international cooperation. NPS travel restrictions. Need some relief – some creative solutions; the cross training of rangers as border agents lost favor and is no longer an option

No fence is proposed as of yet through Big Bend and one not contemplated except perhaps the vehicle barriers. Fear that squeeze in other areas may push through BB and then DHS will take interest.

Jean Parcher: USGS. Border Mapping and Geospatial Data Overview:

Jean spent 2 months this spring in Mexico at US Embassy and INEGI doing a science fellowship. She worked with the Environmental Science and Technology Section under David Wagner (who will be retiring in July). Her objectives were to work on mapping and to expand partnerships that dealt with environmental issues. She says there is a new paradigm in Mexico to build growth in Mexico based on organized use of electronic information in a GIS format. SEMARNAT's GIS system is called SNIARN Sistema Nacional de Informacion Ambiental y de Recursos Naturales. The system is presently at about state level of resolution. Statistics database, spatial data, environmental indicators and reports. Basically the raw data that goes into their reports is made available through this system. Mexican water institutes: CONAGUA: regulates water availability, monitors water quality for public use, houses the National Meteorology Service, and provides water statistics; The Mexican Institute of Water Technology-IMTA: research surface runoff models for watersheds, aquifer characteristics, water quality lab procedures, climate change models, INEGI: establishing 1:250,000 watershed definitions. They will be looking at watershed definition in the border in a few weeks. Using approach USGS used in national hydrography network. They are mapping wetlands as well. INEGI has land use land cover database now for 1980, 1990 2000 with 89 different classes. INEGI intends to collect LIDAR elevation at 5 m coverage of the entire country within a 2-4 year timeline.

Climate Change SEMARNAT lead: multi-agency national strategy for climate change. Have established a commission that will develop a national plan for 2007-12 with three focus areas.

CONAFOR: forestry inventory. They have average elevations useful for climate change analysis. [www.cnf.gob.mx](http://www.cnf.gob.mx)

Natural Hazards: risk and vulnerability atlases have been done for Mexico City, and Ciudad Juarez;

National Institute of Public Health:<http://geosalud.insp.mx/PLANEACION2> planning tool for strategic planning for providing public health service.

Contacts at the US Embassy Environment, Science and Technology section: Pedro Erveti Deputy Counselor, Elsa Aviels Science Specialist. Angelica Navarez – Science Specialist

BEHI – USGS Border Environmental Health Initiative: A new fact sheet coming out with INEGI. Download site for data that is used for creating maps now available. Also new on the BEHI site is a map for federal lands and protected areas (NOTE: need to correct boundaries of BLM lands). Another map identifies major ecosystems relative to watersheds. LIDAR will soon be available for an area 6 miles across border from San Diego to Juarez; contracted by USGS for 1 meter resolution. The information is public domain and will be given to Mexico.

INEGI wants to propose a border GIS led by USGS-BEHI to the Board of Governors of the Border States.

Bobby Creel New Mexico State Univ. and WRRI, and Dr. Alfredo Granados - Universidad Autonoma Cd. Juarez: Discussion of University efforts on ground water data exchange. The ‘white map’ syndrome is problematic for water planning. A grant will allow these universities to do mapping in the El Paso – Juarez area. The El Paso del Norte watershed council took the project another step and has set up an IMS (Internet mapping service) with a variety of layers. The Paso del Norte water task force got another Hewlett grant to combine and expand the two efforts. SCERP is also funding this project to obtain even more data from the Mesilla Bolson aquifer. The result will be detailed datasets for a very specific region/watershed.

In Mexico and the US they are also conducting a hydrocensus: looking at types of water sites (wells, springs, and all the related information). On Mexican side of the Mimbres watershed there are about 500 wells. The Universidad Autonoma CJ is getting some money from CONACYT. The Sierra Boca Grande (Mimbres basin near Casas Grandes), is reported to have blind cave fishes and they need someone to map caves. Drawdown of wells is occurring on US side near Columbus, NM.