

**SPEAKER BIOS
FOR THE PUBLIC WORKSHOP
“Regional Flood Control: Its Impact on Our Economy and Quality of Life”
October 30, 2010**

Mayor Chris Boswell is second-term Mayor of the City of Harlingen and current President of the LRGVDC. The LRGVDC is a voluntary association of local governments in Willacy, Cameron, Hidalgo and Starr counties focused on promoting coordinated regional development.

Barry Goldsmith and Mike Castillo are from the National Weather Service (NWS) in Brownsville, Texas. The NWS is part of NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association) and provides a valuable service to the LRGV; they not only provide up-to-date weather forecasts but also provide outreach and education.

Barry Goldsmith is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist. Barry has over 25 years with the NWS. He is a seasoned meteorologist and forecaster with specialties in communication and outreach, creative and technical writing, team leadership, web design, statistics, and data management. His interests include tropical meteorology, social dancing, soccer, hiking, biking, beach, and boating.

Mike Castillo is a lead forecaster for the National Weather Service In Brownsville, Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from Texas A&M University. He has worked as a meteorologist in the private sector for 4 years for an aviation flight service company in Houston. He has worked as a meteorologist for the National Weather Service for almost 11 years. He started as an intern for the National Weather Service in Brownsville in 1999 and promoted to journeyman forecaster in 2000. He transferred to the National Weather Service in Houston in 2006 and returned to Brownsville in 2007. Mike is the local hydrology program manager for the National Weather Service and was recently promoted to lead forecaster at the Brownsville office.

Commissioner Edward Drusina A civil engineer from El Paso, Texas with extensive executive experience as an engineer in the private and public sector. Mr. Drusina was appointed US Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) by President Barack Obama in January 2010. The mission of the U.S. Section of the IBWC is to provide binational solutions to issues that arise during the application of United States - Mexico treaties regarding boundary demarcation, national ownership of waters, sanitation, water quality, and flood control in the border region. The IBWC is responsible for the Lower Rio Grande Flood Control Project; this includes the river from Peñitas downstream, and the internal floodway: the Banker Floodway, Main Floodway, the North Floodway and the Arroyo Colorado.

Godfrey Garza, Jr. has been District Manager of Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 (HCDD1) since 1996. Under his management, HCDD1 has grown from 12 employees and a \$3 million budget to the current 100 employee, \$200 million budget. In addition, in November of '09, Mr. Garza, thru Integ, was hired by the Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority to serve as its Administrator and Management Consultant for the development of approximately \$400 million toll roadway system in Hidalgo County. Mr. Garza is a member of the Texas Floodplain Management Association and a Certified Floodplain Manager.

Wayne Halbert is General Manager of the Harlingen Irrigation District CC#1, he is Mayor of Rangerville.

Daniel O. Rios, PE, Senior Vice-President, S&B Infrastructure, Ltd. - With approximately 10 years as an employee with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Danny joined S&B Infrastructure, Ltd. in 1997 as Director of Transportation, and since 1999, he has served as

Senior Vice-President and Principal-in-Charge for many multi-million dollar infrastructure projects, including transportation, drainage improvements, regional watershed management and design, and facilities (water and wastewater) design. He has lived in the Valley for the last 13 years. Additionally, his most recent project management includes projects along the US-Mexico border, such as various international border crossings, as well as projects with the USIBWC for hydraulic analysis of the Rio Grande, US Interior Floodways, and Mexico Floodways, as well as levee rehabilitation & design.

Eddie Olivarez is Chief Administrative for Hidalgo County Health and Human Services.

Mike Willis has been Executive Director of the South Texas Manufacturers Association since 2003. He was a founding member of the Association in 1992. Mike has 25 years experience as both a Plant Manager and Operations Manager in the apparel industry. He serves as Vice President of the Office for Business Partnerships at Workforce Solutions, the regional Workforce Development Board serving Willacy, Starr, and Hidalgo Counties. He is on the leadership team of the Texas Alliance of Manufacturers Associations, serves as a Board member of the Society for Human Resource Management RGV chapter, and sits on the board of the McAllen Chamber of Commerce.

Rod Santa Ana is Senior Editor for Texas A&M Texas AgriLife Communications which provide public information for several state agencies including Texas AgriLife Research and Texas AgriLife Extension. Rod has been a member of the Texas A&M System since 1988 and one of the few journalists in South Texas who devotes his full-time talents and efforts exclusively to agricultural issues. Prior to joining Texas A&M, Rod worked in radio and television broadcasting throughout South Texas.

Ruben Saldana is District Extension Administrator, South District 12, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

Mario Jorge, PE is District Engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Under the direction of the executive director, he provides executive-level direction, management, and engineering oversight of all district transportation activities. Jorge began his TxDOT career in 1983 and has held various engineering positions including assistant district design engineer and Area Engineer. A native of Havana, Cuba, Jorge earned a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1984 and received his professional engineer's license in 1988. Residing in McAllen, he and his wife, Elsa, have three sons (Mario, Marcos, and Diego) and hobbies including hunting and coaching baseball.