Appointment

From: Turk, James [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DE462F6989FC44FCB71CA94AD7BD9FEC-TURK, JAMES]
Sent: 7/28/2021 8:42:22 PM
To: Gray, David [gray.david@epa.gov]

Subject: Pre-Meeting Materials Review - Border 2025/Water Issues
Attachments: Superconference Agenda Final.docx; RA Talking Points 08.05.2021 Superconference.docx; 08.05.2021 Memo for Superconference.docx; Border 2025 and Upcoming Activities.docx

Start: 7/30/2021 5:30:00 PM
End: 7/30/2021 6:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Busy

David, attached are:

- Superconference memo – includes:
  - Bios for Commissioner Bobby Janecka and the moderator Debra Baker
  - Fact Sheets/background for Border issues
  - Relevant Press Releases related to session topics
  - Other Texas Hot Issues briefing sheets
- Superconference full agenda
- Draft Talking Points (the Border topic TPs are now fairly lengthy, as are the lessons learned/best practices following covid)

This is the Run of Show with questions included:

- Introductions: 2 minutes
- Opening remarks: approx. 3 mins each, 6 minutes total
- Discussion: approx. 35 minutes total.
  - Border – 2 questions
    - What are some of the significant environmental issues for Border communities, and how are EPA and TCEQ working to address them?
    - Addressing binational environmental issues presents many unique challenges—as well as opportunities. What international structures do you see as the most important in addressing challenges and pursuing common goals across national boundaries?
  - Emergency response – 1 (multipart) question/prompt
    - Can you talk about EPA and the State's roles during the winter storm this year, and during previous emergency responses? What were some of the challenges, and how did you address them?
  - Lessons learned / best practices relating to tools and processes following COVID pandemic – 1 question
    - The coronavirus pandemic brought changes for all of us in how we connect and the way we work. What are some of the lessons learned and best practices that you can share from your perspective, and are there any new tools or practices that are here to stay?
- Closing remarks (informal – Debra will prompt you for any closing thoughts): approx. 2-3 minutes

Here are the 3 briefings scheduled and the topics that will be covered in each. We do not have a briefing scheduled for the final question, but have detailed notes in the TPs on our efforts.

Friday, July 30, 1 pm – Border 2025/Water Border Issues

- Border 2025 (background) and upcoming activities
    - Background (how it started, what it covers, what it does not cover)
    - Upcoming issuance for Request for Proposals for grant opportunities in coordination with NADBank (Border Program)
    - Coordination on local emergency response efforts / upcoming HAZMAT training (Border Program)
    - Past successes – projects funded (Border Program)
    - Upcoming funding opportunities under the American Rescue Plan for training to a public water utility (EJ Community) along border (Water Division)
- Border Water Infrastructure Program (Water Division)
    - Background
    - What kind of projects are funded?
    - What is the nature/extent of involvement by other agencies/organizations in this (especially TCEQ)
- Texas Drinking Water SRF program and border efforts (Water Division)
    - What is EPA's involvement?
    - What kind of projects are funded?
- Lower Rio Grande Water Quality Initiative (Water Division) **[This is an area that the Commissioner is interested in]**
    - What is the issue?
    - How are we addressing it, and how do our efforts fit into the broader Border 2025?
    - Development of binational water quality improvement plan
    - What is collaboration with TCEQ (and what is TCEQ's involvement)?

Monday, August 2, 10:30 AM – Border 2025/Air Border Issues

- Joint Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Air Quality in the Paso del Norte Air Basin **[Commissioner is very involved]**
    - Background / what is JAC
    - Major air quality issues in the region
    - Major past successes of note for JAC
    - Binational Fund and NADBank (and Commissioner Janecka's role in signing agreement for binational fund)
        - Air quality monitoring project throughout the region
- El Paso Ozone *[We do not currently have the El Paso Ozone designation/120-day letter in the TPs, but I asked program to note major updates for awareness]*

Tuesday, August 3, 10 AM– Emergency Response Briefing

- Prompt: Can you talk about EPA and the State's roles during the winter storm this year, and during hurricane season last year? What were some of the biggest challenges, and how did you address them?