MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2014 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVD C TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS

PRESIDING: MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL, PRESIDENT

President Chris Boswell called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and asked for the roll to be called. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board was present. President Boswell then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval of August 27, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes. Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Boswell moved to item 3.A. - Report(s) from Legislative Delegation. No legislative representatives were present however, Mr. Ron Whitlock was recognized and reported that Mr. Dan Patrick, candidate for the office of Texas Lieutenant Governor, has stated that if elected he would abolish the two-thirds rule in the Senate. Mr. Whitlock further reported that Texas House Member Ryan Guillen’s priorities are: agriculture and natural resources, economic development and infrastructure, education, healthcare and human services, public safety, and veterans’ issues. And if reelected the priorities for House Member J. M. Lozano will be: school finance, wind storm insurance, the economy, infrastructure, tax reform and good government.

President Boswell next moved to item 3.B. - Public Comment however no public comments were received.

President Boswell then moved to item 3.C. - Report on 2014 NADO Training Conference and recognized Mr. Steve Brewer, NADO designee. Mr. Brewer reminded the Board that NADO is a critical conduit for organizations like the LRGVDC and works directly with the EDA. NADO is the LRGVDC’s government contact that keeps staff informed regarding grants and projects. The theme for this years’ conference was “Changing the Game for Regional Development” and it took place August 22 – 26. Mr. Manuel Cruz attended the conference with Mr. Brewer and they both accepted the NADO Innovation Award on behalf of the LRGVDC for the Spanish Language Early Weather Warning System.

President Boswell next moved to item 3.D. - Discuss Options for Board Orientation(s). Upon conclusion of discussion it was the consensus of the Board for Mr. Jones to email all Board Members a presentation that gives an overview of the LRGVDC and a survey asking what topics the Board would like to have covered during orientation sessions. The consensus for scheduling is to have orientation sessions at 11:00 a.m. every other month on the day of the Board meeting beginning in October.

President Boswell then moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and recognized Mr. Paul Williams. Mr. Williams noted that the regular status report was in the folders for review and
informed the Board that more Workplace Violence/Active Shooter training sessions have been scheduled, and in January 2015 a new class will be mandatory for all peace officers on the topic of Missing and Exploited Children.

The President next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging, and recognized Ms. Elida Carranza in Mr. Joe Gonzalez’ absence, who addressed item A.1. - Consider Approval RE: Fiscal Year 2015 Older American Act Funding for City of La Joya and WellMed Medical Foundation. Ms. Carranza stated that staff has reviewed the applications submitted by the City of La Joya for senior center operations (La Joya Senior Center) and WellMed Medical Foundation for senior center operations (Harlingen and McAllen Senior Centers) and the Caregiver Education and Training program. The amounts available are $85,000 for senior center operations and $85,000 for Caregiver Education and Training. The recommendations are $36,000 for the City of La Joya and $49,000 for WellMed for senior center operations. The amount of $85,000 is recommended for the Caregiver Education and Training program under WellMed. **Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2015 Older American Act Funding for City of La Joya and WellMed Medical Foundation as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Carranza noted that the status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Boswell next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Mr. Ken Jones in Ms. Terrie Salinas’ absence. Regarding item 6.A.1. – Status Report RE: Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Act Program Mr. Jones reported that Ms. Salinas was in Austin attending the first PACE workshop, and staff has been gathering information to begin administration of this program.

President Boswell then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro Program and recognized Mr. Tom Logan who gave the status report on ridership noting a 5% year to date increase.

President Boswell next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo. Regarding item 8.A.2.a – Consider Approval RE: Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Membership Appointment Ms. Oviedo stated that the SWAC met in August and recommends Mr. Rudy Garza from the City of Alton to fill a vacancy on the committee. **Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the SWAC Membership appointment of Mr. Rudy Garza as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo noted that the status reports were in the Board folders for review.

The President then moved to item 8.B. – HUD Disaster Recovery Funding, item 1. – Consider Recommendations from Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) and addressed the following items:

a. **Set Deadline to Conduct Program Options Meetings with Applicants.** Ms. Oviedo stated that the HAC met in early September and recommends September 30, 2014 as the deadline to conclude Program Options Meetings for the Homeowner Opportunity Program (HOP). One hundred percent completion of the LRGVDC’s 24 month benchmark must be met by October 12, 2015 and in order to meet all other benchmark deadlines all applicant setups must be finalized. **Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza made a motion to set the deadline of September 30, 2014 to conduct Program Options meetings with applicants as recommended by the HAC. Commissioner Sofia Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

b. **Rapid Recovery Program Amended Bench Mark.** Ms. Oviedo stated that the HAC recommends approval of the Rapid Recovery Program Amended Benchmark
contract by deleting “Attachment A” in its entirety and replacing it with revised benchmarks referred to as “Attachment A-1” in its entirety. **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the Rapid Recovery Program Amended Benchmark as presented. Commissioner Sofia Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo noted that the status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Boswell then moved to item 9.A. – Act upon Homeland Security Program Recommendations and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz who addressed the following items:

1. **Consider Approval RE: HSACs FY 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Allocations.** Mr. Cruz stated that the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) reviewed the subcommittee’s recommendations on the FY 2015 HSGP selection of applications. These applications/projects must demonstrate the use of funds, how the funds will reduce a threat or risk in their jurisdiction and the region, fund a needed capability and indicate how the project will be sustained in the future. Projects must also align with the LRGVDC’s Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan, COG’s State Preparedness Report, and be focused on terrorism prevention, protection, mitigation, response, or recovery. In early September the HSAC reviewed and prioritized these grant applications and presents the allocations for Board approval. **Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the HSAC’s FY 2015 HSGP Allocations as presented. Mr. Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. **Consider Approval RE: Resolution on Percentage Increase to the FY 2015 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Planning Statement of Work.** Mr. Cruz explained that of the total HSGP awarded to this region, Planning and Maintenance & Administration (M&A) expenditures are limited to 15%, 5% of which may be utilized for M&A (10% for Planning). The LRGVDC’s application for planning activities must not exceed 15% without Executive Committee approval. Additional funding of 25% or above may be requested by staff and must be approved by the Board of Directors. The maximum of 28% from the minimum regional allocation of $490,029.98 is requested to continue providing planning support and Homeland Security related activities. **Commissioner Sofia Benavides made a motion to approve the resolution on percentage increase to the FY 2015 LRGVDC HSGP Planning Statement of Work as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Esmeralda Lozano seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Consider Approval RE: MMRS Committee Recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair Membership Appointments.** Mr. Cruz reported that the MMRS Committee met in early September and nominated new officers. In accordance with committee bylaws the Vice Chair, Mr. Eddie Olivarez, Hidalgo County Health Department Chief Administrator will ascend to the position of Chair. Ms. Yvette Salinas, Cameron County Health Administrator was nominated for the position of Vice Chair; Board approval is required to seat these new positions. **Mayor Pro-tem Esmeralda Lozano made a motion to approve the MMRS Committee recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair appointments as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the status reports for Homeland Security and Criminal Justice were in the Board folders for review.

President Boswell next moved to item 10. – Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Stephen Tice in Mr. Juan Gomez’ absence. Mr. Tice informed the Board that Mr. Gomez and other staff were at the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) quarterly meeting and
there were no action items at this time. Mr. Tice then summarized the status report.

President Boswell moved to item 11. – Old or New Business. There was no old or new business to come before the Board and the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Mayor Chris Boswell, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary