MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018 – 12:00 PM
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: HON. NORMA G. GARCIA, PRESIDENT

President Norma Garcia called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum declared.

The President then moved to item 2: Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes (May 30, 2018). Mr. Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Garcia then moved to item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation. Ms. Clarissa Sanchez, Senator John Cornyn’s South Texas Staff Assistant was recognized and extended thoughts and prayers from the senator and staff to the communities effected by last week’s devastating flooding.

President Garcia next moved to item 4: Administration.

A. Executive Director Report

1. Introduction of New Staff Members
   Mr. Garza introduced:
   Ms. Marisol Rosas – Case Manager, Criminal Justice
   Mr. Dagoberto Castillo – Vehicle Driver II, Valley Metro
   Mr. Loyd Haylock - Vehicle Driver II, Valley Metro
   Mr. Eliasar Lumbra – Vehicle Driver II, Valley Metro
   The Board warmly welcomed our new employees.

LRGVDC Updates & Activities
Mr. Garza was recognized and addressed the following items:

2. Census 2020
   Mr. Garza acknowledged the support the Census Bureau has given the Valley and offered to provide assistance to local entities as needed. He stated that Ms. Anna Leonard is the local Census Bureau staffer and that the next meeting of the Census 2020 Regional Taskforce is scheduled for July 31, and is open to all counties, cities, and complete count committees.
3. BikeShare RGV
Mr. Garza announced that the Request for Proposals (RFP) is scheduled to be released in July and added that BikeShare programs are becoming very popular throughout the country.

4. 2018 Road to Recycling – Reginal Tire Collection Project
The next Road to Recycling event is scheduled for Saturday, July 28 and a press conference will be held to raise awareness the week prior to the event.

5. RGV 2020
This topic ties into the next.

6. RGV to DC 2018
Mr. Garza reported that the Valley delegation used the “RGV 2020” as their platform for discussions while in our nation’s capital. The RGV 2020 is the Valley’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a regionally owned planning process designed to guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of our region. Mr. Garza was proud to report that the RGV gave a unified, consistent message to our representatives.

Upon conclusion of Administration items, President Garcia moved to item 5: Department Reports.

A. Economic Development

Economic Development Status Reports
Ms. Terrie Salinas, Economic Development Director summarized the most recent Regional Small Cities Coalition meeting hosted by Mayor Dave Kusch in the City of Primera.

Explore RGV Status Report
Ms. Blanca Davila, Economic Development Specialist, was recognized and reported that RGVision Media has begun development of the Explore RGV website and mobile app. Staff has regularly met with their creative team to discuss the function, aesthetics, and progress of both tools. Most of the flyover video destinations footage has been gathered and is being edited. RGVision will commence capturing photos of destinations in July. Several partner chambers of commerce, convention visitor bureaus, and economic development organizations have shared high quality photos to be featured in the Explore RGV website and mobile app.

RSTEC Updates
Mr. Matt Rusczak was recognized and reported that during his trip to Germany for the Hannover Messe (tradeshow) he picked up leads from at least 20 companies, and 21 more foreign and domestic leads were garnered from the Select USA Conference. The Danish consulate visited our region and has shown interest in the Gulf Coast, and lastly the Building Blocks sessions will continue near the end of summer.

B. Community & Environmental Services

Community Development Status Report
Program Director Marcie Oviedo was recognized and informed the Board that the status reports on the HUD Disaster Recovery Housing Program, the Solid Waste Management Program, and
Water Resources were in the Board packet for review. She added that there was a recent meeting of the Regional Review Committee to establish criteria for non-entitlement communities in Cameron and Willacy Counties. This guide will be submitted to the Texas Department of Agriculture for their approval. She also stated that Los Indios Mayor Rick Cavazos was selected as the new Chairman of the Regional Review Committee.

Ms. Oviedo announced that the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M) currently has a Voting Member vacancy in the County category and another in the Electric Generating Utilities category. The next meeting of Region M is scheduled on August 1.

C. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Status Reports

Program Director Joe Gonzalez was recognized to address the following:

1. Consider Approval of Federal Grant Opportunity by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
   Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is accepting proposals for “Local Public Health Strategies to Prevent and Mange Diabetes”. The target population for this grant is areas of at least 900,000. The proposed project will include the LRGVDC as the lead agency in partnership with Unidos Contra La Diabetes, a non-profit organization in Weslaco that has an established collaborative with other stakeholders whose goal is addressing the issue of diabetes. The third partner is the Texas A&M School of Public Health in McAllen. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia made a motion to approve submission of an application for the Local Public Health Strategies to Prevent and Manage Diabetes federal grant. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Approval for Advisory Council Recommendation RE: Amigos Del Valle Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2018
   The Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council recommends approval to amend the Amigos Del Valle budget for the current 2018 fiscal year. The current amounts under the contract are less than the amounts that the State office has approved. The current amount budgeted for congregate meals is $928,381; for home delivered meals the budget amount is $975,000. The state approved amount for congregate meals is $1,124,504 and $1,100,000 for home delivered meals. Mr. Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the amended budget depending on the amount of funds awarded to the LRGVDC. Commissioner Edward Gonzales seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the status reports are in the meeting packet for review.

D. Public Safety
   President Garcia next recognized Public Safety Director Manuel Cruz to address the following items:

Criminal Justice Program Status Reports
   Mr. Cruz stated that the status reports were available for review in the Board meeting packet.
1. Consider Approval of Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between LRGVDC E-COMMS/9-1-1 and Local Governments
   Mr. Cruz informed the Board that in order to provide assistance to 9-1-1 callers, dispatchers and first responders must have accurate and up-to-date information on the location of an incident. Much of the data required to identify a caller’s location and dispatch the required response is already being collected and maintained by the cities within the LRGVDC area to support address assignments. Cities and the LRGVDC E-COMMS/9-1-1 Department desire to work jointly to maximize the accuracy and efficiency of the processes and procedures in use today. This requires providing resources for necessary training, networking, and professional development needed in the future to support Next Generation 9-1-1. A draft sample Interlocal Cooperation Agreement template was presented. This document was developed to establish in writing the specific contributions and responsibilities by which the parties have been voluntarily operating; use of this template will provide standardization in the region. **Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia made a motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between LRGVDC E-COMMS/9-1-1 and Local Governments template as presented. Mr. Troy Allen seconded and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consider Approval to Purchase Server Equipment and Installation for the E-COMMS/9-1-1 Disaster Recovery Network at LRGVDC Main Campus at 301 W. Railroad St., Building B in Weslaco
   Due to the need for contingency planning, staff is requesting approval to continue setup of a Disaster Recovery Network in preparation for natural disasters. The Disaster Recovery Network will be designed to back up all of our data and can be used as a temporary location for our Emergency Communications Department in case the 1912 Joe Stephens Avenue site becomes inoperable. This proposed action will take place in two phases. Phase 1 is to be completed within fiscal year 2018 and is expected to cost $150,000. Phase 2 is to be completed within fiscal year 2019 and is also expected to cost $150,000. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mayor Pro-tem Pete Garcia made a motion to approve the purchase of server equipment and installation for the E-COMMS/9-1-1 Disaster Recovery Network at LRGVDC’s Main Campus located at 301 W. Railroad St., Building B in Weslaco. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the Emergency Communications status reports were in the meeting packet for review.

**Homeland Security Status Report**
Mr. Cruz noted that the Homeland Security Program status reports were in the Board meeting packet for review and encouraged reporting of all flood damage. In order for this region to be eligible for public and individual assistance $36MM in damages needs to be reported. Support from LRGVDC staff to help document damages has been requested and provided.

**Regional Police Academy Status Report**
Mr. Cruz reported that the Regional Police Academy status report was in the meeting packet for review.
E. Transportation

**Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization Status Report**
Andrew Canon, Director of the HCMPO, was unable to attend; Mr. Garza noted there were no significant updates to report from the HCMPO.

**Valley Metro Status Report**
Program Director Tom Logan was recognized and noted that there has been a 27% increase in ridership and staff continues to monitor performance measures. Ms. Veronica Gonzales added that UTRGV ridership continues to increase and they are grateful for the service provided by Valley Metro.

President Garcia next moved to item 6. – New or Unfinished Business; there being no further business to come before the Board *Alderman Javier Vera made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Troy Allen seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.*

\[Signature\]
Hon. Norma G. Garcia, President

**ATTEST:**

\[Signature\]
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary