MINUTES
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS

PRESIDING: MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL, PRESIDENT

President Chris Boswell called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. and asked for the roll to be called. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of both the Board and the Membership was present. President Boswell then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes.

A. Membership Meeting of May 28, 2014
   Mayor Pro-temp Pilar Garza made a motion to approve the May 28, 2014 Membership meeting minutes as presented. Mayor Jim Darling seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

B. Board Meeting of November 19, 2014
   Mayor Pro-temp Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the November 19, 2014 Board meeting minutes as presented. Mayor Pro-temp Esmeralda Lozano 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. - Public Comment. Mr. Ron Whitlock was recognized and informed the Board that the Water Security Regional Strategic Plan coverage is going to be effective on February 18 at the Knapp Conference Center with two 30 minute programs scheduled between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

President Boswell then moved to item 3.B. - Consider Annual Work Program and Budget Committee Recommendation and recognized Executive Director Ken Jones in the absence of Committee Chair, Brownsville Mayor Tony Martinez. Regarding Item 1. - Adoption of FY 2015 Annual Work Program (AWP) Mr. Jones reported that staff submitted the AWP to the Membership and requested that any comments be submitted prior to the committee meeting. No programmatic revisions were submitted for consideration and the committee unanimously recommends approval to the LRGVDC Membership. Mr. Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the 2015 AWP as submitted. Commissioner John Villarreal seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Regarding item 3 B.2. - Adoption of FY 2015 Annual Budget. Mr. Jones summarized a comparison of the draft 2015 Budget with the 2014 Budget and informed the Board of a caveat to the budget that was discussed at the committee meeting and could potentially affect the fringe and indirect rates. He brought the Board’s attention to a letter from Chairman Martinez regarding discussions that have initiated with the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO). The LRGVDC is the fiscal agent that serves the HCMPO. HCMPO Director Andrew Canon has discussed with the HCMPO Policy Committee potentially looking elsewhere for a fiscal agent in terms of trying to save administrative costs. Mr. Jones stated that he mentioned this issue to the AWP & Budget Committee because it is important since the proposed 2015 budget includes the HCMPO being a part of the LRGVDC for the full 2015 fiscal year. Should that fiscal agent responsibility go elsewhere, then those budget dollars and employees would leave, which would affect the LRGVDC’s fringe and indirect rate specifically.
Once the budget is approved by the Membership, every year by federal and state requirements the LRGVDC must submit it to its two cognizant agencies: The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) and The Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) in order to be able to charge appropriately for services provided. Depending on if and when that transition might happen, it could affect the LRGVDC’s fringe and indirect rates. If the rate changes significantly enough, it could require a request for a budget amendment, which might require a resubmission to those cognizant agencies for re-approval of the rates charged for services provided.

Essentially the AWP & Budget Committee agreed it would be prudent to recommend to the HCMPO Policy Committee that before any action is taken that Board Members from both the HCMPO and the LRGVDC, some of whom serve on both Boards, discuss this issue to determine if that is indeed in the best interest of the region as a whole. Upon conclusion of discussion President Boswell recommended the formation of a subcommittee to discuss this issue and meet with the HCMPO; it was the consensus of the Board to do so. The President then called for a vote on the 2015 Annual Budget; Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to adopt the FY 2015 Annual Budget as presented. Mayor Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of discussion and action President Boswell moved to item 3.C - Executive Session and with the permission of the Board, for expediency sake, decided to address these items after all other business has been addressed; he then moved to item 3.D – Consider Approval RE: Quarterly and Annual Investment Reports. Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Quarterly and Annual Investment Reports as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Boswell then moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy. Program Director Paul Williams was recognized and noted that the regular status report was in the meeting binders and advised the Board on new license laws for peace officers. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza requested Mr. Williams include legislative bills being introduced that affect public safety in his future status reports. Mr. Williams then introduced Ms. Kassandra Valadez, Director of Modern View Clinical and Forensic Services. Ms. Valadez took the floor and introduced her associates, Ms. Norma Villanueva and Mr. Gilbert Lopez, and informed the Board of the PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) Initiative for Peace Officers and Law Enforcement.

The President next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging, and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez who addressed the items under 5.A. - Act upon Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Recommendations:

1. Consider Approval of Amended Memorandum of Agreement with Valley Baptist Hospital RE: Community Care Transitions Program Change. Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that this amendment affects both the Harlingen and Brownsville campuses of the Valley Baptist Hospital and that under it the hospital will hire their own coaching staff. Currently the LRGVDC has coaches providing staff services to both hospitals; the Advisory Council recommends approval. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza made a motion to approve the Amended Memorandum of Agreement with Valley Baptist Hospital for the Community Care Transitions Program Change as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Esmeralda Lozano seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Approval of Assisted Living Facility Coverage Agreement. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval of the Assisted Living Facility Coverage agreement with Ms. Zulema Martinez and Ms. Veronica M. Perez. Both are ombudsman volunteers that have been trained and currently perform visits at nursing homes. During the last legislative session the Department of Aging and Disability Services received additional funding for the Ombudsman Program to expand visits to assisted living facilities. The amount of funds cannot support additional staff and possesses additional requirements for existing staff. The Assisted
Living Facility Coverage will allow these two individuals to provide the required annual visits the State requires for this area. **Mayor Pro-temp Armando Garza made a motion to approve the Assisted Living Facility Coverage Agreement as presented. Mayor Pro-temp Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Consider Approval of Agreement with Maximus RE: Dual Eligible Demonstration Project. Mr. Gonzalez explained that Maximus is the contractor with the Health and Human Services Commission for outreach and enrollment with the Dual Eligible Demonstration Program. Texas is implementing a demonstration project that will impact the six largest counties in the State and Hidalgo is one of those six counties. The dual eligible are individuals that are covered by both Medicare and Medicaid and the currently Managed Care Organizations only enroll individuals on Medicaid. Under this agreement the Area Agency on Aging will assist Maximus in identifying local venues and making arrangements for community outreach events. **Mayor Pro-temp Esmeralda Lozano made a motion to approve the agreement with Maximus for the Dual Eligible Demonstration Project. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried; Mayor Jim Darling abstained.**

Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzales gave the program status reports on the Community Based Care Transition Program Extension and the Relinquished Sponsorship of the Forster Grandparent Program.

President Boswell next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and complimented Program Director Terrie Salinas on the Program Orientation she gave prior to the meeting. The President then recognized Ms. Salinas and she gave the report under item 6.A.1. - EDA Planning Grant noting that the financial award is for the continuation of the Economic Development District Partnership Planning Grant for the Development Council. This grant is for a three year period beginning on January 1, 2015 and ending on December 31, 2017. Ms. Salinas next addressed item 2. - Consider Action RE: Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Committee Officers. Ms. Salinas stated that at the January 15 meeting the following slate of officers was nominated and recommended for Board approval:

Chairman, Mr. Ben Medina, City Manager, City of Rio Hondo
Vice Chairman, Mr. Sunny Phillip, City Manager, City of La Feria
Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Lydia Moreno, City Secretary, City of Lyford
Member-at-Large #2, Ms. Marga Lopez, Economic Development Director, City of Donna

Upon conclusion of Ms. Salinas' report **Mayor Pro-temp Esmeralda Lozano made a motion to approve the slate of officers nominated by the Regional Small Cities Coalition. Mayor Pro-temp Armando Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Boswell then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro Program and recognized Program Director Tom Logan. Regarding item 7.A.1 – Consider Approval RE: Authorization to Initiate RFP Process for the Acquisition of Transit Busses, Mr. Logan stated that in late 2014, the Federal Transit Administration awarded grant funds to the LRGVDC for the purchase of transit vehicles to be matched with funding through Transportation Development Credits awarded by the Texas Department of Transportation. Approximately thirty-six vehicles will be procured for $6,694,319 to expand the fleet, replace vehicles scheduled to be retired, and improve service quality to riders. **Commissioner Daniel Guzman made a motion to approve authorization to initiate the RFP process for the acquisition of transit busses. Mayor Pro-temp Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan gave the status reports on ridership and the Regional Transportation Advisory Panel Activity.

President Boswell next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo who noted that the status reports for Environmental Resources and the HUD Disaster Recovery Funding Program were in the Board folders for review.
President Boswell then moved to item 9. – Homeland Security Program and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz who addressed the following items:

1. Consider Approval RE: Nominations for HSAC Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2015. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that at their December meeting the HSAC (Homeland Security Advisory Committee) made the recommendation of reappointing Hidalgo County Emergency Management Coordinator Chief Ricardo Saldaña as the HSAC Chair, and South Padre Island Emergency Management Coordinator Police Chief Javier Garza as Vice Chair for the 2015 fiscal year. *Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the reappointment Chief Ricardo Saldana as Chair and Chief Javier Garza as Vice Chair as recommended by the HSAC. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

2. Consider Approval RE: Memorandum of Understanding between Weslaco ISD and LRGVDC. Mr. Cruz stated that the Citizen Corp Program – Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) continues to be enhanced by engaging local agencies and requesting assistance with hosting the course. This MOU will allow the LRGVDC to provide assistance and support to Weslaco ISD to further enhance the CERT. In particular, the collaboration between the two organizations will benefit faculty and students alike. *Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the MOU between Weslaco ISD and the LRGVDC as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Antonio Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.* Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz stated that the Homeland Security status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Boswell next moved to item 9.B. – Criminal Justice Program and again recognized Mr. Cruz who addressed the following items:

1. Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Nominations. Mr. Cruz stated that at the January CJAC meeting Ms. Rosie Mendoza from Cameron County was nominated to fill the vacancy in the Mental Health category, and the Honorable Ricardo “Rick” Rodriguez Jr. from Hidalgo County was nominated to fill the vacancy in the Prosecution Courts category and that these nominations required Board approval. *Commissioner Daniel Guzman made a motion to approve the Chair and Vice Chair nominations as recommended by the CJAC. Mr. Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

2. Consider Approval RE: CJAC Funding Priorities for FY2015-2016. Mr. Cruz stated that at their January meeting the CJAC approved the list of several high priority issues that affect the region and will be addressed with Criminal Justice funding. The following local priorities, listed in no particular order, were selected by the CJAC:

- Drug and Human Trafficking Related Crime
- Violent Crime
- Juvenile Crime
- Crime and Drug Prevention
- Technology, Public Safety Equipment
- Mental Health

*Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the CJAC Funding Priorities for FY2015-2016 as presented. Commissioner Daniel Guzman seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

3. Consider Approval RE: CJAC Policy Manual Updates. Mr. Cruz explained that due to recently released information on increased funding to the VOCA-General Victim Assistance – Direct
Services Programs opportunities, the CJAC updated their policy manual with the following draft revisions:

a. The scores will be based on a non-weighted average; this change is located on page 7.
b. Delete the "Decreasing Funding Ratio"; this change is located on page 9.

The CJAC’s decision to remove this statement was based on the notification of an increase in funding to the VOCA Program and CJD’s recommendation to do so. The CJAC will revisit this item on a yearly basis and will reinstate it based on the amount of available funding or future CJD recommendations and guidance. **Commissioner Daniel Guzman made a motion to approve the CJAC Policy Manual updates as presented. Mr. Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the Criminal Justice Program status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Boswell next moved to item 10. – Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Assistant Program Director Mr. Sergio Castro. Mr. Castro reported that in the past year there has been a revision to crucial policies and procedures. Staff will pursue those changes and hopefully provide the appropriate equipment to the Region’s Emergency Management Services Providers. Mr. Castro noted that the remainder of the program status reports was in the Board folders for review.

At this time the President moved back in the agenda to item 3.C. Executive Session. At 1:12 p.m. **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried.** During Executive Session the following items were addressed:


3. Annual Evaluation and Salary Consideration of Executive Director

Regular session resumed at 1:31 p.m. at which time the Board took action on item 3. **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve a salary increase for Executive Director Ken Jones according to the percentage rate allowable in the 2015 Annual Budget and the LRGVDC Policies and Procedures. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Boswell moved to item 11. – Old or New Business, there being none the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

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**ATTEST:**

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

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