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

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

PRESIDING: MAYOR JIM DARLING, PRESIDENT

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 12:09 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 Darling then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval RE: August 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the August 26, 2015 minutes as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Darling moved to item 3. A. - Report from Legislative Delegation, however, no representatives were present and no report had been provided. The President then moved to item 3. B. - Public Comments and recognized Ms. Louise Butler who announced that a Town Hall meeting for the Texas Silver Haired Legislature will be held at the Weslaco City Hall Legislative Chamber on November 18, 2015; of note is that this is the first of such meetings held in the Rio Grande Valley region.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments President Darling moved to item 3.C. – Presentation RE: Health & Human Services Community Partner and recognized Ms. Elain Hernandez, Texas Hunger Initiative Regional Director. Ms. Hernandez gave a presentation entitled “Update on the Community Partner Recruitment Initiative (CPRI)”. In the presentation Ms. Hernandez discussed the YourTexasBenefits.com website and its functions. She also presented statistics on various food programs and how this program will fill a gap for those who live in food insecure homes. Upon conclusion of the presentation Ms. Hernandez asked the Board if they would be interested in having updates every six months on the number of Your Tax Benefits (YTB) Access Points and the number of assists by CPRI. Additionally she asked if the Board would also be interested in convening a Tri-County Summit of Community Partners in 2016 sponsored by CPRI. Upon conclusion of the presentation Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to receive updates on the number of YTB Access Points and assists by CPRI every six months, and to convene a CPRI sponsored Tri-County Summit of Community Partners in 2016. Mayor Tony Martinez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Darling next moved to item 3. D. – Consider Appointment of Board Designees and Alternates to Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) and the Corporation for Texas Regionalism (CTR) and recognized Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Director. Mr. Jones stated that currently the designated representative for TARC is the Hon. Norma G. Garcia and Mr. Steve Brewer serves as the alternate. The designee for CTR is Mr. Brewer and Ms. Garcia is the alternate. Mr. Jones noted that both Ms. Garcia and Mr. Brewer have indicated their willingness to continue serving in either the designee or alternate position with either entity. Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the Hon. Norma G. Garcia as the designee and Mr. Steve Brewer as the alternate for TARC; and for Mr. Brewer to serve as the designee and Ms. Garcia to serve as the alternate for CTR. Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action the President moved to item 3. E. – Consider Approval RE: Annual Adoption of Investment Policy and recognized Ms. Crystal Balboa, Director of Finance. Ms. Balboa stated that there were no changes to the Investment Policy from last year’s policy. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Investment Policy as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and
upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President next moved to item 3. F. – Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report. Ms. Balboa was again recognized and stated that there was a difference of about $169,000 less from last quarter’s report due to several grants closing out. **Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report as presented.** Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Darling next moved to item 3. G. – Consider Dates for November and December Board Meetings. **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to schedule the November Board meeting on the 24th at 12:00 p.m. and to forego scheduling a meeting in December.** Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on Administration items President Darling moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center Report, and recognized Program Director Paul Williams. Regarding item A. 1. - Consider Approval RE: Police Advisory By-laws Update, Mr. Williams stated that the by-laws must be updated every two years and that the committee recommends approval of the revisions presented. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Advisory Committee By-laws update as presented.** Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Williams noted that the regular status reports were in the Board folders for review, and added that the Regional Police Academy was audited by TCOLE in June. Upon conclusion of the audit there were no findings and Mr. Williams reported that the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy is now the academy model for the State.

President Darling next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging, item A. – Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE:

1. Fiscal Year 2016 Older American Act Funding
Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Executive Committee did not approve the Advisory Council funding recommendations, but extended all current contracts 30 days in order to avoid disruption of services. The Advisory Council recommends approval to fund the following organizations for fiscal year 2016 under the Older American Act Program: Amigos Del Valle, Cameron Willacy Counties Community Projects, City of Los Fresnos, City of Rio Hondo, Mission Housing Authority, and Senior Community outreach Services. **Mayor Tony Martinez made a motion to ratify the 30 day contract extension and approve the fiscal year 2016 Older American Act Funding as presented.** Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Fiscal Year 2016 Direct Purchased Vendor Pool
Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval to extend all vendor agreements for fiscal year 2016 and add seven (7) new vendors. **Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to ratify Executive Committee action approving the fiscal year 2016 Direct Purchased Vendor Pool.** The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Authorization to Submit Letter of Intent and Proposal to the Knapp Medical foundation
Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval to submit a letter of intent and proposal to the Knapp Medical Foundation for a Healthy Aging Project in partnership with the Texas A&M School of Public Health. The purpose of this project is to implement an evidence-based falls prevention program at Amigos Del Valle nutrition sites in Mid-Valley and other community centers in addition to implementing a public education campaign targeting seniors and family caregivers. **The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to ratify Executive Committee action authorizing the submittal of a letter of intent and proposal to the Knapp Medical Foundation.** Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
Upon conclusion of action on ratification items President Darling moved to item 5. B. – Act upon Area Agency on Aging (AAoA) Advisory Council Recommendations and again recognized Mr. Gonzalez to address the following:

1. **Consider Approval RE: Funding for Title III Services**
   Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval to fund the following organizations for fiscal year 2016 under Title III of the Older American Act program: Amigos Del Valle, Cameron Willacy Counties Community Projects, City of Los Fresnos, City of Rio Hondo, City of La Joya, Mission Housing Authority, WellMed Medical Foundation (Senior Centers) and Senior Community Outreach Services. **Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve funding for Title III services as presented. Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. **Consider Approval RE: WellMed Caregiver Education and Training Funding**
   The Advisory Council recommends that WellMed submit their proposal to include two (2) evidence-based services and redefine the Caregiver Education and Training program to be more performance based. The basis for this request is based on performance during fiscal year 2015. Because of this recommendation staff also requests an extension to the contract to cover the month of November. **Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve the WellMed Caregiver Education and Training Funding and to extend the current contracts to cover the month of November. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Consider Approval RE: Assisted Living Facility Coverage Agreement**
   Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval of the Assisted Living Facility (ALF) Coverage agreement with Zulema Martinez, Veronica M. Perez, and Rosaura Aguilar. These individuals are ombudsman volunteers that have been trained and currently make visits to 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 adds extra requirements for existing staff. The ALF Coverage will allow these three individuals to provide the required annual visits the State requires for this area per facility type. **Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the Assisted Living Facility Coverage Agreement as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Consider Approval RE: Authorized Signature for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applications and Agreements**
   Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval to authorize staff to seek Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Cities of McAllen, Mission, Pharr, Edinburg, Weslaco, Harlingen, San Benito, and Brownsville. Support will be sought to assist in providing added direct services for seniors under the Case Management Program within the mentioned communities. Mr. Ken Jones, will be the authorized signatory for all CDBG proposals and agreements. **Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the authorized signature for CDBG applications and agreements as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the status report was available for review in the Board folders.

President Darling next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Program Director Terrie Salinas. Ms. Salinas gave an update on the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program noting that Cameron and Willacy Counties have passed the Resolution of Intent. Hidalgo County tabled the resolution, and has received information training on PACE, but has yet to reconsider it. Ms. Salinas also provided an update on the activities of the Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC).

President Darling then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro and recognized Program Director Tom Logan. Regarding item A. 1. – Program Status Reports, Mr. Logan informed the Board that there has been a 20% increase in ridership for the 2015 fiscal year and that Valley Metro purchased 34 new busses which were launched on October 1. He added that the Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) successfully

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applied for and received two (2) grants: one to fund a transit driver academy in partnership with STC and TSTC, and the other to update the regional 5 year plan for Valley Metro.

President Darling next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Marcie Oviedo who reported on the following:

A. Environmental Resources

1. Water Resources
   Ms. Oviedo reported that the Region M Group’s next meeting is scheduled for November 4 and the 2016 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan will be considered for adoption at that meeting. President Darling encouraged the Board to review the Regional Water Plan as it pertains directly to potential funding opportunities for water projects.

2. Solid Waste Management
   a. Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action on Solid Waste Advisory Committee Recommendation RE: SWAC Membership
      Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that the Executive Committee approved the SWAC recommendation for the following individuals to fill vacancies on the committee: Mr. Ric Cavazos, Small City; Mr. Abel Moreno, Private Sector; Mr. Ric Cardenas, Private Citizen. **Mayor Celeste Sanchez made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee’s action to approve the membership of Mr. Ric Cavazos, Mr. Abel Moreno, and Mr. Ric Cardenas on the SWAC. Mayor San Juanita Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
   
   b. Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action on Resolution RE: FY 2016/2017 LRGVDC Regional Solid Waste Funding Plan Grant Application
      Ms. Oviedo stated that the FY 2016/2017 LRGVDC Regional Funding Plan was developed in conjunction with and approved by the SWAC in August. A public meeting was held on September 15 and no comments were received. The Executive Committee gave their approval for this item. **Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to ratify the resolution for the FY 2016/2017 LRGVDC Regional Solid Waste Funding Plan and Grant Application. Ms. Wanda Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
   
   c. Program Status Report on Solid Waste Program Activities
      Ms. Oviedo noted that the status report was in the Board folders for review.

B. HUD Disaster Recovery Funding

1. Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action on Recommendations from Housing Advisory Committee:
   a. Submittal of 2nd Waiver Request to GLO Reference LURA (Land Use Restriction Agreement) for Raymondville Northstar Apartment Project
      Ms. Oviedo reported that the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) met on September 9 and considered the Raymondville Northstar’s 2nd waiver request of the program guidelines to allow Northstar to operate under TDHCA tax credit rents instead of using the rents required under this program. The HAC considered the timeline for the request and approval of such waiver and chose to not allow this waiver request. The HAC then decided to move the funding previously awarded to Northstar to the Willacy County Housing Authority White Houses Project in the amount of $820,800. The Executive Committee gave their approval of this action. **Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee action denying Raymondville Northstar’s 2nd waiver request of the program guidelines, and moving**
those funds in the amount of $820,800 to the Willacy County Housing Authority White Houses Project. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

b. Donna Apartments (formerly Elsa Apartments) Project
At their September meeting the HAC considered whether the Donna Apartments Project could be completed in a timely manner and gave the project a timeline that requires that they close on contract signing prior to December 1, 2015. If the project cannot meet these provisions then the $136,750 in funds will be moved to the Willacy County Housing Authority White Houses project. The Executive Committee gave their approval for this item. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee approval of the Donna Apartments Project. Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

c. Neptune Apartments Project
At their September meeting the HAC considered a request from the Neptune Apartment Project to revise the project by decreasing the number of units from 16 to 10. The HAC approved this request with the following provisions:

1) The budget must be decreased to eliminate the line item for repayment of a land loan in the amount of $115,000 and by the per unit cost associated with reduction by 6 units. The applicant submitted an additional request to decrease the CDBH-DR fund allocation from $1,049,135 to $608,200 for reconstruction of the ten (10) units which was approved by the Executive Committee. The remaining $440,936 will be allocated to Willacy County Housing Authority White Houses project.

2) The project must close on contract signing and have all permits approved by 12/1/15

3) If the project cannot meet these provisions then the entire amount of funds will be moved to the Willacy County Housing Authority White Houses project.

Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee action to decrease the number of units in the Neptune Apartments project from 16 to 10 with the provisions noted above. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Program Status Report on 2nd Round Disaster Recovery Funding
Ms. Oviedo noted that the status reports were available for review in the Board folders.

President Darling next moved to item 9. A. - Homeland Security Program and recognized Ms. Jayni Saenz, Planner who presented the following items in the absence of Program Director Manuel Cruz:

1. Consider Approval RE: Citizen Corps Memorandum of Understanding between La Joya ISD and LRGVDC
Ms. Saenz informed the Board that the Citizen Corps Program – Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) continues to be enhanced by engaging local agencies and requesting assistance from them to continue to promote emergency preparedness. This document will allow the LRGVDC to provide assistance and support to La Joya ISD to further augment the CERT program by adding CERT instructors. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Citizen Corps Memorandum of Understanding between La Joya ISD and LRGVDC as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Approval RE: De-obligation of FY 2014 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Funding
Ms. Saenz stated that at their September 3 meeting the HSAC reviewed the status of the FY 2014 SHSP and the current status of pending projects. As previously reported, after one year from the initial award the HSAC set a deadline of April 1 to place funds awarded on an "On-Order" status and a deadline of July 31 to invoice and request final reimbursement to complete projects. The HSAC re-evaluated pending projects and granted the City of Penitas and the City of Sullivan City
fifteen (15) days to complete their projects. Staff made contact with these two cities and provided them with the HSAC’s guidance and instructions. September 23 is day 15, and after then the equipment line items will be cancelled and a total of $12,136 in combined funding will be returned to “uncommitted” status at which time funds will be de-obligated and reallocated to the LRGVDC for the HSAC’s review and consideration. Throughout this process jurisdictions with FY 2014 awards have been made aware of these deadlines and the negative outcomes that will result if they are not met. The local provision of setting deadlines was established in order to maximize each year’s request of increased funding. Upon conclusion of discussion no action was taken because the obligations were met.

3. Consider Approval RE: Homeland Security Advisory Committee Bylaws
Ms. Saenz reported that at their October 8 meeting the HSAC reviewed proposed updates to their bylaws. Updates to the following sections are recommended:

1. Article 11. Membership
   a. Terms
   b. Qualifications
   c. Attendance

2. Article IV. Meetings
   a. Regular Meetings
   b. Conflicts of Interest

These recommended revisions have been under review and are needed because of the current structure and the permanent appointment status of the entire membership. Additionally, as per the Office of the Governor’s – Homeland Security Grant Divisions Inter-cooperative Agreement with the LRGVDC the Conflict of Interest section was also revised to include language provided by the Office of the Governor. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee Bylaws revisions as presented. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Saenz noted that the status reports were available in the Board folders for review.

The President next moved to item 9. B. – Criminal Justice Program Staff Recommendations

1. Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Policy Manual. Ms. Saenz stated that in accordance with the 2015 LRGVDC Interagency Contract staff recommends approval of the CJAC Policy Manual. The deadline to submit this document to the Criminal Justice Department is November 3, 2015. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza made a motion to approve the CJAC Policy Manual as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Bylaws. Ms. Saenz informed the Board that in accordance with the 2015 LRGVDC Interagency contract staff must submit the CJAC bylaws by the November 3, 2015 deadline. However the CJAC is considering revisions to the section on membership which requires more time to review and will do so at a later date. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez informed the Board that one issue with membership and attendance is that some CJAC members have affiliations with entities that submit projects for funding. The CJAC prioritizes the projects and then that prioritization list is voted on. In order to avoid a conflict of interest by voting in favor of funding their affiliated projects voting members in this circumstance are not allowed a vote. President Darling suggested that the CJAC may want to consider voting on projects as individual line items so affiliated committee member can abstain in order to prevent conflicts of interest, as opposed to voting on the full prioritized list. Upon conclusion of discussion Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the CJAC Bylaw as presented. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Saenz noted that the status report was available for review in the Board folders.
President Darling next moved to item 10. - 9-1-1 Program and recognized Program Assistant Director Stephen Tice. Mr. Tice updated the Board on progress of Next Gen 911, and Kari's Law.

Upon conclusion of the 9-1-1 status report President Darling moved to item 11. Old or New Business, A. Reservoir Levels and reported that they were currently at 52%. There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary