President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. and asked for the roll to be called. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum was present. The President then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval of February 24, 2016 Meeting Minutes. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the February 24, 2016 meeting 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 legislators were present and no reports were provided. The President then moved to item 3.B. – Public Comment and recognized Mr. Vicente Gonzalez candidate for the U. S. Congress. Mr. Gonzalez asked the Board and audience for their support of his bid for a U. S. Congressional seat.

President Darling moved to item 3.C. – Staff Recognition for Years of Service with LRGVDC and presented awards to employees who have been with the LRGVDC for 5, 10, 20, 30 and 35 years. President Darling attributed the success of the LRGVDC to its staff and their longevity as illustrated with the multi-decade awards presented today.

President Darling next moved to item 3.D. – Status Report RE: Large Cities Coalition and recognized Deputy Executive Director Ron Garza. Mr. Garza informed the Board that the Coalition met March 16th and that the major topic of that meeting was Regionalism. The group reviewed best practices of Regionalism such as: building on existing relationships/neutral organizations; beginning with immediately achievable strategies; being as inclusive as possible; seeking unbiased facts and expert opinions; formalizing relationships and initiatives; communicating progress to the public; and looking for funding sources, and obtaining and distributing funds fairly. Mr. Garza reported that the steps needed to further the Coalition are to formalize a coalition of support through a joint charge and/or letters of support; a “Regional Asset” Marketing Campaign; future joint regional initiatives like a regional economic development summit, and continued communication and discussion. No action needed.

The President then moved to item 3.E. – Consider Approval of Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO) Recommendation RE: Employment Agreement Contract for HCMPO Director and noted that this agreement has been reviewed by the HCMPO Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) and received a positive recommendation. Executive Director Ken Jones informed the Board that Mayor San Juanita Sanchez, who is a member of this Board and Chair of the TPC sends her apologies for not being able to attend this meeting. President Darling then recognized Mr. Steve Crain, Attorney for Atlas & Hall. Mr. Crain provided background information regarding the agreement between the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the LRGVDC as the fiscal agent of the HCMPO. He stated that as such, according to this agreement the LRGVDC has the sole responsibility to hire, supervise, evaluate and terminate the HCMPO Transportation Planning Director, and that not all MPOs are set up the same way as the HCMPO. In some MPOs their Policy Committee has the aforementioned responsibilities. Mr. Crain pointed out that the employment agreement is for 36 months and includes the 3.5% cost of living increase for 2016, which all LRGVDC employees received, that would be retroactive to January 1, 2016; and the HCMPO Policy Committee added a severance package that includes benefits that are reimbursable under the contact. At the conclusion of his presentation Mr. Crain invited questions from the Board. Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
asked why is it necessary to have a contract when Mr. Canon has been employed for 10 years without one, and why 36 months? Is this typical of other MPOs? Mr. Crain informed the Board that Mr. Rex Leach, a partner from Atlas & Hall, met with the MPO TPC and an individual from TxDOT. Mr. Crain could not answer Mayor Hernandez' questions because he was not privy to those discussions nor provided that information. Upon conclusion of the discussion and because there was no one present who could answer the Board’s questions *Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to table this item.* *Ms. Wanda Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

Upon conclusion of the Administration items President Darling moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center and recognized Program Director Paul Williams. Mr. Williams stated that the standard status report was in the Board folders for review and reported that the Canine Encounters Course took place and was well received. He noted that courses on traumatic and acquired brain injuries and child safety alert check list will be offered in the next week; additionally a course on interactions with drivers who are deaf and hard of hearing has been mandated.

President Darling next moved to item 5. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item A. – Act upon Area Agency on Aging (AAoA) Advisory Council Recommendations, Mr. Gonzalez addressed the following action items:

   Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Area Plan is the blueprint the Area Agency on Aging uses to address issues regarding the elderly and family caregivers. This Plan sets the goals, objectives, and local strategies for the Area Agency on Aging. The deadline to submit it to the Department of Aging and Disability Services is April 1, 2016. *Mr. Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the 2017-2019 Area Plan on Aging as presented.* *Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

2. Consider Approval RE: Advisory Council Officers
   Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends Mr. Emilio Vera as Chair, Ms. Cynthia Gonzalez as 1st Vice Chair, and Mr. Tony Ocaña as 2nd Vice Chair. *Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council officers as recommended.* *Dr. Ambrosio Hernandez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez noted that the program status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Darling next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Program Director Terrie Salinas who gave status reports on the Weslaco EDC’s – EDA Grant Application – Center of Innovation and Commercialization and the Regional Small Cities Coalition.

President Darling then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro and recognized Procurement Director Victor Morales who addressed item A. 1 – Request Authorization RE: Issue RFQ for Professional Services in Support of Valley Metro Program. He stated that the purpose for this request is to acquire professional services to provide guidance for future Valley Metro programs and services. *Commissioner Daniel Guzman made a motion to approve issuance of an RFQ for Professional Services in Support of the Valley Metro Program.* *Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.* Upon conclusion of action Assistant Program Director Maribel Contreras gave the Ridership Report noting that less than half way through the year there is already a 44% increase in ridership.

President Darling next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Marcie Oviedo. Ms. Oviedo noted that the status report under item A.1. – Water Resources was in the Board folders for review and that there were two action items under item 8 A.2. – Solid Waste Management:

a. Consider Solid Waste Advisory Committee Recommendation RE: Stericycle Harlingen – MSW Permit Request
   *Ms. Wanda Garza made a motion to approve the Stericycle Harlingen – MSW Permit Request as presented.* *Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote
the motion carried unanimously.

b. Consider Solid Waste Advisory Committee Recommendation RE: City of Edinburg – MSW Permit Request

_The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the City of Edinburg – MSW Permit Request as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously._

The President then moved to item 8.B. – HUD Disaster Recovery Funding and Ms. Oviedo turned the floor over to Mr. Pete Phillips, Texas General Land Office (GLO) Deputy Director of Disaster Recovery, and Ms. Doralicia Rivera, GLO Residential Activities Manager. Ms. Rivera stated that on behalf of George P. Bush, our great Land Commissioner, Mr. Phillips and she came here to present a huge accomplishment: The LRGVDC is the first Council of Governments in the GLO’s Hurricane Dolly and Ike Disaster Recovery efforts to be on the forefront of closing their program. As a result of their hard work, the LRGVDC staff was able to provide recovery to 777 houses. President Darling accepted the plaque on behalf of the Board and staff. Ms. Rivera then recognized the Disaster Recovery Program staff, the Housing Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors for their efforts in this endeavor.

Upon conclusion of the Disaster Recovery presentation Ms. Rivera stated that Commissioner Bush announced the application process for the new Commissioner’s Coastal Resiliency Advisory Group (CCRAG) has begun. The purpose of the Group will be to ensure the Texas coast remains a beacon of economic activity and wildlife preservation for generations to come. This 15 member regional advisory group of will consist of local government, business, and industry leaders who will serve two-year terms. The deadline to submit an application for membership in the group is April 11, 2016. Three members will be selected from each of the five coastal Councils of Government (COGs). Of the three members from each region, one will be an elected or government official from a county or municipality. The second member will be a representative from a coastal conservation or regional planning organization. The third member will be a representative from a regional port or member of the coastal business community. Each of the five COGs will make one recommendation for each of the three representatives for their respective regions as well as conduct the application process. No action needed at this time.

President Darling next moved to item 9.A. – Act upon Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendations and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz who addressed the following items:

1. Consider Approval of HSAC Nomination RE: FY 2016 Chair

Mr. Cruz explained that the previous chair resigned, and at their March 3rd meeting the HSAC nominated Ms. Odee Leal, City of Brownsville Emergency Management Coordinator, as their new chair. _Mr. Steve Brewer made a motion to approve Ms. Odee Leal as the new HSAC Chair. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously._

2. Consider Approval RE: Reallocation of FY 2016 Homeland Security Grant Program Fund from Indian Lake to Cameron County

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that Indian Lake Police Chief Bill Roach contacted the LRGVDC in February to notify staff that due to unforeseen circumstances, the Indian Lake Police Department would not be able to meet the eGrants application deadline of February 29th to secure the $14,000 grant that was allocated to them. The HSAC reviewed Indian Lake’s grant information at their March 3rd meeting and recommend reallocation of the $14,000 to Cameron County. Cameron County included this amount in their application and would like to take the lead in the procurement process of the equipment for Indian Lake. If approved, when the equipment is purchased, Cameron County would transfer the equipment to Indian Lake. _Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the reallocation of FY 2016 Homeland Security Grant Program funds from Indian Lake to Cameron County as recommended by the HSAC. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously._

Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz gave the status reports on the Homeland Security Grant Programs, the Citizen Corps Program, the FY 2015 and FY 2016 Homeland Security Grant Programs and the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Program.
President Darling next moved to item 10. - 9-1-1 Program and recognized Program Director Sergio Castro. Mr. Castro noted that the standard program status reports were in the Board folders for review and announced that April 11 - 15 is National Telecommunicator Appreciation Week and that 9-1-1 staff has several activities planned to show Telecommunicators how much they are appreciated for the difficult job they do.

President Darling then moved to item 11. – Old or New Business; there being none, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

Mayor Jim Darling, President