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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS

PRESIDING: MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL, PRESIDENT

President Chris Boswell was unable to attend and 2nd Vice President Mayor Jim Darling was called to Chair this meeting. Chairman Darling called the meeting to order at 12:02 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. Chairman Darling then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval RE: February 25, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Ron Mills made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes Chairman Darling moved to item 3.A. – Report from Legislative Delegation and recognized Executive Director Mr. Ken Jones. Mr. Jones summarized two (2) riders and one bill that would have beneficial impact to the LRGVDC region if passed. Representative Muñoz filed the two (2) riders, one of which would provide $4 million for the next biennium in support of a pilot effort to expand public transit between and among campuses including South Texas College, Texas Southmost College, Texas State Technical College and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The other rider seeks the full appropriation of tipping fees collected and an allocation by TCEQ of no less than 33.3% of the tipping fees to regional councils for local and regional waste reduction programs. In addition, the rider requests for funds to spend down the fund balance for its intended purpose from fund 5000 (Solid Waste Disposal Program). Finally Mr. Jones briefed the Board on SB 1108 filed by Senator Lucio which would allow regional councils with populations less than 1.5 million to create their own regional emergency communication districts. If passed the bill would allow local governments within Hidalgo and Willacy Counties to consider forming a regional 9-1-1 district under the LRGVDC umbrella. This could mean an increase in funding of approximately $1.3 million per year for that program.

Upon conclusion of the legislative report, Chairman Darling moved to 3.B. - Public Comments and recognized:
- Mr. Ron Whitlock who informed the Board that the Water Emergency Strategic Plan coverage was held February 18 and the most important agenda item was about 10 proposed monitoring points between Falcon and Penitas.
- Mr. Robert Jeffrey who offered thanks to Hidalgo County Precinct 2 Commissioner Eddie Cantu for the repairs completed on Owassa Road and Dove Ave.; he said the bus ride is much smoother now. Mr. Jeffry also stated that Route 21 is often cancelled and requested the addition of a second bus to that route.

Chairman Darling then moved to item 3.C. – Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO) Update RE: Change of Fiscal Agent to Hidalgo County and recognized HCMPO Director Mr. Andrew Canon to provide an update on the recent activity of the HCMPO Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). He reported that there was a consensus of the TPC at their March 19, 2015 meeting to begin working on transitional phases for Hidalgo County to become the fiscal agent for the HCMPO by October 1, 2015. Since that meeting a designation letter from the governor’s office dated February 23, 1993 came to light that states that the LRGVDC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission Urbanized area. However there are new federal regulations that state that the TPC is to be appointed as the MPO. The TPC and HCMPO staff are working with TxDOT to move forward regarding what options are in the
designation agreement. Mr. Canon stated that the office space the HCMPO staff currently occupies at the LRGVDC Transportation Center is working fine; but City of Weslaco Mayor David Suarez has given the HCMPO a letter with an option for office space at the City Hall building. Mr. Canon will await the decision of the TPC regarding where staff will be housed.

Upon conclusion of Administration items Chairman Darling moved to item 4. – Regional Police Academy and Training Center Report, Item A. – Consider Approval RE: Resolution for the Regional Police Academy Grant Application and recognized Program Director Mr. Paul Williams. Mr. Williams stated that this resolution will allow the Regional Police Academy and Training Center to apply for Criminal Justice Division continuation funding in support of the Regional Police Academy. **Mr. Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the resolution for the Regional Police Academy Grant application as presented. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Williams gave the status reports for the Police Academy.

Chair Darling next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Program Director Mr. Joe Gonzalez who gave the status report on the Texas Silver Haired Legislature (TSHL). He stated that the Area Agency on Aging has received three applications from interested individuals. This region has been allotted five slots and staff will continue to accept applications from qualified individuals until all are filled. Mr. Gonzalez explained that the TSHL is a group of seniors selected from their peers or appointed if no election is held to represent their regions. The meetings are held in Austin and the group is tasked with developing priorities that address issues affecting the elderly which are then submitted to the Texas Legislature for consideration.

Chairman Darling next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas who gave a detailed status report on the Regional Small Cities Coalition’s activities in the previous month.

Chairman Darling then moved to item 7. - Report from Transportation Department and recognized Program Director Mr. Tom Logan. Mr. Logan turned the floor over to Procurement Director Mr. Victor Morales for item 7.A.1. – RFP Process for the Acquisition of Transit Busses. He reminded the Board that in January they authorized the Executive Director to negotiate the best price for transit vehicles and enter into a procurement contract. The Request For Proposals (RFP) was released and advertised on February 25. After completing the process and checking the tabulations for accuracy, staff has determined that New Flyer of America, Inc. will be awarded the contract to supply these busses. Report only, no action required. Mr. Logan then noted that the status reports on Ridership and activities of the Regional Transportation Advisory Panel were in the Board folders for review.

Chairman Darling next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Ms. Marcie Oviedo who noted that the status reports on Water Resources and Solid Waste Management were in the folders for review. Ms. Oviedo then addressed items under item 8.B.1. – Consider Recommendations from Housing Advisory Committee:

a. LRGVDC Non-Rental Contract Extension Request. Ms. Oviedo stated that at their March 17 meeting the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) submitted a recommendation to request an extension of the Non-Rental contract until December 2016. **Mr. Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the LRGVDC Non-Rental contract extension request as recommended by the HAC. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

b. Community Development Corporation of Brownsville (CDCB) Rapid Housing Program Extension Request. The HAC reviewed and discussed an extension request for the CDCB Rapid Housing Program and recommends extending the contract for 90 more days, until July 23, 2015. **The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to extend the CDCB Rapid Housing Program Extension until July 23, 2015 as recommended by the HAC. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo gave the status reports on the 2nd Round Disaster Recovery Funding.
Chairman Darling next moved to item 9.A. – Act upon Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendations and recognized Program Director Mr. Manuel Cruz. Regarding item 9.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: FY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program “On-Order” Deadline of Equipment and Reallocation of Uncommitted funds, Mr. Cruz stated that the HSAC recommends a deadline of April 1, 2015 to place funds awarded on an “On-Order” status and a deadline of July 31, 2015 to invoice and request reimbursement from the State. Jurisdictions with FY 2015 awards have been made aware of these deadlines and the negative outcomes as a result of not meeting them. The HSAC will review all uncommitted amounts on April 10 and reallocate all uncommitted funds to other eligible jurisdictions within the region. These local provisions were established for the purpose of maximizing all homeland security grants that this region receives and justify each year’s requests and increase in funding. **Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to approve the FY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program “On-Order” Deadline of Equipment and Reallocation of Uncommitted Funds as recommended by the HSAC. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz gave the Homeland Security program status reports.

Chairman Darling next moved to item 10. - 9-1-1 Program and recognized Program Director Mr. Juan Gomez. Mr. Gomez noted that the status reports were in the Board folders for review and asked if there were any questions. There being no questions on the 9-1-1 status reports the Chairman moved to item 11. - Old or New Business, there being none the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

[Signature]
Mayor Chris Boswell, President

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary