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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24 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 12:10 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: May 27, 2015 Meeting Minutes; Commissioner Danny Guzman noted an omission on page 3 for item 8.B.1.a. of who seconded the motion and the vote results. The following sentence will be included: "Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously." Commissioner Guzman made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted correction. Mr. Ron Mills 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 Mr. Jim Chapman who voiced his concerns about the proposed LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) plant. He stated that the LNG Plant proposed projects in the Brownsville Ship Channel were going through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission review process and that these plants are detrimental to the region as they will destroy the air and water quality, wildlife refuges, birding centers and local fishing industries.

President Darling then moved to item 3. C. – Board Recognition. President Darling presented plaques to Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza, Jr. and Mr. Don Medina in recognition of the time they served on the Board of Directors. Plaques were also prepared for Immediate Past President Mayor Chris Boswell, Mr. John Mendoza and Mayor Leopoldo “Polo” Palacios and will be presented to them at a later date.

The President next moved to item 3. D. - Act upon Recommendations of Nominating Committee.

1. Selection of Five (5) Persons for Election as Members-at-Large to the Membership.

President Darling reminded the Board that five members at-large were approved by the Membership at the May Membership meeting, and they are:

Hon. Norma G. Garcia, Donna
Ms. Ann Cass, McAllen
Mr. Steve Brewer, La Feria
Mr. Armando Garza, Jr., San Juan
Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez, Edcouch

President Darling stated that the Nominating Committee’s recommendations for the remaining five persons to be considered as members-at-large are:

Mr. Don Medina, McAllen
Mr. Leo Munoz, Weslaco
Ms. Diana Serna, Mercedes
Mr. Eleazar “Yogi” Garcia, Jr., Raymondville
Mr. Brian Godinez, McAllen

Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the five remaining members-at-large as
recommended by the Nominating Committee. Mayor Pro-temp Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Selection of Three (3) At-large Members to be Elected to the 2015-2016 Board of Directors.
President Darling stated that the Nominating Committee also recommended, of the ten (10) members identified above that the following three (3) persons be considered to fill the three (3) At-large seats on the Board of Directors for 2015-2016:
Hon. Norma G. Garcia, Donna
Mayor Pro-temp Eddy Gonzalez, Edcouch
Mr. Steve Brewer, La Feria

Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the Nominating Committee recommendation for the three At-Large seats on the Board of Directors for 2015-2016. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of Administration items President Darling moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center Report and recognized Program Director Paul Williams. Mr. Williams informed the Board that the regular status reports were in the Board folders for review and added that on January 1, 2015 the Open Carry Law comes into effect and brought up the question of how the Board would like to handle this law as it pertains to LRGVDC meetings that are open to the public. Mr. Williams recommends prohibiting firearms at public meetings and stated he would bring more information to the Board for discussion at the next meeting. President Darling stated that the Open Carry Bill provided criminal penalties for any elected official that violates the law in relationship to city owned property, and asked Mr. Williams to see if that provision was included in the Open Carry Law.

President Darling next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging, item A. 1. - Consider Approval RE: Agreement with Tejas Behavior Health Management Association and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the purpose of this agreement is to provide Care Transition Intervention Services, limited case management, and Home Meds to Cigna HealthSpring members in the Lower Rio Grande Valley including Starr County. The agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel and no issues were found; the Advisory Council recommends approval. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the agreement with Tejas Behavior Health Management Association as presented. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez noted that the status report on the Dual Eligible Demonstration Project was 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 the status reports on the Regional Small Cities Coalition and the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program.

President Darling then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro and recognized Program Director Tom Logan. Mr. Logan reported an 18% increase in ridership and that on August 7, 2015 a meeting is scheduled to discuss funding opportunities for the Transit Driver Academy through STC and TSTC. Mr. Logan reported that all CACST (Community Action Council of South Texas) staff assigned to Starr and Zapata Counties were hired and as of June 1 began working as LRGVDC staff and a total of 30 transit vehicles were transferred to the LRGVDC. On June 25 the Texas Transportation Commission will award to the LRGVDC the designation, remaining 2015 funds and $133,000 for start-up expenses.

President Darling next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Marcie Oviedo. Regarding item A. - Environmental Resources, Ms. Oviedo gave the status of the Region M Initially Prepared Plan and the Solid Waste Management Program; following that she gave the status of the HUD Disaster Recovery Funding Program.

President Darling next moved to item 9. A. - Act upon Homeland Security Staff Recommendation and
recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz. Regarding item 9. A. 1. - Consider Approval RE: Increase of Regional Interoperability Communications Maintenance Contribution Funding, Mr. Cruz stated that the June 4 meeting the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) reviewed and discussed the regional interoperability communications contribution funds for the maintenance of the equipment purchased with the Department of Justice and Homeland Security funding. After 10 years and much discussion, the HSAC agreed to recommend an increase from $15,000 to $23,880 to the maintenance fund contributions divided throughout the three-county area on a per capita basis. The funds collected will be used solely for the purpose of offsetting maintenance and upkeep costs for the 12 tower sites and the reoccurring costs of the T-1 connections of the two Spanish Language Early Weather Warning system transmitters installed in Harlingen and Pharr. Under the direction of the HSAC, at this time, LRGVDC staff and the City of Weslaco staff are in the process of identifying companies and agencies from the private sector to request donation assistance with the costs of the T-1 lines for the Harlingen and Pharr sites. If this is accomplished the funds collected will remain in place for the 12 tower sites. **Mayor Pro-tem Esmeralda Lozano made a motion to approve the increase of Regional Interoperability Communications maintenance contribution funding as recommended by the HSAC. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action President Darling moved to item 2. – Consider Approval RE: Adoption of the LRGVDC Regional Mass Fatality Plan. Mr. Cruz reported that the Metropolitan Medical Response System Steering Committee (MMRSSC) convened via conference call on June 4 to review and make recommendations to approve the LRGVDC Regional Mass Fatality Plan. The MMRSSC provided guidance to the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC), which convened later the same day and reviewed the MMRSSC recommendation. The LRGVDC received supplemental funding in FY 2013 to develop a unified mass fatality plan for the LRGVDC service area, and the LRGVDC secured a contract with the Litaker Group for the development of this mass fatality plan. **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to adopt the LRGVDC Regional Mass Fatality Plan as presented. Mayor Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz gave the status reports for the Homeland Security Program and the Criminal Justice Program.

President Darling next moved to item 10. - 9-1-1 Program and recognized newly promoted Program Director Sergio Castro. Mr. Castro stated that the regular status reports were in the Board folders for review and noted that during the final two months of this biennial, Interlocal agreements for 9-1-1 services will need to be renewed with all Public Service Answer Points (PSAP); the agreements will be distributed at the beginning of July for consideration and are due by August 31.

Upon conclusion of the 9-1-1 status report, President Darling moved to item 11. - Old or New Business, A. - Reservoir Levels and noted that Mexico had released water south of the reservoir system that will not increase the reservoir levels, but this release will still be credited to their water debt. There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 12:50.

**ATTEST:**

[Signature]

Déborah Morales, Recording Secretary

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