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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2014 - 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 12:10 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 Boswell then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval of July 23, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes. Mayor David Simmons made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Pro-tem Pilar Garza 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. - Report from Legislative Delegation; however no reports were given at this time.

President Boswell next moved to item 3.B. - Public Comment and recognized: Blanca Gonzalez, D’Oro PHC; Manuel Echavarria, Agua Cristalina; Angelica Cortez, Medcare Transport; and Manuel Cortez, Jr., STTS. Each individual informed the Board that they disagreed with the Request for Proposals process used to select vendors for the Area Agency on Aging client services for the upcoming fiscal year. The main complaint was that due to delays in the postal service deliveries, the information packet was received too close to the submission deadline for it to be properly prepared and that the LRGVDC Procurement Director did not return phone calls.

President Boswell then moved to item 3.C. - Presentation RE: Honor Flight Rio Grande Valley and recognized Mr. George Saenz, Vice Chair of Honor Flight Rio Grande Valley. Mr. Saenz was pleased to announce that their 501(c)(3) status has been approved, and ten (10) WWll veterans have been located from different parts of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties and surrounding areas. These heroes will be sent to see the Washington DC memorial October 4-5 this year. Honor Flight RGV is in the process of conducting fund raisers and is always looking for donations to cover the expenses for these flights.

Upon conclusion of the presentation President Boswell moved to item 3.D. - Presentation RE: Rio Grande Valley Regional Amber Alert System, tabled 7/27/2014. Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to take this item off the table. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. The President then recognized Mr. Oscar Montoya, Hidalgo County Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Montoya stated that he also represented the RGV Regional Alert System Task Force. He explained that the RGV Amber Alert System is the culmination of several months’ work after State Representatives Eddie Lucio, III and Sergio Munoz, Jr. approached law enforcement and emergency management agencies across the tri-county region with this concept. The RGV Regional Alert System is intended to supplement the state system and be operated solely by Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy County area officials.

Upon conclusion of Mr. Montoya’s presentation President Boswell moved to item 3.D. - Consider Resolution RE: Rio Grande Valley Amber Alert System. Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-02 in support of the Rio Grande
Valley Regional Alert System as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President next moved to item 3.F. - Presentation RE: Texas Coastal Infrastructure Resiliency Study for LRGVDC Region and recognized Ms. Melany Larenas, CB&I. Ms. Larenas stated staff is working with the Texas General Land Office (GLO) on this project and gave a presentation that provided an overview of the purpose of this study, which is to help secure funding in a rapid fashion after a coastal storm. In the past it has taken up to two years from the time a major event occurs to actually securing funding. The GLO does not believe that time frame is quick enough and is making efforts to reduce it. The first steps in the study are to identify vulnerable critical infrastructure, identify potential projects, create proactive storm response planning, and fast track the application process. The study area consists of 25 coastal counties. A pilot study in the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC), or Beaumont area, has already been conducted (May 2014 – Sept 2014). And now, the study in the LRGVDC region has begun. The remaining coastal area assignments will be accomplished Nov 2014 through late 2015 with the final report due in early 2016. CB&I staff will see guidance from the LRGVDC via a Technical Committee on the Existing and New Projects Lists and the Project Classification Lists for Fast Tracked Approval after the next major storm.

With the consensus of the Board President Boswell moved item 3.G. - Executive Session to the end of the agenda, then moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and recognized Mr. Paul Williams. Mr. Williams noted that the regular status report was in the folders for review and reminded the Board of several pertinent law enforcement courses that were scheduled in the coming months, including the availability of conducting a Workplace Violence/Active Shooter Course for Non-Law Enforcement personnel that is available, and was conducted for Board members prior to this meeting.

The President next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez who addressed the following items:

A. Act upon Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Recommendations

1. Consider Approval RE: Fiscal Year 2015 Older American Act Funding
   Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval to fund the following organizations for fiscal year 2015 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 David Simmons made a motion for approval of the Fiscal Year 2015 Older American Act Funding as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion. Mayor Jim Darling, Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza and Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza abstained and did not participation in any discussion on this item. Upon a vote the motion carried.

2. Consider Approval RE: Fiscal Year 2015 Direct Purchased Vendor Pool
   Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval of vendors (lists provided to Board Members) to provide direct services for: transportation, residential modifications, adult day care, homemaker services, respite care, personal assistance, pharmacy, DME, and other services. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza made a motion for approval of the Fiscal Year 2015 Direct Purchased Vendor Pool as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Consider Approval RE: Proposals from the City of La Joya and WellMed Medical Foundation
   Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends not accepting the proposal.

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from the City of La Joya for Senior Center Operations. The City missed the deadline and did not submit the proposal. The change in senior center personnel and being shorthanded at the city hall are the reasons for the proposal not being submitted.

WellMed Medical Foundation’s proposals for Senior Center Operations and Caregiver Education and Training were late due to mistaking the fiscal year 2014 date with the due date for fiscal year 2015. Both entities sent letters requesting consideration from the Board regarding their request for funding in order to continue serving their seniors and family caregivers that depend on their service. Upon conclusion of discussion Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to allow the submission of the applications from both the City of La Joya and WellMed Medical Foundation. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the status report on the Community Based Care Transition Program Extension was in the Board folders for review.

President Boswell next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas. Regarding item 6.A.1. – Presentation and Consider Resolution Template RE: Keeping PACE in Texas Program. Ms. Salinas stated that in August she and Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Director, met with Ms. Charlene Heydinger to discuss the potential implementation of the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) ACT Program. Ms. Salinas stated that PACE was enacted during the 2013 Texas Legislative Session and authorizes local governments to implement PACE programs within their jurisdictions. While the PACE Act creates the statutory framework, local governments have broad discretion in designing the specific attributes of their PACE program. No public funds are required for PACE financing. Ms. Salinas then introduced Ms. Charlene Heydinger, PACE Executive Director. Ms. Heydinger began a presentation that explains that Keeping PACE in Texas is a non-profit business association organized for the specific purpose of promoting legislation in Texas to facilitate PACE loans throughout the state. She explained that PACE is an innovative program that provides low-cost, long-term financing for energy efficiency retrofits and improvements to existing structures on all types of commercial, industrial, and residential properties. PACE loans will enable Texans to save substantial amounts in energy efficiency retrofits and improvements to existing structures. PACE loans will enable Texans to save substantial amounts in energy costs, upgrade and enhance the value of existing structures, and create jobs. The upfront costs and capital required for energy efficiency projects are often insurmountable barriers to property owners. PACE loans help overcome these barriers by providing alternative financing that enables private sector lenders to extend credit for these projects through loans secured by special property tax assessments. These assessments are initiated by the property owners and imposed by local taxing authorities. Ms. Heydinger suggests that PACE can be thought of as “tax-lien financing”. Upon conclusion of the presentation Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to authorize LRGVDC staff to go to Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties to request adoption of a Resolution of Intent to establish a PACE financing program pursuant to the PACE Act and for the LRGVDC to be the administrator of the PACE Act program. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Salinas gave the reports on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies Plan for 2014-2019 and the Project Status on the Regional Small Cities Coalition.

President Boswell then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro Program and recognized Mr. Tom Logan who gave the status reports on ridership, the Regional Transportation Advisory Panel Activity and TxDOT Transportation Development Credits Award.

President Boswell next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo who stated that item 8.A. – Environmental Resources status reports were in the Board folders for review. Mr. Brad Hubbard, URS, was recognized and gave the HUD Disaster Recovery Funding Program status report.

President Boswell then moved to item 9. – Report from Homeland Security and recognized Mr. Jones. He informed the Board that Program Director Manuel Cruz and Board Member Mr. Steve Brewer were traveling back from the National Association of Development Organization’s (NADO)
Annual Training Conference in Denver, CO where they received an Innovation Award for the Spanish Language Emergency Weather Warning System that has recently been completed. A press release for a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for September 3rd was distributed and Mr. Jones invited the Board to attend. Mr. Jones noted that the status reports for both the Homeland Security and the Criminal Justice programs were in the Board folders for review.

President Boswell next moved to item 10. – Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Juan Gomez. Mr. Gomez noted that the regular status reports were in the folders and informed the Board that several staff members were attending a workshop at the State Emergency Commission regarding the MLS or Multi Line System for entities that must dial “9” to get an outside line and how that affects 9-1-1 calls.

President Boswell moved to item 11. – Old or New Business and noted there was no old or new business to come before the Board.

President Boswell then moved back to item 3.G. - Executive Session RE: Consultation with Attorney Pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code to Discuss Contemplated Litigation and Notice of Representation Letters Related to Bus Accident on July 30, 2014. At 1:23 p.m. Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. At 1:29 p.m. regular session resumed and immediately thereafter the meeting adjourned.

Mayor Chris Boswell, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary