MINUTES

MEETING OF THE
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS
PRESIDING: MAYOR PRO-TEM EDDY GONZALEZ, PRESIDENT

President Eddy Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m. and asked Mr. Ken Jones to call roll. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum was present. President Gonzalez then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval RE: October 27, 2011 Meeting Minutes. **Mayor David Simmons made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes, President Gonzalez moved to item 3.A. – Public Comment. No one had signed up for Public Comment and the President moved to item 3.B. – Consider Approval to Enter into Contractual Agreement RE: NADO Initiative, Regional Wealth Creation Strategies for Rural America. Mr. Jones was recognized and informed the Board that the major emphasis of this project was to develop and pursue new approaches to wealth creation and retention initiatives that benefit all citizens and communities of underserved and distressed rural regions. This grant was intended to provide leverage to the LRGVDC’s ongoing projects in hopes of garnering additional funds. **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion for approval of entering into a contractual agreement with the NADO Initiative, Regional Wealth Creation Strategies for Rural America. Mayor Leo “Polo” Palacios seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action President Gonzalez moved to item 3.C. – Consider Appointment of 2012 Annual Work Program and Budget Committee. Mr. Jones was recognized and informed the Board that for consideration staff provided the list of the 2011 Annual Work Program and Budget Committee Members which included updates to elected officials. **Mr. Gale Armstrong made a motion to approve the appointment of the 2012 Annual Work Program and Budget Committee as presented. Mayor Leo “Polo” Palacios seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Gonzalez next moved to item 3.D. – Consider Date for Annual Membership Meeting. **Mayor Leo “Polo” Palacios made a motion to schedule the Annual Membership meeting on January 26, 2012 in conjunction with the January Board meeting. Mr. John Mendoza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President next moved to item 4. - Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item 4.A.1. – Consider Approval to Authorize Staff to Submit Proposals for CDBG Funds, Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommended approval to authorize staff to seek CDBG funds from the Cities of Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen, McAllen, Mission, Pharr, San Benito, and Weslaco. Support would also be sought from Hidalgo County precincts.
These CDBG funds would be used to obtain local matching requirements for the Foster Grandparent Program and to assist in providing added direct services for seniors under the Case Management Program within the mentioned communities. The LRGVDC Executive Director, Mr. Ken Jones would be the authorized signatory for all CDBG proposals. **Commissioner Celeste Sanchez made a motion to authorize Area Agency on Aging staff to submit proposals for CDBG funds as recommended by the Advisory Council. Commissioner Joey Trevino seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action President Gonzalez moved to item 4.B. - Program Status Reports. Mr. Joe Gonzalez reported on the Community Care Transitions Program Proposal and Medicare Part D Enrollment.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 5. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas. Regarding item 5.A.1. - Program Status Reports, Ms. Salinas reported on the EDA Peer Review, the Workforce Conference 2011, Economic Development and Business Retention, the Small Cities Coalition and the COOP Training for Day Health Centers/Adult Day Care Centers.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 5.B.1. - Regional Economic Adjustment Plan (EAP) Status Report and Ms. Salinas provided information on the Economic Development Department and S&B Infrastructure, Inc.

Upon conclusion of action President Gonzalez moved to item 6. - Report from Transportation Department, item 6.A.1. - Presentation and Consider Approval RE: Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (Tabled 10/27/11). **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to remove this item from the table. Commissioner Victor Perez seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Tom Logan was recognized and informed the Board that the Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) recommended the final draft of the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan for approval by the LRGVDC Board and Mr. Bennett Powell of the KFH Group, Inc. had a presentation prepared. Mr. Logan then turned the floor over to Mr. Bennett. The RTAP was compromised of Valley Metro, McAllen Metro, Brownsville Metro and the Wave, several HHSC agencies, both Workforce organizations and other agencies. The plan included an analysis of the area’s current transit needs, identified parallel planning, probed current transit resources and identified parallel planning, probed current transit resources and had a series of project recommendations to guide the transit systems. Two rounds of public meetings were held, with a total of eight meetings throughout the region in August and October. Staff hosted more than ninety (90) public participants in the eight meetings. Upon conclusion of the presentation **Commissioner Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan as presented. Commissioner Victor Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action President Gonzalez moved to item 6.A.2. - Consider Approval RE: Fare Free Zone in Port Isabel Area. Mr. Logan informed the Board that the City of Port Isabel requested that fares be eliminated on Route 50 from Laguna Vista to Port Isabel. Staff research determined that charging no fares between Port Isabel and Laguna Vista would result in a net ridership increase of 43% in the area and that revenues were not expected to decrease. **Commissioner Sofia Benavides made a motion for approval of a fare free zone in the Port Isabel area. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of the Valley Metro action items Mr. Logan gave the program status reports on Ridership and the RTAP.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 7. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and
recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo. Ms. Oviedo noted that item 7.A.1. - Water Resources status reports were in the Board folders. President Gonzalez moved to item 7.A.2. - Solid Waste, item a. – Consider Resolution Approval RE: FY 2012/2013 LRGVDC Regional Solid Waste Funding Plan and LRGVDC Regional Solid Waste Grant Application. Ms. Oviedo stated that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met and held a public meeting on October 25, 2011 to review and approve the FY 2012/2013 LRGVDC Regional Solid Waste Funding Plan and resolution for the Solid Waste Application and the SWAC recommends Board approval. Ms. Oviedo also noted that there was a 50% reduction in funding from this program and all affected entities have been notified of this reduction. Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion for approval of the FY 2012/2013 Regional Solid Waste Funding Plan and grant application as presented. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo summarized the Solid Waste program status report.

The President next moved to item 7.B. – HUD Disaster Recovery Funding; item 1. – Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: LRGVDC Method of Distribution (MOD) for Hurricane Dolly HUD Funding. Staff requested and received Executive Committee approval of the MOD for submittal to the General Land Office (GLO) by the November 11, 2011 deadline. Mr. Don Medina made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee action. Commissioner Sofia Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Gonzalez then moved to item 7.B.2. – Consider Authorization for Executive Committee to Act RE: Submission of Needs Assessment and LRGVDC Housing Application to General Land Office (GLO) for Hurricane Dolly Round 2.2 Funding. Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that staff began the Needs Assessment process immediately after completing the MOD on October 26, 2011. The Housing Advisory Committee scheduled a total of four meetings and three Public Hearings for development of the Needs Assessment. URS had also conducted onsite visits throughout the three-county region to assess need and damages. The LRGVDC Housing application was due to the GLO on December 9, 2011. Even though the LRGVDC has received an extension to submit the application by the end of December, staff’s target date for submittal was still December 9, 2011 and staff requested authorization for the Executive Committee to act on submission of the Needs Assessment and application in December 2011. Commissioner Victor Perez made a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to act on the submission of the Needs Assessment and the LRGVDC Housing application to the GLO for Hurricane Dolly round 2.2 funding. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Gonzalez moved to item 7.B.3. – Consider Authorization for Executive Committee to Act RE:

a. LRGVDC Contract with GLO Regarding City of Brownsville’s Round 1 Disaster Recovery Housing Program and Request for Authorization to Release RFP for Construction Services. Mr. Jones stated that the GLO proposed to transfer the Brownsville contract for Round 1 Disaster Recovery Housing Program to the LRGVDC. GLO would award the LRGVDC with a contract for $1,400,000 for the project and $143,118 for project delivery along with Administrative Funding Support. GLO has expressed confidence that the LRGVDC will meet the contract’s benchmarks and assist City of Brownsville’s constituents as soon as possible. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza recommended that in the future the Housing Committee be provided the opportunity to review the contract prior to being presented to the Executive Committee for action.

b. Contract with URS for Implementation Assistance. Mr. Jones stated that staff required Board authorization to contract with URS for Implementation on this project.
c. Adoption of City of Brownsville's Housing Guidelines with Revisions. Mr. Jones stated that staff revised The City of Brownsville's Housing Guidelines for the LRGVDC; staff requested Board authorization to proceed with these guidelines and begin the process as soon as possible.

It was the consensus of the Board to act on all three items together. **Mr. Don Medina made a motion for approval of items 7.B.3.a., b, and c. as presented. Mayor Leo “Polo” Palacios seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo stated that the status report on 2nd Round of Disaster Recovery Funding was in the Board folders.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 8. – Homeland Security and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz. Regarding item 8.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: HSAC Recommendations on Nominations for Incoming HSAC Chairman and City of South Padre Island HSAC Member. Mr. Cruz stated that Chairman Burney Baskett, South Padre Island Fire Chief, resigned his seat on the HSAC. Mayor Bob Pinkerton, City of South Padre Island appointed Assistant Police Chief Javier Garza as Chief Baskett’s replacement on the committee. The HSAC also recommended Board approval of the nomination of Police Chief James Harris as the new HSAC Chairman for FY 2012. **Mr. Don Medina made a motion to approve the nomination of Chief James Harris as HSAC Chair and for Chief Javier Garza’s appointment to the HSAC. Commissioner Victor Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

The President next moved to item 8.A.2. – Consider Approval RE: HSAC Recommendation on Approval of the Resolution for the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2010-2015 LRGVDC Implementation Plan for 2012. Mr. Cruz stated that in accordance with the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan (THSSP) 2010-2015, State agencies as well as the 24 COG’s were required to develop annual THSSP implementation plans. These plans are an essential part of a broad state-wide effort to synchronize diverse homeland security activities and most importantly ensure continued progress toward the goals and objectives established in the THSSP. This plan will play a key role in the State’s decisions for regional allocations. **Commissioner Victor Perez made a motion for approval of the resolution for the THSSP 2010-2015 LRGVDC Implementation Plan for 2012 as presented. Commissioner Joey Trevino seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz stated that the Homeland Security Status Reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Gonzales then moved to item 8.B.1. – Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Membership (Tabled 10/27/11). It was the consensus of the Board to leave this item on the table until the January meeting and President Gonzalez encouraged the Board to consider nominees to the CJAC and submit names for consideration at the January meeting.

Upon conclusion of action President Gonzalez moved to item 8.B.2. – Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Program Scoring Tool. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that as per the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Criminal Justice Division, the LRGVDC shall develop scoring criteria that includes the local priorities and LRGVDC’s strategic vision related to criminal justice issues within its region. The LRGVDC shall ensure that CJAC members reviewing applications prioritize the applications using this scoring instrument to record and tabulate application scoring. **Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza made a motion to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Program Scoring Tool as presented. Commissioner Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
President Gonzalez next moved to item 8.B.3. – Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Program Pre-application Summary Form. Mr. Cruz stated that in accordance with the CJD Interlocal Cooperation Agreement, the LRGVDC shall ensure that funding recommendations on grant applications would be based upon priorities identified within the LRGVDC’s region. A grantee must submit to the LRGVDC Documentation that describes how the application addresses a criminal justice priority as identified in the LRGVDC Strategic plan by submitting the attached Pre-application Summary Form. **Commissioner Joey Trevino made a motion for approval of the Pre-application Summary Form as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the Status Reports for the Criminal Justices Program and the Metropolitan Medical Response System Program were in the Board folders for review.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 9. - 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Juan Gomez who noted that the status reports were in the Board folders and invited the Board to come by and visit the 9-1-1 office any time.

The President next moved to item 10. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center Status Reports and recognized Mr. Paul Williams. Mr. Williams noted that the regular status reports were in the Board folders and highlighted several upcoming courses provided by the Regional Police Academy.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 11. - Old or New Business; there being none **Commissioner Celeste Sanchez made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Sofia Benavidez seconded the motion and meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.**

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\text{E. J. Gonzalez}
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MAYOR-PRO-TEM EDDY GONZALEZ, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

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\text{Norma G. Garcia}
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HON. NORMA G. GARCIA, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary