President Chris Boswell called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. and noted that a quorum was not yet present. With the Board's permission President Boswell moved to item 3.E. – Staff Recognition for Years of Service with the LRGVDC and had the honor of presenting awards to LRGVDC employees who have dedicated five, ten, fifteen and thirty years of service to this organization.

Upon conclusion of the awards presentation President Boswell asked Mr. Ken Jones to call roll. Upon completion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum was present for both the LRGVDC Board and the LRGVDCC Board. President Boswell then moved to agenda item 2. – Consider Approval RE: January 27, 2011 Meeting Minutes. Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Commissioner Ruben Guajardo 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. – Public Comment and recognized Mr. Robert Jeffrey who informed the Board of issues regarding bus service. President Boswell next recognized Ms. Patricia Huerta and Ms. Ann Jackson both from Donna, TX representing Noah Animal Advocates. Ms. Huerta and Ms. Jackson expressed their desire to end animal cruelty and neglect and enforce existing laws against animal cruelty and neglect.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments the President moved to item 3.B. – Presentation RE: Salud Por Vida/Health for Life Diabetes Initiative and recognized Mr. David Gaytan and Ms. Jennifer Woodard from TMF Health Quality Institute. Mr. Gaytan and Ms. Woodard informed the Board that TMF is a nonprofit health care consulting company that has launched a new initiative for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service to improve health outcomes among Hispanics and Native Americans with diabetes. Salud por Vida/Health for Life is seeking community partners to eliminate health disparities and increase opportunities for Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) for these populations. This initiative also includes a clinical component to support enhanced care management for patients with diabetes.

Upon conclusion of the presentation Mayor Pat Ahumada acknowledged that diabetes education is good and that there is also a need to change eating and exercise habits as well as the food and beverage choices in public schools. Mayor Ahumada informed the Board that he was preparing to introduce a resolution to the Brownsville City Commission to eliminate sugary soft drinks from the Brownsville public schools in an effort to address the problem of childhood obesity. Mayor Steve Brewer acknowledged Mayor Ahumada's comments and suggested teaching the public how to cook healthy foods and prepare a healthy diet as a method to address the diabetes problem. Mayor Brewer added that many smaller cities do not have health clinics that provide the type of services TMF is offering and is interested in partnering with them. At the conclusion of discussion President Boswell thanked Mr. Gaytan and Ms. Woodard for their information and stated the question would then be how to take action to help TMF's
initiative, and suggested they coordinate with LRGVDC staff to get their information to the public.

Upon conclusion of action President Boswell moved to item 3.C. – Presentation and Consider Action on Resolution RE: Support for the Humane Treatment of Animals (tabled 1/27/2011). **Mayor Miguel Wise made a motion to take this item off the table. Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried.** Mayor Pat Ahumada stated that many people are immune to abused and neglected animals. When visitors come to the Valley we would like them to see clean cities with no stray animals. Mayor Ahumada cited statistics of euthanized and adopted animals in Brownsville and other areas and gave examples of how Brownsville is taking steps to lower the amount of euthanized animals and increase the amount of pet adoptions. Mayor Ahumada stated that the amount of euthanized animals is alarming and challenged the Board Members as leaders of the LRGVDC to organize volunteers in their communities to educate the public and call their legislators. Mayor Ahumada stated he was asking for state legislation that will tax all pet products and create a state-wide fund for cities who want to have no-kill animal shelters and fund spay/neuter clinics and encourage the Board to act to change the third world image the Rio Grande Valley has and not to ignore the abused and neglected animals they see. Upon conclusion of discussion **Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Resolution of Support for the Humane Treatment of Animals as presented. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

President Boswell next moved to item 3.D. – Presentation and Consider Action on Resolution of Support RE: Reusable Bag Initiative and recognized Mayor Pat Ahumada. Mayor Ahumada stated he introduced an ordinance to the Brownsville City Commission that bans the use of plastic shopping bags. This ordinance originally received opposition from the Brownsville City Council and he struggled for three years to pass this ordinance. A group of volunteers was organized and urged the Brownsville City Commission to reconsider this issue. With the help of a great team the ordinance was passed and has made a huge difference, Brownsville is a cleaner city because reusable shopping bags are being used instead of plastic shopping bags.

Mayor Ahumada then turned the floor over to Ms. Rose Timmer, Healthy Communities of Brownsville, who the Mayor credits as instrumental in passing the ordinance by educating the public. Ms. Timmer showed a short video about the progress made to clean up Brownsville. She explained that there was a very long campaign to encourage the public to use reusable shopping bags and it took a lot of money and much effort, but they had the full support of Mayor Ahumada and the City Commission. The City of Brownsville passed the ordinance two months ago, there have been a few hiccups, but overall the community has embraced using reusable shopping bags. The key to this success was the creation of an Environmental Advisory Committee that met each week for eighteen months. Brownsville was the first city in Texas and the twelfth city in the Nation to pass such an ordinance. Ms. Timmer stated that this is a great initiative and each community that adopts a similar ordinance will see the difference.

Mayor Ahumada added that one of the surprising things he found when this was adopted was how the retailers welcomed it and is hopeful that other communities will find the same true for them. Mayor Ahumada encouraged the Board Members to support this resolution, return to their communities and where applicable, to make these changes to better our region.

Mayor Leo “Polo” Palacios asked if this resolution was approved by the Board, would all the cities be required to enforce it. He was assured that this was only a recommendation and it would not be mandatory in any way. President Boswell suggested verbiage changes such as replacing “prohibiting use of plastic bags” with “encouraging use of reusable bags” and present it to a committee for further study. **Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the resolution with changes.** Upon further discussion Mr. Don Medina suggested bringing this resolution before the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) for review. **Upon conclusion of discussion Commissioner Gus Garcia made a**
motion to table this item. Commissioner Ruben Guajardo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Boswell next moved to item 3.F. – Consider Approval RE: 2010 Annual Productivity Report. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the 2010 Annual Productivity Report as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jones added that staff met all the objectives in the report, and brought the Boards attention to a supplemental report with a breakdown of grant distribution for funding that goes through the LRGVDC. The consensus of the Board was that this additional report was beneficial and should continue to be distributed each year.

President Boswell next moved to item 3.G. – Discuss Action by City of McAllen Regarding Office Lease at 311 N. 15th St. and Consider Process for Securing Alternate Office Facilities. Mr. Jones was recognized and informed the Board that many communities including the Cities of Mission, Edinburg, Hidalgo, Pharr, Donna, Weslaco, Mercedes and Harlingen have indicated an interest in submitting a proposal for consideration to relocate the LRGVDC in their city. In an effort for the Board to determine a process to receive and review proposals Mr. Jones recommended that the Board appoint a Site Selection Committee that includes at a minimum the Executive Committee; for LRGVDC staff to be authorized to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) on Friday, February 25th to the LRGVDC Member Governments outlining the office’s baseline square footage needs and current budget line items for space rental and utilities; that the proposals indicate whether or not space offered is intended to meet short and/or long term needs, with costs identified along with incentives that may be offered for consideration; to establish a deadline for receipt of proposals as Friday, March 11th at 5:00 p.m.; schedule a meeting of the Site Selection Committee for the week of March 14th to formulate a recommendation to the full Board of Directors at the March 24th meeting; and upon the Board’s selection of a proposal, authorize the Executive Committee to negotiate an agreement with selected entity to be executed during the week of April 4th. Mr. Jones acknowledged that this was an aggressive schedule and noted that it was necessary to ensure ample time to prepare a site for occupancy by June 21st, the one hundred twenty (120) day mark. Mr. Jones noted that if needed the McAllen City Commission has allowed an additional sixty (60) days; the one hundred eighty (180) day mark would be August 20th.

President Boswell agreed that the Site Selection Committee should include the Executive Committee Members, however recommended replacing Commissioner John Ingram, City of McAllen, with a Board Member that has not or will not answer the RFP; Mayor Steve Brewer was nominated for the position. Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the RFP to Relocate LRGVDC’s McAllen Office as presented and to form a Site Selection Committee that includes the Executive Committee Members replacing Commissioner John Ingram with Mayor Steve Brewer. Commissioner Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action, President Boswell moved to item 4. – TRACS Report from Professional Advisory Review Panel (PARP).

1. Agua Special Utility District – Agua SUD Wastewater Treatment Plant & Collection Palmview
   $155,939,435.00 ................................................................................................................TWDB

2. Communities in Schools – Cameron County – Talent Search
   $737,000.00 ..............................................................................................................................DOE

3. Pharr Economic Development Corporation II – Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG)
$610,000.00 .............................................................................................. USDA

4. Neighbors in Need of Services, Inc. Early Head Start
$1,336,678.00 .............................................................................................. DHHS

5. Neighbors in Need of Services, Inc. Head Start
$17,415,752.00 .............................................................................................. DHHS

Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve applications 1-5 as recommended by PARP. Commissioner Gus Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on item 4, President Boswell moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging, item 5.A. – Consider Approval of Administrative/Memorandum of Understanding with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Corporation, Inc. (LRGVDCC), and LRGVDC RE: Administrative/Fiscal Agent. Mr. Jones was recognized and noted that the LRGVDC Executive Committee comprises the Board for the LRGVDC Corporation, Inc., which is a 501(c)3, and this is a Corporation Action Item. Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Administrative/Memorandum of Understanding with the LRGVDCC and the LRGVDC RE: Administrative/Fiscal Agent. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Boswell next moved to item 5.B. – Consider Approval of LRGVDCC/Memorandum of Understanding with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Corporation, Inc. (LRGVDCC) and LRGVDC. Commissioner Ruben Guajardo made a motion to approve the LRGVDCC/Memorandum of Understanding with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Corporation, Inc. (LRGVDCC) and LRGVDC RE: Administrative/Fiscal Agent as presented. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Boswell noted that the Program Status Reports for the Area agency on Aging, and the Economic Development Department were in the Board folders, and moved to item 7.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Transit Advertising and Marketing RFP Scope of Work. Mayor Pro-tem Alvin Samano made a motion for approval of the Transit Advertising and Marketing RFP Scope of Work as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action the President moved to item 7.A.2. – Acknowledgement of Annual Board Training RE: Transit Internal Compliance Policy. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to acknowledge the Annual Board Training RE: Transit Internal Compliance Policy. Commissioner Ruben Guajardo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Boswell noted that the status reports from Regional Planning and Services were in the Board folders and moved to item 9.A.1. – Consider Hidalgo County Appointment RE: Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Membership. Commissioner Ruben Guajardo made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Oscar Montoya as recommended by the HSAC. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action the President moved to item 9.A.2. – Consider Approval RE: HSAC’s Regional Projects for FY2011 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval of the HSAC’s Regional Projects for FY2011 HSGP as presented. Hon.
Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Boswell moved to item 9.A.3. – Consider Adoption RE: LRGVDC HSAC Compliance Booklet for the Homeland Security Grant Programs. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion for approval of the LRGVDC HSAC Compliance Booklet for the Homeland Security Grant Programs as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Alvin Samano seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Boswell noted that the Homeland Security Status Reports as well as the 9-1-1 Department and Regional Police Academy and Training Center Status Reports were in the Board folders for review

There being no further business to come before the Board Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ruben Guajardo seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

[Signature]
MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

[Signature]
MAYOR PRO-TEM ALVIN SAMANO, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

[Signature]
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary