MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2013 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS
PRESIDING: MAYOR STEVE BREWER, PRESIDENT

President Steve Brewer called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m. and asked Ms. Debby Morales to call roll. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board was present. President Brewer then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval RE: February 28, 2013 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Roberto Loredo made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Brewer moved to item 3.A. - Public Comments and recognized Mr. Daniel Diaz with LUPE who informed the Board that the 10th Annual Cesar Chavez March will take place on April 6th, at 10:00 a.m. at the San Juan Municipal Park. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza was recognized next and informed the Board of Proyecto Azteca’s “Si Se Pueden!” 5K Run/Walk scheduled for April 6th at 7:00 a.m. at the corner of Business 83 and Cesar Chavez Rd. in San Juan. Next President Brewer read a letter sent from Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, The University of Texas System; in the letter Chancellor Cigarroa expressed his sincere gratitude to the Board for their support to establish a new university in South Texas.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments President Brewer moved to item 3.B. – Update from Legislative Delegation and recognized Ms. Casandra Garcia, South Texas Regional Director for U. S. Senator Ted Cruz. Ms. Garcia informed the Board that staff is currently seeking office space in the area and she looks forward to providing a full report at the next Board meeting. Mr. Humberto Garza, Regional Director for U.S Congressman Filemon Vela was next recognized and stated that he would like to provide a quick update to the Board. Mr. Vela stated that congress was able to avert the sequestration deadline for this fiscal year by pushing it back to September 30, 2013. This does not mean that the issue is solved, the dilemma still looms over us and it is a call to action, a call to arms on some of these issues that affect South Texas. Mr. Garza thanked the City of Donna for traveling to Washington, DC to participate in very effective dialogue with Carlos Rubinstein and other active participants who are dealing with our water and drought issues, more specifically Mexico abiding by the 1944 Treaty. Mr. Garza also thanked the communities that have passed resolutions in support of this endeavor, and noted that they have been forwarded to Washington and are in place and serving their particular and intended purposes. With regards to the water, Mr. Garza stated that there have been very effective discussions with some of the congressional delegates along the border. There is a strong effort alongside Carlos Rubinstein’s to attract attention from the State Department that has been very effective. Responses from Mexico have been received, they are willing to communicate with us, and have sent correspondences to Washington. The effort right now is to have the State Department carry the ball and carry on a message to the Executive Office so they in turn can have those communications that are badly needed to Mexico. There was also a consortium from Hidalgo County that went to Washington with regards to the Raymondville Drain project, a project that is fully support by this group; that in turn turned into a very positive outlook, there are measures underway that will be taken soon. Mr. Garza then
noted that one revision was recommended in the document and that is to include “all USDA programs” and if approved, the revised resolution will be provided for signature. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the resolution with the recommended revision. Mr. Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Salinas gave status reports on the Economic Disaster Recovery Program and the GIS Training Project schedule.

President Brewer then moved to item 6. - Report from Transportation Department and recognized Mr. Tom Logan. Regarding item 6.A.1. – Rural and Urban Transit System Program Status Reports Mr. Logan noted that ridership continues to increase throughout the Valley Metro system.

President Brewer next moved to item 7. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Oviedo. Regarding item 7.A.1.a.1. – Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group Activities Ms. Oviedo noted that the Planning Group has vacancies in four categories: County, Small Business, River Authority and Agriculture and encouraged the Board to consider individuals who may be able to fill those vacancies.

Regarding item 7.A.2.a. – Consider Solid Waste Advisory Committee Recommendation RE: 2012-2013 Implementation Funds Available. The SWAC recommends the LRGVDC transfer implementation funds of $18,134 to the Equipment Category to purchase two mobile recycling trailers with signage. The trailers would be placed at different LRGVDC locations throughout the region and the LRGVDC will coordinate with local and private sector entities to dispose of the deposited recycled materials. **Mr. Roberto Loredo made a motion for approval to transfer the implementation funds as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Adan Farias seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action President Brewer moved to item 7.A.2.b. – Consider Solid Waste Advisory Committee Recommendation RE: SWAC Membership. Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that the SWAC recommends Mr. Eric Munoz from the City of San Juan fill the Small Cities vacancy on the committee. **Mr. Roberto Loredo made a motion to approve Mr. Munoz filling the Small Cities vacancy on the SWAC as recommended by the committee. Mayor Pro-tem Adan Farias seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President next moved to 7.B. – HUD Disaster Recovery Funding, item 1. – Program Status Report on 2nd Round Disaster Recovery Funding. Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that staff has identified the first three applicants, one from each county in the LRGVDC region, to receive new homes from the program; and the first one has been assigned to a contractor.

President Brewer next moved to item 8.A. – Report from Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC), item 1. – Consider Approval RE: Reallocation of FY2011 Homeland Security Grant Program Uncommitted Funds, Mr. Cruz stated that on March 7, 2013 the HSAC reviewed the uncommitted amounts for each jurisdiction which total $1,895.18. The HSAC recommends that the total amount be divided evenly between the City of Brownsville and the City of San Juan; each jurisdiction will receive $947.59. **Mr. Roberto Loredo made a motion to approve the reallocation of FY2011 SHSP uncommitted funds as presented and recommended by the HSAC. Mayor Henry Hinojosa 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: FY2012 Homeland Security Grant Program Local Deadline of Uncommitted Funds. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that at the February HSAC meeting the Committee reviewed the current status of uncommitted funding for FY2012 SHSP/LETPA and recommends a deadline of April 30, 2013 to place funds awarded on an
"On-Order" status and a deadline of October 31, 2013 to "Invoice" and request reimbursement from the SAA. The HSAC will review all uncommitted amounts on a monthly basis and reallocation of funds to other eligible jurisdictions within the region will be considered on the dates approved. These local provisions were established for the purpose of maximizing all homeland security grants that the LRGVDC region receives. **Mayor Pro-tem Adan Farias made a motion for approval of the FY2012 HSGP local deadline of uncommitted funds as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Brewer next moved to item 8.A.3. – Consider Approval RE: HSAC Recommendation on FY 2013 Homeland Security Grant Program Regional Projects. Mr. Cruz stated that in accordance with the SAA the HSAC met to review and select projects for the upcoming FY2013 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). The HSAC recommends continuing with the previously approved FY2012 regional investment justifications (projects) which are: Interoperable Communications, Regional Response Team and Metropolitan Medical Response System. **Mr. Roberto Loredo made a motion to approve the HSAC recommendation on FY2013 HSGP regional projects as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of discussion Mr. Cruz gave the status reports on Emergency Management plans, FY2011 & 2012 HSGP, Citizen Corps Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Mr. Cruz then proceeded with the Criminal Justice Program and Metropolitan Medical Response System status reports.

President Brewer next moved to item 9. - 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Juan Gomez. Regarding item 9.A. – Program Status Reports Mr. Gomez stated that the report was in the Board folders for review and added that in the spirit of regionalism, the LRGVDC 9-1-1 Department will be the project manager to implement one of four Emergency Service IP Networks in the State of Texas. As of March 14th six South Texas COGs have agreed to have the LRGVDC spearhead this project. The 9-1-1 Directors for each regional are working on an Interlocal Agreement that will formalize this project.

President Brewer next moved to item 10. - Regional Police Academy and recognized Mr. Paul Williams. Mr. Williams noted that the status report was in the Board folders for review and reminded the Board that August 31st was the end of the training cycle for all peace officers; peace officers in non-compliance will be issued heavy fines.

President Brewer next moved to item 11. - Old or New Business there being none, **Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.**

**Steve Brewer**

MAYOR STEVE BREWER, PRESIDENT

**NORMA G. GARCIA**

HON. NORMA G. GARCIA, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

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