President Eddy Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and asked Mr. Ken Jones to call roll. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum was not yet present. With the consensus of the Board President Gonzalez began with non-action items until a quorum was achieved. The President moved to item 3.A. - Public Comments and recognized:

- Mr. Dean La Fever who informed the Board that Texas Gas Service was beginning the Cost of Service Analysis (COSA) filing for 2012 and that as in past years Mr. Ramon Vela, City of Weslaco, and Mr. Geoffrey Gay the rate consultant who has worked with the communities over the past several years would take the lead on the filing as recommended by LRGVDC staff.

- Ms. Rocio Antonio with Arise/Equal Voice encouraged the Board to support the Equal Voice Section 3 Plan.

- Mr. Jose M. Medrano with Smart Center/Equal Voice was recognized next and offered support for the proposed HUD construction project for the City of Brownsville, even though the Section 3 Plan for that project does not yet carry the adopted effective language proposed by the Equal Voice Network. Mr. Medrano requested the Board's approval of the Section 3 Plan with the existing language be effective only for the nine month duration of that project, by which time the Equal Voice Network language could be considered by the Board for use in future projects, primarily the Round 2 Dolly Disaster Relief projects. Mr. Medrano stated that for the record Equal Voice Network does not want to create a barrier for the Brownsville families who will benefit from this immediate project, nor do they want to impede any local employment opportunities that should be generated, by not moving forward with it. Mr. Medrano wanted to continue to encourage the Board to move forward in adopting the Equal Voice Section 3 Plan.

- Ms. Ann Williams Cass with Equal Voice/Proyecto Azteca was recognized and recommended the use of sustainable construction using sustainable weather resistant materials in the construction projects related to the HUD Disaster Recovery Funds.

At the conclusion of Public Comments it was ascertained that a quorum was present and President Gonzalez moved to item 2. – Consider Approval RE: February 23, 2012 Meeting Minutes. **Commissioner Jim Darling made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Commissioner Gerardo Tafolla seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
Upon conclusion of Public Comments the President moved to item 3.B. – Staff Recognition for Years of Service with LRGVDC and presented awards to staff who had served 5, 10, 15 and 35 years.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 3.C. – Presentation/Discussion RE: HUD Regional Section 3 Planning and recognized Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones’ presentation outlined the Purpose and Goals of Section 3, who qualified as Section 3 residents and businesses and LRGVDC’s Section 3 efforts.

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 Amend the Amigos Del Valle Budget Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommended amending the Amigos Del Valle budget by providing additional funds for congregate meals, home delivered meals, and transportation. The LRGVDC was in receipt of the 2012 full funding, State Unit on Aging carryover funds and the 2011 carryover funds. The amount of Title III additional funds available for Amigos Del Valley was $231,996 for congregate meals, $138,627 for home delivered meals and $50,000 for transportation. 

Mr. Arturo Ramírez made a motion for approval to amend the Amigos Del Valle Budget as recommended by the Advisory Council. Commissioner Gerardo Tafolla seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Gonzalez moved to item 4.A.2. – Consider Approval of the Business Associated Agreement RE: Community-Based Care Transitions Program. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the hospitals required a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) with the LRGVDC in order to allow access to patient information while in the hospital. One of the interventions in the Community-Based Care Transitions Program required that LRGVDC staff had access to those records in order to follow the service coordination in the community. Mr. Gonzalez provided the BAA between Valley Baptists and Loopback Analytics as an example and stated that the Advisory Council recommended approval. Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion for approval of the BAA for Community-Based Care Transitions Program with the inclusion of execution of any individual contracts that the hospital provides for BAAs. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 4.A.3. – Consider Approval to Add New Member to the Advisory Council. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommended approval to add Mr. Alonzo Rodriguez, Edinburg, to the Advisory Council. Mr. Roberto Loredo made a motion for approval of the addition of Mr. Alonzo Rodriguez to the Advisory Council. Commissioner Gerardo Tafolla seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the status report was in the Board folders for review.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 5. - Report from Economic Development Department. Ms. Terrie Salinas was unable to attend and Mr. Jones reported on her behalf. Regarding item 5.A.1. – Monthly Report from the Regional Small Cities Coalition, Mr. Jones noted that report was in the Board folders for review.

Regarding item 5.B.1.a. – Presentations of Regional EAP Project to County Commissioners, Mr. Jones noted that a summary of presentations held in February was in the Board folders along with item 5.B.2.a. – Report on County Precinct’s Public Workshops Conducted February 20-29, 2012. Regarding item 5.B.2.b. – Consider Approval RE: Recommendation for Hidalgo County Representative to Fill Vacancy on Steering Committee, Mr. Jones reported that due to the passing of City of Edinburg Council Member Noe Garza, the City of Edinburg nominated Council Member Elias Longoria to fill the vacancy. Mr. Roberto Loredo made a motion to approve the recommendation for Hidalgo County Representative to fill the vacancy on the Steering Committee. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

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Regarding item 5.B.2.c. – Consider Approval RE: Supplemental Agreement No. 3 from S&B Infrastructure for Time Extension. Mr. Jones stated that a major effort of the Regional Economic Adjustment Plan for Building Disaster Resilient Communities was the prioritization of the projects for the Capital Improvement Plan and Schedule. The Steering Committee recommended that a sub-committee be formed to review the economic analysis that was being performed by the project team in this effort; therefore it was proposed to extend the delivery date of the final plan to May 28, 2012, which is within the overall performance period of the contract agreement which was scheduled to terminate on June 8, 2012. **Commissioner Gerardo Tafolla made a motion to approve supplemental agreement no. 3 from S&B Infrastructure for time extension as recommended. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Jones noted that items 5.B.2.d – Report on Chairs/Vice-Chairs Meeting, and 5.B.2.e. – Joint Committee Meeting scheduled for April 5, 2012 were in the Board folders for review.

President Gonzalez then moved to item 6. - Report from Transportation Department, item 6.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Interlocal Agreement with City of Edinburg – McIntyre Streetscape Project – Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Mr. Logan stated that staff was requesting approval to authorize the Executive Director, Mr. Ken Jones, to enter into negotiations and execute an Interlocal Contract with the City of Edinburg regarding transit-related enhancements to McIntyre Street in Edinburg. The project would add bus amenities and beautify McIntyre Street from 10th Street to 5th Avenue for a total cost of $1,954,046. A Federal Transit Administration grant in the amount of $1,563,327 has been awarded and the City of Edinburg would provide the local match in the amount of $390,809. **Commissioner Gerardo Tafolla made a motion to approve the LRGVDC Executive Director entering into an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Edinburg – McIntyre Streetscape Project – TOD as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action the President moved to item 6.A.2. – Consider Approval RE: Interlocal Agreement with the University of Texas – Pan American for Capital & Maintenance. Mr. Logan stated that staff was requesting approval to authorize the Executive Director, to enter into negotiations and execute an Interlocal contract with the University of Texas – Pan American regarding the purchase of five (5) vehicles and provision of maintenance by LRGVDC for the Bronc Shuttle, which will become a network of public transportation routes. The total project cost was estimated at $1,500,000 and would be funded at 80% by FTA and 20% by UTPA in the amount of approximately $277,766. LRGVDC staff would provide oversight of the contract.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 6.A.3. – Consider Approval RE: Interlocal Agreement with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) for an Operations Analysis & Service Plan. Mr. Logan requested that this item be tabled because the contract was under review. **Council Member Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to table this item. Mr. Roberto Laredo seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Gonzalez next moved to item 6.A.4. – Annual Refresher/Training RE: Transit Internal Compliance Policy. Mr. Logan stated that in March of 2010 TxDOT adopted various rule changes to require certain organizations that receive grants, loans, or other funds from the department have an ethics and compliance program. Therefore, in order to comply with the requirements set forth in the Texas Administrative Code, the LRGVDC Transit Department compiled an internal ethics and compliance program that provides compliance standards and procedures that are designed to detect and prevent violations of the law and ethical standards and provide oversight to sub-recipients. It is recommended that the highest level of authority have an annual refresher training course. **Mr. Roberto Laredo made a motion for approval of the Transit Internal Compliance Policy Annual Refresher/Training as presented. Commissioner Gerardo Tafolla seconded and upon a vote**
the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan gave a brief report on ridership and stated that the RTAP report was in the Board folders for review.

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 Management, item a. - Consider Approval from the Solid Waste Advisory Committee RE: Solid Waste Implementation Project Ranking & New Membership Appointment. Ms. Oviedo turned the floor over to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Chair, Mr. Ramiro Gomez. Mr. Gomez stated that the SWAC reviewed and ranked eleven (11) solid waste implementation projects and recommended Ms. Susan Hoehne, Valley Proud Environmental Council, to fill a vacancy on the committee. **Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza made a motion for approval of the eleven (11) solid waste implementation projects as presented and for Ms. Susan Hoehne to fill the current vacancy on the SWAC. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President next moved to item 7.B. – HUD Disaster Recovery Funding; item 1. – Consider Approval of GLO Contract for Round 2.2 CDBG Disaster Recovery Funding. Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that the General Land Office (GLO) notified staff that an additional three weeks was needed to complete the Performance Statement, General Administration Solicitation Process and have legal staff review these documents prior to the LRGVDC receiving the contract, therefore, Ms. Oviedo requested that this item be tabled. **Commissioner Gerardo Tafolla made a motion to table this item. Mayor David Simmons seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

President Gonzalez next moved to item 7.B.2. – Consider Approval of Amendment #1 to Brownsville Housing Guidelines on Round 1 CDBG Disaster Recovery Funding. Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that this amendment would clarify Section 17 on Grievance Procedures to include a contact name with the LRGVDC and the GLO offices. It would also coincide with the construction agreement contract between the LRGVDC, contractor and home owner. **Commissioner Gerardo Tafolla made a motion to approve Amendment #1 to Brownsville Housing Guidelines on Round 1 CDBG Disaster Recovery Funding as presented. Mr. Roberto Loredo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action the President moved to item 7.B.3. – Consider Approval of Section 3 Plan for Brownsville Round 1 CDBG Disaster Recovery Funding. Ms. Oviedo stated that staff recommended approval of the draft Section 3 Plan for the City of Brownsville's Round 1 CDBG Disaster Recovery Funding and that the GLO had requested that a Section 3 Plan be in place prior to commencement on construction of homes. **Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion for approval of the Section 3 Plan for Brownsville Round 1 CDBG Disaster Recovery Funding as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that the status reports on the 2nd Round of Disaster Recovery Funding was in the folders for review.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 8. – Homeland Security and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz. Regarding item 8.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: HSAC Recommendation of FY 2012 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program State Homeland Security Program Allocation Process and Risk Based Methodology, Mr. Cruz informed the Board that as the homeland security enterprise in Texas continued to mature; the region must look for ways to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of federal grant funding. Part of this process involved allocating resources where they would have the greatest impact on reducing homeland security risks. New federal guidance in the National Preparedness Goal and National Preparedness System description clearly describes a process in which communities at all levels assess their level of risk, determine required capability levels based on their risks, and prioritize investment efforts to reduce capability gaps. In addition, a recent audit
by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General stressed the importance of COGs using a Risk-Based Methodology for allocating homeland security grant funds. Especially in an environment of declining federal funding for homeland security grant programs, every step must be taken to ensure that limited resources have the greatest possible impact on increasing homeland security in Texas. With the FY 2012 SHSP cycle, the State would adopt a more risk-informed formula and methodology for allocating grant funds to COGs and State agencies. This formula would place the greatest weight on risk, but would also consider potential return on investment. COGs were required to provide the State Administrative Agency (SAA) a brief summary of their process and risk-informed methodology for SHSP sub-allocation no later than March 12, 2012 as a condition of grant receipt. Mr. Cruz stated that the HAC recommended approval of the FY 2012 LRGVDC HSGP SHSP Allocation Process and Risk Based Methodology. Commissioner Gerardo Tafoya made a motion for approval of the HSAC recommendation of FY 2012 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program State Homeland Security Program Allocation Process and Risk Based Methodology as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action the President moved to item 8.A.2. – Consider Approval RE: HSAC Recommendation of the FY 2012 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program Allocations. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that due to the State's stringent deadlines for FY 2012, the application cycle for the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) opened on March 12, 2012 and closed on March 23, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. The applicants were requested to demonstrate how the funds would reduce a threat or risk in their jurisdiction, fund a needed capability and indicate how the project would be sustained. Applicants were also instructed to submit for projects that were aligned with the LRGVDC's Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan, COG's State Preparedness Report, and be focused on terrorism prevention, protection, mitigation, response, or recovery. Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion for approval of the HSAC recommendation of the FY 2012 LRGVDC HSGP allocations as presented. Council Member Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 8.A.3. – Consider Approval RE: HSAC Recommendation of the FY 2012 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program COG Regional Application Projects. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that staff received correspondence from the Texas SAA regarding the FY 2012 HSGP grant program. Decisions were made that no regional area would be reduced by more than 15% over the federal reduction (potential total reduction of 60%). Thus, for the LRGVDC the minimum expected to be awarded is $519,296.17. The SAA would allow the LRGVDC to submit but not to exceed $702,577.17. This year the SAA took a different approach on how funding would be allocated to all COG regions. Submitted projects would be scored based on alignment with state and priorities, project quality, sustainability, and potential impact on multiple gaps. This score would be included in the state’s allocation formula to determine the final award to the LRGVDC. Of the total awarded for the region Management and Administration expenditures were limited to 5%. Per Congressional mandate, 25% of funding must be spent on Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA). LETPA activities must be submitted as separate projects. Out of the minimum allocation of $519,296.17, the LETPA amount was $129,824.04. In addition, 25% of the dollar amount of the projects submitted above the minimum must also be for LETPA. All COG Regional projects were due to the SAA no later than March 29, 2012. The LRGVDC must also submit an application for planning activities based off 15% of the minimum total, $519,296.17 to continue providing planning support. Additional funding for staff planning activities may be requested by LRGVDC staff and approved by the LRGVDC Board of Directors. Commissioner Gerardo Tafoya made a motion to approve the HSAC recommendation of the FY 2012 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program COG Regional Application Projects as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
Upon conclusion of action President Gonzalez moved to item 8.A.4. – Consider Approval RE: Resolution on Percentage Increase to FY 2012 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program statement of Work. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that staff received notice from the Texas SAA regarding the FY 2012 HSGP grant program. This year the SAA took a different approach on how funding would be allocated to all COG regions for both equipment and planning costs. Of the total awarded for the region Management and Administration (M&A) expenditures would be limited to 5% of the minimum total, $519,296.17, to continue providing planning support. Additional funding above the 15% for staff planning activities may be requested by LRGVDC staff and must be approved by the Board of Directors. **Mr. Roberto Loredo made a motion for approval of the resolution on percentage increase to FY 2012 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program Statement of work as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz stated that the status reports were in the Board folders for review as well as item 8.B.1. – Criminal Justice Program Status Reports and 8.C.1. – Metropolitan Medical Response System Status Reports.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 9. - 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Juan Gomez. Mr. Gomez gave the Program Status Reports and highlighting the progress in addressing rural areas.

The President next moved to item 10. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center; item A. - Consider Approval RE: Revisions to Basic Peace Officer Rules and Regulations. Mr. Paul Williams was recognized and stated that the purpose of this revision was to include the Fundraisers and Donations Policy. **Commissioner Gerardo Tafolla made a motion to approve the revisions to the Basic Peace Officer Rules and Regulations as presented. Mayor Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action it was the consensus of the Board to consider item 10.B. – Consider Approval RE: Release of Liability and Assumption Risk and item 10.C. – Consider Approval RE: Statement of Understanding – Training with the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy at the same time. Mr. Williams stated that the draft revision to the Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk agreement affected item 4 by replacing "...forever release hold harmless and promise not to sue the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Regional Police Academy, the owners and lessors of the premises used..." with "...forever release and hold harmless and promise not to sue the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Regional Police Academy, their officers, instructors, agents, and/or employees, and the owners and lessors of the premises used...". Regarding the Statement of Understanding – Training with the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy, Mr. Williams stated that the document itself was not revised, but the Police Academy Advisory Committee recommended that this document should now be included in the cadet application packets. **Mr. Don Medina made a motion for approval of both item 10.B. and item 10.C. as presented. Mayor Steve Brewer seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Williams noted that the status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Gonzalez next moved to item 11. - Old or New Business and brought the Board’s attention to a letter from The Hinojosa Law Firm, P.C. regarding potential conflict of interest in the case of Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza working for Proyeto Azteca and sitting on the HUD Disaster Recovery Housing Advisory Committee. Mr. Hinojosa found that Mayor Pro-tem Garza in his capacity as an LRGVDC Board member may fully participate or vote as an employee of Proyeto Azteca if the matter being discussed does not benefit his employer directly or indirectly regarding issues related to development, adoption, and implementation of a HUD Section 3 Plan. Based on the information provided there were no direct or indirect benefits to Proyeto Azteca, and Mayor Pro-tem Garza does not have a conflict.
Upon conclusion of Old or New Business and there being no further business to come before the Board, President Gonzalez called for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Steve Brewer so moved; Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

MAYOR PRO-TEM EDDY GONZALEZ, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

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

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary