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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 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 12:01 p.m. and asked Mr. Ken Jones 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: March 27, 2013 Meeting Minutes. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Don Medina 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. Eduardo Guimbarra, Healthcare Integrative Solutions. Mr. Guimbarra informed the Board of a hearing for HB 3261 in Austin on, April 25, 2013 and stated that this bill relates to the establishment of a civilian disaster identification system that will enhance responders’ ability to determine priority search areas, provide recognized standards for all to follow, and a method for citizens trapped in disaster areas to utilize in order to convey their condition to first responders. Mr. Guimbarra would like to see the State of Texas lead the nation in this endeavor; and believes this bill would help remedy inconsistencies in the current emergency preparedness plans.

- Mr. Andrew Canen reminded the Board of the 3rd Annual Walk n Rolla event that includes a 5K run/walk, 20 mile bike ride, a Mutt Strut and a health fair. This event is in support of the South Texas Juvenile Diabetes Association and will take place on May 11th at the Hidalgo County Courthouse Square.

- Mr. Victor Morales invited the Board and their associates to attend a Texas General Land Office Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) Forum. This is a free forum that building subcontractors must take in order to be on a vendor list for possible subcontracting opportunities and to receive vendor certification. The training will be held at the UTPA campus on May 1st at 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and on May 2nd at 9:00 a.m.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments President Brewer moved to item 3.B. – Presentation RE: Drought Preparedness and recognized Mr. Mario Chapa from Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). Mr. Chapa informed the Board that on April 11th TDEM staff traveled to the Valley to talk with individuals in the Emergency Management Council and members involved with water systems in regard to what TDEM could do in relation to the ongoing drought in this region. Mr. Chapa stated that he invited Mr. Barry Goldsmith from the National Weather Service (NWS) in Brownsville to give an update of the current drought situation. Mr. Chapa turned the floor over to Mr. Goldsmith who gave a presentation entitled “Drought 2010s: Any End in Sight? – Precipitation Forecast Hopes and Fears for 2013”. Mr. Goldsmith began by going over the annual precipitation in the USA and Mexico, and the precipitation received in the past 24 months, noting that this is the driest the Valley has been in over ten years and is a drought of record. Unfortunately Mr. Goldsmith predicts that the drought will remain as is across South Texas and the Rio Grande Basin, and that the reservoir forecast, due to evaporation and use, is

Minutes, LRGVDC Board Meeting, April 24, 2013 - Pg. 1 of 5
expected to go lower and lower state wide. A tropical storm or hurricane is the only thing that will end the drought, which of course is not a good scenario. In conclusion Mr. Goldsmith stated that the clear and present needs are long term bi-national water planning on the Texas Gulf Border, planning that includes learning from nations with similar water needs who already do this successfully, offering economic incentives for innovative water planning and actions, and considering drought-hardy crops based on higher evaporation and lower annual rainfall as the “new normal”.

Upon conclusion of his presentation Mr. Goldsmith turned the floor back over to Mr. Chapa. Mr. Chapa gave a presentation entitled “Texas Drought Preparedness” and informed the Board that the TDEM is the Drought Preparedness Council for Texas. The Drought Preparedness Council was authorized and established by the 76th legislature (HB-2660) in 1999 and is responsible for assessing and public reporting on drought monitoring and water supply conditions, advising the governor on significant drought conditions, recommending specific provisions for a drought related response, advising regional water planning groups on drought related issues, ensuring effective communication among state, local and federal agencies and reporting to the legislature via the Drought Biennial Report. The critical supply projection worst case scenario is that there will be no reservoir replenishment and the critical supply timeline is down to “months”.

President Brewer then moved to item C. – Update from Legislative Delegation. No members of the Legislative Delegation were in attendance; however, Mr. Jones noted that Congressmen Filemon Vela and Ruben Hinojosa provided a flyer with an invitation to the public for a Question & Answer Forum on Immigration Reform with Congressman Luis Gutierrez on April 30th at UT Brownsville. Mr. Jones also shared the NADO Special Comprehensive Budget Report - April 2013 on the President’s 2014 Budget: Impacts on Regional Development Organizations. Mr. Jones also provided copies of state level bills that affect COG programs.

Upon conclusion of Legislative Updates President Brewer moved to item 3.D. – Report RE: Texas Gas Service (COSA) Filing. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the LRGVDC providing support for the COSA filing. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Brewer next moved to item 3.E. – Appointment of 2013-2014 Nominating Committee. Mr. Jones informed the Board that staff revised the list from the 2012-2013 Nominating Committee to include current elected officials and that there was no minimum or maximum required number regarding the amount of committee members. Mr. Don Medina suggested the inclusion of Mayor Leo "Polo" Palacios, City of Pharr, on the Committee. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the 2013-2014 Nominating Committee with the inclusion of Mayor Palacios. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President next moved to item 3.F. – Schedule Meeting Dates:

a. Nominating Committee. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to schedule the Nominating Committee meeting at 12:00 noon on Monday, May 20, 2013. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

b. May Membership Meeting for Board Elections. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to schedule the May Membership meeting to immediately follow the regular Board meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2013. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
Upon conclusion of action President Brewer moved to item 3.G. – Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report. **Mayor David Simmons made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report as presented. Commissioner Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Brewer next moved to item 3.H. - Status Report on Purchase of Property and Facility at 301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco, TX. The President stated that yesterday the closing documents for the purchase of the buildings on Railroad Street were signed and these buildings are now officially the home of the LRGVDC, and added that staff will proceed with an EDA grant to expand the property with an additional building to house staff currently located in a satellite office. President Brewer thanked the City of Weslaco and the Weslaco EDC for coordinating with LRGVDC staff to provide a permanent central location in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

The President next moved to item 3.I. – Consider Lease Agreement with City of Weslaco for 9-1-1 Office Space. Mr. Jones was recognized and reported that this item is still evolving and recommended no action and removal from the agenda until a solid recommendation can be prepared for Board consideration. No action was taken.

President Brewer next moved to item 3.J. – Consider Resolution of Support RE: Space X and recognized Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones reported that Space X Inc. has established its credibility in the area of private manned and unmanned space flight and has been awarded a significant contract with NASA for 12 flights for their Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon spacecraft to the International Space Station after the retirement of the Space Shuttle in 2011. The proposed project should be an asset to this region and inspire local school children to reach for the stars and focus more than ever on critical science, technology, engineering and math studies. **Mr. Gale Armstrong made a motion to approve the resolution and letter of support as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Brewer then moved to item 4.A. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the 16th Annual Centenarian Recognition is scheduled for May 2nd at 10:00 a.m. and extended an invitation to the Board to attend this event; Mr. Gonzalez also gave the status report on the fiscal year 2013 budget.

President Brewer moved to item 5. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas. Regarding item 5.A.1. – Status Reports, Ms. Salinas informed the Board that staff was working on the "Stir Biz Up" training sessions, and that staff attended the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders conference. This conference also offered the National Latino Entrepreneurship "Train-the-Trainers". Ms. Salinas also reported on the status of the GIS Training Project for Regional Small Cities.

Upon conclusion of the status reports President Brewer moved to item 5.B. - Consider Recommendation from Small Cities Coalition RE: Resolution Supporting USDA Funding Eligibility for Rural Communities. **The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to table this item. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

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 was pleased to report that ridership continues to increase, and recognized two drivers that participated, one of whom placed 4th, in the state-level Bus Roadeo held in Austin.

President Brewer next moved to item 7. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo. Regarding item 7.A.1.a.1. & 2. – Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group Activities and RGRWQA Activities Ms. Oviedo noted that those reports as well as item 7.A.2.a. – Solid Waste Management Program Status Report were in the binders for review.
The President next moved to 7.B. - HUD Disaster Recovery Funding, item 1. - Consider Approval of Housing Advisory Committee Recommendation RE: Rapid Housing Recovery Program Scope of Work and Request for Proposals (RFP). Mr. Brad Hubbard, URS was recognized and stated that as part of the contract between the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and the LRGVDC related to Hurricane Dolly CDBG Disaster Recovery Funding, the LRGVDC will conduct a Rapid Housing Recovery Pilot Program. The obligations from the contract indicate the LRGVDC will conduct the pilot program, construct 20 homes and have a not to exceed budget of $2,000,000. The Texas 81st Legislature HB 2450 lead to the creation of "The Natural Disaster Housing Reconstruction Advisory Committee" and that team developed the Natural Disaster Housing Reconstruction Plan which was published on November 30, 2010. This plan is the foundation for the scope of work for the LRGVDC Rapid Recovery Pilot Program. The main objective is to develop a Disaster Housing Reconstruction Demonstration/Pilot Program according to the Natural Disaster Housing Reconstruction Plan which was developed to comply with Government Code Chapter 2306, Subchapter X-2. At the conclusion of the program it will deliver an analysis that indicates successes, challenges, and recommendations for improvements so that the GLO may devise a natural disaster affordable housing delivery system that the GLO can implement statewide. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Don Medina made a motion to approve the Rapid Housing Recovery Program Scope of Work and Request for Proposals as presented. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo noted that the Program Status Report on 2nd Round Disaster Recovery Funding was in the board folders for review.

President Brewer next moved to item 8. - Report from Homeland Security, 8.A. - Act upon Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz. Regarding item 8.A.1. - Consider Approval RE: Revisions to the Homeland Security Advisory Committee Bylaws Mr. Cruz stated that on April 4th the HSAC convened to review and revise the HSAC bylaws. This revision included permanent appointment for the three rotating member jurisdictions for the Cities of Edinburg, Los Fresnos and Raymondville. **Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the revisions to the HSAC bylaws as presented. Commissioner Joe D. Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz gave the status reports on Emergency Management Plans, FY 2011 and 2012 Homeland Security Grant Program, Citizen Corps Program and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

The President next moved to item 8.B. - Act upon Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Recommendations. Regarding item 8.B.1. - Consider Approval RE: FY 2013-2014 VA-Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Priority Listing and Resolution Mr. Cruz stated that the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) convened on April 9th to review, approve and recommend the VOCA grant priority listing. Applications were submitted to the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division on March 4th, the total request from this region was $1,352,344.85. **Council Member Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion for approval of the FY 2013-2014 VA-Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant priority listing and resolution as presented. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Brewer next moved to item 8.B.2. - Consider Approval RE: WF-Violence Against Women (VAWA) Grant Priority Listing and Resolution. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the CJAC convened on April 9th to review, approve and recommend the VAWA grant priority listing. Applications were submitted to the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division on March 4th and the total request from this region was $275,786.24. **Mayor David Simmons made a motion for approval of the WF-Violence Against Women (VAWA) grant priority listing and resolution as presented. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
President Brewer next moved to item 8.B.3. – Consider Approval RE: DJ-Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Priority Listing and Resolution. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the CJAC convened on April 16th to review, approve and recommend the JAG Program grant priority listing. Applications were submitted to the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division on March 4th, the total request from this region was $1,393,611.27. **Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion for approval of the DJ-Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program priority listing and resolution as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Brewer next moved to item 8.B.4. – Consider Approval RE: JA-Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Program Priority Listing and Resolution. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the CJAC convened on April 16th to review, approve and recommend the JJDP Program grant priority listing. Applications were submitted to the Office of the Governor’s Criminal Justice Division on March 4th and the total request from this region was $963,273.16. **Council Member Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion for approval of the JA-Juvenile Justice and delinquency prevention Program priority listing and resolution as presented. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Brewer next moved to item 8.B.5. – Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Membership Nominations for Vacancies. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the CJAC convened on April 9th to review the committee membership and accept the newly appointed officers. The CJAC recommends Mr. Benjamin Clinton, Raymondville ISD (Willacy Co.) to fill the Education discipline and Mrs. Gloria Ocampo, Friendship of Women (Cameron Co.) to fill the Victim Services discipline. **Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the CJAC membership nominations as presented. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz stated that the Criminal Justice Program and the Metropolitan Medical Response System Program status reports were in the Board folder for review.

President Brewer next moved to item 9. - 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Steve Tice. Regarding item 9.A. – Program Status Reports Mr. Tice stated that staff is working under the conditions of the recent budget cuts that removed the equipment budget and the public education budget. Mr. Tice stated that by the next biennial staff hoped to see budget increases, but with the sequester staff may see further budget cuts.

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 announced upcoming training sessions and Regional Police Academy graduating classes.

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. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

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

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

Minutes, LRGVDC Board Meeting, April 24, 2013 - Pg. 5 of 5