President Chris Boswell called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. and asked Mr. Ken Jones to call roll. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum was present. Mayor Boswell then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval RE: March 24, 2011 Meeting Minutes. **Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Arturo Ramirez 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 Ms. Lydia Jeffrey and Mr. Robert Jeffrey who informed the Board of issues regarding the Valley Metro bus system. President Boswell next recognized Ms. Brenda Heredia. Ms. Heredia is the Executive Director of the Family Crisis Center in Harlingen and she thanked the Board profusely for funding the Center’s project out of the SSBG funds for Non-profit organizations that received damage as a result of Hurricane Dolly. The Center’s damage was so severe none of their three insurance policies would cover the damage. Without the SSBG funds there would not be a Family Crisis Center in Harlingen; and because of the actions of this Board and the Federal Stimulus funds there is a brand new shelter. Ms. Heredia invited the Board to visit the shelter at any time.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments the President moved to item 3.B. – Presentation RE: Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Alternative. Mr. Gilbert Ortiz requested this presentation be postponed until the next meeting.

President Boswell then moved to item 3.C. – Presentation by Texas Gas Service RE: 2011 Filing Pursuant to the Cost of Service Adjustment (COSA) Tariff and recognized Mr. Dean Lafever. Mr. Lafever informed the Board that his presentation was on a rate filing TGS will make to all the cities served in the Rio Grande Valley. Mr. Lafever stated that TGS has worked with the LRGVDC every year they have had rate filing cases and noted the efficiency and expedience of working through this process as a group through the LRGVDC as opposed to going to individual cities one at a time. In his presentation Mr. Lafever talked about what a COSA is, the history of COSA, TGS’s agreement with the franchise cities in the Rio Grande Valley, the regulatory requirements and the affect of the filing on the residential rates. Upon conclusion of the presentation **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve LRGVDC staff support for the COSA filing. Commissioner Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

President Boswell next moved to item 3.D. – Presentation RE: South Texas Regional Rural Development Strategy Project’s First Phase and recognized Mr. Gaddi Rodriguez, UTPA Rural Development. In Mr. Rodriguez’ presentation he explained that UTPA received USDA funds for a demonstration project to develop an asset map, identify gap areas, and create a rural economic development strategy for small rural communities in the Rio Grande Valley. The communities must have
a population under 20,000, have a poverty rate of 10% or more, have a median household income of less than $30,000, and not be contiguous with a metropolitan area with a population of more than 20,000. The primary focus of the project is creating economic growth and jobs in rural South Texas.

Upon conclusion of the presentation President Boswell moved to item 3.E. – Appointment of 2011-2012 Nominating Committee and recognized Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones informed the Board that in the binders was a list of last year’s Nominating Committee and recommended updating the Committee composition with Mayor Boswell as the Chair; update Judge John Gonzales representing Willacy County, Commissioner Ruben “Chano” Guajardo representing the City of Mercedes and Commissioner Robert J. Garza representing the City of Weslaco. **Commissioner Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the Nominating Committee with the recommended revisions. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action the president moved to item 3.F. – Schedule Meeting Dates, Item 1. - Nominating Committee Meeting and Item 2. – May Membership Meeting for Board Elections. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for Mr. Jones to coordinate the Nominating Committee Meeting the week of May 16th and to schedule the May Membership Meeting for Board Elections on May 26, in conjunction with the regular Board meeting. Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President next moved to item 3.G. – Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report. Mr. Jones was recognized and reported that the bulk of the activity was from accounts payable in the 9-1-1 Department; that and the other accounting activities reduce the balance from a little over one million dollars to a little over a half a million dollars, and noted there was no exceptional activity to report. **Commissioner Sofia Benavides made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Boswell next moved to item 3.H. – Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: Time Extension Request to the City of McAllen for Office Relocation. **Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to ratify this Executive Committee action; Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Boswell next moved to item 3.I. – Consider Approval of Lease Agreement with City of Weslaco RE: Office Space. Mr. Jones was recognized and informed the Board that this lease was for the office space for the 9-1-1 Department and the Area Agency on Aging. **Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion for approval of the lease as presented. Commissioner Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action the President moved to item 4. Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item 4.A. – Consider Approval of Foster Grandparent Advisory Council Recommendation RE: Officers and Members. **Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the Foster Grandparent Advisory Council officers and members as recommended. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Boswell moved to item 5. Report from Economic Development Department. Ms. Terrie Salinas as unable to attend and Mr. Mario Garcia, LRGVDC Program Administrator for the Regional Economic Adjustment Plan was recognized in her stead. Mr. Garcia gave the Status reports on the EDA 2nd Supplemental Grant and the Business Hurricane Information & Training Program. Regarding item 5.B. – Regional Economic Adjustment Plan, item 1. – Consider Approval RE: Supplemental Agreement Number 1 to Amend “Agreement for Professional Services” and item 2. – Consider Approval RE:
Increase Contractual Budget $75,000 in order to Compensate Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, Acosta, LLP for the Development of Task V.F. in Supplemental Agreement Number 1. Mr. Garcia informed the Board that the Regional Drainage Technical and Steering Committees met on April 27 and considered a recommendation to the LRGVDC Board of Directors regarding these two items. Upon consideration by both committees it was determined that no action was requested on item B.1., and item B.2. was tabled for future consideration. No action needed.

Upon conclusion of the Status Reports President Boswell moved to item 6. Report from Transportation Department and recognized Mr. Tom Logan. Regarding item 6.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Resolution of Support for JARC Grant Application, Mr. Logan informed the Board that staff is recommending approval of this resolution in support of a Valley Metro Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) grant application in order to increase and improve bus service in the urbanized area of Hidalgo County for the purpose of improving access to work and work-related locations. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of Resolution of Support for the JARC Grant Application 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 6.A.2. – Consider Approval RE: Resolution of Support for New Freedom Grant Application. Mr. Logan informed the Board that staff is recommending approval of this resolution in support of a Valley Metro New Freedom grant application in order to add accessible features along bus routes in Edinburg to increase access and mobility to people with disabilities. Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the resolution of support for the New Freedom Grant application as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President next moved to item 6.A.3. – Consider Approval RE: Execute Contract with KFH to Update the Regional Transportation Coordination Plan. Mr. Logan informed the Board that the Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) with the help of its technical subcommittee has reviewed, ranked, selected, negotiated and finalized a recommendation for the LRGVDC Board to update the Regional Transportation Coordination Plan for the Rio Grande Valley. Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval to execute the contract with KFH to update the Regional Transportation Coordination Plan as recommended by the RTAP. Commissioner Sofia Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan recognized LRGVDC Bus Driver Ruben Ruiz and presented him with a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding performance during the 2011 Regional and State Bus Roadeos. Out of fifteen drivers that participated in the Para Transit event, Mr. Ruiz placed 2nd in his division and earned the opportunity to travel to San Antonio to compete at the state level on a full state sponsored scholarship. Mr. Ruiz was one of twenty-two drivers in the State of Texas to compete in the Para Transit event where he placed 8th.

President Boswell next moved to item 7. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo. Regarding item 7.A.1.a.2.a. – Consider Resolution of Support RE: RGRWA’s Alternative Regional Water Supply Project Feasibility Study Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that the RGRWA recently submitted a “letter of Intent” to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to fund an Alternative Regional Water Supply Feasibility Study, which is a very competitive process, a draft resolution was submitted for consideration. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval of the Resolution of Support for the RGRWA’s Alternative Regional Water Supply Project Feasibility Study as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Lupe Rodriguez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
Upon conclusion of action President Boswell moved to item 7.A.2. — Solid Waste Management. Regarding item a – Consider Approval of Resolution RE: Reusable Bag Initiative, which was tabled at the February meeting. Mayor Leo "Polo" Palacios made a motion to remove this item from the table; Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met and considered action on this resolution, some revisions were made and the SWAC recommended approval of this revised resolution. Mayor Leo "Polo" Palacios made a motion for approval of the revised resolution as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President then moved to item 7.A.2.b. — Consider Approval RE: Committee Appointments. Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that the SWAC was recommending Ms. Quina Rutledge and Mr. Jaime Lopez to fill current vacancies on the SWAC. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion for approval of the committee appointments as recommended by the SWAC. Commissioner Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo noted that the program status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Boswell next moved to item 7.B.1. — Program Status Report on 2nd Round Disaster Recovery Funds. Mr. Jones reported that the Method of Distribution (MOD) and Analysis of Impediment (AI) was pending approval by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and that the non-housing or drainage portion of the Disaster Recovery funding had been delayed somewhat with HUD moving forward slowly on the MOD, which transpired approximately a week ago. The State submitted the Analysis of Impediment (AI) study that was outstanding and it was under review by HUD. As part of this process, there was a conciliation agreement executed between the State of Texas, Texas Appleseed and Texas Low Income Housing Information Service. As part of that agreement, those two groups had the ability to support, oppose, or object to these drainage projects in terms of making sure that HUD’s goal of meeting affirmative guidelines were met. There was a meeting yesterday with representatives from HUD, TDRA and local entities to determine what the continued concerns of the housing advocacy groups were and to get feedback on the ability to move forward with these regional drainage projects. From yesterday’s meeting two correspondences were generated, one from Ms. Maryellen Lewis, TDRA Fair Housing Compliance Consultant and the other from Ms. Madison Sloan and Mr. John Henneberger, Texas Appleseed/Texas Low Income Housing Information Service. In each correspondence there were questions and recommendations to better serve the communities these entities represent. The Housing Advocacy Group should respond to these correspondences by close of business April 28. Mr. Jones was hopeful the process will move forward after acting on these recommendations, and suggested if it does not, he would coordinate a meeting with the LRGVDC Executive Committee to consider an alternate solution in terms of ensuring this is not a permanent stumbling block to these much needed funds. Mr. Jones noted that item two of Ms. Lewis’ email is a suggestion to develop an Affirmatively Forwarding Fair Housing (AFFH ) working group; Mr. Jones suggested incorporating the local non-profit organizations into the Regional Drainage Steering and Technical Committees with one seat as a voting member, although this is not on the agenda, by consensus the Board could recommend it. Mr. Jones noted that adding these entities to the Regional Drainage Steering and Technical Committees will hopefully bring clarity and valuable input for this portion of funding, as well as for the next MOD. It was the consensus of the Board to include a representative from Equal Voice and/or Texas Appleseed on the Region Drainage Steering and Technical Committee as a voting member.

President Boswell next moved to item 8.A.1. — Homeland Security Status reports and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz who summarized the reports. The President then moved to item 8.B. — Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation, 1 — Consider Approval RE: General Victim Assistance Grant Priority Listing and Resolution. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the CJAC was recommending Board approval for the General Victim Assistance grant priority listing, and that applications were
submitted to the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division; the total request from this region was $1,136,691.99. **Commissioner Sofia Benavides made a motion for approval of the General Victim Assistance grant priority listing and resolution as presented. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President next moved to item 8.B.2. – Consider Approval RE: Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice and Training Projects Priority Listing and Resolution. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the CJAC recommended approval of the Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice and Training Projects grant Priority Listing and that applications were submitted to the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division on February 28. The total request from this region was $370,615.49. **Hon. Norma G. García made a motion for approval of the Violent Crimes Against Women Criminal Justice and Training Projects priority listing and resolution as presented. Mr. John Mendoza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President next moved to item 8.B.3. – Consider Approval RE: Nominations for the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the CJAC nominated Chief James Harris III, Los Fresnos Police Department; and Chief Carlos Garcia, Brownsville Police Department to fill vacancies in the Law Enforcement discipline. **Commissioner Sofia Benavides made a motion to approve the CJAC committee nominations as presented. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz gave the CJAC Program Status Reports; then noted that the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Program Status Reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Boswell next moved to item 9. – 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Juan Gomez, who noted that the 9-1-1 Department Status Reports were in the Board folders.

The President next moved to item 10. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center. Mr. Paul Williams, Director, was unable to attend and item 10.A. – Consider Approval RE: Police Academy advisory Board By-Laws Biennial Review and Revision will be carried over to the next meeting.

Upon conclusion of business President Boswell moved to item 11. - Old or New Business; there being none, the President adjourned the meeting at 1:24 p.m.

[Signature]
MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

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

[Signature]
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary