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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2013 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS
PRESIDING: MAYOR STEVE BREWER, PRESIDENT

1st Vice President Norma G. Garcia called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m. while President Steve Brewer was en route, and asked Mr. Ken Jones to call roll. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board was present. The 1st Vice President then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval RE: April 24, 2013 Meeting Minutes. **Mr. Roberto Loredo made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes 1st Vice President Garcia moved to item 3.A. – Public Comments and recognized Mr. Julio Santana, III representing Start Center, San Benito. Mr. Santana informed the Board that he represented residences who have applied for the Disaster Recovery Housing Program and that there are severe problems with the process that he would like the Board to address. Mr. Santana planned to attend the next Housing Advisory Committee meeting to address these issues in detail. At this time President Steve Brewer arrived and began presiding over the meeting. President Brewer then called Ms. Elsa Gonzalez representing Start Center, Ms. Maria Gomez representing LUPE Ms. Maria Lopez representing ARISE who each informed the Board of their frustrations with the application process for the Disaster Recovery Program and staff from Horne, LLP.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments President Brewer moved to item 3.B. – Update from Legislative Delegation, however no legislative representatives were present to provide an update.

President Brewer then moved to item 4. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item A. – Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: United Way of Tarrant County Marketplace Navigator Cooperative Agreement. Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the LRGVDC Executive Committee approved the memorandum of understanding with United Way of Tarrant County for the Health Insurance Marketplace Navigator Program. This program is under the affordable Care Act's intent of providing insurance options to individuals that are uninsured to help those individuals obtain health insurance. Starting in 2014 all individuals will be required to have some type of health insurance. The intent of this project is to reach and educate eligible consumers for the Federally-facilitated Exchange. **Mr. Don Medina made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee action on the United Way of Tarrant County Marketplace Navigator Cooperative Agreement. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
The President next moved to item 4.B. - Act Upon Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Recommendation, item 1. – Consider Approval RE: Authorize Staff to issue Request for Proposals and Vendor Solicitations for Fiscal Year 2014. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the amount of funds available will be 5% less than the 2014 levels contingent upon final federal appropriations. The special cash match will remain at 5% not to exceed $20,000. The vendor solicitation will cover such services by are not limited to: homemaker, medical transportation, home modifications, medications, medical supplies, dentures, hearing aids, durable medical equipment, adult day care, respite care, and emergency response. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Committee recommends approval. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to authorize staff to issue RFPs and vendor solicitations for fiscal year 2014 as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mr. Gale Armstrong seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez gave the status report on the 16th Annual Centenarian Recognition and stated that there were fourteen centenarians present: three gentlemen and eleven ladies. The oldest centenarian was a lady who is 106 years old.

President Brewer moved to item 5. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas. Regarding item 5.A.1. – Economic Development Administration Status Reports, Ms. Salinas reported on the Economic Disaster Recovery Program Activities and the USDA’s Regulation Changes and Definition of Small, Rural Cities.

Upon conclusion of the EDA status reports President Brewer moved to item 5.B. - Consider Recommendation from Small Cities Coalition RE: Resolution Supporting USDA Funding Eligibility for Rural Communities tabled at the April 24, 2013 meeting. Ms. Salinas informed the Board that the resolution is still in the development stage and should be ready to present at a future Board meeting. **Mr. Don Medina made a motion to take this item of the table and remove it from the agenda. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Brewer next moved to item 5.C. – Regional Economic Adjustment Plan Status Reports. Ms. Salinas gave the status on the Completion of GIS Training for Regional Small Cities and on the GIS Training Project for EDCs and Chambers of Commerce.

President Brewer then moved to item 6. - Report from Transportation Department and recognized Mr. Rodney Gomez. Regarding item 6.A.1. - Rural and Urban Transit System Program Status Reports Mr. Gomez noted that the statistical report was in the folders and reported that ridership continues to increase.

President Brewer next moved to item 7. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo. Regarding item 7.A.1.a.2. – Rio Grande Regional Water Authority Activities, Ms. Oviedo turned the floor over to Mr. Joe A. Barrera, III, RGRWA Executive Director. Mr. Barrera informed the Board that Hidalgo County hosted a meeting to discuss regionalizing the Rio Grande Valley’s water interests or the footprint of Region M in order to apply for funds through the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) that are expected to be available in March 2015. The RGRWA will write letters to all the attendees requesting their water plans. Once those plans are received there will be a meeting with engineers to combine the plans into a regional plan. Similar meetings will be planned in Cameron, Willacy, Starr and Webb Counties because they are all in the RGRWA’s region. According to State officials, applying for funds as a region will move an application to the top of the list for consideration and allow for potentially larger grant awards. Mr. Barrera reported that
the RGRWA has an alternative water study in progress; and one of the recommendations that has already been developed is to create four or five large reverse osmosis plants because of the availability of power, etc., as opposed to nineteen small ones as is recommended in the 2011 Regional Water Plan created by the Region M Group. Mr. Barrera stated that this also seems to be the strategy being developed in the 2016 Regional Water Plan. In order to do this the RGRWA needs to become a Wholesale Water Provider which will mean amending the 2011 Regional Water Plan, otherwise the RGRWA will have to wait until 2016 before they can create a regional plan that will meet the criteria that is recommended by engineers. According to the TWDB, the process to accomplish this is to include this strategy in the 2016 Regional Water Plan, which TWDB would fund. If the RGRWA becomes a Wholesale Water Provider then they can request an amendment to the 2011 Regional Water Plan and develop a plan in time to apply for the March 2015 funding. Mr. Barrera stated that the RGRWA will need to pay for an amendment to the 2011 Regional Water Plan which is estimated to be a maximum of $25,000.00. Mr. Barrera asked the Board to consider including this item on the next agenda to assist the RGRWA in funding the amendment to the 2011 Regional Water Plan.

Mr. Barrera also informed the Board that the RGRWA is working hard to get Mexico to comply with the 1944 Treaty and has developed push cards to hand out and inform the public of this issue and ask for signatures for an online petition on rgrwa.org. The purpose of the petition is to encourage President Obama's and the State Department's support for Mexico to comply with the 1944 Treaty. Mr. Barrera encouraged the Board Members to take a stack of cards and distribute them from their offices. Mr. Barrera noted that the drought issue has unified the Valley and he is working to keep the impetus going. Upon conclusion of the report from the RGRWA, Ms. Oviedo noted that item 7.A.2.a. – Solid Waste Management Program Status Report was in the binders for review.

President Brewer next moved to 7.B. – HUD Disaster Recovery Funding.

Item 1. – Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: Disaster Recovery Housing Program Schedule of Unit Costs. Mr. Victor Morales was recognized and stated that the Executive Committee approved the schedule of unit costs as recommended by the Regional Housing Advisory Committee. This schedule of units cost is site specific and may or may not be applicable to each site construction. **Mr. Roberto Loreda made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee action regarding the Disaster Recovery Housing Program Schedule of Unit Costs. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Item 2. – Consider Approval of Housing Advisory Committee Recommendation RE: Not in My Back Yard Action Plan and Resolution in Compliance with the FHAST Form. Ms. Oviedo was recognized and stated that this resolution was necessary to be in compliance with the FHAST form. **The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the Not in My Back Yard Action Plan and Resolution as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Item 3. – Consider Approval of Housing Advisory Committee Recommendation RE: Request Waiver from GLO to Allow a Portion of Eligible Assistance Amount to be Used to Pay for Co-tenant Interests. Ms. Oviedo explained that this waiver request would allow a portion of the eligible assistance amount to be used to pay for co-tenant interests in order to clear titles for applicants that are interested in participating in the Homeowner Opportunity Program (HOP). **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the Request for Waiver from GLO to Allow a Portion of Eligible Assistance Amount to be Used to Pay for Co-tenant Interests. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
Item 4. – Consider Approval of Housing Advisory Committee Recommendation RE: Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Application for Homebuyer Assistance Program. Mayor Jim Darling made a motion for approval of the NOFA and Application for Homebuyer Assistance Program. Mr. Roberto Loredo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Brewer moved to item 5 - Program Status Report on 2nd Round Disaster Recovery Funding and Ms. Oviedo noted that report was in the Board folders for review.


Item 1. - Consider Approval RE: FY 2013 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program Applications and Allocations Mr. Cruz informed the Board that due to the State’s stringent deadlines for FY 2013, the application cycle for the Homeland Security Grant Program opened on April 23, 2013 and closed on May 9, 2013 at noon. The applicants were requested to demonstrate the use of the funds, how the funding would reduce a threat or risk in their jurisdiction and the region, fund a needed capability and indicate how the project would be sustained in the future. Projects must align with the LRGVDC’s Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan, the COG’s State Preparedness Report, and be focused on terrorism prevention, protection, mitigation, response or recovery (PPMRR). On May 15, 2013 the HSAC convened to review and prioritize grant applications. Mr. Roberto Loredo made a motion for approval of the FY 2013 LRGVDC HSGP applications and allocations. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Item 2. - Consider Approval RE: Resolution on Percentage Increase to the FY 2013 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Statement of Work. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that in April staff received correspondence from the Texas State Administrative Agency regarding the FY 2013 HSGP grant program and in May received further guidance from the SAA regarding the LRGVDC Planning and M&A projects. Of the total awarded for the region, M&A expenditures are limited to 5%. The LRGVDC must also submit an application for planning activities which must not exceed 15%. Additional funding above the 15% for staff planning activities may be requested by LRGVDC Staff and must be approved by the LRGVDC Board of Directors. In total, the maximum of 25% from the minimum regional allocation of $432,075.00 is being requested to continue providing planning support. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the FY 2013 LRGVDC Homeland Security Grant Program Applications and Allocations as presented. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. – Consider Approval RE: Resolution in Support of the LRGVDC Providing Planning and Implementing Regional Homeland Security Strategies within the Region. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that in April the LRGVDC received a correspondence from the Texas SAA regarding the FY2013 HSGP which, unlike prior years failed to directly address the role and funding for the 24 COG’s in the areas of homeland security and emergency preparedness. The SAA’s guidance that was released stated that planning and M&A projects for 2013 are anticipated to be handled differently from prior years. For Grant Year 2013 funding for regional planning, grant management and administration is expected to be competitive. Entities anticipated to be eligible to apply include COGs, Urban Areas Security Initiative jurisdictions and other jurisdictions within the planning region. Although this guidance has temporarily been placed on hold and further guidance in favor of COGs continuing regional planning activities has been issued by the SAA, staff is requesting the support of the LRGVDC Board of Directors for the LRGVDC to continue to be the lead agency within the region to assist local governments.
with homeland security and emergency preparedness planning and M&A activities. Mr. Roberto Loredo made a motion for approval of the resolution in support of the LRGVDC providing planning and implementing Regional Homeland Security Strategies within the Region. Commissioner Sofia Benavides seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Brewer moved to item 8.A.4. – Status reports and gave the status on the Emergency Management Plans, FY2011 HSGP, FY2012 HSGP, Citizen Corps Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Mr. Cruz then gave the status report for the Criminal Justice Program and noted that the Metropolitan Medical Response System Status Reports were in the Board folders 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 he was representing the 9-1-1 Department on behalf of Mr. Juan Gomez and Mr. Sergio Castro who were attending the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) meeting in Houston. Mr. Tice announced that Mr. Gomez, 9-1-1 Program Director, has been appointed Texas South Reagent for NENA and Mr. Castro, 9-1-1 Assistant Director, was recognized for Technical Excellence at this meeting.

President Brewer next moved to item 10. - Regional Police Academy and recognized Mr. Paul Williams. Regarding item 10.A. – Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: Resolution Authorizing Submission of Police Academy Grant Application, Mr. Williams informed the Board that this application was due on Friday, May 17th and was approved by the Executive Committee prior to this meeting in order to meet that deadline. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to ratify this Executive Committee action. Mr. Roberto Loredo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Williams noted that the status report was in the Board folders for review.

President Brewer next moved to item 11. - Old or New Business there being none Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

[Signature]
MAYOR STEVE BREWER, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

[Signature]
THE HON. NORMA G. GARCIA, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

[Signature]
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary