MINUTES

JOINT MEETING OF THE
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS
PRESIDING: HON. NORMA G. GARCIA, PRESIDENT

President Norma G. Garcia called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and asked Mr. Ken Jones to call roll. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board and Corporation were present. President Garcia then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval RE: May 22, 2013 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Roberto Loreda made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mayor Pro-temp Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Garcia moved to item 3.A. - Public Comments and recognized:

- Mr. Arnold Padilla, San Benito Housing Authority, who thanked the Board and the Housing Advisory Committee for their hard work and dedication to the Disaster Recovery Program.
- Ms. Priscila Rocha, ARISE/Equal Voice Network, who stated that she was opposed to Addendum No.1 of the Homeowner Opportunity Program Guidelines.
- Ms. Emi Zuniga, Texas Organize Project, who stated that she was opposed to Addendum No.1 of the Homeowner Opportunity Program Guidelines.
- Mr. J. Fernando Lopez, Pharr Housing Authority, who thanked the Board for the Disaster Assistance funding and specifically thanked Mr. Ken Jones, Mr. Victor Morales, Mayor Steve Brewer and Mayor Pro-temp Eddy Gonzalez and the Housing Advisory Committee for their hard work and dedication to the Housing Disaster Recovery Program.
- Mr. John Henneberger, Co-Director of the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service, who expressed concern regarding Addendum No.1 of the Homeowner Opportunity Program Guidelines.
- Mr. Julian Alvarez, CEO of the Rio Grande Valley Partnership, who informed the Board that an Historic Unveiling of I-69C, I-2 and I-69E will take place on Monday, July 15th at 9:30 a.m. at the Texas Travel Information Center in Harlingen.

Upon conclusion of the Public Comment period President Garcia moved to item 3.B. – Update from Legislative Delegation and recognized Mr. Humberto Garza, District Director for Congressman Filemon Vela, who provided the status of current issues that Congressman Vela was addressing and the status of certain bills being considered by the legislature. Ms. Casandra Garcia, South Texas Regional Director for Senator Ted Cruz, also gave a brief status report on items Senator Cruz was addressing.

President Garcia next moved to item 3.C. – Board Recognition. As a surprise to President Garcia Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. arrived and presented her with a “Texas sized” gavel in.
recognition of her contributions to the Rio Grande Valley. President Garcia next presented Immediate Past President Steve Brewer with a plaque in recognition of his service as President in 2012-2013.

Upon conclusion of the Board Recognitions President Garcia moved to item 3.D. – Presentation RE: New Republic Services Solid Waste Facilities in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties and recognized Mr. Jon Deicla, Republic Services Manager. Mr. Deicla explained that the landfill located in Donna has reached capacity and is closed. A new 2,000 + acre landfill in La Gloria and a transfer station in Cameron County have been built. The grand opening for the La Gloria site was in May 2013 and the Opening Day for both was held on June 17, 2013. Mr. Deicla gave a detailed presentation on the process of creating the La Gloria landfill. No action taken.

Upon conclusion of the presentation President Garcia moved to item 3.E. – Act Upon Recommendation of Nominating Committee, and recognized Mayor Steve Brewer. Mayor Brewer reminded the Board that at the May Membership meeting the following individuals were elected as Members-at-Large to the Membership:

Hon. Norma G. Garcia                   Donna
Ms. Ann Cass                          McAllen
Commissioner Diana Tovar              Mercedes
Ms. Celeste Sanchez                   San Benito
Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez           Edcouch

The Nominating Committee’s recommendations for the remaining five persons to be considered as Members-at-Large to the Membership by the Board of Directors are:

Mr. Eleazar “Yogi” Garcia, Jr.          Raymondville
Mr. Leo Munoz                          Weslaco
Ms. Diana Serna                        Mercedes
Commissioner Guillermo Ramirez          Hidalgo
Mr. Don Medina                         McAllen

**Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Nominating Committee’s recommendation for Members-at-Large to the Membership as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Brewer stated that the Nominating Committee also recommends, of the ten Members-at-Large identified above, that the following three persons be considered to fill the three at-Large seats on the Board of Directors for 2013-2014:

Hon. Norma G. Garcia                   Donna
Mr. Don Medina                         McAllen
Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez            Edcouch

**Mayor Tony Martinez made a motion to approve the Nominating Committee’s recommendation to fill the three at-Large seats on the Board of Directors as presented. Commissioner Basilio Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action President Garcia moved to item 3.F. – Consider Request from City of San Benito RE: LRGVDC Bylaws Amendments and recognized Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones brought
the Board’s attention to the letter of request from the City of San Benito with information that indicates its population is over 25,000 and an Entitlement City and requested the LRGVDC amend its bylaws in recognition of this which would allow San Benito to secure a permanent seat on the Board. Mr. Jones also referenced a memo he wrote to the Board with suggested amendments to the LRGVDC Bylaws Article II, Definitions, Item 8. “Population means the population according to the U.S. Bureau of Census population estimates of counties and incorporated places, except for the decennial years when the official population figures will be used. On a “case by case basis” other population data sources may be used as approved by the Board. And Article X, Board of Directors, Item 2.(b). Each city with a population of 25,000 or over, or which is designated an entitlement city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) shall have one (1) director.

Mayor Jim Darling stated that there is an obscure state statute that states unless your legislation specifically authorizes it a city must use the decennial census for any official action; Mayor Darling recommended San Benito secure a seat on the Board as an entitlement city. Upon conclusion of discussion Mayor Jim Darling made a motion that the Board support an amendment to the bylaws for consideration at the Joint Board and Membership meeting on July 24th for the Membership to consider action on this amendment to article X Board of Directors, item 2(b) as follows: Each city with a population of 25,000 or over, or which is designated an entitlement city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) shall have one (1) director. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

At this time President Garcia asked the Board’s permission to move up on the agenda item 9. - 9-1-1 Department. Regarding item 9.A. – Consider Approval RE: Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the City of Weslaco to Lease Office Space at the City’s Public Works Facility. Mr. Victor Morales was recognized and stated that staff is requesting approval of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement for the use of the City Public Works Facility to accommodate the offices and operation center for the 9-1-1 Program; and that the Board authorize the Executive Director to execute any related documents. Mr. Morales added that the Interlocal Agreement was unanimously approved by the City of Weslaco Commission at their regular meeting on June 18, 2013. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza made a motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the City of Weslaco to Lease Office Space at the City’s Public Works Facility as presented and to authorize the Executive Director to execute any related documents. Mayor Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of Administration items President Garcia moved to item 4. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and noted that the Program Status Reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Garcia next moved to item 5. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas. Regarding Item 5.A. – Community Economic Development Project Application, Ms. Salinas stated that the Economic Development Department partnered with Texas State Technical College's grants Management & Resource Development Department to work on an application for a “Community Economic Development Project” through the Office of Community Services. This agency provides funding to non-profit organizations; therefore, it was necessary to apply under the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Corporation, Inc 501C3 status. Mr. Jones noted that the Officers of the LRGVDC Board of Directors constitute the Board members of the 501C3. Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to move forward with the Community Economic Development Project
Application as requested. Mayor Tony Martinez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action the President noted that the status reports for Economic Development Administration and the Regional Economic Adjustment Plan were in the Board folders for review.

President Garcia then moved to item 6. - Report from Transportation Department and noted that those status reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Garcia 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, item a. - Consider Approval RE: Request for funding to amend 2011 Regional Water Plan. Mr. Joe Barrera, RGRWA Executive Director, was recognized and stated that the purpose of this amendment is to have the RGRWA designated as a Wholesale Water Provider and the most expeditious and cost effective approach was to do this is through an amendment to the 2011 Regional Water Plan. This amendment will cost $25,000 and the RGRWA is requesting assistance from the LRGVDC to raise these funds. Mr. Jones stated that staff will provide funding formula options for the Board to consider at the July Board meeting. **Mr. Don Medina made a motion to approve developing a formula for voluntary assessments equaling $25,000 for the RGRWA to amend the 2011 Regional Water Plan. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried. Mayor Jim Darling abstained.**

President Garcia next moved to 7.B. - HUD Disaster Recovery Funding, Item 1. - Consider Approval of Housing Advisory Committee Recommendations:

Item a. - Act on Selection of Multi-Family Rental Program Proposals Submitted. Mr. Victor Morales was recognized and stated that the Housing Advisory Committee recommends the following: to accept the three applications submitted and approved from Stone Village Cameron County, Sunset Terrace Senior Village Hidalgo County and Raymondville Northstar Apartments Willacy County, to reject the remaining nine applications, and to start a new Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) with the remaining funds (approximately $4.3 million) from the Multi Family Rental and Single Family Rental program. **Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza made a motion to approve the selection of the three applications submitted, to reject the remaining nine application submitted and to start a new NOFA with the remaining funds from the Multi-Family Rental and Single Family Rental programs as recommended by the Housing Advisory Committee. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Item b. - Act on Selection of Secondary Pool of Contractors for Single Family Owner Occupied Program. Mr. Morales was again recognized and stated that the Housing Advisory Committee recommends the acceptance of four Requests for Qualifications submitted from CAS Companies, Gonzalez Homes L.P., OG Construction Co., LTD and Sean Andrew Construction to form the Secondary Pool of contractors for Round 2.2 Disaster Recovery Program Hurricane Dolly/Ike. **Mayor Pro-tem Rudy Rodriguez made a motion for approval of the selection of secondary pool of contractors for Single Family Owner Occupied Program as presented. Mr. Roberto Loredo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Item c. - Act on Outreach Policy for Single Family Owner Occupied Housing Program. Ms. Marcie Oviedo was recognized and stated that the Housing Advisory Committee reviewed Addendum No. 1 of the Homeowner Opportunity Program (HOP) Guidelines, which states: Sub-recipients (COG) may accept and serve applicants from outside the HOP targeted outreach areas if the applicant meets the priority factors identified in the housing guidelines and falls into the funding amounts established in the Needs Assessment. The Housing Advisory Committee

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recommends that the LRGVDC continue processing applications within the “Targeted Target Area” and accept applications from the remaining Targeted Areas, then outside the target areas and to prioritize the applications in that order. **Mr. Gale Armstrong made a motion to approve the Outreach Policy for Single Family Owner Occupied Housing Program as recommended by the Housing Advisory Committee. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried with one vote against by Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza.** Upon conclusion of action President Garcia moved to item 2 - Program Status Report on 2nd Round Disaster Recovery Funding and stated that report was in the Board folders for review.

President Garcia next moved to item 8. - Report from Homeland Security and noted that the status reports for Homeland Security, the Criminal Justice Program and the Metropolitan Medical Response System were all in the Board folders for review.

President Garcia next moved to item 9.B. – 9-1-1 Program status reports and item 10. - Regional Police Academy status reports and noted that those items were also in the Board folders for review. It was the consensus of the Board for the Police Academy Report to be the first Department report for the July Agenda.

President Garcia next moved to item 11. - Old or New Business; there being none **Mayor Tony Martinez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.**

\[Signature\]
Hon. Norma G. Garcia, President

\[Signature\]
Mayor Tony Martinez, 1st Vice-President

\[Signature\]
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary