President Steve Brewer called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. and asked Ms. Debby Morales to call roll. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum was present. President Brewer then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval RE: July 25, 2012 Meeting Minutes. Hon. Norma G. Garcia noted an error on page 4, paragraph 3, “President Gonzalez” should be corrected to read “President Brewer”. **Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes with this correction. Mayor Henry Hinojosa 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. Frank Torres, Willacy County EMS Coordinator and Chair of the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Committee and Mr. Manuel Cruz, LRGVDC Director of Homeland Security. Mr. Cruz brought the Board’s attention to the ambulance bus, or ambus, parked on display behind the Board Room. He thanked the Board for their support and actions to bring this valuable piece of equipment to the region and invited the Board Members and audience to view it up close. Mr. Cruz then turned the floor over to Mr. Torres who echoed Mr. Cruz’ thanks and noted that this is one of only thirteen ambusses in the State of Texas. Mr. Torres described the potential uses for the ambus and outlined the funding to secure it. Upon conclusion of Mr. Cruz’ and Mr. Torres’ comments President Brewer recognized Mr. Tom Hushens, Trauma Regional Advisory Council Program Administrator, who explained that many local hospitals contributed $206,000 each for this project because they recognized the importance of having an ambus in this region.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments President Brewer moved to item 3.B. – Presentation of 2011 Annual Audit and recognized Mr. Oscar R. Gonzalez, Oscar R. Gonzalez CPA & Associates, PLLC. Mr. Gonzalez stated that his staff found no deficiencies and had no recommendations upon conclusion of their audit. Mr. Gonzalez summarized the total revenues and expenditures and the budget and stated that the LRGVDC staff did a good job keeping within the budget. Mr. Gonzalez also pointed out that there was a net assets increase from 2010 to 2011 in the amount of $1,921,845 due to the purchase of several busses for the Valley Metro lines. Mr. Gonzalez stated that this is a great organization that sticks within its budget and is doing very well. Upon conclusion of his report **Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the 2011 Audit as presented. Commissioner Joey Trevino seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President next moved to item 3.C. – Consider Approval of MOU RE: Eagle Ford Shale (EFS) Play and recognized Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones informed the Board that this MOU is the result of discussions with his counterparts from other South Texas COGs in San Antonio, Corpus Christi,
Victoria, Laredo and the Eagle Pass/Carrizo Springs area. Mr. Jones stated that this is a no-cost MOU that basically identifies a process for LRGVDC to collaborate on growth management and/or environmental issues that may arise with the EFS Plan. Mr. Jones recalled a report from last year that noted this endeavor would bring about a $25 billion economic injection into the Texas economy. Even though the EFS boundaries are north of this region, it would be fortuitous for this Board to be at the table for discussions.

Commissioner Jim Darling stated that the MOU does not define what the Board’s role would be with the exception of specifically mentioning environmental issues and he does not believe the Board is in a position to become involved. Mr. Jones stated that he would be the representative for the Board at the table and would only be a part of discussions; there may or may not be a need to consider any issues. Commissioner Darling asked for assurance that any policy decisions would be brought back to the Board prior to any action being taken. Mr. Jones gave assurance that any and all decisions would be brought before the Board. Commissioner Darling stated that he did not understand why the LRGVDC region was involved with this issue.

Dr. Cesar Maldonado stated that Texas State Technical College (TSTC) has an MOU with Southwest Texas Junior College, the City of Hondo, and the Alamo Area COG for workforce training and educational purposes. EFS is recruiting workers from that area but there are not enough qualified people to fill all the needed positions. TSTC’s welding program anticipates 50% of its graduates will seek employment with EFS, so from an educational standpoint it would be good to be involved, there are many opportunities from which Valley citizens could reap benefits. Dr. Maldonado conceded that the MOU is vague in certain areas and could be stronger regarding a workforce pipeline from our community into the EFS Plan.

Mr. Jones stated it was the discretion of the Board to suggest verbiage modifications or to take no action. President Brewer stated that this seemed to be a project for the Board to support, but it needs to provide goals and guidelines. Mr. Jones suggested requesting a presentation on the project for further clarification on the MOU. Upon conclusion of discussion Commissioner Jim Darling made a motion to table this item. Mayor Leo “Polo” Palacios seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Brewer moved to item 3.D. – Discussion and Consideration RE: Finalize Site Plan for Center for International Economic Development Opportunities (CIEDO) Building and recognized Mr. Jones who noted that after review of the five (5) different site plans, staff recommends site plan #1 for its practicality and functionality. Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve site plan #1 as the location for the CIEDO Building. Commissioner Jerry Tafolla seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Brewer next moved to item 3.E. – Presentation RE: Services Provided by Texas.gov and noted that Mr. Daniel Moreno was unable to attend today’s meeting and recommended holding this presentation over for the next scheduled meeting.

President Brewer then moved to item 4.A. – Act Upon Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Advisory Council Recommendations and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item 4.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: FY 2013 Funding Recommendations for the Area Agency on Aging Services Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommended approval for the FY 2013 funding of Older American’s Act Services. Commissioner Jerry Tafolla made a motion to approve the FY 2013 funding recommendations as presented. Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion; Commissioner Jim Darling abstained, and upon a vote the motion carried.
President Brewer next moved to item 4.A.2. – Consider Approval RE: Membership to the Care Transition’s Governance Committee. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommended Commissioner Joe D. Gonzalez as a member of the Community-based Care Transitions Program’s Governance Committee and noted that one more Board representative was needed. 

**Commissioner Sofia Benavides made a motion for approval of Commissioner Joe D. Gonzalez as a member of the Community-based Care Transitions Program’s Governance Committee as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez gave the status report for this program.

President Brewer moved to item 5. - Report from Economic Development Department. Mr. Jones informed the Board that Ms. Terrie Salinas was unable to attend the meeting today and noted that the Status Reports were in the Board folders for review.

President Brewer then moved to item 6. - Report from Transportation Department and recognized Mr. Tom Logan. Mr. Logan presented a video that demonstrated the new on-board camera systems installed in all Valley Metro busses. Upon conclusion of the video Mr. Logan addressed item 6.A.1. Consider Approval RE: Fare Reduction. Mr. Logan stated that staff was recommending that Valley Metro institute a $1.00 base fare throughout the system which would be a reduction of $.50 from the current $1.50 fare. Staff was also recommending a reduction to the discounted half fare of $.75 to $.50 for the elderly, disabled, veterans, students and Medicare recipients. This change will result in a revenue increase; additionally a fair of $1.00 would address one of the goals in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Regional Public Transportation and Human Services Plan which recommends a consistent fare throughout the Rio Grande Valley. The Cities of McAllen and Brownsville currently have $1.00 bus fares in place. **Council Member Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion for approval of the fare reduction as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan stated that the detailed status report was in Board folders and was happy to announce that there has been a 108% increase in ridership.

At this point President Brewer turned the gavel over to First Vice President Norma G. Garcia so he could address the media regarding the Ambulance Bus.

First Vice President Garcia moved to item 7. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Oviedo. Regarding item 7.A.1.a. 182 Program Status Reports for the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group Activity and the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) Activity Ms. Oviedo noted that those reports were in the Board folders for review.

First Vice President Garcia next moved to item 7.A.2. – Solid Waste Management, item a. – Rio Honda Type V Liquid Waste Processing Facility, Cameron County. Ms. Oviedo stated that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met earlier this month the review a permit application for this facility. The SWAC is recommending approval of the application with the following comments: 1) The LRGVDC has gone on record with favorable comments for this project; 2) This is a sustainable project that will make a significant economic impact and will create jobs in the area, there is a market for this project and it will bring more revenue to the City of Rio Hondo. **Commissioner Sofia Benavides made a motion for approval of the Rio Honda Type V Liquid Waste Processing Facility as presented. Mayor Leo “Polo” Palacios seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action First Vice President Garcia noted that the status reports were in the Board folders for review.
The First Vice President next moved to 7.B.1. – Consider Recommendation from Regional Housing Advisory Committee RE: Approval of Modifications to Round 2.2 State Housing Guidelines and LRGVDC Waivers on State Housing Guidelines. Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that the Advisory Committee has begun work on the LRGVDC Housing Guidelines for Round 2 funding. Since the guidelines for the State on the Homeowner Opportunity Program (HOP) have not been defined they will not be finalized until next month. The Committee has however, proposed ten waivers to the General Land Office (GLO) for consideration; should these waivers be approved they will be incorporated into the Guidelines. **Mayor Leo “Polo” Palacios made a motion to approve the modifications to Round 2.2 State Housing Guidelines and LRGVDC Waivers on State Housing Guidelines as presented.** Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza clarified that the Housing Guidelines had been developed by a group in Austin, and the waivers the Housing Advisory Committee are requesting are more suited to the uniqueness of the Rio Grande Valley.

First Vice President Garcia then moved to item 7.B.2. – Consider Recommendation from Regional Housing Advisory Committee RE: Authorization to Release Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) for Disaster Recovery Round 2 Contracts and recognized Mr. Victor Morales. Mr. Morales informed the Board that at their recent meeting, the Housing Advisory Committee recommended additional general contractors to the current list of three being utilized for the Disaster Recovery project. The Committee recommends approval of this SOQ. **Commissioner Jerry Tafolla made a motion for approval to release the SOQ for reconstruction and rehabilitation contractor Services as presented.** Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action First Vice President Garcia moved to item 7.B.3. – Consider Approval of Resolution Authorizing Signatories for Disaster Recovery Round 2 Contracts. Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that this resolution would designate the LRGVDC as the sub-recipient for Round 2.2 Disaster Recovery Housing Program and authorize the Executive Director and Finance Director to execute any and all official documents related to all Disaster Recovery Contracts. **Mr. Don Medina made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing signatories for disaster recovery round 2 contracts as presented.** Council Member Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action President Brewer moved to item 7.C. – Program Status Report on Brownsville Round 1 Disaster Recovery Program and Ms. Oviedo noted that they were in the Board folders for review.

The First Vice President next moved to item 8. – Homeland Security and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz. Regarding item 8.A.1. – Status Reports, Mr. Cruz highlighting the progress of the Spanish Language Public Safety Early Weather Warning System for the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Mr. Cruz noted that item 8.B. – Criminal Justice Status Reports and 8.C. – Metropolitan Medical Response System Status Reports were in the Board folders.

First Vice President Garcia next moved to item 9. - 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Juan Gomez. Mr. Gomez stated the standard status reports were in the Board folders and noted that no funding had been provided for Public Education, but staff has found no-cost outreach opportunities nonetheless.

At this time President Brewer took the gavel and moved to item 10. - Regional Police Academy and recognized Mr. Paul Williams. Mr. Williams introduced FBI Agent Carmen Portillo who informed the Board of free training courses from the FBI scheduled for October covering the topic of Basic Human Trafficking and Civil Rights Program.
President Brewer next moved to item 11. - Old or New Business; there being no further business to come before the Board, President Brewer called for a motion to adjourn. *Hon. Norma G. Garcia so moved, Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.*

\[Signature\]

MAYOR STEVE BREWER, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

\[Signature\]

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

\[Signature\]

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary