MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 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 12:08 p.m. and asked Ms. Debby Morales to call roll. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board was present. President Garcia then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval RE: August 28, 2013 Meeting Minutes. **Commissioner Pilar Garza made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mayor Steve Brewer 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. No one had signed up for public comments and the President moved to item 3.B. – Report(s) from Legislative Delegation, however no legislative representatives were in attendance. At this time President Garcia acknowledged Mr. Julian Alvarez, CEO Valley Partnership; and Mr. Joe Barrera, RGRWA Executive Director.

President Garcia then moved to item 3.C. – Consider Request from South Texas College (STC) RE: Resolution Supporting STC Contributions and Upcoming Bond and Maintenance Election. Ms. Wanda Garza, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management was recognized and thanked the Board for the opportunity to share information on this issue. Ms. Garza informed the Board that STC is asking voters in Hidalgo and Starr counties to vote on two propositions: Proposition 1 is for $159,028,940 in construction bonds for the construction and equipping of college buildings; Proposition 2 is for a 3 cents additional annual tax for the maintenance and operation of the college. Ms. Garza noted that information on these propositions is available online and went on to explain in detail the purpose of these two bonds. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Don Medina made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Hilda Salinas seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Ms. Garza added that the Jag Express bus line for STC students and faculty that is run by Valley Metro has been very successful.

Upon conclusion of action President Garcia moved to item 3.D. – Presentation RE: TWDB Storm Water Drainage Plan for LRGV Colonias and recognized Mr. Robert Saenz and Mr. Joey Trevino, Halff Associates, Inc. Mr. Saenz informed the Board that this was a two year project and they wanted to make the Board aware that staff would be conducting outreach to gather a list of projects in order to be prepared when federal funding becomes available. The projected start date is September 26, 2013. No action.

Upon conclusion of the presentation and discussion President Garcia moved to item 3.E. – Report on Current Policy RE: Legal Review of Documents/Contracts and recognized Mr. Ken Jones. Mr. Jones stated that staff currently seeks legal advice on an as needed basis as most contracts the LRGVDC receives are well vetted prior to receipt. When there is a need, legal counsel is consulted. Staff recommends no change to the current practice. **Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza made a motion to approve the current policy on legal review of documents/contracts. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of Administration items President Garcia moved to Item 4. – Regional Police Academy and Training Center Report, Item A. – Consider Approval RE: Adjunct Instructor Procedure/Contract and recognized Mr. Paul Williams. Mr. Williams stated that this procedure would allow the Regional Police
Academy and Training Center to solicit applications for adjunct instructors and contract with those instructors for the Basic Peace Officer course and in-service courses. **Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the Adjunct Instructor Procedure/Contract as presented.** Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Williams gave the status reports from the Police Academy.

President Garcia next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez to address the following items:

5.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Memorandum of Understanding with Harlingen Medical Center to Expand Care Transitions. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval of this MOU with Harlingen Medical Center (HMC) to expand the current Care Transitions Program. HMC is the only local hospital currently not participating because it was not included in the original proposal. The former CEO decided not to participate and a change in ownership has changed this decision. The Area Agency on Aging will utilize their regular funding for this project. **Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion for approval of the MOU with HMC to expand Care Transitions as presented.** Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

5.A.2. – Consider Approval RE: Business Associate Agreement with Harlingen Medical Center. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Business Associate Agreement is required by all local hospitals to safeguard the handling of all health information under HIPAA requirements, and the Advisory Council recommends approval. **Mr. Don Medina made a motion to approve the Business Associate Agreement with Harlingen Medical Center as presented.** Commissioner Basilio Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

5.A.3. – Consider Approval RE: Additional Vendors to the Direct Purchased Services. Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that these vendors were inadvertently left off the list that was approved at the August Board meeting and the Advisory Council recommends approval to add these vendors. **Commissioner Hector “Tito” Palacios made a motion for approval of the additional vendors to the Direct Purchased Services as presented.** Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

5.A.4. – Discuss New Information on Marketplace Navigator Program and Consider Action RE: MOU with United Way of Tarrant County to Provide Services. Mr. Gonzalez was recognized and stated that in June there was general discussion to see if there was interest in the concept of this plan, however policies and requirements have not been approved by the State Department of Insurance. Mr. Jones added that as presented, this MOU could place the LRGVDC in a situation of monetary risk and there is not enough specificity on roles and requirements to recommend approval of it at this time. **Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion to opt out and not execute the MOU with United Way of Tarrant County at this time.** Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Garcia moved to item 5.B. – Program Status Reports. Mr. Gonzalez reported on the Health Insurance Marketplace Navigator Program and the CMS Community-based Care Transitions Program Agreement.

President Garcia next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Mr. Jones who offered to report for Ms. Terrie Salinas who was in Austin attending the quarterly Texas Association on Regional Councils (TARC) meeting. Mr. Jones gave a report on the status of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies Plan for 2013-2018. No action.

The President then moved to item 7. - Report from Transportation Department and recognized Mr. Tom Logan. Regarding item 7.A.1. – Program Status Reports Mr. Logan stated that ridership continues to increase and should reach 100,000 riders this year, and that the Valley Metro has a job fair for drivers scheduled for September 28. No action.
President Garcia next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services, regarding item 8.A.1.a.2. - Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA) Activity Mr. Joe Barrera, Executive Director was recognized. Mr. Barrera gave a status report on the Mexican Water Debt and the progress of talks with Mexico regarding compliance with the 1944 Treaty adding that the RGRWA went under contract with the law firm Beatty Bangle Strama (BBS) for their assistance to urge the State Department to have Mexico designate the United States as a Water User Group, to make regular water deliveries and to represent the Valley. Additionally the RGRWA has entered into a contract with Black and Veatch (B&V) to do a study on the feasibility of regional reverse osmosis plants in the Valley.

President Garcia next moved to item 8.A.2.a. - Solid Waste Management and read that program status report. Next the President move to item 8.B.1. - Report on Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audit Survey and recognized Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones brought the Board’s attention to the notification letter from the HUD OIG and summarized the progress of the audit to date. Regarding item 8.B.2. – Program Status Report on 2nd Round Disaster Recovery Funding, Mr. Jones provided a meeting schedule and statistics on the projects. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza requested follow up on the Multi Family Rental program at the next meeting.

President Garcia next moved to item 9.A. – Act upon Homeland Security Program and recognized Mr. Jones for Mr. Manuel Cruz who was also attending the TARC meeting. Regarding item 1. – Consider Approval RE: National Preparedness Month Resolution for September 2013, Mr. Jones stated that every year the President issues a proclamation declaring September as National Preparedness Month (NPM). Several local and state governments have also followed suit and provided proclamations raising awareness for emergency preparedness in their respective jurisdictions. Mr. Jones urged the Board to help South Texas take concrete action toward preparing for emergencies and disasters by declaring September National Preparedness Month in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. **Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion for approval of the National Preparedness Month resolution for September 2013. Commissioner Danny Guzman seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action the President noted that the status reports for the Homeland Security Program, the Criminal Justice Program and the Metropolitan Medical Response System Program were in the Board folders for review.

President Garcia next moved to item 10. - 9-1-1 Program and noted that those status reports were also in the Board folders and moved to item 11. - Old or New Business; Mr. Jones asked the Board if they would be receptive to receiving an electronic Board packet instead of a mailed paper packet in order to save paper and postage costs; it was the consensus of the Board to do so. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Gale Armstrong made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. John Mendoza seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.**

ATTEST:  
Mayor Tony Martinez, 1St Vice-President

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

Hon. Norma G. Garcia, President