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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015 - 12:00 P.M.
LRCVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS

PRESIDING: MAYOR CELESTE SANCHEZ, SECRETARY

President Chris Boswell was unable to attend and Mayor Celeste Sanchez, Board Secretary, was called to Chair this meeting in his stead. Chair Sanchez called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m. and asked for the roll to be called. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board was not present; however some members were reported to be en route and a quorum was expected. It was the consensus of those members present to hear items that did not require Board action until a quorum was attained. All items were taken out of order and will be reflected in these minutes in the order in which they were heard.

Chair Sanchez moved to item 3.A. - Report(s) from Legislative Delegation, however there were no legislative representatives present and no new information to report at this time. Chair Sanchez then moved to item 3.B. - Public Comment. Texas Water Development Board Member Mr. Bech Bruun was recognized and introduced himself and his Chief of Staff Ms. Lauren Graber. Mr. Bruun stated that he was in the Valley for the groundbreaking ceremony of McAllen’s South Wastewater Treatment Plant and attended this meeting to make the Board aware of the Regional Water Plan that the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group is currently working on and to expressed his gratitude to those with whom his has done business.

Chair Sanchez next moved to item 4.A. - Status Report from Regional Police Academy and recognized Mr. Paul Williams, Program Director. Mr. Williams stated that the regular status report was in the Board folders for review and brought the Board’s attention to a list of legislative bills he is following and summarized them for the Board. Upon conclusion of the status reports Mr. Williams announced that he is scheduled to speak at a Memorial Day celebration in Harlingen and encouraged the Board to attend.

Chair Sanchez next moved to item 5.B. - Area Agency on Aging Program Status Reports and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez, Program Director. Mr. Gonzalez reported on the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Provider Act (MIPPA) events and on the 18th Annual Centenarian Recognition. The Centenarian Recognition is scheduled for May 5, 2015 at the Weslaco Events Center and Mr. Gonzalez stated that fifteen (15) centenarians were currently registered for the event.

Upon conclusion of the Area Agency on Aging status reports Chair Sanchez moved to item 6.A.1. - Regional Small Cities Coalition Status Report and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas, Program Director. Ms. Salinas reported that the most recent coalition meeting was held at South Padre Island and Mr. William DeLibero, City Manager gave the welcome speech. Ms. Marcie Oviedo, LRGVDC Regional Planning and Services Program Director, gave a presentation on the Disaster Recovery Program and the group indicated they would be interested in technical assistance regarding the Solid Waste Program. The next meeting will be held at the Lyford City Hall.

Chair Sanchez then moved to item 7.B.1. - Valley Metro Rural and Urban System Program Status Report and recognized Mr. Tom Logan, Program Director. Mr. Logan noted that the full status report, complete with charts and graphs on ridership, were in the Board folders for review, and pointed out that there has been a 21% year-to-date increase in ridership; additionally staff was notified recently by TxDOT that a grant proposal for a Transit Driver Academy was fully funded at the requested amount of $138,000. Mr. Logan thanked Cameron and Hidalgo Workforce Solutions, Brownsville Metro, McAllen Metro, The Wave, South Texas
College, and Texas State Technical College for their assistance in putting the proposal together.

Ms. Oviedo was recognized next to give the status reports under item 8. - Report from Regional Planning and Services Program; she noted that the reports were in the Board folders for review and announced that today, April 22nd, is Earth Day and celebrations will take place throughout the month. Ms. Oviedo expounded on item 8.B.2. - Program Status Report on 2nd Round Disaster Recovery Funding and covered such topics as Multi-Family Rental Program, Single Family Rental Program, Multi-Family 2nd NOFA, Rapid Recovery Pilot Program, Housing Assistance Program, and Homeowner Opportunity Program.

Chair Sanchez next moved to item 9.A.2. - Status Reports for the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz. Mr. Cruz reported on the Homeland Security Grant Programs, FY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program, Citizen Corps Program (CCP), FY 2015 Homeland Security Grant Program, and Regional Mass Fatality Plan Project.

At this time the record reflects the arrival of Mayor Irene Muncz and Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza and the attainment of a quorum.

Chair Sanchez then moved to item 9.A.1. - Consider Approval RE: FY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program Extension Request until June 1 for “On-Order” Deadline to Commit Uncommitted funds. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that after deliberation at their April 10 meeting, the HSAC recommends extending the deadline to June 1 to place funds awarded on an “On-Order” status, and no change to the deadline of July 31 to “Invoice” and request reimbursement from the state. Jurisdictions with FY 2014 awards have been made aware of these deadlines and the negative outcomes as a result of not meeting them. The HSAC will review all uncommitted amounts again on June 1 and reallocate those funds to other eligible jurisdictions in the region. Mr. Cruz stated that these local provisions were established for the purpose of maximizing all homeland security grants that the region receives and to justify each year’s request and increase in funding. Upon conclusion of discussion Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the FY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program Extension Request until June 1 for “On-Order” deadline to commit uncommitted funds as recommended by the HSAC. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action Chair Sanchez moved to item 9.B. - Criminal Justice Program. Mr. Cruz stated that the following items were discussed at the CJAC’s April 8, 2015 meeting:

1. Consider Approval RE: DJ (Department of Justice) - Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2015-2016 Priority Listing and Resolution
2. Consider Approval RE: JA (Juvenile Assistance) - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDJP) Program Priority Listing and Resolution
3. Consider Approval RE: FY 2015-2016 VA (Victims Assistance) - Victims of Crime Act (VFWCA) Grant Priority Listing and Resolution
4. Consider Approval RE: WF (Women Females) - Violence Against Women (VAWA) Grant Priority Listing and Resolution

Mr. Cruz stated that the CJAC recommends approval of the above four (4) priority listings and resolutions. Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve items 9.B.1. - 4. as recommended by the CJAC. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sanchez then moved back to the beginning of the agenda to address item 2. - Consider Approval RE: March 25, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the March 25, 2015 minutes as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Item 3.C. - Report RE: Texas Gas Service (COSA) Filing was heard next and Ms. Naomi Perales, TGS Community Relations Manager, was recognized. Ms. Perales began a presentation entitled "Rio Grande Valley Service Area, 2015 Cost of Service Adjustment Filing". The presentation included information about ONE Gas and Texas Gas Service’s corporate origins, capacity, service base, and community support. Ms. Perales then introduced Mr. Larry Graham, Regulatory Affairs Manager, who finished the presentation and
covered the COSA clause, its key factors and 2015 timeline. TGS will file with the 34 cities in the Valley Cities Gas Coalition (VCGC) on April 29, 2015 with no action required to approve the proposed rate adjustment which will become effective on July 28, 2015. The 2015 rate adjustment will likely be less than the 2014 average residential rate adjustment, which was $0.43 per month. Ms. Perales stated that TGS requests all 34 cities participate in the VCGC and stated that most city councils must approve joining the VCGC. The VCGC will hire a consultant to review the filing and TGS will work with the VCGC’s consultant, who will issue a recommendation. Upon conclusion of the presentation Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion for LRGVDC to coordinate with the VCGC and to authorize the City of Weslaco to engage a rate consultant on behalf of the VCGC. Mayor Pro-tem Esmeralda Lozano seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sanchez next moved to item 3.D. - Appointment of 2015 - 2016 Nominating Committee and recognized Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Director. Mr. Jones noted that in the Board folders for consideration was a draft list of committee members based on last year’s committee and updated with the current elected officials. Upon conclusion of discussion Mr. Steve Brewer and Mayor Celeste Sanchez were added to the committee list and Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the appointment of the 2015 -2016 Nominating Committee as revised. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The next item addressed was item 3.E. - Schedule Meeting Dates

1. Nominating Committee Meeting
   It was the consensus of those committee members present to schedule the meeting during the second week of May, either on Wednesday, May 13 or Friday, May 15 and to coordinate the final date and meeting location with President Chris Boswell who will also serve as Chair of this committee. No action taken.

2. May Membership Meeting for Board Elections
   Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to schedule the May Membership meeting for Board Elections on May 27, 2015 immediately following the regularly scheduled Board meeting.
   Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sanchez next moved to item 3.F. - Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report and recognized Finance Director Ms. Crystal Balboa. Ms. Balboa summarized the report noting that it is consistent with the previous quarterly report and reflects payments and deposits for the various programs run by the LRGVDC. Mayor Pro-tem Esmeralda Lozano made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report as presented. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action Chair Sanchez moved to item 3.G. - Consider Approval RE: Property Purchase Agreement with Crop Production Services and recognized Mr. Victor Morales, Procurement Director. Mr. Morales stated that this purchase agreement is for the acquisition of the property located at 200 West Railroad Street, across the street from the LRGVDC main office in Weslaco. The property is a paved lot the size of a city block and is intended to be used primarily for parking to meet city code as a result of the expansion of our facilities with the construction of the CIEDO Building. There is also the possibility of using a portion of the property in the future as a Park & Ride operation for Valley Metro. Staff requests approval to allow the Executive Director to enter into a six year owner finance contract at 4.5% interest. Commissioner Danny Guzman made a motion to approve the Property Purchase Agreement with Crop Production Services as presented. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sanchez next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez, Program Director. Regarding item 5.A.1. - Consider Approval to Authorize Staff to Issue Requests for Proposals (RFP) and Vendor Solicitations for Fiscal Year 2016 Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the amount of funds will be at the 2014 fiscal year levels contingent upon final federal appropriations and noted that the Advisory Council recommends approval. The vendor solicitation will cover such services as, but are not limited to: homemaker, medical transportation, home modifications, medications, medical supplies, dentures, hearing aids, durable medical equipment, adult day care and respite care. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza
made a motion to authorize staff to issue RFPs and vendor solicitations for fiscal year 2016 as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Next Chair Sanchez moved to item 7.A.1. - Consider Approval RE: Revisions to Drug & Alcohol Free Workplace Policy and recognized Mr. Tom Logan, Program Director. Mr. Logan explained that due to recent personnel changes this document needs to be updated to reflect those changes. Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve the revisions to the Drug & Alcohol Free Workplace Policy. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sanchez next moved to item 8.B.1. - Consider Approval of Fair Housing Resolution and recognized Ms. Oviedo. She explained that this resolution declares April as Fair Housing Month and supports the promotion of awareness of Fair Housing. Mr. John Mendoza made a motion to approve the Fair Housing Resolution as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action Chair Sanchez moved to item 10. - Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Steve Tice, Assistant Program Director for Program Director Juan Gomez. Mr. Tice noted that the regular status reports were in the Board folders for review and provided an update on SB 1108 that will create a regional emergency communications district.

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

Mayor Chris Boswell, President