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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2014 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS

PRESIDING: MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

First Vice President Chris Boswell called the meeting to order at 12:06 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 present. Vice President Boswell then moved to item 2. Consider Approval of March 26, 2014 Meeting Minutes. **Mayor David Simmons made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes Vice President Boswell moved to item 3.A. Report from Legislative Delegation; however no reports were given at this time.

The Vice President next moved to item 3.B. Public Comment; however no public comments were received.

Vice President Boswell moved to item 3.C. Appointment of 2014-2015 Nominating Committee. Mr. Ken Jones was recognized and stated that the list of Nominating Committee members was in the binders, and that this list has the same entities and persons as the 2013-2014 Committee with updates as needed to the elected officials. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the Nominating Committee members as presented. Commissioner Dora Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action the Vice President moved to item 3.D. Schedule Meeting Dates.

1. Nominating Committee Meeting. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to schedule the Nominating Committee meeting at 12:00 p.m. on May 21, 2014 at the LRGVDC Main Office Board Room. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. May Membership Meeting for Board Elections. **Mayor David Simmons made a motion to schedule the May Membership meeting immediately following the May Board of Directors meeting scheduled for May 28, 2014. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Vice President Boswell next moved to item 3.E. Report RE: Texas Gas Service (COSA) Filing. Mr. Jones was recognized and reminded the Board that in the past the LRGVDC has participated in the COSA process as a coordinating entity for resolutions and other information. Mr. Jones then turned the floor over to Ms. Naomi Perales. Ms. Perales stated that the filing will happen on May 1, 2014 at which time packets will be distributed to the cities in the Valley Cities Gas Coalition. The effective date of the filing will be July 29, 2014 which will provide the Coalition time to review the filing and prepare a settlement. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve the LRGVDC as the coordinating entity for the Valley Cities Gas Coalition. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
Upon conclusion of action Vice President Boswell moved to item 3.F. – Consider Recommendation on Selection of Building Contractor RE: CIEDO Building and recognized Mr. Victor Morales. Mr. Morales stated that staff received responses from the following six qualified contractors: Tri-Gen Construction, Fulcrum, E-Con Group, Highmark, D Wilson Construction, and Descon. After reviewing the bids, the architect and LRGVDC staff determined that E-Con Group, LLC submitted the lowest and most advantageous proposal, and recommends the Board accept the proposal from E-Con Group, LLC, and for construction of the CIEDO Building to start in June of 2014. **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve E-Con Group, LLC as the building contractor for the CIEDO building and for construction to begin in June of 2014. Council Member Homer Jasso seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action Vice President Boswell moved to item 3.G. – Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report and recognized Ms. Crystal Balboa. Ms. Balboa noted that there was a significant decrease in the TexPool investments due to paying bills for the 9-1-1 Program and the fact that the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority opened their own bank account thus removing a sizeable sum from the TexPool investments. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to accept the Quarterly Investment Report as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Next Vice President Boswell moved to item 3.H. – Presentation from Corporation for Texas Regionalism (CTR) and recognized Mr. Don Medina. Mr. Medina gave a report on the current legislative issues being discussed by the CTR. No action needed.

Vice President Boswell then moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and recognized Mr. Paul Williams who addressed the following items:

4.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Amendment to Police Advisory Committee By-laws Mr. Williams stated that the Police Advisory Committee recommends approval to amend their by-laws by updating the name of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and adding language to better reflect the composition of the committee. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the amendments to the Police Advisory Committee by-laws as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

4.A.2. – Consider Approval RE: Adopt the Standard Operating Procedures for the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy and Training Center. Mr. Williams stated that the Police Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Standard Operating Procedures in order to standardize procedures for entering courses for credit, especially from outside entities. **Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to adopt the Standard Operating Procedures for the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy and Training Center as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

4.A.3. – Consider Approval RE: Basic Peace Office Course Rules and Regulations Update. Mr. Williams stated that the changes to the Basic Peace Office Course (BPOC) Rules and Regulations reflect the name change of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, allowing concealed handgun licensees to continue to carry concealed handguns in accordance with Texas law, updating information about the payment plan and readmission to the BPOC and including the 100% attendance policy for the practical portions of the BPOC. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the Basic Peace Office Course Rules and Regulations update as presented. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

4.A.4 – Consider Appointment to Police Advisory Committee. Mr. Williams explained that the Board is required to appoint a civilian (non-law enforcement) Board member to sit on the Police Advisory Committee. With the resignation of Mayor Steve Brewer that appointment is vacant. Mr. Ronald Mills volunteered to fill that vacancy. **Mr. Don Medina made a motion for approval of Mr. Ronald Mills to fill the Board Member vacancy on the Police Advisory**
Committee. Mayor Henry Hinojosa 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 folders.

Vice President Boswell next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item 5.A.1. - Consider Approval of Business Associate Agreement and Consultant Agreement with Cynthia Gonzales RE: Medicaid Provider Number. Mr. Gonzalez stated that these agreements with Ms. Gonzales would provide assistance to the LRGVDC in obtaining a Medicaid Provider Number. There is no cost associated with these agreements and the Provider Number is necessary in order to contract with Managed Care Organizations (MCO). The LRGVDC has an opportunity to contract with an MCO for hospital care transition services. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Business Associate Agreement and Consultant Agreement with Cynthia Gonzales as presented. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the program status report was in the folders for review.


The Vice President next moved to item 6.A.1.b. - Create an “RSCC Connected Community Engagement Program”. Ms. Salinas informed the Board that the Connected Texas’ Community Engagement program guides communities through an assessment of their overall broadband and technology innovations, using criteria set as a part of a “community certification” model. The program helps train regional team leaders and supports the formation of community planning teams consisting of various sector representatives. The RSCC took unanimous action to participate in the Connected Texas Community Engagement Program and to allow staff to submit applications for funding opportunities through this project, and recommends Board approval. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to pursue designation as a Connected Community Engagement Program as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The Vice President then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro Program and recognized Mr. Tom Logan. Regarding item 7.A.1. Consider Approval RE: Elimination of Fares on Route 50-Brownsville-Port Isabel, Mr. Logan stated that ridership levels on Route 50 have dropped approximately 51% concurrent with the introduction of the free Metro Connect line run by the Town of South Padre Island. This line is almost identical to Valley Metro’s Route 50 alignment from Brownsville to Port Isabel, but does not charge a fare. In order to recover ridership, staff recommends eliminating all fares on the route. The drop in ridership has the potential to affect Valley metro’s funding, which is partially determined on performance for rural systems, and part of that determination is based on ridership per revenue mile. The elimination of fares would not pose a financial hardship to the program and the department will still be able to run the route under budget. If the Board approves, the fare elimination would be effective on May 5, 2014. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the elimination of fares on Valley Metro route 50. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan stated that the status reports were in the Board folders for review and added that a ribbon cutting for the McIntyre Street project in the City of Edinburg is scheduled for Friday, April 25th at 10:00 a.m.

Vice President Boswell next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo. Regarding item 8.A.1.a. - Program Activity and Status Reports, item 1. Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M) Ms. Oviedo yielded the floor to Mayor Jim Darling who informed the Board that the Group was two-thirds through the current five-year regional water planning cycle. Regarding item 2. - Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA), Mayor Darling stated that as of April 1st the RGRWA has moved from the LRGVDC to the Rio Grande Valley Partnership for administrative services. Upon conclusion of Mayor Darling’s report, Ms. Oviedo noted
that the Solid Waste Management program status report was in the Board folders for review. Vice President Boswell then moved to item 8.B.1. – HUD Disaster Recovery Funding and addressed the following items:

a. Committee Membership Appointment. Ms. Oviedo stated that the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) unanimously approved adding Mr. Gilbert Ortiz as a member. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve Mr. Gilbert Ortiz as a member of the HAC. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

b. Proclamation Declaring April as Fair Housing Month. Ms. Oviedo explained that the purpose of declaring April as National Fair Housing Month is to promote appropriate activities by private and public entities intended to provide or advocate for integration and equal housing opportunities for all residents and prospective residents of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. **Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to approve April as National Fair Housing Month. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

c. LRGVDC FHAST Form Fair Housing Resolution. Ms. Oviedo stated that this resolution will help address impediments in the LRGVDC Fair Housing Activity Statement of Texas (FHAST) form. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval of the LRGVDC FHAST form Fair Housing resolution as presented. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

d. Disposition of HOP Properties. Ms. Oviedo stated that the HAC requests approval of the following recommendations for disposition of HOP Properties:

   For properties within city jurisdiction the properties should be offered in the following priority:
   a) City
   b) City Housing Authority
   c) County
   d) Non-profit Entities
   e) Drainage Districts

   For Properties within county jurisdiction, the properties should be offered in the following priority:
   a) County
   b) County Housing Authority
   c) Non-Profit Entities
   d) Drainage Districts

   **Mr. Don Medina made a motion to approve the HAC recommendation for the disposition of HOP properties as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

e. Multi-Family 2nd NOFA Recommendations. Mr. Victor Morales was recognized and stated that the HAC recommends approval of the 2nd NOFA recommendations as follows: Neptune Apartments, Elsa Rehab Project, Willacy County Housing Authority DR Apartments Rehab Project, Whitehouse Apartments Rehab Project. These applicants have the current high scores within their respective counties and are also within the available funding amounts. **Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve the 2nd NOFA recommendation subject to project consulting fees not being drawn from the Disaster Recovery funding. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the motion.** Upon further discussion **Mayor Darling amended his motion to approve the 2nd NOFA recommendation subject to any consultant/developer fees being limited to 5% of the award. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Oviedo noted that the status reports were in the Board folders for review.
Vice President Boswell then moved to item 9. -- Report from Homeland Security and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz. Regarding item 9.A.1. -- Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: FY 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Allocations Mr. Cruz stated that the State Administrative Agency (SAA) guidance requires that allocations be submitted through the on-line FY2014 State of Texas Homeland Security Program website by the deadline of April 11, 2014. Since this deadline was before the next meeting of the full Board, approval to submit these recommendations was requested of, and granted by the Executive Committee. This Executive Committee action requires ratification by the full Board. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee action taken regarding FY 2014 HSGP allocations. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the Homeland Security Department status reports were in the Board folders for review.

The Vice President next moved to item 9.B. -- Act upon Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Recommendation. It was the consensus of the Board to act on all five action items at once. The action items are:

2. Consider Approval RE: WF-Violence Against Women (VAWA) Grant Priority Listing and Resolution.
3. Consider Approval RE: DJ-Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Priority Listing and Resolution.
5. Consider Approval RE: Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Membership Revision to the CJAC By-laws.

Mayor Jim Darling made a motion to approve items 1-5 as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the status reports for the Criminal Justice Program and the Metropolitan Medical Response System were in the Board folders for review.

Upon conclusion of action the Homeland Security items Vice President Boswell moved to item 10. -- Report from 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Juan Gomez. Mr. Gomez noted that the regular status reports were in the folders and announced that the 9-1-1 Program new facility should be finished by the end of May and staff will invite city managers to visit the new facility and at the same time determine the best way to provide support to each city.

The Vice President next moved to item 11. -- Old or New Business; there being no further action Vice President Boswell adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor Tony Martinez, 1st Vice-President

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

Hon. Norma G. Garcia, President

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