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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016 - 12:00 P.M.
LRGVD TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 PLEASANTVIEW DR. - WESLACO, TEXAS

PRESIDING: MAYOR JIM DARLING, PRESIDENT

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. and asked for the roll to be called. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum was present. The President then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval of March 23, 2016 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the March 23, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Mayor San Juanita Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes President Darling moved to item 3.A. - Report from Legislative Delegation, however no legislators were present and no reports were provided. The President then moved to item 3.B. – Public Comment and noted that no public comment requests had been received.

President Darling then moved to item 3.C. – Presentation RE: Certificate of Appreciation for Channel 5 Sponsorship for LRGV Spanish Language Public Safety Early Weather Warning System and recognized Mr. Tim Smith, Channel 5 Chief Meteorologist. President Darling read the certificate aloud and presented it to Mr. Smith who then thanked the Board and acknowledged the hard work put into this effort, and the great need for this project.

President Darling next moved to item 3.D. – Presentation RE: Certificate of Appreciation for Texas Department of Agriculture RGV Livestock Show Project and recognized Ms. Nelda Barrera, Texas Department of Agriculture. Ms. Barrera thanked the Board and informed them that during the RGV Livestock Show she coordinates the Agriculture Exhibit Hall, and she also attends the Small Cities Coalition meetings. Through that connection she invited the LRGVDC to participate in the exhibit hall for a few days of the week-long event and provided admission tickets and a booth. Several of the Valley’s smaller rural, communities such as Lyford, La Feria, and Port Isabel utilized the booth space to promote activities available in their communities to some of the 50,000 people who went through the exhibit hall during the event. Ms. Barrera stated she would like to continue this partnership during future RGV Livestock shows and again thanked the Board for the certificate of appreciation.

The President then moved to item 3.E. – Presentation RE: Texas Gas Service (COSA) Filing and recognized Mr. Larry Graham, Regulatory Affairs Manager for Texas Gas Service (TGS). Mr. Graham explained TGS has a tariff on file that allows them to request a filing each year. He then gave a brief presentation with an overview of how TGS serves the public and explained the infrastructure necessary to meet the public’s need for natural gas. The effective date of the tariff is July 27, and the estimated revenue increase is $1.79 million and the proposed average residential monthly increase is $0.78. This increase will “true-up” their costs to allow adjustments for capital investment related expenses, allow for adjustments to integrity assessment and management expenses, and allow for adjustments on other operating and maintenance related expenses limited to five percent, and related to activities from 2015. The 2016 filing will be delivered to members of the Valley Cities Gas Coalition (VCGC) on April 28. Unless contested, the VCGC members are not required to take any action. Mr. Graham requested that the LRGVDC participate in this filing by acting as the Administrative Agent to streamline the process of reviewing the TGS filing and facilitate communication. Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the LRGVDC acting as the Administrative Agent for the VCGC and those cities that wish to exercise their regional jurisdiction in the rate case. Ms. Wanda Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

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Upon conclusion of action President Darling moved to item 3.F. – Consider Approval of Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO) Recommendation RE: Employment Agreement Contract for HCMPO Director, tabled at the March 23, 2016 meeting. **Mayor San Juanita Sanchez made a motion to remove this item from the table. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Mayor San Juanita Sanchez was recognized and stated that she is the current Chair of the HCMPO Policy Committee. She informed the Board that this Employment Agreement Contract has been vetted by the HCMPO Policy Committee and is derived from similar contracts currently in place at the MPOs in Corpus Christi and Laredo, which are comparable in size to the HCMPO. The Policy Committee wishes to extend the contract to the current Director, Mr. Andrew Canon, for stability since he has given over 10 years of direction to the HCMPO. She added that the HCMPO Director does not have to have a contract, but the Policy Committee has chosen to do this to ensure Mr. Cannon’s continued service. There was discussion and concern regarding how this Employment Agreement Contract would affect the directorship should the HCMPO merge with any other MPO(s) and Commissioner Victor Leal requested an additional clause that addresses potential mergers. Upon conclusion of discussion **Commissioner Victor Leal made a motion to approve the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization Employment Agreement Contract for the HCMPO Director with the addition of a clause that states the Termination Agreement specified in paragraph 6.0 on page 4 would not apply in the event that HCMPO merges with one or both of the Cameron County MPOs. Mayor Henry Hinojosa seconded the motion. Mayor Celeste Sanchez abstained. Upon conclusion of the vote the motion passed with one vote against.**

Upon conclusion of action and discussion it was the pleasure of the Board to act on the following items in one motion:

3.H. – Schedule Meeting Dates for:
   1. Nominating Committee Meeting
   2. May Membership Meeting for Board Elections

Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the members of the Nominating Committee with the addition of Weslaco Mayor David Suarez, to schedule the Nominating Committee Meeting on May 17, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. at Arturo’s Restaurant in Weslaco, and to schedule the May Membership Meeting for Board Elections on May 25, 2016 immediately following the regular Board Meeting. Mayor Irene Munoz seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Darling next moved to item 3.I. – Presentation of Quarterly Investment Report. **Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report as presented. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Next the President moved to item 3.J. – Report on LRGVDC Community Partnership Forum & Regional Strategic Plan and recognized LRGVDC Deputy Executive Director Ron Garza. Mr. Garza informed the Board of the LRGVDC – Community Partnership Forum, "Collaborating to Increase Access to Services" is scheduled for Friday, May 6, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Garza also informed the Board that on May 19, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. the LRGVDC will hold a Public Input Forum for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Regional Strategic Plan noting that this is a “come and go” event. Lastly Mr. Garza announced that the LRGVDC will have an Open House on July 27, 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. followed by the first Board meeting at the Main Campus on Railroad Street.

Upon conclusion of Administration items President Darling moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center and recognized Program Director Paul Williams. Mr. Williams stated that the standard status report was in the Board folders for review and highlighted new required courses that will help law enforcement officers better interact with drivers that are deaf or hard of hearing, and another course regarding synthetic drugs and THC extracts that seem to be the latest wave in illegal drug use.
President Darling next moved to item 5. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez. Regarding item A. – Act upon Area Agency on Aging (AAoA) Advisory Council Recommendations, Mr. Gonzalez addressed the following action items:

1. Consider Approval RE: Nomination to AAoA Advisory Council
   Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval of Ms. Irma Hulen from Raymondville as a member representing Willacy County. If approved, this will fill the vacancies for Willacy County representation. Mr. Gonzalez added that there are six vacancies for members from Cameron County that need to be filled. **Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve Ms. Irma Hulen as a member of the AAoA Advisory Council. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consider Approval RE: Authorizing Staff to Issue Request for Proposal (RFP) and Vendor Solicitation for Fiscal Years 2017-2019
   **Mayor San Juanita Sanchez made a motion to authorize staff to issue Requests for Proposals and Vendor Solicitations for fiscal years 2017-2019. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez gave status reports on the Healthy at Home Care Transitions Program, and the Older Americans Act Reauthorization of 2016. He also passed out invitations for the 19th Annual Centenarian Recognition scheduled for May 4 at the City of Weslaco Service Center.

President Darling next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Program Director Terrie Salinas who addressed item A.1. – Consider Approval of Professional Services Agreement between LRGVDC and Texas PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Authority (TPA). Ms. Salinas reminded the Board that at last month’s meeting staff reported that Cameron County and Willacy County approved the PACE Interlocal Agreements with the LRGVDC. Therefore the LRGVDC is now officially the PACE Administrator for both counties. To facilitate the success of this loan program staff met with TPA President Charlene Heydinger and Managing Director Jonathon Blackburn to discuss working together. From discussions during several meetings a Professional Services Agreement was drafted which requires Board approval. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement between LRGVDC and Texas PACE Authority as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Salinas stated that the status reports on the Regional Small Cities Coalition and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) Committee were in the Board folders for review.

President Darling then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro and recognized Program Director Tom Logan who addressed item A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Revisions to the Title VI / Limited English Proficiency / Environmental Justice Policy. Mr. Logan informed the Board that the recommended revisions will allow Valley Metro to be in compliance with the Title VI Program that addresses all requirements of Federal Transit Administration circular 4702.1B. **Mayor Tony Martinez made a motion to approve the revisions to the Title VI / Limited English Proficiency / Environmental Justice Policy as presented. Ms. Wanda Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan gave the program status reports and announced that Brownsville Metro began the first Bus Driver Training Class in mid-April with six students participating. Classes for McAllen Metro and Valley Metro driver students will begin the first week of May at the TSTC campus. Mr. Logan reported that the 5th Annual Bus Roadeo was another successful event and thanked City of Donna Mayor Irene Munoz for hosting and sponsoring the event at the new Donna Park & Ride.

President Darling next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services. Under item 8.A. Environmental Resources Mr. Ron Garza was recognized to address item 1. – GLO Coastal Resiliency Advisory Group. Mr. Garza informed the Board that staff requests approval to submit a packet with information on the eight (8) applicants to fill the three positions available for the LRGVDC Region to the LRGVDC Executive Committee for consideration. **Ms. Wanda Garza made a motion to approve submitting the applicant information packet as presented to the LRGVDC Executive Committee for consideration. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Program Director Marcie Oviedo was recognized and informed the Board that the program status reports for the Water Resources and Solid Waste Management Programs were in the Board folders for review.
The President next moved to item 8.B. - HUD Disaster Recovery and Ms. Oviedo addressed the following items:

1. Consider Approval of Fair Housing Resolution
   Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that this resolution will support declaring April as Fair Housing Month which will Promote awareness of Fair Housing issues. **Mayor Tony Martinez made a motion to approve the Fair Housing Resolution as presented. Council Member Richard Molina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consider Approval of No Cost Time Extension for Contracts #12-500-000-6699 & #12-499-000-6698
   Ms. Oviedo stated that the requested contract extensions are not funding related, but time related. The request is for additional time to effectively complete all deliverables within the contracts; specifically the verification of program requirements by applicants and evaluation of the outcome of the program. **The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the no cost time extensions for contracts #12-500-000-6699 and #12-499-000-6698 as requested. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Consider Approval to Transfer Unused Project Funds from Non-rental Program to Rental Program for Willacy County White House Project
   Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that staff requests approval to transfer any unused project funds from the Non-Rental to the Rental Program for the Willacy County White House Project. This approval would be consistent with previous Board action regarding unexpended funds. Staff estimates that approximate $1.4 million could be transferred to the Rental Program; these are funds that were previously allocated to the Rapid Recovery Project and HOP applicants. After closing these activities, unexpended funds were withdrawn and placed back into project funds. **Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the transfer of unused project funds from the Non-Rental Program to the Rental Program for Willacy County White House Projects as recommended by staff. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

4. Consider Approval to Request Waiver to Increase 10% Cap of Project Delivery Funds by Additional $200,000
   Staff is requesting a waiver to increase the 10% Cap of Project Delivery Funds to allow the transfer of $200,000 from Rental Project funds to the Rental Project Delivery funds category. This will ensure continued staff support to effectively complete all deliverables for GLO contracts and to close out the Disaster Recovery Program, and would cap our project delivery funds at less than 10.4%. **Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the waiver request to increase the 10% cap of Project Delivery Funds by an additional $200,000. Mayor San Juanita Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Darling next moved to item 9.A. – Act upon Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendations and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz who addressed the following items:

1. Consider Resolution RE: Approval to Apply for FY 2016 Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) Grant Program and Resolution
   Mr. Cruz explained that the purpose of the FP&S Program is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and fire-related hazards by assisting fire prevention programs and supporting firefighter health and safety research and development. If approved, staff will submit a grant application to FEMA through the eGrants system to secure $60,000 under the General Education/Awareness category, which is one of four categories eligible for funding. These funds would allow staff to collaborate with rural volunteer fire departments and communities in this region that might be interested to implement education and/or awareness activities that are designed to reach high-risk target groups and mitigate injuries caused by fire. **The Hon Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve staff applying for FY 2016 Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant Program and Resolution as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the Homeland Security Grant Program status reports were in the Board folders for review.
President Darling next moved to item 9.B. – Act upon Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendations. Mr. Cruz was recognized to address the following:

   Mr. Cruz noted that the total of requests from within the region was $945,994.24, and the total regional allocation is $409,517.00. **Council Member Richard Molina made a motion to approve the FY 2016-2017 DJ-Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program FY 2016-2017 Priority Listing and Resolution as presented. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

   Mr. Cruz noted that the total of requests from within the region was $576,195.56, and the total regional allocation is $461,082.00. **Mayor San Juanita Sanchez made a motion to approve the FY 2016-2017 JA-Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Program Priority Listing and Resolution as presented. Commissioner Victor Leal seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

   Mr. Cruz noted that the total of requests from within the region was $1,713,072.84 and the regional allocation is $3,945,871.84. **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the FY 2016-2017 VA-Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Priority Listing and Resolution as presented. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

   Mr. Cruz noted that the total of requests from within the region was $470,111.52, and the regional allocation is $214,255.00. **Mayor Henry Hinojosa made a motion to approve the FY 2016-2017 WF-Violence Against Women (VAWA) Grant Priority Listing and Resolution as presented. Mayor Irene Munoz seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
   Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz stated that the Criminal Justice Division Planning program status report was in the Board folders for review.

President Darling next moved to item 10. - 9-1-1 Program and recognized Assistant Program Director Stephen Tice for Program Director Sergio Castro who was attending a 9-1-1 Commission meeting in Austin. Mr. Tice provided each Board Member present with a copy of the Texas Kari’s Law (Direct Access to 9-1-1 Service) Affidavit for a One-Year Waiver Request and gave the current status of this law’s progress.

President Darling then moved to item 11. – Old or New Business; there being none, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

[Signature]
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

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