President Chris Boswell was unable to attend and 2nd Vice President Mayor Jim Darlington was called on to Chair this meeting. Chairman Darling called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. and asked for the roll to be called for the Board and the Membership because the Membership is scheduled to meet after this meeting adjourns. Upon conclusion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board and the Membership was present. Chairman Darling then moved to item 2. - Consider Approval RE: April 22, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro-temp Pilar Garza made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes Chairman Darling moved to item 3. A. - Report from Legislative Delegation, however, no representatives were present and no report had been provided. The Chairman then moved to item 3. B. - Public Comments and recognized Ms. Petra Reyna who encouraged support for Mr. Jorge Ayala to become the next Director of the EDA.

Chairman Darling then moved to item 3. C. - Staff Recognition for Years of Service with LRGVDC and presented awards to employees who have been with the LRGVDC for 5, 10 and 15 years.

Upon conclusion of Administration items Chairman Darling moved to item 4. - Regional Police Academy and Training Center Report and recognized Program Director Paul Williams. Mr. Williams informed the Board that the regular status reports were in the Board folders for review and noted that the end of cycle for training is August 31 and that peace officers must have 40 hours of training and telecommunicators must 20 hours of training by this time. If they fail to meet these mandates they could have their licenses suspended and be charged approximately $250 to have their license reinstated. Mr. Williams then informed the Board of several specialized training courses being offered by the Regional Police Academy in the next few months.

Chairman Darling next moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging, item 1. - Consider Approval RE: Consultant Pharmacist Services Agreement and recognized Program Director Joe Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez stated that this agreement was negotiated by Partners in Care and the Area Agency on Aging is currently utilizing a software program by Partners in Care for medication management for some case management clients. The purpose of this agreement is to have a pharmacist review cases where there might be a problem with the medications a client is taking. The negotiated fee applies to all Area Agencies on Aging in Texas that are utilizing the Home Meds program. The maximum fee per review is $35.00; the usual price range is $75.00 - $100.00. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Consultant Pharmacist Services Agreement as presented. Mayor Pro-temp Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez reported that the 18th Annual Centenarian Recognition was again a success with 29 centenarians present; the oldest was an impressive 108 and other attendees came close at 103 and 104 years of age.

Chairman Darling next moved to item 6. - Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Program Director Terrie Salinas who gave the status reports on the Regional Small Cities Coalition's activities and PACE Interlocal Cooperation with University of Texas at Austin.
Chairman Darling then moved to item 7. - Report from Valley Metro and recognized Program Director Tom Logan. Regarding item A. 1. - Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: Accepting Designation as Transit Provider for Starr and Zapata Counties. Mr. Logan informed the Board that the Community Action Council of South Texas (CAGST) notified TxDOT’s Public Transportation Division that on May 31, 2015 they will stop administering and operating the rural transportation program in Jim Hogg, Duval, Starr and Zapata Counties. As a result of that notification, TxDOT advised the affected counties that they each needed to consider taking over the program or designate an agency as their rural transit provider. TxDOT also contacted all transit providers around the affected area to advise them of the situation and find out if any were interested in and/or capable of providing transportation service for these areas. On May 11 Jim Hogg and Duval Counties designated R.E.A.L. Inc. (Rural Economic Assistance League) in Alice, TX as their provider. Starr and Zapata Counties designated the LRGVDC as their provider. TxDOT is requesting that the LRGVDC Board of Directors acknowledge and accept this designation. The Executive Committee considered this request and did acknowledge and accept the designation.

Based on the 2010 census data Starr County has 1,229 square miles and a population of 60,968 and Zapata County has 1,058 square miles and a population of 14,018. TxDOT, R.E.A.L. and the LRGVDC are coordinating the assets and funding distributions among the two new designated providers. TxDOT currently uses a funding formula based on needs and performance. Based on their forecast it is estimated that the LRGVDC will be awarded 69.7% of the total state and federal funds. The LRGVDC is contemplating retaining CACST staff, consisting of a program administrator, clerks, drivers, and dispatchers/supervisors; a total of 29 employees assigned to Starr and Zapata Counties. The transit facility located in Rio Grande City and 28 revenue and service vehicles will be transferred to the LRGVDC. Because of the time constraints staff requested action from the Executive Committee. Mayor Pro-tem Armando Garza made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee action taken to accept the designation as Transit Provider for Starr and Zapata Counties. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan gave the status reports on Ridership and the Regional Transportation Advisory Panel activity.

Chairman Darling next moved to item 8. - Report from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Program Director Marcie Oviedo. Regarding item A. 1. a. - Program Status report for Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M), Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that Regional Water Planning in the State of Texas is the local process which guides conservation and water projects. The Regional Water Plans are used to help develop the State Water Plan which guides state funding of water projects. Region M approved and adopted the Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan (IPP) on April 15. The LRGVDC, as the designated political subdivision, submitted the IPP to the TWDB for review on May 1. The Rio Grande Regional Water Planning area encompasses Cameron, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Maverick, Starr, Webb, Willacy and Zapata Counties. A public hearing for the IPP is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., June 23, 2015 at the LRGVDC Transportation Center Board Room.

Ms. Oviedo next gave the status report on item 8. A. 2. a. - Solid Waste Management Program, and then moved to item 8. - HUD Disaster Recovery Funding and Ms. Oviedo addressed item B. 1. - Consider Recommendations from Housing Advisory Committee:

a. Consideration RE: South Texas Economic Development Corporation - Elsa Multi-Family Rehab Project Alternate Site Withdrawal
Ms. Oviedo informed the Board that the LRGVDC previously awarded $208,980 in CDBG - DR funds to South Texas Economic Development Corporation (STEDC) for the Elsa Rehab Project. After the award the environmental review process began for the project; through this review it was discovered that the proposed project site is located next to underground storage tanks and would not pass the review and therefore could not be approved or funded.

The LRGVDC gave the STEDC time to submit a second plan for use of the funds. The STEDC presented a plan on April 30 to rehabilitate the Donna Apartments, but unfortunately upon review of this proposal and discussion with the Texas General Land Office (GLO), the proposal cannot be approved. The GLO confirmed that the guidelines for this program require a minimum of eight (8)
units to be in each project. The Donna Apartments consist of four (4) units. While the STEDC did propose using the funds to add one (1) unit, the allotted funds would not allow for the addition of four (4) units which would meet the requirements for this program.

The program has a contract deadline of December 31, 2015. While that deadline may need to be extended for projects already underway, starting over with a new project at this time would not be prudent. Also, the LRGVDC has already given additional funding to each existing project to allow for the increase in the cost of construction since the initial application process. Therefore the LRGVDC recommends that the funds originally awarded to STEDC for the Elsa Rehab project be re-allocated to the single family owner occupied program. The LRGVDC has applicants on a waiting list for this program and the funds could easily be utilized. Mayor Pro-tem Esmeralda Lozano made a motion to approve the recommended use of funds originally allocated for the STEDC as recommended by the Housing Advisory Committee. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

b. Cameron County Housing Authority: Neptune Apartments

Ms. Oviedo stated that at yesterday’s Housing Advisory Committee meeting the Neptune Apartments Project in Port Isabel was discussed. The LRGVDC previously awarded $1,704,845 in CDBG - DR funds to Cameron County Housing Authority (CCHA) for the reconstruct of the Neptune Apartments. The original application for this project was for a four story building containing 26 units. This building would replace 16 units of affordable housing that was uninhabitable and condemned after Hurricane Dolly.

During the re-platting and rezoning process the developer experienced opposition and the City of Port Isabel Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously rejected the re-platting and rezoning requests. The developers have come up with two (2) options which could allow the project to move forward. Option 1 is for a 26 unit project on two different sites, including the site in the original application. Option 2 is for a 16 unit project on the same site as in the original application. The budget of $3,178,560 as presented in the original application will remain the same for both Options 1 and 2. The LRGVDC recommends that due to time constraints and the need to perform a second AFFH (Affirmative Further Fair Housing) analysis and environmental review for Option 1 that the Board approves Option 2 with the following provisions:

- The CDBG - DR funded amount will be reduced to match the cost per unit identified in the application. With Option 2 the developer will build 16 new construction units instead of 26. Therefore the CDBG investment will be decreased by the cost per unit of 10 units.

- In the initial proposal, the CDBG invested rate per unit was $65,571 ($1,704,845 /26 units).

- The CDBG investment on 16 units should be $1,049,136.

Staff recommends adopting the developer’s Option 2 and reducing the CDBG award to $1,049,136. This would release an additional $655,709 in multi-family funding. Staff also recommends reallocating these funds to the single family owner occupied program. The LRGVDC has applicants on a waiting list for that program and the funds could easily be utilized. Commissioner Sofia Benavides made a motion to approve the changes to the Cameron County Housing Authority-Neptune Apartments using Option 2 as recommended by the Housing Advisory Committee. Mayor Pro-tem Esmeralda Lozano seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Darling next moved to item 9. A. - Act upon Homeland Security Staff Recommendation and recognized Program Director Manuel Cruz. Regarding item 9. A. 1. - Consider Approval RE: Citizen Corps Memorandum of Understanding between Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) and LRGVDC. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the Citizen Corps Program - Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) continues to be enhanced by engaging local agencies and requesting assistance from them to host the course. This MOU will allow the LRGVDC to provide assistance and support to BISD to further augment the
CERT program by adding CERT Instructors. In particular, the collaboration between the two organizations will benefit LRGVDC staff, BISD faculty and students. Students who participate will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of emergencies and/or disasters on campus and at home. Mr. Steve Brewer made a motion to approve the Citizen Corps MOU between BISD and the LRGVDC as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz gave the Homeland Security and Criminal Justice program status reports.

Chairman Darling next moved to item 10. - 9-1-1 Program and recognized Assistant Program Director Sergio Castro. Mr. Castro thanked the Board, community leaders, and staff for their condolences on the passing of Mr. Juan Gomez, 9-1-1 Director. Mr. Castro acknowledged how many lives Mr. Gomez touched in the Valley, the State of Texas, the United States, Canada, Europe, and in Mexico noting that Mr. Gomez was a visionary of 9-1-1 and was widely acknowledged as such.

Mr. Castro then noted that the status reports were in the Board folders for review and informed the Board that Karl’s Law (SB 1108, HB 3462) has been signed by the governor of the State of Texas and came into effect as a law this month. This law requires PBX systems to be configured to directly dial 9-1-1 instead of having to dial 9, a 7 or an * first. 9-1-1 Public Education staff will begin a campaign to notify the public of this new law.

Upon conclusion of the 9-1-1 status report, Chairman Darling moved to item 11. - Old or New Business, A. - Reservoir Levels. The Chairman informed the Board that the water debt for Mexico is currently at 380,000 acre feet. Mexico has made releases that will be applied toward and reduce this debt; however the water was released below Falcon Dam which did not help the water levels in the Lower Valley.

Upon conclusion of the report on the reservoir levels the Hon Norma G. Garcia was recognized and requested that the schedule of LRGVDC’s Advisory Committee meetings should be made available to the Board of Directors to provide them the opportunity to attend the meetings and see the committees in action. Ms. Garcia noted that it is during these meetings that major decisions and recommendations are made and then brought before the Board of Directors for consideration and approval. Mr. Jones stated that most Advisory Committees meet on an as-needed basis, but once they are posted staff can send meeting notices to Board Members.

There being no further business to come before the Board the Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Steve Brewer seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Mayor Chris Boswell, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary