President John Ingram called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and asked Mr. Ken Jones to call roll. At the end of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum of the Board was present.

President Ingram then moved to agenda item 2. – Consider Approval RE: January 28, 2010 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Commissioner Sylvia Handy seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes, President Ingram moved to item 3.A. – Public Comment and recognized Ms. Lydia Jeffrey. Ms. Jeffrey informed the Board of issues with drivers on the Mission Route. The President next recognized Ms. Ann Williams Cass with Projecta Azetca. Ms. Cass stated that her organization has met with many other non-profit organizations regarding the HUD Hurricane Dolly Disaster Recovery Funding and stated that they their staff is willing to cooperate with whomever is awarded the contract for this work, however, Ms. Cass stated her group has some concerns as guidelines for the program are developed, those concerns are: 1) outreach and eligibility should be open to any non-profit organization that is local, 2) that any funds used on rehab work should bring dwellings, at a minimum, to colonia standards or code, 3) that administrative work and/or construction work be completed by local entities, 4) that administrative funds are shared with local agencies, and 5) Ms. Cass would like clarification regarding who is responsible for developing the housing guidelines for the local government before any advertisements are placed. Ms. Cass concluded with an offer for assistance to develop the guidelines for this grant. President Ingram next recognized Ms. Felicia Ramirez with the Census Bureau who gave the Board a status of operations and outreach for the 2010 Census.

The President then moved to item 3.B. – Staff Recognition for Years of Service with the LRGVDC and had the honor of presenting awards to LRGVDC employees who have dedicated five years and ten years of service to this organization.

Upon conclusion of action on item 3.B., President Ingram moved to item 3.C. - Consider Request from City of La Feria RE: LRGVDC as Applicant to U.S. Department of Commerce for Broadband Funding Assistance and recognized Mr. Sunny Philip, City Manager for the City of La Feria. Mr. Philip informed the Board that the City of La Feria has begun a pilot project using wireless technology to connect City buildings and other facilities. Mr. Philip stated that the Department of Commerce is accepting applications from localities on a regional basis for a program called the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program using a public/private partnership. The proposal is for the LRGVDC to be the applicant using a sole source provider and submit the application. Originally the application was to be only for La Feria; however other cities have expressed an interest in the project, to date the cities of: Santa Rosa, Mercedes, Hidalgo, San Benito and San Juan. It is the consensus that the LRGVDC would
Mr. Philip stated the LRGVDC would not be required to commit any funds as the grant would provide 70% and the selected company would contribute approximately 10% as a private contribution; the remaining percentage would be generate by using water towers and other buildings to host the facilities. Mr. Philip then provided greater detail on the benefits of this program and stated that the ideal situation for this technology is for a municipality to combine all their facilities in one network, and also to have connectivity for all regional Police Departments, Fire Departments and ambulance services. Mr. Philip stated that the City of La Feria is very satisfied with their one year of experience using limited experimentation with this technology, and then opened the floor for questions. Mr. Jones asked for the date of the application deadline. Mr. Philip stated the deadline was March 15, 2010. Mr. Arturo Ramirez stated that recently the University of Texas at Pan American (UTPA) was working on an application for a Valley telephone cooperative to serve Hidalgo and Cameron Counties with a similar service and asked if the City of La Feria was working cooperatively with them. Mr. Philip stated staff has contacted UTPA on this matter, but has not yet received a firm answer or information. Mr. Philip stated the City of La Feria’s request to the Board is to favorably consider authorizing the submittal of an application for these communities. Mr. Arturo Ramirez asked what the fees would be for using the service regarding the remaining 30%. Mr. Philip stated that fees had not yet been determined, but the idea is for the fees to be affordable. There have also been suggestions to require the participating entities to form advisory committees to monitor the contract activities and develop a contingency plan if the fees are too high.

Mr. Don Medina made a motion for approval of the request from City of La Feria RE: LRGVDC as Applicant to U.S. Department of Commerce for Broadband Funding Assistance on behalf of member Governments and to Authorize the Executive Committee to take action should it be needed prior to the next Board meeting. Commissioner Sylvia Handy seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Buddy de la Rosa asked if the application is approved, will there be a competitive bid process to select the provider. Mr. Jones stated that discussions have involved writing the application as a sole source provider. Mayor de la Rosa stated that the Board Members should be cognizant that a "yes" vote for a sole source provider will set the fees at whatever rate the company wants and have them locked into the contract; mayor de la Rosa added that if that was the case he would vote “no”. Mr. Philip explained it is a private/public partnership, and that is what the government is looking for. Mayor de la Rosa rebutted that the Board has a responsibility to the people they represent, and this proposal is asking for the Board to write a blank check to the provider. Mr. Philip explained that the LRGVDC would be the administrator, and there is a way to determine the current rates and the discountable rates, and with public officials working with this project they will be influential in making sure a reasonable, low rate is negotiated. Commissioner Sylvia Handy commented that the application still needed to be submitted and approved; if it is approved staff will return to the Board for finalization. Mr. Jones asked if the application could be submitted to indicate the match would come from a broadband company, but not pre-select a company as a part of the application, would the application still be competitive or eligible if it is noted on the application that if awarded, the appointed advisory committees would go through a Request for Proposals process to select the company? Mr. Philip indicated that would be possible. Commissioner Handy concluded that the City of La Feria was asking the Board to approve the LRGVDC as the applicant and administrator on behalf of the communities that are interested and any communities that would be interested in joining this program in the future. Upon conclusion of discussion Mr. Medina amended his previous motion to include a Request for Proposals process for the 30% from the private sector. Commissioner Handy seconded the amended motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on item 3.C., the President moved to item 3.D. – Review and Discussion RE: HUD Hurricane Dolly Disaster Recovery Funding. Mr. Jones was acknowledged and noted a memo of explanation on the HUD funding process provided in the Board folders that summarized the most recent activities regarding the Disaster Recovery Funding. Mr. Jones noted that in comparison to what was previously approved by the Board: 1) Housing Allocation remains the same at $104,925,787; 2) Non-
Housing Allocation remains the same at $63,481,528; 3) The $1,404,245 in the State Administered Health Facilities Category remains the same; and 4) The original $15,108,600 in the State Administered Affordable Rental Housing Category will be reduced by $5,108,600; however, $2,000,000 will be added to the State Administered Texas Rapid Housing Category for this region. Mr. Jones stated staff was seeking action in support of these changes. Commissioner Sylvia Handy made a motion for approval of support for the changes in the HUD Disaster Recovery Funding. Commissioner Sophia Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Ingram moved to item 4.A – TRACS Report from Professional Advisory Review Panel (PARP). Mr. Oscar Cuellar was recognized and informed the Board that the PARP met on February 10, 2010, reviewed the following funding applications and noted that application 5 was tabled at the LRGVDC Board meeting last month. Mr. Don Medina made a motion to remove application 5 from the table and Council Member Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion. Mr. Cuellar stated that the PARP was recommending approval of applications 1-5.

1. Hidalgo Economic Development Corporation – USDA Rural Enterprise Grant & Television Demonstration Grants (RBEG) El Mercado de Hidalgo
$378,000.00 ................................................................. USDA

2. Pen-Reev Investments, Inc. – Pen-Reev Investments, Inc.
$310,000.00 ................................................................. USDA

3. City of Sullivan City – Memorial Park Renovations
$150,000.00 ................................................................. TPWD

4. The Pharr Literacy Program Incorporated – IGNITE Project
$99,500.00 ................................................................. USDA

5. Cameron County Parks & Recreation Department – EI Ranchito Community Park
$1,456,453.00 ................................................................. TPWD (Tabled 1/28/2010)

Commissioner Sylvia Handy made a motion to approve applications 1-5. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on item 4, President Ingram moved to item 5. - Report from Area Agency on Aging and recognized Mr. Joe Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez addressed item 5.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Additional Vendors to the Direct Purchased Services Vendor Pool and informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommended the addition of Bienestar Counseling Center in Olmito, Adaptive Access Construction in Palmhurst and VDP Healthcare in Pharr. Commissioner Sylvia Handy made a motion for approval of the additional vendors as recommended by the Advisory Council. Commissioner Robert Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President then moved to item 5.A.2. – Consider Approval RE: Request for Additional SSBG Funds for Rio Transit. Mr. Gonzalez reported that the Advisory Council recommends approval to request $214,000 from the Social Services Block Grant funding pool for Rio Transit. The funds are to expand current services, and these additional funds are being moved from the Area Agency on Aging's SSBG Direct Purchase Services category. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion for approval of the Request for Additional SSBG Funds for Rio Transit. Mayor David Salinas seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the status reports were in the Board folders.
President Ingram moved to item 6. – Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas. Ms. Salinas provided status reports on the B-HIT Premier Training Conference. The President then moved to item 6.A.2. – Consider Approval of Consultant Contract for Economic Adjustment Plan for Building Disaster Resilient Communities. Ms. Salinas informed the Board that a draft copy of the contract with S&B Infrastructure, Ltd was provided in the Board folders. Ms. Salinas reported that LRGVDC staff met with the contractor several times to review and ensure compliance with all of the rules and regulations as per EDA and LRGVDC requirements and after a lengthy review process staff was pleased to submit this draft for Board review. **Commissioner Sofia Benavides made a motion for approval of the contract as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Ms. Salinas gave the status report on the SBA 504 Loan Program.

President Ingram then moved to item 7. – Report from Transportation Department and recognized Mr. Manuel Flores. Regarding item 7.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Amended Maintenance Manual and informed the Board that upon staff review it was determined that the Maintenance Manual was out of date. The draft amendments bring the manual up-to-date with current practices. **Commissioner Larry Galbreath made a motion for approval of the amended Maintenance Manual as presented. Commissioner Robert Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The President then moved to item 7.A.2. – Consider Approval RE: Implementation of Oversight Policy. Mr. Flores stated that implementation of this policy was recommended in order to be in compliance with FTA and TxDOT regulations; staff is required to perform oversight functions as the direct recipient of federal and state funds. **Commissioner Larry Galbreath made a motion for approval of the Oversight Policy as presented. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Ingram then moved to item 7.A.3. – Consider Approval RE: Roadeo Project Grantee Agreement and informed the Board that the LRGVDC will host the 3rd Annual Regional Roadeo in which LRGVDC bus operators will compete against other agencies for a chance to represent the LRGVDC at the state level competition. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval of the Roadeo Project Grantee Agreement as presented. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Flores then gave the Transportation Department Status Reports.

President Ingram then moved to item 8. - Reports from Regional Planning & Services and noted that the status reports for Natural Resources were in the Board folders. The President then moved to item 8.B. – Housing, item 1. – Consider Approval of Recommendation on Nominations for Housing Advisory Committee RE: HUD Disaster Recovery Funding for Housing (Hurricane Dolly). Mr. Jones was recognized and reminded the Board that at the last meeting they approved the composition of the Housing Advisory Committee and stated that the entities that comprise the committee recommended individuals to represent them. Mr. Jones then read the list of committee members and explained the selection process. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion for approval of the Nominations for the Housing Advisory Committee as presented. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion passed.**

President Ingram then moved to item 9. - Homeland Security and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz. Regarding item 9.A.1. – Homeland Security Advisory Committee Status Reports, and Item 9.B.1. – Criminal Justice Program Status Reports, Mr. Cruz summarized the activities of both departments. Regarding item 9.C.1. – Consider Approval RE: MMRSSC’s Recommendation on Regional Funding and Equipment Acquisitions for the FY 009 Metropolitan Medical Response System Grant Program, Mr. Cruz...
informed the Board that the MMRSSC convened on January 21, 2010 to review and make recommendations on equipment acquisitions with FY2009 MMRS funds. Mr. Cruz advised that in the Board folders was an equipment list that was in development and once finalized will be submitted to the State Administrative Agency for approval. **Judge Pro-tem Aurelio Guerra made a motion for approval of the MMRSSC’s recommendation on regional funding and equipment acquisitions for the FY2009 MMRS Grant Program. Commissioner Sofia Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz summarized the MMRS status reports.

President Ingram then moved to item 10. – 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Juan Gomez who briefed the Board on the current activities of the 9-1-1 Department.

President Ingram next moved to item 11. - Regional Police Academy and recognized Mr. Paul Williams. Regarding item 11.A. – Amendment to By-Laws of the Police Academy & Training Center Advisory Board. Mr. Williams stated that the by-laws have been amended in order to modify the composition of the Police Academy Advisory Board in order to ensure that the Board is properly comprised and conducts meetings as directed by the rules of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval of the amended by-laws as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Ingram next moved to item 11.B. – Consider Approval RE: Amendment to Rules and Regulations of the Regional Police Academy and Training Center. Mr. Williams informed the Board that these amendments are proposed to update the current Rules and Regulations for cadets in the Basic Peace Officer Certification Course and incorporate administrative changes. **Mayor David Simmons made a motion to approve the contractual agreement with Workforce Solutions as presented. Commissioner Sofia Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Williams informed the Board that the status reports were in the Board folders.

Upon conclusion of action, and there being no other matters to come before the Board, **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for adjournment. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned 3:30.**

**COMMISSIONER JOHN INGRAM, PRESIDENT**

**ATTEST:**

**MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL, 1St VICE-PRESIDENT**

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary