President John Ingram called the meeting to order at 2:01 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: February 25, 2010 Meeting Minutes. Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Mayor Joel Quintanilla 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 Mr. Robert Jeffrey who informed the Board of difficulties the Rio Metro busses have parking at the McAllen Central Station and the potential danger to passengers who must cross the street as they embark and disembark from the busses. Next Mr. Felix Rodriguez and Professor Alexander Munoz were recognized and informed the Board of an event called the American G. I. Forum. Next Ms. Priscilla Flores and Ms. Nelda Hernandez of Mujeres Unidas (Women Together) were recognized and announced an awareness campaign called “Walk a Mile in her Shoes” the focus of which will be on men against sexual violence. This event will take place on Thursday, April 29 at the South Texas College campus in McAllen. Ms. Flores and Ms. Hernandez encouraged the men on the Board to participate in this event by wearing ladies shoes and walking approximately a quarter mile at the campus.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments President Ingram moved to item 3.B. – Consider Approval RE: 2009 Annual Productivity Report. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval of the 2009 Annual Productivity Report as presented. Mayor Joel Quintanilla seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on item 3.B., President Ingram moved to item 3.C. – Consider Board Member Appointment to Fill Vacancy on Executive Committee. President Ingram recommended the Hon. Norma G. Garcia fill the vacancy on the Executive Committee; Mayor Joel Quintanilla so moved. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President then moved to item 3.D. – Consider Board Member Appointment to Represent LRGVDC on Texas Association of Regional Councils Board of Directors. Mr. Jones informed the Board that the Hon. Norma G. Garcia is currently the alternate and is agreeable to becoming the official LRGVDC representative. Mayor Joel Quintanilla made a motion to appoint the
Hon. Norma G. Garcia as the LRGVDC representative on the Texas Association of Regional Councils Board of Directors. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon action being taken, the Board requested that the alternate position be listed on the next Board Agenda for consideration.

Upon conclusion of action President Ingram moved to item 4.A. – TRACS Report from Professional Advisory Review Panel (PARP) and recognized Mr. Oscar Cuellar. Mr. Cuellar informed the Board that the PARP met on March 10, 2010 and reviewed the following funding applications. Mr. Cuellar noted that application #2 was tabled at the meeting and PARP was recommending approval of applications 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

1. Rio Grande Valley Council, Inc. – Strengthening Opportunities to Adapt to Reentry (SOAR) Program
   $400,000.00 .......................................................... DHHS

2. Town of Combes – Armadillo Road Park
   $103,335.00 .......................................................... TPWD

3. City of La Feria – Outdoor Park Grant
   $1,000,000.00 .......................................................... TPWD

4. City of Los Fresnos – Los Fresnos Community Park Improvements
   $498,736.00 .......................................................... TPWD

5. County of Hidalgo Community Service Agency – The Rio Grande Valley RSVP
   $218,767.00 .......................................................... CNCS

6. South Texas College – STC CAMP Program
   $2,042,670.00 .......................................................... DOE

7. Texas A&M University – Colonias High School Equivalency Program
   $1,979,456.00 .......................................................... DOE

8. City of La Feria – Community Facilities Loan & Grant Program
   $3,000,000.00 .......................................................... USDA

9. Texas State Technical College – TSTC-Harlingen CAMP Program
   $465,300.00 .......................................................... DOE

10. Texas State Technical College – TSTC-Harlingen HEP Program
    $494,962.00 .......................................................... DOE

Commissioner Larry Galbreath made a motion to table item 2 and to approve applications 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
Upon conclusion of action the President moved to item 4.B. – Consider PARP Recommendation RE: Appointment of Officers. Mr. Cuellar informed the Board that at their last meeting the committee approved re-election of himself as Chairman and Mr. Richard Montesdeoca as Vice-Chairman. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval of Mr. Cuellar as Chairman and Mr. Montesdeoca as Vice Chairman for the PARP. 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 Vendor to the Direct Purchased Services Vendor Pool and informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommended the addition of Continuity of Care Home Health in Pharr. **Mr. Don Medina made a motion for approval of the additional vendor as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mayor David Simmons seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez gave the status report on the Network of Care Website that will be launched soon and noted that this website will have a section for veterans.

President Ingram next moved to item 6. – Report from Economic Development Department and recognized Ms. Terrie Salinas. Ms. Salinas gave status reports on the B-HIT Premier Training Conference then turned the floor over to Mr. Daniel Rios, S&B Infrastructure Ltd who gave a presentation on the status of the Regional Economic Adjustment Plan for Building Disaster Resilient Communities. Upon conclusion of the presentation Ms. Salinas gave a status report on Economic Development Grant Administration Projects.

President Ingram then moved to item 7. – Report from Transportation Department and recognized Mr. Manuel Flores. Regarding item 7.A.1. – Consider Approval RE: Implementation of Seatbelt Policy. Mr. Flores stated that this policy was recommended in order to limit the amount of liability the LRGVDC may incur if a passenger refuses to wear a seatbelt and an accident were to occur. **Mayor Joel Quintanilla made a motion for approval to implement the Seatbelt Policy as presented. Commissioner Edward Camarillo 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 DOT Physical Exam Policy. Mr. Flores stated that this policy pertains to bus operators and is recommended in order to ensure all bus operators continually meet DOT requirements. The Department of Transportation identifies "health hazard" with specific rules that either make the bus operator eligible or ineligible to drive with a Commercial Driver’s License. **Mayor Joel Quintanilla made a motion for approval to implement the DOT Physical Exam Policy as presented. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Ingram then moved to item 7.A.3. – Consider Approval RE: Hidalgo County Rio Metro Routes Fair Reduction. Mr. Flores informed the Board that staff seeks approval to reduce the bus fare amount from $2.50 to $1.50 per trip. In a recent survey conducted by transit staff, 88% of LRGVDC riders are transit dependent and 70% have a household income below $10,000 per year. This recommended fare reduction is an effort to save passengers $26.00 per month and over $300.00 per year. These savings could have a significant impact to ridership. **Mayor Joel Quintanilla made a motion for approval of the fare reduction as**
recommended. Mayor Orlando Correa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Flores then gave the Transportation Department Status Reports and encouraged the Board to attend the Bus Roadeo scheduled for Sunday, March 28.

President Ingram then moved to item 8. - Reports from Regional Planning & Services and recognized Ms. Marcie Oviedo who briefed the Board on status reports for the Solid Waste Management Program.

The President then moved to item 8.B. – HUD Disaster Recovery Funding. Regarding item 1. – Ratification of Executive Committee Action RE: Time Extension and Revision of Current SOQ Process and Board Consideration of Detailed Revisions for Web Posting the President recognized Mr. Victor Morales. Mr. Morales reported that as a result of a conference call on March 9 with LRGVDC staff and Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) staff, there was a consensus that it would be most beneficial to modify the current RFQ process to a two-step Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) / Request for Proposal (RFP) process and to allow for at least a 30 day time extension to the current March 19 deadline. Mr. Morales advised TDHCA staff that this change would require approval from the LRGVDC Board of Directors in order to continue the process. Mayor Joel Quintanilla made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee Approval RE: Time Extension and Revision of Current SOQ Process and Board Consideration of Detailed Revisions for Web Posting. Commissioner Edward Camarillo seconded. Mr. Arturo Ramirez asked what entities comprised the Housing Advisory Committee. Mr. Jones read the list of entities from the three counties. Mr. Morales added that staff planned to provide orientation sessions that include scoring exercises on the SOQ / RFP process in order to prevent misunderstandings. Mr. Jones added that if this time extension and revision are approved today it will be posted on the LRGVDC website and notification will be sent to all entities that requested packets, and it would go through the committee and back to the LRGVDC Board of Directors for identification of those respondents that are pre-qualified to receive an RFP at a later date, once staff receives approval from HUD and the State in terms of grant award for those disaster recovery funds.

Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez noted that at this point in time the Housing Advisory Committee would not be ready to interview respondents. Mr. Morales confirmed that was correct. Mayor Pro-tem Gonzalez suggested incorporating rules or guidelines for scoring respondent’s presentations. Mayor Joel Quintanilla suggested the Committee should be able to mandate that point. Mayor Pro-tem Gonzalez stated that if the guidelines are already in writing the Committee will be obligated to follow them. Mr. Jones stated that regarding the SOQ the Committee would not make any prioritization, they would only make a recommendation if an entity is qualified to receive an RFP or not. The RFP would be published separately with different scoring criteria that might include some of the items Mayor Pro-tem Gonzalez brought up. Mr. Don Medina asked how many respondents there have been so far. Mr. Morales stated that there have been about seventeen respondents, not including those that have downloaded the document from the website which staff cannot track. Upon conclusion of discussion President Ingram called for a vote; the vote was unanimously in favor of the motion and the motion carried.

President Ingram then moved to item 9. - Homeland Security and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz who gave the Status Reports for Homeland Security, Criminal Justice Program and MMRS.
President Ingram then moved to item 10. – 9-1-1 Department and recognized Mr. Juan Gomez. Mr. Gomez gave the status report for the 9-1-1 Department and urged the Board members to visit the LRGVDC 9-1-1 department and offered mapping services to those cities who do not currently have resources for that function.

President Ingram next moved to item 11. - Regional Police Academy and recognized Mr. Paul Williams who gave the status reports for the Regional Police Academy.

Upon conclusion of action, and there being no other matters to come before the Board, Commissioner Larry Galbreath made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Orlando Correa seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned 3:19.