Mayor Chris Boswell called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and asked Mr. Ken Jones to call roll. Upon completion of roll call it was ascertained that a quorum was present. President Boswell then moved to agenda item 2. - Consider Approval RE: November 18, 2010 Meeting Minutes. Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion for approval of the minutes as presented. Commissioner Joel Quintanilla seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes, President Boswell moved to item 3.A. - Public Comment and recognized Commissioner Armando Garza, representing Equal Voice Network. Commissioner Garza brought forth many residents of colonias throughout the Rio Grande Valley who were adversely affected by the flooding from Hurricane Dolly. These citizens wanted to know if their colonias were to be included in the Building Disaster Resilient Communities Drainage study and when will construction on the drainage improvement projects begin. The President next recognized Ms. Jennifer Woodard and Mr. David Gaytan of TMF Health Quality Institute who spoke on Diabetes awareness and their Salud por Vida/Health for Life initiative. Next President Boswell recognized Mr. Robert Jeffrey who stated that due to the current bus route schedules he was unable to report for Jury Duty; the judge excused him this time only, but if the Career Link was reinstated his transportation needs would be better met. Mrs. Lydia Jeffrey also informed the Board of difficulties going to medical appointments due to the discontinuation of the Career Link.

Upon conclusion of Public Comments the President moved to item 3.B. - Consider Approval RE: Quarterly and Annual Investment Reports. Commissioner Joel Quintanilla made a motion for approval of the Quarterly and Annual Reports as presented. Commissioner Sofia Benavides seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Boswell moved to item 3.C. - Presentation and Consider Action on Resolution RE: Support for the Humane Treatment of Animals. Mayor Pat Ahumada was unable to attend and Mr. Jeff Johnson, Brownsville City Manager, and Mr. Arturo Rodriguez, City of Brownsville Director of Public Health were recognized in his stead. Mr. Johnson stated that on behalf of Mayor Ahumada, he and Mr. Rodriguez were here to present a resolution and a model pet ordinance related to the humane treatment of animals. Mr. Johnson then yielded the podium to Mr. Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez stated he had two items to present to the Board; the first was a resolution summarizing that pet and animal care is a big responsibility, that how animals are treated reflects on our society, and that there are many documented benefits to pet ownership. Mayor Ahumada would like this Board to support the City of Brownsville’s Resolution Supporting the Development and Expansion of Animal Welfare Policy and Legislation within the State of Texas and throughout the Rio Grande Valley to bring awareness to the issue of responsible pet ownership. The second item Mr. Rodriguez had to present was a model pet ordinance that promotes a proactive role encouraging the public to understand that pet
ownership is a big responsibility and advocating cities to push legislatively through the State that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of pet supplies can be directly funneled so cities can use the funds to support animal shelters, specifically to become No-Kill shelters. Mr. Jones noted that unfortunately LRGVDC staff did not receive a copy of the draft Brownsville resolution or model pet ordinance prior to this meeting and that before the Board for consideration is a different resolution developed with Mayor Ahumada and members of the Pet Overpopulation Study Group and suggested Mr. Rodriguez read the Brownsville resolution out loud for the Board and perhaps the two can be meshed into one cohesive resolution. President Boswell noted that as only the LRGVDC resolution is on the agenda that perhaps this item should be tabled. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to table this item; Sofia Benavides seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried.

President Boswell next moved to item 3.D. – Presentation and Consider Action on Resolution RE: Opposing any Introduction of Legislation at the Texas Legislature Permitting State Officials to Inquire into the Immigration Status of any Individual Based on “Reasonable Suspicion” and recognized Mr. Michael Seifert, Common Sense Immigration Reform. Mr. Seifert stated that he is a resident of Brownsville and the Equal Voice Network Coordinator, but was here today with a group that was formed in December called Common Sense Immigration Reform for the Rio Grande Valley. This group was formed in response to the more than 60 pieces of legislation that have been filed in the Texas House and Senate that the Group feels would have negative economic consequences for the Rio Grande Valley. Commissioner Joel Quintanilla made a motion for approval of the resolution as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried; Dr. Cesar Maldonado abstained.

The President next moved to item 3.E. – Board Member Recognition and recognized Commissioner Joel Quintanilla. President Boswell presented Commissioner Quintanilla with a plaque recognizing the eight years he served on the LRGVDC Board of Directors representing the City of Mercedes.

President Boswell next moved to item 3.F. – Discussion of Creating Rural Planning Organizations (RPO’s) in Texas and recognized Mr. Mario Jorge, Pharr TxDOT District Engineer. While Mr. Jorge was coming to the podium, Mr. Jones brought the Board’s attention to LRGVDC Resolution 2008-01 In Support of the Creation of an RPO for the LRGVDC Region in the Board folders which supports that, at the appropriate point in time, when RPOs are officially being created in the State of Texas that this Board is interested in the LRGVDC being the political sub-division responsible for implementing this task. The objective of the RPO would be to take care, in a consistent way, the infrastructure transportation planning in a similar fashion to the MPOs in our three counties. Mr. Jones emphasized that the creation of an RPO would only be in those areas outside the designated urban boundaries of the MPO’s and would not conflict, challenge, or hinder in any way the activities or autonomy of the existing MPOs in the region. Mr. Jones noted that he and Mr. Jorge recently attended a meeting in Austin held by Mr. Amadeo Saenz, Jr., TxDOT Executive Director, that was also attend by Mr. Jorge’s fellow District Engineers and other COG Executive Directors, where discussion on TxDOT’s perspective on creating RPO’s took place. Mr. Jorge was supportive and offered to attend this meeting to relate to the Board the perspective and thought process at this point from TxDOT on the creation of these entities. Mr. Jones then yielded the podium to Mr. Jorge.

Mr. Jorge related that an RPO is an arm the region could have to coordinate transportation projects outside of the urban areas. Currently the planning process outside of the MPOs takes place between a District Engineer and the County Judges or the communities within the TxDOT district. This current process is not well defined nor is there a Board that considers the needs of the region or prioritization of projects at the regional level; this is generally accomplished by TxDOT. TxDOT is very supportive of an RPO. The two things Mr. Jorge wanted to mention, if the region is to move forward, are that TxDOT wants to have some basic guiding principles for the RPOs in the State, similar to those of the MPOs
though not as strict, but TxDOT feels there must also be some guidance for the RPOs across the State to operate in a similar manner. The second thing is that an RPO for the Rio Grande Valley would need to be a very regional Board. The LRGVDC covers Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, but Starr and Brooks County are critical to this Region in terms of rural planning. The RPO does not have to follow the strict LRGVDC boundaries, there can be multiple COGs involved so it is fairly flexible. There will be additional guidance in the near future and TxDOT will work with the LRGVDC area and Starr and Brooks County to come up with a geographical recommendation for an RPO in the Valley. Several RPOs have already been formed throughout the State and TxDOT staff and I will be available as we move forward with the RPO formation.

At this time President Boswell asked the Board's permission to address item 8.B.1. – Consider Recommendation from Regional Housing Advisory Committee RE: Execution of Contract with URS Corporation (URS) out of order and recognized Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez, Committee Chair. Mayor Pro-tem Gonzalez informed the Board that the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) reviewed the proposed contract and work order for Round 2 Phase 1 Disaster Recovery Funds Housing Program. The LRGVDC Housing Application was scaled down from $2 million to $384,920. $237,220 of these funds are recommended to be designated for URS to begin the Needs Assessment and assist the LRGVDC with Round 2 Phase II Method of Distribution (MOD). Commissioner Joel Quintanilla made a motion for approval of the contract as presented. Commissioner Edward Camarillo seconded the motion. Commissioner Armando Garza voiced a concern that the Analysis of Impediment (AI) Study prepared by the State does not have actual numbers for the Rio Grande Valley and that it appears that figures have been extrapolated from State wide data. Commissioner Garza added that the Rio Grande Valley has a unique demographic that cannot be extrapolated from the rest of the State of Texas, and so has concern that the AI Study does not accurately reflect the impediments in the Rio Grande Valley. Commissioner Garza recommended to URS as they move forward with their Needs Assessment that they do a specific analysis of their own on this region and not depend solely on the State's AI Study. Mr. Mark Howard from URS informed the Board that staff would not rely on the State's AI, but will conduct a data point or AI of the three county area. Mr. Jones stated that from staff's standpoint, we also intend to include the Public Comments from today with many of the residents from many of the colonias getting flooded, which was the primary cause for much of the housing damage. Staff will relay that to the firm as part of the assessment so the areas identified today can be included as part of the assessment process. Mr. Don Medina requested that once the contract is approved, that URS would return to the Board within a month with their outreach plan. Mr. Medina feels outreach will be crucial in identifying those uninsured individuals who may fall between the gaps for assistance. Mayor Pro-tem Gonzalez stated that anything that goes through the Housing Advisory Committee will be presented to the Board. Upon conclusion of discussion a vote was taken and the motion carried; Commissioner Armando Garza abstained. Upon conclusion of action President Boswell noted that the HUD Disaster Recovery Funding Program Status Report was in the Board folders for review.

President Boswell next moved to item 3.G. – Presentation and Discussion of Proposed Amendments to Bylaws Submitted by City of McAllen. The President noted that there is a formal requirement that this item be presented to the Board but no action will be taken until the Membership meeting. So at this time the Board will fulfill the formal presentation requirement and defer discussion and debate until the Membership Meeting. President Boswell then recognized Commissioner John Ingram. Commissioner Ingram stated that the City of McAllen feels that the majority of the residents within the boundaries of the LRGVDC are not proportionally represented on the Board of Directors; he then yielded the floor to Mr. Kevin Pagan, Attorney for the City of McAllen. Mr. Pagan reiterated that as Commissioner Ingram stated the City of McAllen has a presentation for the Membership meeting. As Commissioner Ingram indicated the City of McAllen did submit a proposed bylaw amendment as per the existing bylaws proposing an amendment to the voting structure here at the Board level. Mr. Pagan point out, however, that although the amendment was submitted by the City of McAllen, they were approached by a number of other
Member Cities in the LRGVDC, many of whom are sitting around this table, that asked for our assistance drafting such a change. In a few minutes when you adjourn this meeting and go to the membership meeting you are going to vote on things like budgets and work plans, and so forth. Those votes although traditionally might have been a show of hands, the fact of the matter is those votes will be taken based on population. Mr. Jones will show you the proposed budget for dues and those dues are going to be paid based on population and in fact, the entire voting structure at the Membership level is based on population. Because of shifts of population and demographics over the years, the simple fact of the matter is 85% of the population of this COG area lives in the incorporated areas of the three (3) counties and the nine (9) largest cities: Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen, McAllen, Pharr, San Benito, San Juan, Weslaco and Mission. 85% of the population lives within the incorporated areas in those nine (9) cities. 80% plus of the dues are paid by those entities, yet those entities combined have 44% of the voting strength at the Board level. The City of McAllen proposal is very straightforward: take the voting system used at the Membership level and apply it to the Board of Directors. No single city, including McAllen, would have control of the COG; no single city would be able to put forth their own agenda without the willing votes of the majority of those representing those populations proportionally. I have a presentation for the Membership meeting that goes slightly more in depth, but I will defer that for the Membership meeting. Subject to that, I will be happy to answer any questions. Mr. Don Medina asked which cities the City of McAllen was representing here with this proposal. Mr. Pagan answered that the City of McAllen was representing the City of McAllen and clarified that while the amendment was submitted by McAllen, the City was approached informally at various levels by other cities asking for assistance in taking the lead in making changes to the bylaws.

With the Board’s permission, item 3.H. - Executive Session: Annual Evaluation and Salary Consideration of Executive Director will be addressed at the end of the meeting.

Upon conclusion of action, President Boswell moved to item 4. – TRACS Report from Professional Advisory Review Panel (PARP).

1. City of Harlingen – Buchanan, Hays & M Street Drainage
   $1,863,467.47 .......................................................... HUD

   $305,000.00 .......................................................... USDA

3. The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College – Educational Talent Search
   $300,611.00 .......................................................... DOE

4. City of Port Isabel – Improvements to Laguna Madre Park-Phase II
   $179,220.00 .......................................................... TPWD

5. Texas Valley Communities Foundation Inc. – Mercedes Rural Incubator & Technology Education Center (MERITEC)
   $548,000.00 .......................................................... USDA

6. Nuestra Clinica del Valley Inc. – New Access Point NCDC Sullivan City
   $934,527.00 .......................................................... DHHS

   $1,150,000.00 .......................................................... DOE
Commissioner John Ingram made a motion to approve applications 1-7 as recommended by PARP. Mr. Arturo Ramirez seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action on item 4, President Boswell moved to item 5. Report from Area Agency on Aging, item 5.A.1. Consider Approval to Authorize Staff to Submit Proposals for CDBG Funds. Commissioner Joel Quintanilla made a motion for approval as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

President Boswell noted that the Program Status Reports for the Area agency on Aging, the Economic Development Department, the Transportation Department and Water Resources were in the Board folders for review and then moved to item 8.A.2.a. Consider Solid Waste Advisory Committee Recommendation RE: Solid Waste Advisory Committee Membership Appointments. Commissioner Gus Garcia made a motion for approval of the appointments as recommended by the SWAC. Mayor Orlando Correa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

The President then moved to item 9. Homeland Security; item 9.A.1. Consider Approval RE: HSAC Recommendation on Nominations for incoming Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Edward Camarillo made a motion for approval of the nominees as recommended by the HSAC. Mayor Polo Palacios seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

President Boswell noted that the status reports for Homeland Security and Criminal Justice were in the Board folders for review and moved to item 9.C.1 – Consider Approval RE: MMRSSC’s Recommendation on Regional Funding and Equipment Acquisitions for the FY 2010 Metropolitan Medical Response System Grant Program. Commissioner Joel Quintanilla made a motion for approval of the FY 2010 Equipment Allocations as recommended by the MMRSSC. Commissioner Edward Camarillo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action President Boswell noted that the status reports for the MMRSSC and the 9-1-1 Department were in the Board folders for review and moved to item 11.A. Consider Approval RE: Resolution for Annual Academy Grant. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez made a motion for approval as presented. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Upon conclusion of action the President noted that the Police Academy status report was in the Board folders for review.

At 1:22 p.m. Commissioner Joel Quintanilla made a motion to recess until after the Membership Meeting. Mayor Steve Brewer seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried.

Mr. Don Medina made a motion to resume regular session at 2:43 p.m. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried.

President Boswell then moved to item 3.H. Executive Session. Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to go into Executive Session at 2:45 p.m. Commissioner Gus Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion passed. At 2:58 p.m. Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to resume regular session; Hon Norma G. Garcia seconded and upon a vote the motion carried. At this time President Boswell stated that the Executive Committee recommended increasing the Executive Director’s salary by 2.2%. Mayor Steve Brewer made a motion for approval of the Executive Committee recommendation as presented; Commissioner Ruben Guajardo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. President Boswell stated that the Executive
Committee gave Mr. Jones excellent marks and congratulated him on the work he has done; the President added that the Board agreed that Mr. Jones has done a great job for the organization and we support you for the future. Mr. Jones thanked President Boswell for his comments and attributed any success to the support of the entire LRGVDC staff; additionally Mr. Jones thanked the Board for their guidance and leadership that carried us through the regional activities we have undertaken and the challenges that lay before us. Commissioner Armando Garza thanked Mr. Jones and the LRGVDC staff for being very available and providing him and the many community based organizations he works with information they requested; Commissioner Garza sees a great partnership and anticipates that partnership will help to provide benefits to the underserved residents as the Board has emphasized.

There being no further business to come before the Board Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

[Signature]
MAYOR CHRIS BOSWELL, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

[Signature]
MAYOR PRO-TEM ALVIN SAMANO, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary