

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors 2005-2006
Executive Committee**

Commissioner Sylvia Handy Hidalgo County	President
Honorable Norma Garcia Treasurer, Hidalgo County	1st Vice President
Mr. Arturo Ramirez Grassroots Representative	2nd Vice President
Commissioner John Ingram City of McAllen	Secretary
Mayor Lalo Sosa City Of La Feria	Treasurer
Mayor Silvestre Garcia City Combes	Immediate Past President

Remaining Board Members

Judge Gilberto Hinojosa	Cameron County
Judge Simon Salinas	Willacy County
Commissioner Victor Perez	City of Alamo
Mayor Pro-Tem Carlos A. Cisneros	City of Brownsville
Mayor Ricardo Morales	City of Donna
Council Member Gus Garcia	City of Edinburg
Mayor Rick Rodriguez	City of Harlingen
Mayor Joel Quintanilla	City of Mercedes
Mayor Norberto "Beto" Salinas	City of Mission
Mayor Leo "Polo" Palacios, Jr.	City of Pharr
Mayor Orlando Correa	City of Raymondville
Mayor Joe Hernandez	City of San Benito
Mayor Pro-Tem Eddie Rodriguez	City of San Juan
Mayor Pro-Tem Johnny F. Cuellar	City of Weslaco
Dr. J. Gilbert Leal, President	T.S.T.C.
Mr. Arturo Guajardo, Superintendent	PSJA ISD
Mr. Gale Armstrong, Manager	El Jardin Water Supply Corporation
Mr. Michael G. Wilson, Manager	Port Mansfield PUB *Willacy Co. Navigation Dist.
Mr. Don Medina	Member-at-Large
Mayor Pro-Tem Alvin Samano	Member-at-Large

Contacts For LRGVDC Administered Programs

Kenneth N. Jones, Jr. Executive Director	Ann Lyles Director, Finance
Anna Hernandez Director, Human Resources	Terrie Salinas Director, Economic Development
Joe González Director, Area Agency on Aging	Sandra Boyd Director, Homeland Security and Regional Training
Andrew Canon Director, Hidalgo County MPO	Manuel Flores Director, Transit Services

Mission Statement

“ENCOURAGE AND PERMIT LOCAL UNITS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO JOIN AND COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR ECONOMIC INTERESTS, CITIZEN GROUPS AND GROUPS EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC DISTRESS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THEIR CITIZENS AND TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION”

REGIONAL PURSUITS

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REGIONAL PURSUITS



Hidalgo County Commissioner Sylvia Handy Elected LRGVDC President

Commissioner Sylvia Handy, Hidalgo County, was unanimously elected board President of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC). “I am honored to have been elected as your new President, and I will continue the momentum and progress created by Past Presidents of this organization. The regional approach is an effective method to address the needs of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and the LRGVDC will continue to be a leader in this regard,” stated Commissioner Handy at her installation ceremony.

The remaining LRGVDC Board Officers elected are: Hidalgo County Treasurer, Hon. Norma Garcia, 1st Vice President; Arturo Ramirez, 2nd Vice President; McAllen Commissioner John Ingram, Secretary; La Feria Mayor

Lalo Sosa, Treasurer; and, Combes Mayor Silvestre Garcia, Immediate Past President.

Other members of the current LRGVDC Board include: Judge Gilbert Hinojosa, Cameron County; Judge Simon Salinas, Willacy County; Commissioner Victor Perez, City of Alamo; Mayor Pro-Tem Carlos A. Cisneros, City of Brownsville; Mayor Ricardo L. Morales, City of Donna; Council Member Gus Garcia, City of Edinburg; Mayor Rick Rodriguez, City of Harlingen; Mayor Joel Quintanilla, City of Mercedes; Mayor Norberto Salinas, City of Mission; Mayor Leo “Polo” Palacios, Jr., City of Pharr; Mayor Orlando Correa, City of Raymondville; Mayor Joe Hernandez, City of San Benito; Mayor Pro-Tem Eddie Rodriguez, City of San Juan; Mayor Pro-Tem Johnny F. Cuellar, City of Weslaco; Dr. J. Gilbert Leal, TSTC; Arturo Guajardo, Superintendent PSJA ISD; Gale Armstrong, El Jardin Water Supply; Michael G. Wilson, Willacy County Navigation District; Don Medina, Member-at-Large; and City of Hidalgo Mayor Pro-Tem Alvin Samano, Member-at-Large.

The LRGVDC Board meetings are normally held the 4th Thursday of each month at the Weslaco City Hall at 1:30 p.m. For more information on the LRGVDC please visit our website at www.lrgvdc.org.

Workshop for Planning Commissioners, Elected Officials and Staff

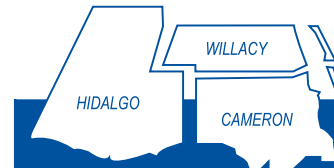
The Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association (Texas APA) and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) sponsored a regional training workshop for Planning Commissioners and Elected Officials. The workshop provided an opportunity for officials to become better informed of their duties and responsibilities. The Workshop was held at Alamo City Hall on Friday, June 23, 2006.



Outgoing Board President Mayor Silvestre Garcia of Combes was recognized with a plaque presented by newly elected Board President Hidalgo County Commissioner Sylvia Handy at the June LRGVDC Board of Directors meeting. Mayor Garcia was honored for his service over the past year.

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Recognition Banquet held June 28, 2006 honoring the following Board Members: (L to R Standing) Joe Galvan, Brownsville-Matamoros Bridge Co.; Paul Sullivan, AAA Sign Company; Bob Dunkin, First Community Bank; Norma Garcia, Hidalgo County Treasurer; Ronnie Round, Frost Bank; (Seating) Mayor Cesar Gonzalez, San Benito; and Arturo Ramirez, Center for Economic Opportunities.



Outstanding Leadership Recognition: (L to R) Mayor Cesar Gonzalez, LRGVDC Vice-President; Bob Dunkin, LRGVDC President; and Ken Jones, LRGVDC Executive Director.



Special Thanks to the President: (L to R) Terrie Salinas, LRGVDC Economic Development Director; Bob Dunkin, First Community Bank; and Ken Jones, LRGVDC Executive Director.

Congratulations Are In Order!

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Certified Development Company's (LRGVDC) Membership Committee gave special tribute to eight of its members. At this year's annual meeting Staff prepared a special recognition banquet honoring present and past Board members who have given many years of service to the LRGVDC.

Presenting the awards, was Mr. Ken Jones, Executive Director. Mr. Jones and Mrs. Terrie Salinas have worked with these Board members since they first started with the SBA 504 Loan Program. Mrs. Salinas credits the success of the Loan Program to the guidance and commitment these Board Members have provided to her since she became the Economic Development Director in charge of the SBA 504 Loan Program in 1995. Mr. Jones was the LRGVDC's Assistant Director at the time and was the department's supervisor.

Mr. Jones also commented that some of the Board Members were founders of the LRGVDC when it was certified in 1984 by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The following four members have served on the Board of Directors for the last twenty-two years: Mr. Robert "Bob" Dunkin, President; Mayor Cesar Gonzalez, Vice-President; Paul Sullivan, Secretary; and Mr. Ray Cardenas, Treasurer.

The meeting was very special and even the Mayor of Weslaco, Joe Sanchez said a few kind words to our honorees, since some of the CDC Board Members also serve on the Development Council Board with him. Mr. Arturo Ramirez and Mr. Ronnie Round have been LRGVDC Board members since 1999; Honorable Norma Garcia has served since 2003; and past Board member and former Development Council staff member, Joe Galvan was recognized for fourteen years of service. President Bob Dunkin ended the meeting by thanking all of the CDC members and remembering some of the members who had passed away. He graciously thanked everyone for their continued support.

2nd Annual International Conference for Caregivers Held

The Alzheimer's Resource Center of South Texas sponsored the 2nd Annual International Conference for Caregivers on Saturday, June 24, 2006. Co-sponsors included the Area Agency on Aging and the South Texas Behavioral Health Center. Speakers came from Reynosa, Monterrey, and Mexico City. Over 50 caregivers were present for the day long conference held at the new South Texas Behavioral Health Center in Edinburg. Topics included safety tips, identify behavior and actions, caregiver health issues, fall preventions, coping with loss, nutrition, and oral health. Plans are on the way to replicate this conference in English.

Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) Executive Committee Meets Locally

The ORCA Executive Committee met at Combes Community Center/Primera Family Learning Center in Combes on Monday, April 3, 2006. The ORCA's nine-member Executive Committee's primary goal is to guide and define the development and policy of the agency. The committee is comprised of appointees from the Office of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House. The meeting began at 1:30 p.m. and was followed by a reception with meal after the meeting. A special thanks to the communities of Combes and Primera for their hospitality.

Area Agency on Aging Staff participate on Congressional Veteran's Summit



Veronica Alegria and Nelda Rodriguez
Area Agency on Aging Public Benefit
Technicians,

Area Agency on Aging participated on both Veteran Summits sponsored by Congressman Ruben Hinojosa and Congressman Solomon Ortiz. Staff provided information regarding Area Agency on Aging services to seniors and care givers. Present at the Summits were staff for the Ombudsman, Care Coordination, and Public Benefits who answered questions and provided information that was needed by Veteran's.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan Being Updated

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) is currently updating the Regional Strategic Plan for the next biennium. The updated plan is essential to local governments in preparing for future funding opportunities. Federal and state funds usually require local governments and community organizations to have a strategic plan in place. In order to provide this assistance to our region, the LRGVDC has prepared the regional plan. Meetings were held in Raymondville, Harlingen, and Weslaco. Another meeting is being planned for August to present the revision and obtain additional public comment. For more information please contact the LRGVDC at (956) 682-3481

LRGV TPDES Storm Water Task Force Seminar Series Co-Hosted by the LRGVDC

"The TPDES Program and How it Affects Home builders, Contractors, Developers & Engineers"

Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Storm Water training was held at the City of Weslaco Legislative Chamber, Friday, May 12, 2006. The training was sponsored by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, the City of Weslaco, Texas A & M Kingsville and the Storm



LRGV TPDES Storm Water Task Force Seminar Series Co-Hosted by the LRGVDC
Approximately 100 attendees.

Water Task Force. Speakers from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) presented topics on permitting, construction best management practices, enforcement and inspections. Adel Cardenas' (EPA Representative) presentation stressed the importance of learning the storm water program and permit regulations. Attendance to the workshop included home builders, contractors, developers, engineers and staff from various cities and counties. Approximately one hundred (100) people attended the training and all received CEU Credits for the session.