

MINUTES

VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021
GLOBAL GOTOMEETING VIDEO CONFERENCE PLATFORM
INITIATED AND CHAIRED FROM
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO, TEXAS
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: MAYOR JIM DARLING, PRESIDENT

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

He then moved to item 2: Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (January 27, 2021). Mayor George Rivera noted an error on page 2 under item E. as follows: "...Mercedes Mayor Jorge Ledezma, Primera Mayor Oscar Montoya..." should be "...Primera Mayor Jorge Ledezma, Mercedes Mayor Oscar Montoya". ***Mayor Rivera then made a motion to approve the minutes with this correction. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

President Darling then moved to item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation; there being none he moved to item 4: Administration.

A. Executive Director Report

1. Introduction of New Staff Members

Mr. Cruz announced that Ms. Ashley Gomez has joined the Area Agency on Aging Staff as a Case Manager, Mr. Hernan Saucedo has joined the Homeland Security & Criminal Justice Department as a Program Specialist, Mr. Jorge Ortega has joined Valley Metro as a Motor Vehicle Technician, and Mr. George Castillo has joined Valley Metro as a Vehicle Driver. He also announced that Ms. Lorena Gonzalez has been promoted to an Ombudsman I and Ms. Ivonne Desiga has been promoted to an Ombudsman II in the Area Agency on Aging.

2. 87th Legislature Updates

Mr. Cruz noted that all legislative sessions were cancelled the week of February 12-19 due to the severe winter weather event. However various hearings were held in February. The Senate Finance Committee began to hear the Articles of the Budget; the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting met, and it is predicted that Texas will gain 3 -US Congressional Seats. This is due largely to the increase in population as reported by the Texas Data Center. The 2020 data is tentatively scheduled to be released in July.

3. GLO Update on Hurricane Harvey Disaster Recovery

Mr. Cruz reported that the Texas General Land Office held a meeting on February 18. They are tracking the anticipated changes within the federal government, including the transition of President Joe Biden's administration and shifts at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The 2018 and 2019 Action Plans were submitted to HUD on August 31. On October 15, 2020 HUD approved the

state action plans detailing the distribution of eligible uses of more than \$285 million in CDBG-DR funds. The GLO anticipates launching the 2018 and 2019 infrastructure competitions in late spring of this year. The GLO was notified that the State of Texas has been allocated an additional \$14 million in CDBG-DR grant funding, which will require and Action Plan Amendment to incorporate and utilize these funds.

4. BikeShare RGV

The BikeShare RGV launch has been postponed due to last week's severe winter weather event. Staff will coordinate with McAllen, Harlingen, and Brownsville to reschedule.

5. COVID-19 Vaccinations

Mr. Cruz reported that a workgroup has been meeting online on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm to discuss best practices on how to vaccinate homebound elderly people. A plan of action has been developed, but supply issues continue. President Darling added that there are challenges to this effort because of the logistics of personnel entering a private home and the required waiting period after the vaccination to see if there are any adverse reactions.

Regarding last week's severe winter weather event Mr. Cruz reported that the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) has created a self-reporting damage survey tool to identify damages sustained from the freeze across the RGV and the state. He encouraged board members to report damages in order to receive assistance from FEMA and he provided a link that will take the user directly to the survey.

Upon conclusion of Administration items President Darling moved to item 5: Department Reports.

A. Community & Economic Development

Director Rick Carrera was recognized to address the following items:

Program Action Items

1. Consideration and Action to Approve an "Authorized Representative Agreement Execution Resolution"

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that this resolution authorizes the Executive Director to execute a grant agreement with the Texas Water Development Board for a study funded through their Flood Infrastructure Fund. The study falls under Category 1 Flood Protection Planning for Watersheds. This category of funding supports studies that conduct planning of entire watersheds to better inform the development of strategies using structural and nonstructural measures before flood events, such as determining and describing problems from or related to flooding, identifying, and planning solutions to flooding problems and estimating the benefits and costs of these solutions. The data obtained from this study will help develop flood planning strategies for the region. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve an Authorized Representative Agreement Execution Resolution as presented. Commissioner David Fuentes seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Road-to-Recycling Tire Disposal Services Request for Proposals (RFP) Award

Mr. Carrera stated that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met on February 23 and reviewed vendor proposals submitted in response to the RFP for the Road-to-Recycling Tire Disposal Services. The purpose of this RFP is to procure vendors to carry out all of the processes related to the Road-to-Recycling tire collection event. However, it was structured such that vendors could propose to fulfill all services or only some services. There were very few responses to this request and the SWAC approved

only one which was from Republic Services for transportation, staff requests approval of this proposal. Commissioner David Garza asked to see supporting documents for this proposal, however it was not readily available. Mayor Jorge Ledezma asked if Republic Services had the best price. Mr. Carrera stated that they were the only transportation company to submit a proposal. Upon conclusion of discussion, **Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to table this item. Mayor Jorge Ledezma seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Consideration and Action to Approve Regional Small Cities Coalition's (RSCC) Recommendation for Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Carrera reported that as per RSCC bylaws, annual elections were held for the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Mayor George Rivera, City of Palm Valley was re-elected as Chair, and Mayor Jorge Ledezma, City of Primera was elected as Vice Chair. The elected Secretary rescinded his acceptance due to unforeseen circumstances. That election will take place at the next RSCC meeting scheduled for April 22, 2021. **Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the RSCC's recommendation for Chair and Vice Chair as presented. Mayor Oscar Montoya seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Regional Tourism & Travel Advisory Committee's (RTTAC) Annual Appointment/Reappointment of Officers and Representatives

Mr. Carrera stated that as per RTTAC bylaws, officers and representative shall be reappointed annually in alignment with current members. A member may be reappointed to multiple terms without term limits, however, must be re-designated each term by the LRGVDC Board of Directors. A list of committee members and the organizations they represent was provided in the meeting packet. **Councilman Johnny Garcia made a motion to approve the RTTAC annual appointment/reappointment of officers and representatives as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

The status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review. President Darling brought the Board's attention to the reservoir level report noting that it is really dry in the Valley, and when irrigation begins, we will have a better handle on where we are with our water supply, but rainfall is absolutely needed in the watershed.

Mr. Carrera added that the 6th Cycle of Regional Water Planning is getting underway this year. President Darling reported that the Rio Grande Regional Water Plan has been posted on the Texas Water Development Board's website, and the next major item for Region M is to solicit an engineering consultant by this spring.

B. Health & Human Services

Director Jose Gonzalez was recognized to address the following items:

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and Action to Add Vendors (Contractors) to the Vendor Pool

Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that in response to the open enrollment for the Direct Purchased Services contractor pool, the Area Agency on Aging received two (2) additional applications. The Advisory Council recommends the addition of MED Team, Inc. from Brownsville for Homemaker and Respite In-Home Care and Sentido Health from Tomball, Texas which provides state-wide coverage for medical supplies and durable medical equipment. **Councilwoman Norie Garza made a motion to**

approve Med Team, Inc. and Sentido Health as vendors (contractors) to Area Agency on Aging's vendor pool. Councilman Johnny Garcia seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Program Status Reports

The status reports on Face Coverings and Possible Additional COVID Funding were available for review in the meeting packet.

C. Public Safety

Program Action Items:

Director of Public Safety Randall Snyder was recognized to report on the following items:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Recommendations for Chair, Vice Chair, and Parliamentarian

Mr. Snyder reported that as per CJAC bylaws, elections were held for officers. Mr. Tom Hushen, Cameron County was elected as Chair; Mr. Kelley McCormick, Hidalgo County was elected as Vice Chair; and Anette Hinojosa, Willacy County was elected as Parliamentarian. ***Mayor Rick Guerra made a motion to approve the election of CJAC officers as presented. Mayor George Rivera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Member

Mr. Snyder informed the Board that based on his education and experience in law enforcement, Chief Jonathon Flores was selected to serve as a CJAC member representing the Law Enforcement Discipline for Hidalgo County. ***Councilman Johnny Garcia made a motion to approve Chief Flores' membership to the CJAC; Councilwoman Norie Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

3. Consideration and Action to Approve Purchase of 9-1-1 Public Education Advertisement

Mr. Snyder reported that the Emergency Communications/9-1-1 Department plans to launch a new public education campaign that will display public service announcements at local movie theatres and across streaming platforms. These Public Education campaigns will address TEXT-to-9-1-1, Multi-line Telephone Systems, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Know your Location, and will appear on streaming platforms and in Cinemark Theatres in Hidalgo County. The estimated cost is \$181,008. This initiative is required and was previously budgeted and approved by CSEC. As required by LRGVDC Procurement Policy, all procurements exceeding \$25,000 require approval from the Board of Directors. ***Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve the Purchase of 9-1-1 Public Education Advertisement as presented. Mayor Rick Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Purchase of Three-Year Generator Maintenance Plan

Mr. Snyder requested approval to procure a 3-year comprehensive maintenance plan to support generator systems at the PSAP level. The plan will provide Quarterly Preventive Maintenance visits for nineteen (19) generators for three years. This purchase will be made using HGAC contract – GE02-20. The cost of this maintenance plan is \$71,044 and is necessary to maintain system stability and availability during catastrophic events that disrupt normal power supply.

There was discussion regarding the bid process and Mr. Cruz clarified that procurement, ranking, and

vetting for this contract was completed through HGAC.

Commissioner David Fuentes noted that sometimes generators fail during the most critical times when they are needed; he asked if there was a response criterion in the contract that obligated the company to respond during an emergency event should a generator fail. President Darling asked for a follow up report at the next meeting regarding the contractual obligations for generator failure during times of critical need. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that according to this contract, major maintenance tasks will be performed on a quarterly basis. In addition to that, the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) requires that staff performs audits at all PSAP 9-1-1 call centers using a checklist to make sure all tasks are performed. Mr. Cruz agreed with Commissioner Fuentes that during a crisis situation there is a chance, even if quarterly maintenance is performed on schedule, that a generator may not function properly. He will contact the generator company and find out if emergency service during a crisis is included, and if not, find out what the cost might be to have this service included. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the purchase of a 3-year generator Maintenance Plan as presented. Mayor Jorge Ledezma seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports:

The program status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review.

D. Transportation

Program Status Reports:


Valley Metro Director Tom Logan was recognized and stated he had no action items this month and that the program status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review.

Item 6. - New or Unfinished Business

There being no further business to come before the Board, ***President Darling adjourned the meeting at 12:54 pm.***

ATTEST:


Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary


Mayor Jim Darling, President