

MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021,
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ANNUAL ELECTIONS MEETING SCHEDULED AT 12:00 PM
GLOBAL GOTOMEETING VIDEO CONFERENCE PLATFORM & IN PERSON
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 12:13 p.m. Roll call was taken prior at the Annual Elections meeting and a quorum was declared.

President Darling then moved to item 2 - Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (April 28, 2021). *Mayor Trey Mendez made a motion to approve the April 28, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

President Darling next moved to Item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation and recognized City of Edinburg Mayor Richard Molina. Mayor Molina informed the Board that at their May 18 council meeting, the City of Edinburg passed a resolution to freeze Hidalgo County property tax increases. This was prompted by complaints from many Edinburg residents about the tax increases and he wanted to let the Board know that the City of Edinburg was taking this action. The Edinburg City Council has received an overwhelming number of citizens complaining about the increase in property taxes during the public comments portion of their meetings, and the council felt they had to take a stand. They are doing this because of the physical, mental, and financial challenges we all have endured during the pandemic. The city council unanimously passed a resolution respectfully, urgently, and strongly recommending that the Hidalgo County Appraisal District Freeze all tax valuations. They feel that the 2021 increases will pose a financial burden to citizens who are already feeling the economic impacts from COVID-19. He added that the city council has invited the appraisal district to come to their council meeting to explain how they came to these appraisal values.

No action can be taken during Public Comments; however, since this is a regional issue, Commissioner David Garza suggested inviting the Appraisal District to make a short presentation on the property assessment process at the next meeting.

President Darling next moved to Item 4: Administration.

A. Consideration and Action on Recommendations from Nominating Committee

1. Selection of Five (5) Persons for Election as Members-at-Large to the General Membership

President Darling informed the Board that the Nominating Committee recommends the following persons for Election as Members-at-Large to the General Membership:

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
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Mr. Eleazar “Yogi” Garcia, Jr.	Raymondville	Willacy
Mr. Sergio Contreras	Mission	Hidalgo
Mr. Noel Bernal	Brownsville	Cameron
Mr. Chris Gonzalez	Mission	Hidalgo
VACANT		

There being one open seat, President Darling opened the floor for nominations. Mayor Rick Salinas nominated City of Lyford Commissioner Maria Gonzalez. There being no further nominations, *Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez made a motion to elect the following slate as Members-at-Large to the General Membership:*

<i>NAME</i>	<i>CITY</i>	<i>COUNTY</i>
<i>Mr. Eleazar “Yogi” Garcia, Jr.</i>	<i>Raymondville</i>	<i>Willacy</i>
<i>Mr. Sergio Contreras</i>	<i>Mission</i>	<i>Hidalgo</i>
<i>Mr. Noel Bernal</i>	<i>Brownsville</i>	<i>Cameron</i>
<i>Mr. Chris Gonzalez</i>	<i>Mission</i>	<i>Hidalgo</i>
<i>Commissioner Maria Gonzalez</i>	<i>Lyford</i>	<i>Willacy</i>

Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Selection of Three (3) Members-at-Large to be Elected to the 2021-2022 Board of Directors

President Darling informed the Board that the Nominating Committee recommends the following individuals:

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
Mr. Eleazar Garcia, Jr.	Raymondville	Willacy
Mr. Sergio Contreras	Mission	Hidalgo
Mayor Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo

Commissioner David Garza made a motion to elect the slate of three (3) individuals to fill the three (3) at-large seats on the Board of Directors as presented. Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

B. Executive Director Report

President Darling recognized Executive Director Manuel Cruz to address the following:

1. Introduction of New Staff Members

Mr. Cruz announced that Ms. Karen Rivera joined the Finance Department as an Accountant II, Ms. Rosie Martinez and Mr. Mauro Sanchez joined Valley Metro as Dispatchers, and Mr. Horacio Garza joined Valley Metro as a B-Cycle Program Specialist I.

2. 87th Legislature Updates

Mr. Cruze provided a list of legislative bills staff is following. He pointed out that the bill to request an increase in 9-1-1 fees passed the senate and the house but was not approved by the governor. Staff is hopeful that funds from the American Rescue Plan CARES Act will be used to reimburse the 9-1-1 program for the implementation of the Next Generation 9-1-1. The 9-1-1 fee increase will be reintroduced during the next legislative session.

3. American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that staff has not received any new updates on the American Rescue Plan regarding LRGVDC program activities.

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:

Program Action Items

1. Consideration and Action to Approve the Regional Small Cities Coalition Advisory Committee's (RSCC) Recommendation for Secretary

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that as per RSCC bylaws, annual elections for Secretary were held and that Mayor Rick Salinas from the City of Lyford was re-elected to this position. ***Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez made a motion to approve Mayor Rick Salinas as Secretary of the RSCC as presented. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Interlocal Agreement between LRGVDC and Hidalgo County for TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund Cat. 1 Project #40038

Mr. Carrera stated that this interlocal agreement will allow Hidalgo County to Procure engineering services for the LRGVDC's Flood Protection Planning Study. Hidalgo County regularly procures engineering services for County projects. Contingent upon TWDB approval, Community & Economic Development staff recommends Hidalgo County to enter into contracting services to perform half the Scope of Work Tasks 2.2 and 2.3 of Attachment A of the interlocal agreement related to drainage characterization and project feasibility assessments for LRGVDC's grant agreement with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The final interlocal agreement is pending.

It was the consensus of the Board to act upon agenda items 2 and 3 together as they relate to the same project.

3. Consideration and Action to Approve Interlocal Agreement between LRGVDC and Cameron County for TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund Cat. 1 Project #40038

Mr. Carrera stated that this interlocal agreement will allow Cameron County to procure engineering services for the LRGVDC's Flood Protection Planning Study. Cameron County regularly procures engineering services for County projects. Contingent upon TWDB approval, Community & Economic Development staff recommend Cameron County to enter into contracting services to perform half the Scope of Work tasks 2.2 and 2.3 of attachment A of the interlocal agreement related to drainage characterization and project feasibility assessments for LRGVDC's grant agreement with the TWDB. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve agenda items 2 and 3 as presented. Mayor Chris Boswell seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Sub-recipient Agreement between LRGVDC and Research, Applied Technology, Education, and Service, Inc. (RATES) Flood Infrastructure Fund TWDB Cat. 1 Project #40038

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that RATES is a non-profit corporation located in Edinburg. LRGVDC and RATES established an LRGV Regional Watershed Coordination Consortium under an MOA signed in October 2019. The proposed sub-recipient agreement would contract RATES to perform work on LRGVDC's TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund Grant (Project #40038). Contingent upon TWDB approval, RATES would be a sub-recipient of the grant provided by TWDB to fund the LRGV Watershed Coordinator to identify projects, develop data through Real-Time Hydrologic Stations (estimated 40 stations), model the hydrology of the LRGVDC's service region, and maintain the

cyberinfrastructure. RATES' tasks would include Tasks 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, and 2.1 of the TWDB Grant #40038. The sub-recipient agreement is pending. **Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the sub-recipient agreement between LRGVDC and RATES Flood Infrastructure Fund TWDB Cat. 1 Project #40038 as presented. Judge Aurelio Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

Mr. Carrera noted that the status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review. He then acknowledged his staff for their efforts during the May 8 Road-to-Recycling Tire Collection events. He announced GoExplore RGV giveaways are coming up and the deadline to sign up for them is May 31. He also noted that there is a survey for small business ownership and is pleased that to date, they have received 40 responses to this detailed survey.

Discussion continued regarding solutions to the Valley-wide chronic illegally dumped tire problem. President Darling would like to have a current list of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee members, and Ms. Ann Cass strongly recommended promoting the next Road-to-Recycling event in the colonias with information in Spanish. President Darling also recommends writing to the legislature to request help with this problem.

B. Health & Human Services

Director Joe Gonzalez was recognized to address the following items:

Program Action Items

1. Consideration and Action to Authorize the Area Agency on Aging to Issue Request for Proposals and Vendor (Contractor) Solicitations for Fiscal Years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023

Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to authorize the Area Agency on Aging to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) and Vendor Solicitations for multi-year contracts. The contracts would cover the next two (2) fiscal years. The RFP will be to acquire such services as congregate and home delivered meals. Other services may include senior center operations and transportation. The Vendor Solicitation is to acquire direct purchased services such as medications, medical supplies, medical transportation, homemaker, and respite services. **Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez made a motion to authorize the Area Agency on Aging to Issue an RFP for vendor (contractor) solicitations for FY 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Commissioner David Garza seconded and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration and Action to Close Current Vendor Open Enrollment

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the Advisory Council recommends approval to close the current open enrollment of vendors (contractors). Due to the issuance of the vendor solicitation for the next two (2) fiscal years it is not necessary to maintain the current open enrollment. The current vendor pool provides sufficient options for the clients currently being served. **Commissioner Edward Gonzalez made a motion to approve closing the current Vendor Open Enrollment. Judge Aurelio Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

Upon conclusion of action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the status reports on Expanding Outreach Efforts and Opening of Nutrition Sites were in the meeting packet for review, and he highlighted the Expanding Outreach Efforts and encourage the Board to contact this department if they would like to hear presentations from LRGVDC Benefits Counselors.

C. Public Safety

Program Action Items

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

The following four (4) action items are related to service renewals for the Emergency Communications program, and it was the consensus of the Board to hear them all and act on them in one motion.

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Renewal of Power Metrics and Real-Time Dashboard Management Information System

Mr. Snyder informed the Board that Power Metrics and Real-Time Dashboard provide the ability to monitor and record 9-1-1 calls and text. This is a renewal with Intrado to continue utilizing this service for another 2-year term. The services are heavily utilized by public safety agencies to retrieve call records.

This purchase is in line with our 2020-2021 Strategic Plan for renewal and the vendor is on H-GAC Buy Contract EC07-20. The cost for this renewal is estimated at \$158,172.00 for the 2-year agreement beginning September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2023.

2. Consideration and Action to Renew 2-Year Maintenance Services for PSAPs in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties

Mr. Snyder informed the Board that the renewal of the programs 2-year maintenance service provided by Intrado will allow staff to renew any software or provide virus protection software to mitigate any known issues for the call taking workstations and host equipment.

The direct purchase will be competitive from H-GAC Buy Contract EC07-20. The cost for this renewal is estimated at \$273,195.16 for the 2-year agreement beginning September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2023.

3. Consideration and Action to Renew 2-Year On-site Equipment Support Services for PSAPs in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties

Mr. Snyder informed the Board that the renewal for a 2-year term for onsite maintenance with Western State Communications (WSC) will provide ongoing maintenance services on 9-1-1 equipment at the Public Safety Answering Points. Maintenance technicians will be available seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours a day, including holidays to address any 9-1-1 interruptions in the region.

The direct purchase will be competitive from H-GAC Buy contract EC07-20. The cost for this renewal is estimated at \$450,662.00 for the 2-year agreement beginning September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2023.

4. Consideration and Action to Renew Text to 9-1-1 services for Upcoming Biennium

Mr. Snyder informed the Board that the cost for this renewal is estimated at \$65,400 for the 2-year agreement beginning September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2023 and is necessary to receive incoming 9-1-1 text calls. This service is mandatory under FCC regulations and is an approved budget line item on our strategic plan under 9-1-1 program budget section 2, subsection 2b. This purchase is estimated through H-GAC Purchase Contract #EC07-18 and the vendor is West Safety Solutions Corp.

After hearing all four action items, **Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve agenda items 5. C. 1-4 as presented. Commissioner Pilar Garza 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 and Mr. Snyder provided supplementary information.

D. Transportation

Director of Valley Metro, Tom Logan was recognized to address the following items:

Program Action Items

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Procurement of Fareboxes for Valley Metro Rural Fleet

Mr. Logan informed the Board that staff requests approval to purchase ten (10) fareboxes from Genfare to equip units in the Valley Metro fleet in preparation for the collection of fares. This will ensure that the Valley Metro farebox system is compatible with the systems in both the Brownsville and McAllen metro systems. Furthermore, this will ensure that our goal of seamless fare systems in the Valley, as recommended by our regional plan, is achieved. The quoted price for the ten fareboxes is \$161,320.00. The purchase will be made using TxDOT grant #RTAP-2020-LRGVDC-00017 Grant will cover this purchase at 100%, no local match is required. **Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve the procurement of fareboxes for Valley Metro Rural fleet as presented. Judge Aurelio Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Procurement of Building Security Camera System for Valley Metro Facilities

Mr. Logan informed the Board that staff requests approval to purchase building security camera systems from GTS Technology Solution to safeguard vehicles and facilities in Valley Metro inventory. The systems, which are cloud-based with a 5-year full support, will be installed at Edinburg Transit Terminal, Weslaco Transportation Building and the Harlingen Transit Garage.

The quoted price for the systems is \$133,602.26 and the purchase is made possible through cooperative procurement, and FTA grants will cover the purchase at 100%, no local match is required. **Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the procurement of building security camera systems for Valley Metro facilities as presented. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

3. Consideration and Action to Approve Procurement of a Routematch/UBER Software Upgrade

Mr. Logan informed the Board that staff requests approval to purchase the available Routematch/UBER Software License/MOD SaaS, along with the Implementation fee to upgrade legacy Routematch software along with additional training, and an increase in user licenses. This software upgrade will Enhance End-User Experience with Valley Metro Transit Service by providing real-time ride scheduling and vehicle monitoring under the UBER brand.

The quoted price for this purchase is \$64,600.00 and the purchase will be made using a combination of FTA and TxDOT grants. Grants will cover this purchase at 100%, local match will be in the form of Transportation Development Credits. **Judge Aurelio Guerra made a motion to approve the**

procurement of a Routematch/UBER Software Upgrade as presented. Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Program Status Reports

Mr. Logan stated that the Valley Metro Program status reports were available in the meeting packet for review and was pleased to announce that Valley Metro passed the TxDOT Annual Review with flying colors.

Andrew Canon, Executive Director of the RGVMPPO was recognized and provided status on items they have pending.

Item 6. - New or Unfinished Business

Ms. Ann Cass asked about the Home Affordability Refinance Program (HARP). She expressed concern that the GLO would be running it instead of the LRGVDC, and also that the timeframe for public comments was too short for grassroots organizations to advertise the program. Mr. Cruz responded that staff has been keeping abreast of this item and were also surprised about the short timeframe for HARP public comments, and that the GLO has hired a third party to run this program instead of the LRGVDC.

President Darling suggested writing a letter from the LRGVDC Board of Directors to the GLO and send a copy of it to our local representatives regarding this poorly planned process; it was the consensus of the Board to do so.

Newly elected Board President, Judge Aurelio Guerra was recognized and presented Mayor Jim Darling with a gavel plaque commemorating his 2nd term as LRGVDC Board President. Mr. Cruz thanked Mayor Darling for his service and coordination during his first year as Executive Director.

Item 7. – Adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.



FDR Mayor Jim Darling, President

ATTEST:



Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary