

MINUTES

ONLINE MEETING OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND LRGVDC CORPORATION

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020
GLOBAL GOTOMEETING VIDEO CONFERENCE PLATFORM
INITIATED AND CHAIRED FROM
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO, TEXAS
BUILDING B, SMALL BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: MAYOR JIM DARLING, PRESIDENT

President Jim Darling, called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

President Darling then moved to item 2: Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (May 27, 2020)

Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2020 Board Meeting as presented. Commissioner Edward Gonzalez seconded; Mayor Benjamin Gomez abstained. 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. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 2020-04 honoring Ms. Norma G. Garcia

President Darling read the resolution and upon conclusion ***Mayor Benjamin Gomez made a motion to approve resolution 2020-04 as presented. Ms. Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

B. Consideration and Corporation Action to Update/Open Checking Account for Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Corporation with Executive Director, Manuel Cruz, and Finance Director Crystal Balboa as signatories

President Darling stated that the LRGVDC Corporation is the 501(c)(3) designated economic development district in this region and that its board of directors is comprised of the LRGVDC Executive Committee members. As the Executive Director, Manuel Cruz needs to have board authorization to become the signatory on the Corporation's bank account. ***Mayor David Suarez made a motion to approve updating the checking account information for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Corporation signatories with Executive Director Manuel Cruz and Finance Director Crystal Balboa as signatories. Mayor Jim Darling seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

C. Consideration and Action to Appoint Board Designee and Alternate to Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC)

President Darling stated that he is currently the LRGVDC designee to the TARC Board of Directors and that the previously designated alternate was no longer on the LRGVDC Board of Directors. This action is to designate a new alternate. Commissioner David Garza expressed interest in serving as the alternate and Mr. Javier Deleon would like to serve as the second alternate. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Mr. Javier Deleon made a motion to approve Commissioner David Garza as the alternate to the TARC board of directors***

and himself as the second alternate. Mayor David Suarez seconded and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

- D. Consideration and Action to Explore Creation of Emergency Communications District Designation for LRGVDC Encompassing Hidalgo and Willacy Counties.
Executive Director Manuel Cruz was recognized and informed the Board that the 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (9-1-1 ECAC) believes there is a positive opportunity for the LRGVDC Emergency Communications/9-1-1 program to have a larger impact on policy and fiscal matters than is now available through the state administrative program and recommends moving forward with forming its own Emergency Communications District in order to keep funding and decision making locally. Cities in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties will need to pass a resolution in order to make this happen. **Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve exploring the creation of an Emergency Communications District Designation for the LRGVDC that would encompass Hidalgo County and Willacy County. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

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

- A. Community & Economic Development
Director Blanca Davila was recognized to address the following:

Program Action Items:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee's (RWRAC) Regional Priority List Resolution

Ms. Davila stated that staff recommends approval of this resolution for use as a living document to continue identifying regional projects to add to existing Hazardous Mitigation Plans as an addendum. The Lower Rio Grande Valley has several jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans, and identification of regional projects with greatest mitigation impact would give the region additional competition leverage for funding opportunities. **Commissioner David Fuentes made a motion to approve the RWRAC's Regional Priority List resolution as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Two (2) Members to the Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC)

Ms. Davila reported that the RWRAC unanimously recommended approval of the following Nominees:

Mr. Ron Mills, Port Mansfield Navigation District for the Special Purpose District: Drainage (Willacy) category

Mr. Martin Knecht, South Texas College for the Institute of Higher Education category

Commissioner David Fuentes made a motion to approve the nominees as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration and Action to Approve Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) recommendation for LRGVDC to Submit a Solicitation as a Political Subdivision to Texas Water Development Board for the Regional Flood Planning Group, Region 15

Ms. Davila reported that the Executive Administrator of the TWDB is in the process of compiling a list of political subdivisions that are interested in supporting Regional Flood Planning Groups (RFPG) by serving as the designated planning group sponsor and/or providing free public meeting space for the

RFPG and attending public to use regularly. **Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the RWRAC recommendation for the LRGVDC to submit a solicitation as a political subdivision to TWDB for the Regional Flood Planning Group; Commissioner David Fuentes seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee's (RWRAC) Nomination to Regional Flood Planning Group

Ms. Davila reported that the RWRAC unanimously recommended approval of Dr. Andrew Ernest, President & CEO at Research, Applied Technology, Education and Service (RATES) to fill the Environmental Interest seat on the RWRAC. **Commissioner David Fuentes made a motion to approve the nomination of Dr. Ernest to fill the Environmental Interest seat on the RWRAC. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

The program status reports were available for review in the meeting packet and Ms. Davila provided an update on the 2020 Census.

B. Health & Human Services

Director Jose Gonzalez was recognized to address the following items:

Program Action Items:

1. Consideration and Action to Authorize Manuel Cruz, Executive Director to Sign all Documents Related to CDBG Funding

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the Advisory Council recommends approval to Authorize Mr. Cruz to sign all applications and agreements on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging for CDBG funding. This authorization is for the cities of McAllen, Mission, Pharr, Edinburg, Harlingen, Brownsville, and San Benito for the program years of 2020-2021. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez made a motion to authorize Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign all documents related to CDBG funding. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

The status reports on special initiatives for COVID-19 Funding and home delivered meals were in the meeting packet for review. Mr. Gonzalez added that the process for providing home delivered meals is progressing and staff will conduct a quality survey on this new program, the results of which will be presented at the next board meeting.

C. Public Safety

Program Action Items:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Migration of Legacy network to AT&T ESInet

Mr. Cruz was recognized and reported that AT&T ESInet is a new call delivery solution that is recommended by the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC). ESInet will replace the legacy analog network. Legacy is voice centric and incapable of carrying the volume of data that has come to be expected in communications technology. ESInet will provide the capability to carry voice and a tremendous amount of data and will revolutionize the way 9-1-1 calls are routed. As part of our 2021 Strategy Plan and state project this migration will take place under a vendor contract with the State of Texas DIR contract #DIR-TEX-AN-NG-CTSA-005. The cost of \$111,616.59 will be covered by CSEC's capital project allocation funding upon submission of an Encumbrance Fund Request. **Mayor David Suarez made a motion to approve migration of Legacy Network to AT&T ESInet as**

recommended by the CSEC. Mayor Benjamin Gomez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee's Project Recommendation to Receive Additional Funds from FY 2018 Homeland Security Division (HSGD) Block Funds

Mr. Cruz stated that the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) reviewed the LRGVDC's FY 2018 HSGD completed projects and selected the City of Brownsville's Police Department to receive an additional \$14,548.09 which are unused funds from the LRGVDC's FY 2018 HSGD grant year. These funds will be used to purchase additional Tactical 3A Protection Shields for the police department; the equipment is used to aid in addressing terrorism risks at the local and regional level. **Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the HSAC's project recommendation to receive additional funds from FY 2018 HSGD Block funds. Mayor Trey Mendez seconded and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports:

Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz noted that the status reports were available for review in the meeting packet.

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Program Director Tom Logan was recognized to report on the following items:

Program Action Items:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Procurement of Revenue Vehicles for Valley Metro Fleet

Mr. Logan stated that staff requests Board approval to purchase up to ten (10) Heavy-duty 32-foot revenue vehicles, one (1) wheelchair accessible van, and one (1) commuter coach. These busses will be incorporated into the Valley Metro Motor Bus Fleet and will replace units that have met the end of their useful life. The purchase of these vehicles will be made using FTA and TxDOT grants with matching TDCs from TxDOT as local match. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez made a motion to approve the purchase of revenue vehicles for the Valley Metro fleet as presented. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Valley Metro Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Mr. Logan stated that staff requests Board approval to adopt the Valley Metro PTASP. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has ruled that all Section 5301 transit operators must have an agency safety plan in place no later than July 20, 2020. The adoption of this plan will ensure Valley Metro/LRGVDC remains in compliance with FTA regulations. **Mayor Benjamin Gomez made a motion to approve the Valley Metro Public Transit Agency Safety Plan as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports:

Mr. Logan reported that ridership is currently down by 13% which was expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic cautionary measures. However, staff has seen increases in ridership for the past few months.

RGVMPO

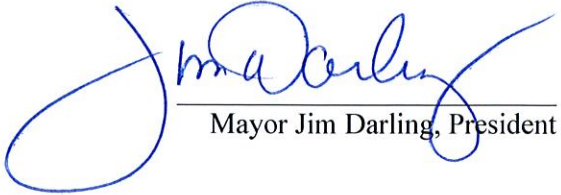
Executive Director Andrew Cannon was recognized and reported that the Policy Board is scheduled to meet today at 1:30 pm. On the agenda is adoption of the four -year Transportation Improvement Program and updates on the Invest Transportation Bill.

Andrew has a meeting today at 1:30 and will adopt a 4-year Transportation & Improvement Plan and will provide updated on INVEST in America Act Transportation Infrastructure bill.

Item 6. – New or Unfinished Business.


Ms. Christina Patiño Houle requested that the option of meeting online remain available even when in-person meetings are once again allowed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, *President Darling adjourned the meeting at 12:43 pm.*



Mayor Jim Darling, President

ATTEST:



Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary