

MINUTES

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

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

VIA 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: JUDGE AURELIO GUERRA, PRESIDENT

President Aurelio Guerra called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

President Guerra then moved to item 2 - Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (August 25, 2021). *Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the August 25, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Jim Darling seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

President Guerra next moved to Item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation; there being none, he moved to Item 4: Administration.

C. Executive Director Report

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

LRGVDC Updates & Activities

1. Introduction of New Staff Members

Mr. Cruz introduced three (3) new staff members: Ms. Celina Garcia joined the Area Agency on Aging, Mr. Lucas Snyder joined Valley Metro, and Ms. Hazel Morett joined our Community & Economic Development Department.

2. Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District

Mr. Cruz was pleased to announce that the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District became official on August 31, 2021. It was an historic occasion for the RGV. Due to legislation that was passed in 2015, Hidalgo County, Willacy County, and twenty-five (25) cities within those counties are now designated as part of the newly created Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District 9-1-1 (RGVECD 9-1-1) (RGV 9-1-1). The creation of the RGV 9-1-1 District is a result of the collective efforts of the LRGVDC Board of Directors, the 9-1-1 Advisory Committee, each municipality and county, and the hard work and dedication of the LRGVDC ECOMMS/9-1-1 staff which began back in June of 2020. The purpose of the District is to engage in the planning, implementation, and maintenance of the emergency 9-1-1 systems for seventeen (17) Public Safety Answering Points or Dispatch Centers in Hidalgo County and Willacy County.

Following this momentous occasion, the LRGVDC hosted the Inaugural & Organizational Meeting of the RGVECD Board of Managers on September 2, 2021. Eleven (11) member jurisdictions attended the meeting: Hidalgo County, Willacy County, City of Alton, City of Edinburg, City of Elsa, City of Granjeno, City of McAllen, City of Mercedes, City of Peñitas, City of Sullivan City, and the City of Weslaco. From these jurisdictions the following officers were elected:

President – Sheriff Eddie Guerra, Hidalgo County
Vice President – Mayor Gilbert Gonzalez, Raymondville
Secretary – Mayor David Suarez, City of Weslaco
Treasurer – Mayor Pro-tem Joaquin Zamora, City of McAllen

Upon conclusion of Administration items President Guerra 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 2022-2042 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) and Resolution

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that Regional Solid Waste Management Plans are required by Texas Health & Safety Code (THSC) §363.062, relating to Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. Contents of the RSWMP are described in THSC §363.064 and in 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 330, Subchapter O. Per TAC 363.0635, each region shall develop a regional solid waste management plan. Per TAC 330.643, a plan shall address solid waste management over a long-range period. Long range is considered to be a period of at least 20 years. This plan covered year 2022 to 2042; the previous plan covered years 2002-2022. ***Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the 2022-2042 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan and resolution as presented. Mayor Jorge Ledezma seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Reappointment of Seven (7) Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee Members

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that the RWRAC met on September 15, 2021, and recommend the following members for reappointment to serve during the 2021-2025 term:

Region M - Jim Darling
US-IBWC - Juan Uribe
Special Purpose District - Hidalgo County - Ellie Torres
Willacy County - Eduardo Gonzales
Institute of Higher Learning - STC - Martin Knecht
Large City - City of Edinburg - Vince Romero
Special Purpose District - General & Non-Profit – Javier Guerrero

Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the reappointment of RWRAC members to serve during the 2021-2025 term as presented. Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Program Status Reports

Mr. Carrera noted that the program status reports are available for review in the meeting packet and encouraged participation in the Valley Environmental Summit and Beach Clean-up scheduled for this weekend.

B. Health & Human Services

Director Joe Gonzalez was recognized to report on the following:

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Items

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Amendments to Advisory Council on Aging Rules of Function

Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval of amendments that reduce the number of members from 23 to 17, and that there are other minor revisions. A copy of the Rules of Function with the edits noted was provided for review. ***Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve the amendments to the Advisory Council Rules of Function as presented. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Advisory Council on Aging Membership

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council is submitting all current members for reappointment by the Board of Directors. The new terms are scheduled to begin on October 1, 2021. A list of the members was provided for review. ***Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the reappointment of Advisory Committee Members as presented. Commissioner Nurith Galonsky seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

3. Consideration and Action to Approve Officers for the Advisory Council on Aging

Mr. Gonzalez reported that the Advisory Council recommends Mr. Tony O'Caña from Mission as Chairman, and Ms. Rose Timmer from Brownsville as Vice Chair. ***Commissioner Nurith Galonsky made a motion to approve Mr. Tony O'Caña as Chairman and Ms. Rose Timmer as Vice Chair of the Advisory Council as recommended. Mr. Ronald Mills seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Additional Contractors for Direct Purchased Services Pool

Mr. Gonzalez included a list of applicants to provide Direct Purchase of Services for 2022 and informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to utilize these contractors for services such as residential repairs, medications, homemaker services, and respite care for their clients. ***Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the additional contractors for the direct purchased services pool as presented. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

Mr. Gonzalez noted that the status reports on Senior Centers/Nutrition Sites Opening, and the CDC Vaccination Expansion Project were in the meeting packet for review.

C. Public Safety

Program Action Items

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

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Purchase of Interoperable Communications Infrastructure Regional Project Equipment

Mr. Randall Snyder reported that the quote for this equipment includes:

Two (2) new Astro 2 Standalone Repeaters (ASR) site;
One (1) channel addition to four existing ASR sites: Weslaco, Mission, SPRI, and Raymondville;
One (1) new ASR site in Edinburg;
And one (1) 800 MHz 6-channel ESS expansion rack in Lin-San Manuel.

The LRGVDC Region is home to regional special response teams including state and federal partners that deploy at the city, county, and state level, therefore, it is critical that communication capabilities be enhanced and sustained. This will be the second and final project funded under this grant. The quote is for \$730,000.00, and is from the vendor, Tri-County Communications (Motorola representative), #DIR-TSO-4101. The LRGVDC will pay \$718,471.72, which is the remaining balance on the grant; and the Rio Grande Valley Communication Group will pay the difference of \$11,528.28. This equipment is under current state grant #4016801, which will help build and enhance communication capabilities amongst first responders. This is a budgeted item under the Homeland Security Grant Program. **Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the purchase of the Interoperable Communications Infrastructure Regional Project Equipment as presented. Mayor Javier Villalobos seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

Mr. Snyder stated that the status reports for Public Safety programs were available in the meeting packet for review.

D. Transportation

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

Program Action Items

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Request to begin Procurement Process of Peplink Pepwave in Conjunction with Samsung Galaxy Tablets and Accessories for Valley Metro's Rural Transportation System.

Mr. Logan stated that the procurement of the Samsung Galaxy Tab Active tablets and PepLink Pepwave is part of Valley Metro's Automated System Project. The Funding source is Systems Automation Project – TxDOT Grant #RTAP-2020-LRGVDC-00017 at 100%. **Mayor Rick Guerra made a motion to approve the request to begin the procurement process of Peplink Pepwave in conjunction with Samsung Galaxy tablets and accessories for Valley Metro's Rural Transportation System. Mayor Jorge Ledezma seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

Mr. Logan gave the Valley Metro Program status reports. He then announced his resignation and that he would be moving to San Antonio to work for the Alamo Area Council of Governments' Transportation Department. Ms. Maribel Contreras introduced herself as the Interim Director of LRGVDC Valley Metro.

RGVMPO Status Report

Mr. Canon had no report at this time.

Item 6. - New or Unfinished Business

Item 7. – Adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 pm.



Judge Aurelio Guerra, President

ATTEST:



Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary