

# MINUTES

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

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022

HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA 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: SECRETARY JIM DARLING

Mr. Jim Darling, Board Secretary called the meeting to order at 12:12 pm. Roll call was taken and a quorum was attained.

Chairman Darling moved to item #2: Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (October 26, 2022). *Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the October 26, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented. Mayor Rick Salinas seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes, Chairman Darling moved to Item 3: Public Comment, there being none, he moved to Item 4: Administration.

### A. Consider Ratification of Executive Committee Action on Purchase of Real Property

Mr. Manuel Cruz, LRGVDC Executive Director was recognized and stated that this item is to consider ratifying Executive Committee action to purchase real property for the purpose of constructing a multimodal facility. He reminded the Board that at the October 26, 2022, meeting, the Board adjourned into executive session to discuss this item. Upon returning to regular session, the Board unanimously approved presenting the offer to purchase the property as presented at that time, which was for \$48,000 per acre. LRGVDC staff, legal counsel, and realtor, David Equity Realty, have been in communication with the seller on the transaction and have received a counteroffer, which was the original amount of \$65,000. The Realtor countered with \$52,500 and made the rollback taxes a strategy of the negotiation and the seller settled with \$52,500 per acre.

LRGVDC's lead attorney has been in communication with the Realtor and reviewed the information and the counters made from the seller and Realtor. Due to an unexpected quick turnaround in negotiations, the realtor and LRGVDC staff strongly recommended meeting with the Executive Committee prior to the December 14, 2022, regular scheduled Board Meeting. The Executive Committee met on November 14, 2022, to review, discuss, and consider the counteroffer of \$52,500 per acre. After due consideration, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to accept the counteroffer as presented with the stipulation of the 90-days to complete a successful feasibility study that will meet grant guidelines. Ratification of this decision is required by the full Board. *Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee action on the purchase of real property. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

### B. Executive Session

1. Real Property Matter pursuant to Sec. 551.071 (attorney consultation) and Sec. 551.072 (purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property) regarding certain real property located on North Milanos Road in the West Tract Subdivision, Weslaco, Texas

At 12:20 pm the Board adjourned into Executive Session.

2. Reconvene into Open Session to Consider Action, if any, on Items Related to Executive Session as Described Above

Regular session reconvened at 12:44 pm and Chairman Darling stated that no action will be taken from Executive Session.

C. Presentation on 2023 It's Time Texas Community Challenge

Ms. Selene Guerrero, South Texas Regional Director for ITT, was recognized and provided details about the 8-week program that is scheduled to begin on January 9, 2023. A press conference for the kickoff is scheduled at 10:30 am that day in Building B at the LRGVDC Main Campus. ***Upon conclusion of the presentation, Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion for Board members to sign the 2023 It's Time Texas Community Challenge pledge. Councilman Johnny Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

D. Consideration and Action on Date and Time for Annual Report & Budget Committee Meeting

Mr. Cruz was recognized and informed the Board that the Annual Report is our service program that outlines our performance goals and outcomes. All members of the LRGVDC Board of Directors are included on this committee and there is no quorum requirement to conduct business at this meeting. The Annual Report & Budget will be placed on the January 25, 2023, Board & Membership Meeting agenda, therefore in order to make a recommendation, the committee must meet prior to that date. Mr. Cruz suggested scheduling a meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 12:00 noon with a GoToMeeting option. ***Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to schedule the Annual Report & Budget Committee meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 12:00 noon. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

E. Executive Director Report

1. Introduction of New Staff Members

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that Valley Metro hired Drivers Enrique Garcia, and Xavier Claudio, and the RGVMPD welcomed Adriana Estrada as their Executive Assistant.

2. 2023 Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Cruz presented a meeting schedule for 2023 similar to the 2022 schedule; meetings to be held on the last Wednesday of each month with the exceptions of no meetings held in July or November, and the December meeting scheduled on the 13<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. ***Commissioner Jacob Howell made a motion to approve the 2023 Board Meeting Schedule as presented. Councilman Johnny Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

3. Update on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Trainings, and Legislation

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the Texas Broadband Development Office wants to extend the deadline to finalize the FCC Broadband Coverage Map and recommends challenging the Map as incomplete. He stated that the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) is spearheading this effort and will make sure the Board's comments are heard and sent to TARC. No Board Action required.

Upon conclusion of the Executive Director Report, Chairman Darling moved to item 5: Department Reports.

#### A. Community & Economic Development

##### Program Action Items

Mr. Rick Carrera, Director of Community & Economic Development was recognized and addressed the following items:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Member

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that at their November 29, 2022, SWAC meeting the committee recommended Ms. Grace Gonzales from Pharr to serve on the committee as the Private Citizen representative. ***Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve Ms. Grace Gonzales as a Private Citizen representative for the SWAC as recommended. Commissioner Jacob Howell seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Nominations for Institute of Higher Education and Small City Representatives

Mr. Carreras stated that at the RWRAC meeting held yesterday, the committee recommended Ms. Anabell Cardona to represent Higher Education, and Mr. Bobby Salinas from the City of Alamo to represent Small Cities on the committee. ***Councilman Johnny Garcia made a motion to approve Ms. Anabell Cardona to represent Higher Education and Mr. Bobby Salinas from the City of Alamo to represent Small Cities on the RWRAC. Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

##### Program Status Reports

Mr. Carrera thanked the Small Business Administration for attending the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Vet Fest held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, noting that as an Economic Development District, the LRGVDC encourages entrepreneurship at all levels and all types. He also thanked the Veterans Business Outreach and the Procurement Technical Assistance Center from UTRGV, who shared information and participated in the event. He then summarized department activities that have occurred since the October meeting.

Mr. Carrera then yielded the floor to Chairman Darling to give the reservoir level report. Chairman Darling stated that the combined storage is 31.02% as of December 3, 2022, and cautioned municipalities to closely monitor these reports because when the reservoir storage drops below 30%, drought conservation measures are activated. Chairman Darling also informed the Board about the Border 2025 agreement between the US EPA, TCEQ, the State of Texas and their counterparts in Mexico. Border 2025 has projects funded on both sides of the river for economic development, water management, and water quality initiatives on the table with funding from the North American Development (NAD) Bank. He encouraged members that have projects of this nature to contact himself or Mr. Carrera so they can meet the deadline of the end of December 2022.

#### B. Health & Human Services

##### Program Status Reports

Ms. Margarita Lopez, Director of Health & Human Services was recognized and informed the Board that the status reports cover fiscal year October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. She summarized the services provided during that timeframe, and also highlighted events that have taken place since the last Board meeting.

- C. Public Safety • Rosie Martinez, Victim Unit Director for Hidalgo County district Attorney's Office  
Program Action Items

Mr. Rene Perez, HLS/CJD Program Supervisor was recognized to address the following items:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation for Updates to Policies & Procedures for Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) Grants FY 2023-2024  
Mr. Perez informed the Board that as per Task HS1.1 of the Statement of Work with the Public Safety Office's HSGD, the HSAC and LRGVDC program Staff shall review the policy and procedures for grants annually. After conducting a thorough review, the committee determined that no revisions were needed at this time. The Policies and Procedures Manual was provided in the meeting packet for review. **Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the HSAC Policies & Procedures for HSGD Grants for FY 2023-2024 as presented. Councilman Johnny Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration and Action to Approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation on Updates to HSAC Bylaws  
Mr. Perez informed the Board that as per Task HS1.1 of the Statement of Work with the Public Safety Office's HSGD, the HSAC and LRGVDC program staff shall review the bylaws annually. After conducting a thorough review, the committee determined that no revisions were needed at this time. The bylaws were provided in the meeting packet for review. **Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the HSAC bylaws as presented. Councilman Johnny Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
3. Consideration and Action to Approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation on Updates to Review Sheet for HSGD FY 2023-2024  
Mr. Perez informed the Board that as per Task HS1.1 of the Statement of Work with the Public Safety Office's HSGD, the HSAC and LRGVDC program staff shall review the grant review sheet annually. The updated Review Sheet was provided in the meeting packet for review. **Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the Review Sheet for HSGD FY 2023-2024 as presented. Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
4. Consideration and Action to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation on Updates to CJAC Review Sheet for CJD FY 2023-2024  
Mr. Perez informed the Board that as per Task cCJ1.1 of the Statement of Work with the Public Safety Office's CJD, the CJAC and LRGVDC program staff shall review the grant review form annually. The updated Review Sheet was included in the meeting packet for review. **Commissioner Jacob Howell made a motion to approve the CJAC Review Sheet for CJD FY 2023-2024 Grants as presented. Councilman Johnny Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
5. Consideration and Action to Approve Appointment of Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Members  
Mr. Perez informed the Board that the CJAC convened on November 10, 2022, to consider member appointments and the committee recommends approval of the following members:
  - Mario Perea, San Benito Police Chief
  - Jody Tittle, Assistant Chief of Police for Mission Police Department
  - Rosie Martinez, Victim Unit Director for Hidalgo County district Attorney's Office

***Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the individuals noted above as members of the CJAC. Commissioner Nurith Galonsky seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

Upon conclusion of action, Mr. Perez summarized the status reports and noted that recently a seat on the CJAC became vacant. Nominations to fill this seat will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the HLS grants application process recently opened on e-grants on the Texas Office of the Governor's website. These grants are designed to benefit law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency management. Mr. Perez had notified local municipalities of this opportunity for funding and added that the deadline to apply is February 22, 2023.

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Program Status Reports

The status reports are available in the meeting packet for review.

RGVMPO Status Report

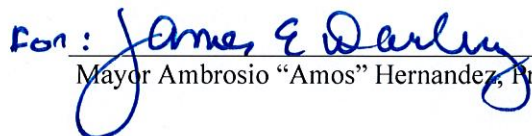
Mr. Luis Diaz, RGVMPO Assistant Director was recognized and announced that the RGVMPO is the recipient of this year's Association of Metropolitan Planning Association's (AMPO) award for Excellence in MPO Staff Achievements. AMPO is the national association of MPO's and is comprised of over 245 MPO members nationwide. The RGVMPO staff was selected by the AMPO Board of Directors for success through the MPO Merger three years ago, and staff accomplishments in completing long range plans, development of regional transit plans, regional bike/ped plans and establishing staff to address and meet the demands of the regional planning needed for the new RGVMPO in such a short time frame. The RGVMPO staff was recognized for the award while attending the national AMPO conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Item 6. – New or Unfinished Business

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Darling ***adjourned the meeting at 1:19 pm.***

ATTEST:

  
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

For:   
Mayor Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez, President