

MINUTES

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

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022

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: PRESIDENT AURELIO GUERRA

President Aurelio Guerra called the meeting to order at 12:29 pm. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

President Guerra then moved to item #2: Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (April 27, 2022). *Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve the April 27, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

President Guerra then moved to Item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation. There being none, he moved to Item 4: Administration and recognized Executive Director Manuel Cruz to address the following:

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 Guerra stated that the Nominating Committee recommends the following five (5) persons for election as Members-at-Large to the General Membership:

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
Mr. Noel Bernal	Brownsville	Cameron
Mr. Chris Gonzalez	Mission	Hidalgo
Mr. Sergio Contreras	Mission	Hidalgo
Mr. Eleazar Garcia, Jr.	Raymondville	Willacy
Com. Maria Gonzalez	Lyford	Willacy

Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the slate of Members-at-Large to the General Membership as presented. Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Selection of Three (3) At-Large Members to be Elected to the 2022-2023 Board of Directors

President Guerra stated that the Nominating Committee recommends the following individuals to fill the three (3) at-Large seats on the Board of Directors for 2022-2023:

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

B. Executive Director Report

1. Introduction of New Staff Members

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that five (5) new staff members have recently joined Valley Metro and the RGV9-1-1:

- Mr. Hector Martinez, Valley Metro Vehicle Driver I – Non CDL
- Mr. Eliud De La Rosa, Valley Metro Electronics Technician I
- Ms. Jessica Moreno, Valley Metro Payroll Specialist I
- Ms. Amanda Irachteta, Valley Metro Customer Service Representative I – Mobility
- Ms. Angela Alvarado, RGV9-1-1 Executive Assistant I

2. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Trainings and Legislation

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that a comprehensive list that includes pertinent regional news and legislative updates was included in the meeting packet for review.

Upon conclusion of the Executive Director Report, President Guerra then moved to item 5: Department Reports.

A. Community & Economic Development

Mr. Rick Carrera Director of Community & Economic Development was recognized to address the following:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Texas Community Development Block Grant Priorities 2023-2024

Mr. Carrera reported that of the original funding priorities for the Texas Department of Agriculture CDBG, this funding is for non-entitlement cities. Staff held a public meeting on May 18 to establish regional priorities for TDA CDBG funding. The priorities were established as follows:

Category	Activities	Number of Points (maximum 50 points)
First Priority	Water & Sewer; Septic System & Yard Lines; Street & Drainage	50
Second Priority	Housing Rehabilitation, Fire Protection, Community Centers, Parks, Neighborhood Centers	30
Third Priority	All Other Projects	10

Mr. Carrera noted that these priorities are identical to those of the last funding cycle of 2021-2022. ***Mayor Rick Salinas made a motion to approve the Texas CDBG grant priorities 2023-2024 as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Upon conclusion of action, Mr. Carrera announced that this year’s Road-to-Recycling Tire Collection event is scheduled for this Saturday, May 28 and he thanked participating cities for promoting this event. He also highlighted recent activities of the Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) and announced that the Watershed Protection Plan meeting is scheduled for June 30, which will have a workshop format. Mr. Carrera and Mr. Jim Darling provided the current reservoir levels, they noted that they are still low, but due to the recent heavy rain, the level went up 1 percentage point,

however, the region remains in drought. The detailed Community & Economic Development status report is available for review in the meeting packet.

B. Health & Human Services

Ms. Margarita Lopez, Director of Area Agency on Aging was recognized to address the following:

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Item

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Contractor for Direct Purchase Services

Ms. Lopez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to add Calidad Home Health to the Area Agency on Aging's contractor pool for Homemaker and Respite services. Case Managers utilize these contractors to purchase services for their clients. **Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve adding Calidad Home Health to the Direct Purchase Service contractor pool as presented. Councilman Johnny Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

Upon conclusion of action, Ms. Lopez provided the status on the CDC Vaccine Outreach Project, the April 2022 Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Care Coordination, Caregiver Support Services, Benefit Counseling, Management Transition, Staffing, and the Harlingen Satellite Office.

C. Public Safety

Program Action Items

Program Supervisor Rene Perez was recognized to address the following Action item:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Purchase of Hurricane Preparedness Items

Mr. Perez stated that staff recommends approval to purchase hurricane preparedness items in the amount of \$34,000. If approved, these items will be purchased through Homeland Security Grant #2968007, the funds from which must be expended before August 31, 2022. The purchase will include hurricane and natural disaster materials which will be beneficial to Valley residents in the event of a disaster. **Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the purchase of hurricane preparedness items as requested. Mayor Rick Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

Upon conclusion of action, Mr. Perez gave the Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program status reports.

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the Regional Police Academy status reports were available for review in the meeting packet.

Mr. Joe Garcia, Program Supervisor for the RGV9-1-1, was recognized and gave the status reports on the GIS Division, Public Education Activities and the Systems and Public Safety Answering Point Operations.

D. Transportation

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Procurement of Bike Helmets for RGV Traffic Safety Initiative

Ms. Eva Garcia, Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's Planner III – Bike/Ped Program Coordinator out of the Brownsville office was recognized. She informed the Board that the RGVMPPO received a TxDOT Traffic Safety grant to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety through the distribution of safety materials such as helmets and lights, in addition to hosting two (2) traffic safety trainings for law enforcement, and two (2) traffic safety trainings for planners and engineers. To meet the objectives of this grant, staff is proposing the procurement of youth and adult bicycle helmets for distribution throughout the Rio Grande Valley. The cost of this procurement will be \$27,750. Staff would like to purchase the helmets and lights as outreach materials to encourage safety and help reduce the number of serious injuries and fatalities among cyclists. Staff requested two (2) quotes from two (2) different vendors under the Texas DIR Cooperative Contracts and have confirmed that this vendor will meet all the needs and requirements. The cost of this purchase will be reimbursed through the TxDOT Traffic Safety grant. The Board asked if this purchase will be made through local vendors. Ms. Garcia stated that TxDOT has many federal procurement requirements and staff had to meet certain federal codes and requirements which brings the challenge of procurement locally. Ms. Garcia clarified that this procurement is through a BuyBoard contract and not the DIR Cooperative Contract noted above. Ms. Garcia stated that the procurement had a long compliance process with TxDOT. Being able to buy locally would require some assistance with TxDOT's procurement office and suggested having a BuyBoard training for local bike shops and other businesses. Upon conclusion of discussion, ***Councilman Johnny Garcia made a motion to approve the procurement of bike helmets and lights for the RGV Traffic Safety Initiative as requested. Ms. Lupita Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

RGVMPO Status Report

No status report was available at this time.

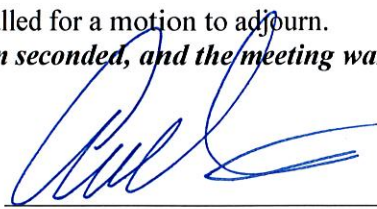
Valley Metro Program Status Reports

Valley Metro Director Maribel Contreras was recognized and provided the current status of the Valley Metro program. She reminded the Board that fare collection began on April 1 and in that month \$51,433.59 in fares have been collected. She brought the Board's attention to the Ridership Counts presented on the screen and stated that ridership in April was down slightly by 1%. This slight reduction might be related to the implementation of fares and also the normal fluctuation in ridership.

Item 6. – New or Unfinished Business

Mr. Cruz presented Judge Guerra with a gavel plaque in appreciation for the year he served as our Board President. Judge Guerra thanked the Board Members and staff for the experience of conducting meetings with members so professional and dedicated to their areas of expertise and communities. He stated that this experience gave him a greater understanding of how far reaching the LRGVDC's impact is, and the significant positive effect it has made in the region. He is glad to be a part of it.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Guerra called for a motion to adjourn. ***Councilman Johnny Garcia made a motion for adjournment; Mr. Troy Allen seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 pm.***


for Judge Aurelio Guerra, President

ATTEST:


Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary