

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors 2005-2006
Executive Committee**

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Contacts For LRGVDC Administered Programs

Kenneth N. Jones, Jr. Executive Director	Ann Lyles Director, Finance
Anna Hernandez Director, Human Resources	Terrie Salinas Director, Economic Development
Joe González Director, Area Agency on Aging	Sandra Boyd Director, Homeland Security and Regional Training
Andrew Canon Director, Hidalgo County MPO	Manuel Flores Director, Transit Services

Mission Statement

“ENCOURAGE AND PERMIT LOCAL UNITS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO JOIN AND COOPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR ECONOMIC INTERESTS, CITIZEN GROUPS AND GROUPS EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC DISTRESS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THEIR CITIZENS AND TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION”

REGIONAL PURSUITS

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E-Mail- info@lrgvdc.org • website - www.lrgvdc.org
(956) 682-3481 • Fax (956) 631-4670*

REGIONAL PURSUITS

Membership Approves Work Program and Budget for FY 2006

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) membership has approved the 2006 Work Program and Budget that will allow the Council to continue its active role in the Region. The new FY 2006 budget puts emphasis on and addresses needs within Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties in programs such as Transit, Criminal Justice Assistance, Homeland Security, Law Enforcement Training, 9-1-1 Coordination, Solid Waste, Water Quality/Quantity Planning, Economic Development, and the Area Agency on Aging.

The Development Council employs 96 individuals and will operate on an annual budget of \$1 1.4 million in 2006. “The budget reflects a sound organization and the continued regional support of comprehensive services provided,” said Mayor Silvestre Garcia, LRGVDC President. “Local revenues are used successfully to leverage state and federal funds. Only 1.6 percent of the Council budget is generated from membership dues.”

State income sources include the Texas Office of Rural Community Affairs, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office, Texas Department of Transportation, TDPS/State Homeland Security and the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. Federal sources for funds include, the Economic Development Administration, the Corporation for National Service, and the Federal Transit Administration.

Texas Review & Comment System (TRACS) Goes High-Tech

TRACS is a statewide system that provides state and local officials opportunities to review and comment on proposed federal and state developments and applications for federal and state assistance under covered programs. The Governor’s Office serves as the statewide review agency and designated local COGs as the local point of contact.

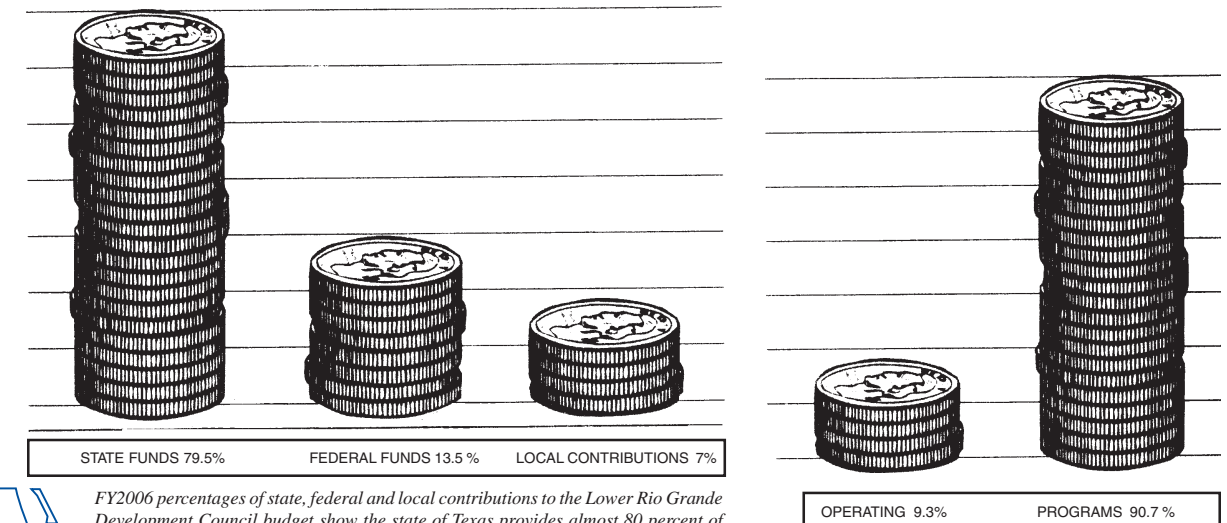
The LRGVDC adheres to the Texas Review and Comment System (TRACS) to ensure a fair, prompt and accurate review of all applications. The Professional Advisory Review Panel (PARP) advisory committee reviews applications and provides comments to the LRGVDC Board of Directors for final approval.

All project applications must be submitted using the Project Digest, a simple, self- explanatory form that may be downloaded from LRGVDC web-site in PDF or Word format. The digest must be submitted (e-mailed to Isaenz@lrgvdc.org) by the end of the month to be eligible for review the following month. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month except on holidays or special events. Information is then e-mailed to the advisory committee and applicant. For more information, contact Ludy Saenz, Texas Review and Comment System Coordinator, at (956) 682-3481.

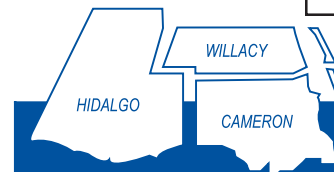
115th Basic Peace Officer Program Scheduled

The 115th Basic Peace Officer Program is scheduled to begin on July 14, 2006. This program will be conducted at the Mission Police Department and is a full-time/day academy. Pre-Entrance exams for this academy will be held on May 13th, May 27th, June 10th and July 14th at Mission Police Department. For additional information and/or to register for the pre-entrance exams, call Ms. Sandy Boyd, Director of Homeland Security and Training, 956-682-3481.

LRGVDC 2006 BUDGET



FY2006 percentages of state, federal and local contributions to the Lower Rio Grande Development Council budget show the state of Texas provides almost 80 percent of regional funding.



Lower Rio Grande Valley
Development Council
311 N. 15th St. • McAllen, TX 78501-4705



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Regional Homeland Security Efforts

LRGVDC Homeland Security goals and objectives — To provide assistance and support to governmental entities and First Responders in formulating a regional strategy necessary to access funding to address any disaster whether man-made or weather related. Increase and enhance County and City Emergency Management Planning including inter-jurisdictional plans for all hazards. Conduct operational planning, carry out specialized planning, and develop protocols and processes to enhance local and regional emergency preparedness. Assist local governments in enhancing their collective emergency response capabilities by assisting each eligible county and the cities within those counties in grant allocation and management, developing standardized mutual aid agreements (100% complete), developing a common incident command system with emphasis on interoperable communications, and interoperability protocols to minimize the problem and assist local governments in maintaining and disseminating up-to-date state and federal grant regulations and requirements governing the Homeland Security Program.

Following the tragedy of September 11, the LRGVDC Board of Directors and all first responder agencies in the region have made Homeland Security preparation a top priority year after year. The Board of Directors approved the creation of a Regional Homeland Security Advisory Committee that has developed a regional strategy for homeland defense and a method for distributing homeland security funds to purchase dependable and indistinguishable equipment and training for First Responders.

Funding by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through the office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) has provided additional financial assistance directly to each of the nation's states and territories through various grant awards. The financial assistance is being provided to supplement funding availability through State Homeland Security Grant Programs for first responder preparedness, and to provide the resources necessary for states and local communities to mitigate the costs of enhanced security at critical infrastructure facilities. Furthermore, funds from the First Responder Preparedness Allocations were used to enhance capabilities in the areas of law enforcement, emergency medical services, emergency management, fire service, hazardous materials, public works, public health, governmental administration, public safety communications and healthcare at the local levels of government in accordance with the goals and objectives identified in the Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan.

Authorized equipment purchases were made in the following categories:

Personal Protective Equipment, Explosive Device Mitigation and Remediation Equipment, CBRNE Search & Rescue Equipment, Interoperable Communications Equipment, Detection Equipment, Decontamination Equipment, Physical Security Enhancement Equipment, Terrorism Incident Prevention Equipment, CBRNE Logistical Support Equipment, CBRNE Incident Response Vehicles and Reference Materials.

In addition, LRGVDC First Responders utilized their equipment allocations to purchase equipment designed to protect critical infrastructure from terrorist attacks and for equipment to

prevent terrorist incidents. First Responder Preparedness Funds have also been used for sustainment of first responder equipment that would be used in a jurisdiction's response to a terrorist threat or event.

Major steps in making sure that Law Enforcement, Firefighters and EMS personnel throughout the LRGVDC region are equipped and trained to protect the citizens of our region in the event of a man-made or natural related disaster event are being taken. LRGVDC records indicate that with the Pre-2004 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), FY2004 SHSP, FY2004 Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETTP), 2004 Border Interoperability Project (BIP), 2004 Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP) and the recent allocations of FY2005 SHSP, LETTP and Urban Area (UA) the regional allocations total \$11.8 million. Master Agreements made for Regional Mutual Aid will allow the region to maximize effectively and efficiently resources and to develop the cooperation that is needed among cities and counties to respond to any disaster event.

FY-2006 Implementation Projects

The LRGVDC Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met in January to review and rank FY-2006 Solid Waste Implementation Projects. The LRGVDC Board of Directors provided final approval of these projects at the January 26, 2006, LRGVDC Board of Directors meeting. Projects receiving funding include:

Category 1 Local Enforcement

Entity	Amount Requested
Cameron County	\$50,000.00
Mission	\$30,000.00
San Juan	\$21,214.00
Santa Rosa	\$27,022.00

Category 2 Source Reduction, Education, Collection Events & Other

Entity	Amount Requested
Cameron County	\$10,000.00
McAllen - HHW	\$25,000.00
Edinburg - Clean up	\$4,320.00
Raymondville	\$6,000.00
La Feria	\$25,000.00
Weslaco	\$25,000.00
Cameron County DA	\$10,000.00
San Juan	\$20,284.00
McAllen-Source Reduction	\$25,000.00
Brownsville - Education	\$6,127.00

Project funds distributed locally for Solid Waste Implementation Projects totaled \$284,967. Solid Waste Implementation project funds are available on a Bi-Annual basis to eligible entities. The funds must be used to implement projects on source reduction & recycling, education & training, local enforcement projects, etc. and address the LRGVDC Regional Solid Waste Management Plan goals. For more information please call the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Planning Department at (956) 682-3481.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

Membership Recognition List

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council recognizes members of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee. These members have throughout a number of years unselfishly given their time and expertise to the improvement of the region. They have tirelessly reviewed, scored and corrected at least 35 applications on any given year.

5-9 years:

Delhna A. Jetton, 7 yrs.
Raymondville ISD, Federal Programs

David Longoria, 7 yrs.
Harlingen Crime Stoppers Inc.

10-20 years:

Cookie Bader, 18 yrs.
Discovery School, Edinburg

Rene Guerra, 23 yrs.
Hidalgo County District Attorney

Richard Santellana, 18 yrs.
Cameron County Juvenile Probation Chief

Israel "Buddy" Silva, 19 yrs.
Hidalgo County Juvenile Probation Chief

Judge Roy Valdez, 18 yrs.
13th Court of Appeals

MMRS Update

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council staff continues to meet with the local hospitals and TRAUMA Regional Advisory Council concerning the preparation, updating, and reviewing of their local Emergency Management Plan (EMP) and to incorporate the National Incident Management System (NIMS) into their Response Plans.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and Division of Emergency Management are in the process of forming a Metropolitan Medical Response System Steering Committee. The Metropolitan Medical Response System program grants have been integrated into the FY06 Homeland Security Grant Program to better facilitate the coordination and management of funding and grants. This steering committee will be responsible for

recommendations to the LRGVDC Board of Directors on all MMRS issues.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council - MMRS will be hosting a Tri-National Conference on Cross-Border Collaboration the month of August, 2006 at South Padre Island, Texas. The purpose of this conference is to identify best practices and propose ideas for reducing barriers to cross-border collaboration in order to strengthen response mechanisms with our neighbors in Canada and Mexico. This conference will bring together representatives of the 125 MMRS jurisdictions and other professionals working in emergency planning and response, and their Canadian and Mexican counterparts, to examine from a tri-national perspective, models of success and challenges faced in responding to an event across an international boundary. For more information on this program contact Ms. Sandra Boyd at 956-682-3481.

Election Code Training Provided to Valley Law Enforcement

Sgt. Ernesto Rivera of the Criminal Investigation Division, Texas Attorney General's Office, visited the Valley during the week of February 6th and presented training to Valley Law Enforcement officers regarding the Election Code.

The training was designed to provide the officers with a basic overview of the Texas Election Laws, methods of conducting investigations and the resources available to identify recurring violation and behaviors in violation of the Election Laws of the State.

Training was conducted at San Benito Police Department, Cameron County Sheriff's Department, Weslaco PD and Mission Library. A total of 80 officers representing 18 law enforcement agencies and representatives from the elections officers of Hidalgo and Cameron Counties were in attendance to discuss election laws and procedures.

111th BPOA Receives Award

The 111th Basic Peace Officer Academy class won a 3rd Place Award for the Best Booth while participating in the McAllen Chamber of Commerce Annual Candle Light Posada in McAllen on the 2nd and 3rd of December. The purpose of the activity was to for the cadets to recognize the importance of reaching out to the communities they will soon be serving as both officers and positive role models. The cadets operated a refreshment booth designed as a Gingerbread House. The 21 cadets, who attend the academy currently in session at the Mission Police department training facility, participated in selling refreshments and interacting with the people attending the event.