

# LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



## AGENDA MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LRGVDC Main Campus, 301 W. Railroad Street, Building B  
Weslaco, TX 78596

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Wednesday, February 26, 2020

12:00 Noon

Ken Jones Executive Board Room

Presiding: Mayor David Suarez

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(The complete meeting packet will be available will be available at <http://www.lrgvdc.org/meetings.html> on February 20, 2020)

### **Item #1: Call to Order**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Invocation
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

**Item #2: Consideration and ACTION to Approve Meeting Minutes  
(January 29, 2020 Board, Membership, Corporation Meeting) ..... President**

**Item #3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation**

### **Item #4: Administration**

- A. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Nomination of an Elected or Appointed Official of a Non-entitlement Community to be Considered for Appointment to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) by the Agriculture Commissioner ..... Ron Garza
- B. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Amendment of LRGVDC Procurement Purchasing Threshold..... Ron Garza
- C. Consideration and **ACTION** on Resolution 2020-01 Regarding Internet Sales Tax Revenue ..... Ron Garza

- D. Consideration and **ACTION** on Resolution 2020-02 Regarding Rio Grande Valley Regional Hike & Bike Connectivity Network .....Ron Garza
- E. Executive Director Report..... Ron Garza

**ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS**

LRGVDC Updates & Activities:

1. Introduction of New Staff Members
2. Census 2020
3. Mitigation & Disaster Recovery Funding
4. Real Estate Services RFQ
5. Explore RGV
6. RGV B-Cycle
7. 2020 It's time Texas Community Challenge

**Item #5: Department Reports**

**A. Community & Economic Development**

Program Action Items: ..... Blanca Davila, Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Tourism & Travel Advisory Committee (RTTAC) Bylaws
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Tourism & Travel Advisory Committee (RTTAC) Chair and Vice-Chair

Program Status Reports:

- Regional Small Cities Coalition
- Explore RGV
- Census 2020
- HUD Disaster Recovery Housing Program
- Solid Waste Management Program
- Water Quality Program
- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee
- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)
- Reservoir Levels

**B. Health & Human Services**

Program Action Items: ..... Jose L. Gonzalez, Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Authorize Issuing Special Request for Proposals for Special Projects Serving the Elderly

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Authorize Staff to Acquire Medication Management Software for the Opioid Misuse Prevention for Older Texans Grant
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Authorize Entering into a Contract with Amigos Del Valle Regarding Opioid Misuse Prevention for Older Texans Grant

Program Status Reports: ..... Jose L. Gonzalez, Director

- Congregate Meal Project
- Home-Delivered Meals Project

**C. Public Safety**

Program Action Items:

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Purchase of Promotional Items for Telecommunicator Week
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Regional Police Academy Advisory Board Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Police Academy Advisory Board Members in the Law Enforcement Category
4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Increase to Regional Police Academy Tuition
5. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Increase in Hourly Rate for Regional Police Academy Contract Instructors

Program Status Reports:..... Manuel Cruz, Director

- 911/Emergency Communications
- Criminal Justice Program
- Homeland Security
- Regional Animal Care Coalition
- Regional Police Academy

**D. Transportation**..... Tom Logan, Valley Metro Director  
 Andrew Canon, RGVMPD Executive Director

Program Action Items:

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Revise Transit Service Department Drug & Alcohol Policy ..... Tom Logan, Director

Program Status Reports:

- Valley Metro
- Rio Grande Valley MPO

## **Item #6: Executive Session**

- A. Personnel Matters pursuant to Section 551-074(1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee RE: Executive Director resignation and interim appointment
- B. Reconvene into Open Session to Consider **ACTION**, if any, on Items Related to Executive Session as Described above

## **Item #7: New or Unfinished Business**

## **Item #8: Adjourn**

**\*REMINDER\***  
Next Meeting Date:  
**Wednesday, March 25, 2020**  
**12:00 PM**

Agenda items may be considered, deliberated and/or acted upon in a different order than numbered above.

The Board of Directors of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive (Closed) session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the items listed on this agenda as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapters 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, and 551.075, Texas Government Code. No final action will be taken in Executive Session.

### **PUBLIC INPUT POLICY:**

"At the beginning of each LRGVDC meeting, the LRGVDC will allow for an open public forum/comment period. This comment period shall not exceed one-half (1/2) hour in length and each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak. All individuals desiring to address the LRGVDC must be signed up to do so prior to the open comment period. The purpose of this comment period is to provide the public an opportunity to address issues or topics that are under the jurisdiction of the LRGVDC. For issues or topics which are not otherwise part of the posted agenda for the meeting, LRGVDC members may direct staff to investigate the issue or topic further. No action or discussion shall be taken on issues or topics which are not part of the posted agenda for the meeting. Members of the public may be recognized on posted agenda items deemed appropriate by the Chair as these items are considered, and the same 3-minute time limitation applies."

**ITEM #2.**

**MINUTES**

# MINUTES

## MEETING OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP & CORPORATION

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020  
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO, TEXAS  
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: MAYOR DAVID SUAREZ, PRESIDENT

- DRAFT -

President David Suarez called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Roll call was taken for the Board of Directors, General Membership & Corporation and a quorum was declared for all entities.

He then moved to item 2: Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes

A. May 29, 2019 Annual Elections Meeting

B. December 11, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting

***Commissioner Eddy Gonzales made a motion to approve both the minutes of the May 29, 2019 Annual Elections meeting and the December 11, 2019 Board of Directors meeting as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

President Suarez 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 by General Membership Regarding FY 2020 Annual Report and Budget

Mayor Jim Darling, Chairman of the Annual Report & Budget Committee was recognized to report on this item. He stated that the committee met on January 22 and that this newly formatted document has four (4) sections: LRGVDC Overview & Designations, Organization Structure, Departmental 2020 Performance Goals, the 2019 Productivity Outcomes, and the 2020 Annual Budget.

The 2020 Annual Budget is \$26,435,640 and reflects a decrease of \$959,448 from the 2019 budget due to some projects coming to the end of their contracts. It does not reflect an increase in Membership dues. The 2020 Fringe Benefit rate is 51.85% and reflects a decrease of 2.65% over the 2019 fringe benefit rate of 54.50%.

The 2020 (Total Budget Expenditure) Indirect Rate is 14.37% and reflects the State's revised guidance for calculation. Utilizing the revised calculation method, the 2020 indirect rate reflects an increase of 1.21% from the 2019 amount of 13.16%. The 2020 salary recommendations for staff includes a 3% performance-based salary increase for those employees who have successfully achieved all standards per annual evaluation process. The committee recommends approval of the 2020 Annual Report & Budget as presented. ***Upon conclusion of this report, Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the FY 2020 Annual Report & Budget as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

### B. Consideration and Action Regarding Revisions to LRGVDC Personnel Policy Manual

Executive Director Ron Garza was recognized and reported that the LRGVDC's Personnel Policy Manual includes the comprehensive set of policies established to provide rules, guidelines, and standards to professional staff and representatives. The revision process was lengthy and inclusive. As previously

reported at the December Board of Directors meeting, the Executive Director hosted an all-staff meeting in which the initial draft was presented for feedback and comment. Additionally, each staff member had the opportunity to present written comments. The draft manual has also been thoroughly reviewed by legal representation. The draft included in the meeting packet contains these additions and revisions. The Annual Report & Budget Committee unanimously recommends approval of the revised LRGVDC Personnel Policy Manual. ***Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to approve the revised LRGVDC Personnel Policy Manual as presented. Commissioner Rick Salinas seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

C. Consideration and Action to Accept Quarterly and Annual Investment Reports

Finance Director Crystal Balboa presented the Quarterly and Annual Investment Reports. ***The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to accept the Quarterly and Annual Investment reports as presented. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

D. Executive Director Report

LRGVDC Updates & Activities

1. Introduction of New Staff Members

There were no newly hired staff in December and January.

2. Census 2020

Mr. Garza reminded the Board that on March 12, households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. On April 1, Census Day is observed nationwide, and households can respond to the 2020 Census. He informed the Board that the LRGVDC recently hosted a Census Marketing meeting at which the LRGVDC was asked to procure a regional marketing campaign for the 2020 Census. He sent an email with details about the campaign this morning to Valley mayors, city managers, Census Committee members, and Complete Count Committee members across the region. The most important part of the proposed regional marketing campaign is that it will not have any production locally. The regional marketing campaign is a way to push the messages the US Census Bureau has already established; they have already produced commercials dedicated to different populations, and the taskforce has chosen to promote those messages that are geared toward the Latino population. They have set a goal to combine resources and raise \$100,000 specifically toward radio and TV commercial ad-buys. Joining efforts would garner a greater economy of scale and provide the Valley with more airtime. For full neutrality, no one individual jurisdiction would be mentioned during the commercial airtime. The \$100,000 is the benchmark that would allow a presence across the region and air the commercials beginning February 15 for approximately three months. To meet this timeline, commitments from any interested city, county, or other private source is needed no later than Thursday, February 6. Several entities have already agreed to contribute significantly, and there will be no minimum or maximum, any amount will be accepted. The marketing experts that serve on various Complete Count Committees agree that anything under \$100,000 may not provide the needed coverage.

3. Mitigation & Disaster Recovery Funding

Mr. Garza provided a summary on the status of this funding. He stated that these funds are a result of previous disasters that occurred in 2015, 2016, 2018, and 2019. He stated that there are three different key initiatives of note:

- 1) *Mitigation* dollars through HUD's \$4.2 billion allocation with the majority going to areas impacted by Hurricane Harvey but the Valley is included in portions of that. The final draft of the action plan is due back to HUD February 3.

- 2) The second item is disaster *recovery*, it was originally \$46 million but has been increased to \$72 million for 2018 disasters. Texas GLO will develop an action plan for both disasters.
  - 3) On January 30 TWDB will have a public hearing for the State Flood Plan. During the last legislative session SB 7 and SB 8 were passed which will allow for an allocation of the Rainy-Day Fund to use for what has been named the Flood Financial Assistance Program. The rules for this program have been published and the comments period is just about to close for the State Flood Plan, the Financial Assistance Program and the Flood Planning Regions. He showed a map of the proposed regions for Flood Planning and pointed out that the Proposed Rio Grande Flood Planning Area stretches along the Rio Grande from El Paso all the way down to Brownsville. All those in the Valley who have reviewed the proposed areas agree that the Rio Grande Region is too large and should be divided in half. On behalf of the LRGVDC, staff will provide comments to encourage this proposed region be divided to include the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning (Region M) area, which would be the lower half of the proposed area from Maverick County down to Cameron County.
4. Explore RGV  
Mr. Garza announced that the Regional Travel and Tourism Committee is being resurrected after 40 years of inactivity and will serve as the advisory committee for the Explore RGV program. Their first meeting is scheduled for February 11.
  5. RGV B-Cycle  
Mr. Garza reported that the RGV B-Cycle program is progressing. Two (2) bike demo stations have been installed on our campus right outside Building B. Site inspections have been completed in Brownsville and Harlingen, and these sites will interface with McAllen's infrastructure. He was pleased to announce that the LRGVDC has been recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as a bike friendly business.
  6. 2020 Mayors' Walk for Wellness (It's Time Texas Community Challenge)  
Mr. Garza thanked all those who participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual RGV Fit 5K and Mayors' Walk for Wellness. Eleven (11) mayors and elected officials participated in the Mayors' Walk and signed the big pledge board. He then invited those mayors present who have not signed the big board to do so. He reminded the Board that the cities that win this challenges win grants for wellness activities which provides a good incentive for participation.

He then put the current Statewide Scoreboard from the It's Time Texas website on the screens showing the current rankings held by RGV cities:

CATEGORY	CITY
Metropolitan Areas - 300,000 +	San Antonio 1 <sup>st</sup> ( <i>Valley does not qualify</i> )
Large Cities of 100,000 - 300,000	<b>McAllen 1<sup>st</sup>, Brownsville 5<sup>th</sup></b>
Mid-Size Cities of 40,000 - 100,000	<b>Harlingen 1<sup>st</sup>, Pharr 3<sup>rd</sup></b>
Small Cities of 5,001- 40,000	<b>Los Fresnos 2<sup>nd</sup>, San Juan 3<sup>rd</sup>, Alamo 4<sup>th</sup></b>
Extra Small Cities of 1 - 5,000	Smithville 1 <sup>st</sup> currently no Valley Cities are in the top five

Upon conclusion of the Executive Director report President Suarez next moved to item 5: Department Reports.

A. Community & Economic Development

Assistant Director Blanca Davila was recognized to address the following:

Program Action Items:



1. Consideration and Action to Approve Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Updated Bylaws  
Ms. Davila reported that the RSCC members updated their bylaws to specify that member cities will have a population of no more than 24,999 according to the most current census numbers. There are currently thirty (30) such incorporated municipalities in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties that are eligible for membership to the RSCC. ***The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Regional Small Cities Coalition updated bylaws as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

Upon conclusion of action, Ms. Davila stated that the status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review.

B. Health & Human Services

Program Status Report

Program Director Joe Gonzalez was recognized and informed the Board that Health & Human Services Regional Director Fred Schuster is scheduled to visit the Area Agency on Aging on February 6. The purpose of his visit is to share the current priorities of the HHS. In addition, he would like to learn about the work the Area Agency on Aging is doing in this region and explore areas where HHS may be able to support their efforts. Mr. Gonzalez also reported that the Older Americans Act programs fared well on appropriations. Lawmakers ultimately agreed upon important, but modest national funding increases for the Older Americans Act Title III programs.

C. Public Safety

Program Action Items:

Public Safety Director Manuel Cruz was recognized to report on the following:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolutions for Homeland Security Funding for Regional Planning, Fire Academy, and Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure

Mr. Cruz stated that as part of the Public Safety, Homeland Security Grant Division's (HSGD) grant guidelines, applications from nonprofit organizations, local governments, and other political subdivisions must include a resolution that contains specific information such as authorization by its governing body for the submission of the application to HSGD. Upon approval the resolutions will be uploaded in eGrants on or before the grant deadline of February 29. ***The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the resolutions for Homeland Security Funding for Regional Planning, Fire Academy, and Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure as presented. Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve the Regional Animal Care Coalition (RACC) Bylaws

The RACC convened on January 9 to review the final draft of their bylaws. After much discussion the members unanimously approved the recommended updates that were presented. ***Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the revised Regional Animal Care Coalition bylaws as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports:

Mr. Cruz turned the floor over to Mr. John O'Valle, Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) District Coordinator to give a presentation on TDEM Form 147. Mr. O'Valle informed the Board that this form is used to make the required notification to TDEM in accordance with Governor Executive Order GA-05. It is to be submitted annually by the 1<sup>st</sup> of February or within 30 days of any change of elected or appointed officials.

LRGVDC Program Specialist Marcie Oviedo was next recognized to give an update on the Kari's Law project under the Emergency Communications/9-1-1 Department. Ms. Oviedo reported that this law was created because of a horrible incident in 2013 when Mr. Hank Hunt's daughter, Kari, was attacked and killed by her estranged husband in a Marshall, Texas hotel room. Kari's 9-year old daughter was in the room and tried calling 9-1-1 on the hotel phone four times as her mother was attacked. But not one of her calls went through because the hotel phone system required guests to dial a "9" before calling outside the hotel, even for 9-1-1. Since that day, Mr. Hunt has worked tirelessly and successfully with the FCC and congress to change the law so a "9" is no longer needed for 9-1-1 calls from multi-line systems. His efforts culminated in Kari's Law becoming a law of the land on February 15, 2018. LRGVDC's Emergency Communication department has worked to get the word out about Kari's Law and they have had good responses, especially from schools that were not familiar with this law.

Upon conclusion of her report, Mr. Garza announced that tomorrow is a special day for Ms. Oviedo as it is her last day with the LRGVDC. She is retiring after 35 years with this organization. She was presented with an engraved crystal vase filled with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. The Board gave her a standing ovation for all she has done for the LRGVDC. She thanked God for leading the way through everything and thanked her staff for their support throughout the years.

D. Transportation

Program Status Reports:

Valley Metro Director Tom Logan informed the Board that FY 2019 closed with a 25% increase in ridership due to the new services that were launched.

President Suarez next moved to item 6. – Executive Session

- A. Personnel Matters pursuant to Section 551-074(1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officers or employee RE: Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation

***Mr. Ronald Mills made a motion to go into executive session; Mayor Jim Darling seconded, and upon a vote executive session began at 12:49 pm.***

- B. Reconvene into Open Session to Consider Action on Items Related to Executive Session as Described above

***At 1:07 pm President Suarez reconvened open session.***

***Mayor Jim Darling stated that upon conclusion of his evaluation the Board is in agreement that Mr. Garza has done a great job as the LRGVDC Executive Director and has advanced the mission of the LRGVDC; in regard to that, Mayor Darling made a motion to give Mr. Garza a 5% increase to his annual salary. Commissioner Rick Salinas seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

President Suarez next moved to item 7. – New or Unfinished Business.

There being no further business to come before the Board, ***Commissioner Eleazar Guajardo made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Rick Salinas seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.***

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Mayor David Suarez, President

ATTEST:

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Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

**ITEM #4. A.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**NOMINATIONS**

**TO**

**UNITED SCORING**

**COMMITTEE**

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting**

February 26, 2020

**Item #4: Administration**

- A. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Nomination of an Elected or Appointed Official of a Non-entitlement Community to be Considered for Appointment to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) by the Agriculture Commissioner ..... Ron Garza  
Executive Director

The Unified Scoring Committee (USC) is responsible for determining objective scoring factors for all regions in accordance with the requirements of this section and the current TxCDBG Action Plan. The USC must establish the numerical value of the points assigned to each scoring factor as described in the Committee Guidelines provided by the department.

Per state guidelines, a primary and alternate nominee shall be an elected or appointed official from the following entities:

<b>Non-Entitlement Cities</b>	
<b>City</b>	<b>County</b>
Indian Lake	Cameron
Laguna Vista	Cameron
La Feria	Cameron
Los Indios	Cameron
Los Fresnos	Cameron
Lyford	Willacy
Palm Valley	Cameron
Port Isabel	Cameron
Raymondville	Willacy
Rio Hondo	Cameron
San Perlita	Willacy

**ITEM #4. B.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**AMENDMENT  
OF  
PROCUREMENT  
PURCHASING  
THRESHOLD**

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting**

February 26, 2020

**Item #4: Administration**

- B. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Amendment of LRGVDC Procurement Purchasing Threshold ..... Ron Garza  
Executive Director

LRGVDC Procurement Policy requires that all procurements above \$5,000 require a competitive bidding process. That threshold presents certain timeline and resource limitations on competition for purchases and contracts.

An assessment was done of procurement policies of other councils of government and other political subdivisions finding that \$5,000 was well below the average amount.

The increase will promote greater selection of potential vendors and streamline procurements that have increased value while operationally critical. Raising of thresholds has also been undertaken by the Federal Government which raised the simplified and micro-purchase levels under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

From our analysis of comparable organizations and internal resources, staff recommend an amendment to procurement policy raising the competitive bidding procedure threshold to \$15,000.

Thank you for consideration of this item.

**ITEM #4. C.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**RESOLUTION**

**2020-01**



*Regional Council of Governments & Economic Development District serving Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy County*

## **RESOLUTION 2020-01**

**SUPPORTING PROPOSED RULE 3.334 THAT WILL PROVIDE CLARITY FOR CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES OF ALL SIZES TO RECEIVE THE LOCAL TAX REVENUE FROM ONLINE PURCHASES TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED**

**WHEREAS**, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC), the regional Council of Governments serving and representing over 1.3 million residents of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties; and,

**WHEREAS**, the LRGVDC advocates for the region's vast economic and community impact while encouraging cooperation among units of government to improve the region's health, safety, and general welfare; and,

**WHEREAS**, the internet has revolutionized the modern shopping experience, impacting sales tax collection and its distribution – therefore the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passed HB 1525 and HB 2153; and,

**WHEREAS**, these laws address the collection of state and local sales taxes from remote sellers that have no physical presence in Texas; and,

**WHEREAS**, a large majority of Texas cities and rural communities are losing revenue they need to provide services to taxpayers who actually made purchases through the internet; and,

**WHEREAS**, the sales and use tax revenue is being sent to cities that have economic development agreements with businesses, this creates an unfair and unbalanced approach to efforts to clarify the sales tax policy; and,

**WHEREAS**, Taxpayers pay local sales tax for online purchases for the benefit of their communities and they may not be aware that the revenue from their sales tax is being distributed to businesses in other cities.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the cities and counties represented by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council that the Tax Policy Division of the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts enact the rule change without delay of action to ensure that all local entities receive their fair share of local tax revenue from rising internet sales, and local sales tax revenue will cease to be shifted away from its intended beneficiaries.

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020

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Mayor David Suarez, President



**ITEM #4. D.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**RESOLUTION**

**2020-02**



*Regional Council of Governments & Economic Development District serving Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy County*

## **RESOLUTION 2020-02**

### **SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LINEAR HIKE & BIKE TRAIL NETWORK IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY ENHANCING THE CONNECTIVITY OF RESIDENTS IN HIDALGO AND CAMERON COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC), the regional Council of Governments serves and represents over 1.3 million residents of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties and the surrounding region; and,

**WHEREAS**, the LRGVDC advocates for the region's vast economic and community development while encouraging cooperation among units of government to improve the region's health, safety, and general welfare; and,

**WHEREAS**, quality of life projects throughout the Rio Grande Valley have become a regional priority to enhance sustainable economic growth, support recreational activities, and an active lifestyle with the vision of the Rio Grande Valley Regional Hike & Bike Trail Connectivity Network; and,

**WHEREAS**, many city and county projects have already advanced regional infrastructure towards hike & bike connectivity, the opportunity to further progress as a region is available; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Rio Grande Valley Regional Hike & Bike Trail Connectivity Network will include the hike & bike trail infrastructure in place or planned for across Cameron and Hidalgo County connecting the projects such as CaraCara Trails network, and many other trail systems across Hidalgo County in cities such as Edinburg, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Pharr, and San Juan; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Rio Grande Valley Regional Hike & Bike Trail Connectivity Network will have origin destinations points such as the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley campuses eastward in Brownsville, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley campuses northward in Edinburg, westward in Mission; and,

**WHEREAS**, the grand vision of a continuous, Rio Grande Valley Regional Hike & Bike Trail Connectivity Network consisting of existing and planned trail systems as one linear continuous system is one day attainable; and,

**WHEREAS**, infrastructure planning efforts should prioritize connecting to trails already in existence or planned for to offer our communities the safest most seamless connectivity for hike & bike mobility.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the cities and counties represented by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council hereby endorse and support the advancement of a connected network of Regional Hike & Bike Trail infrastructure to one day offer our community a seamless alternative mode of transportation access across the Rio Grande Valley.

Adopted this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020

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Mayor David Suarez, President

**ITEM #4. C.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
REPORT**

**ITEM #5. A.**

**COMMUNITY  
&  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

February 26, 2020

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Tourism and Travel Advisory Committee (RTTAC) bylaws.

The Regional Tourism & Travel Advisory Committee (RTTAC) meeting was held February 11, 2020 at 10:00 am to review and establish bylaws.

Draft bylaws are presented for adoption consideration.

**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
REGIONAL TOURISM & TRAVEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(RTTAC)  
BYLAWS**



**Article I: Organization:**

The official, designated name of the advisory committee shall be Regional Tourism & Travel Advisory Committee (RTTAC). The official acronym shall be “RTTAC.”

**Article II: Authority:**

The RTTAC was reauthorized on October 31, 2018 as approved under the authority of Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC).

The advisory committee shall provide policy guidance, programmatic implementation, and/or recommendations relative to the function and scope of the committee, or as otherwise directed by LRGVDC Board of Directors. Committee progress, updates, and recommended actions shall be presented for discussion and/or required approvals during regular meetings of the LRGVDC Board of Directors by the LRGVDC staff liaison. As per Article VI of these bylaws, the RTTAC shall recommend amendments as appropriate to support the functions of the committee.

**Article III: Purpose & Function:**

The purpose of the advisory committee is to educate, promote, foster, and coordinate community and regional planning efforts on the travel and tourism, economic, and other social impacts of existing, new or proposed regulations, policies, and control regarding regional marketing.

The advisory committee will provide advocacy, guidance, technical assistance, and information to the region on regional marketing efforts.

Members of the advisory committee will assist and support regional marketing including, but not limited to the following:

- Sustainability of Explore RGV
- Publication of The Official Guide to the Rio Grande Valley - Explore RGV
- Travel and tourism’s economic impacts
- Federal, state and local regulations

The Advisory Committee shall carry out the following functions and/or objectives:

1. Identify and promote Lower Rio Grande Valley regional tourism & travel strategies ensuring sustainable use of Explore RGV and other regional outreach platforms.

2. Maintain strong communication links among federal, state, county, local government, individual citizens and all other stakeholders.
3. Promote tourism tools including the sustainability of a regional asset map.
4. Monitor and analyze national, state, and local travel and tourism trends.
5. Research, apply for, and administer suitable funding programs and projects which impact the regional marketing of the LRGV.
6. Provide marketing coordination in response to promotion of regional destinations and events.
7. Propose revisions, expansions, and deletions to planning, policies, and ordinances relating to pass-through requirements

**Article IV: Membership:**

Advisory Committee members are comprised of representatives from organizations, stakeholders and individuals complimentary towards the scope of the committee, with regionally diverse representation, as recommended by the RTTAC and approved by the LRGVDC Board of Directors.

Voting members are comprised of entities that have invested, contributed, and/or directly supported the sustainability efforts of ExploreRGV and is a collaborative partner in the promotion of the region's tourism and travel destination assets. Annually, LRGVDC shall recommend for Board of Director approval an applicable contribution amount or commitment requirement to hold a voting seat.

**a. Qualifications.**

1. All committee members must directly represent a jurisdiction, entity, or area within LRGVDC boundary area.
2. Representative must either be a designated stakeholder with the professional qualifications to serve as the most applicable representative. Representative shall not be for-profit and otherwise representing outside interests.

**b. Voting.**

Each member of the Advisory Committee shall have one (1) vote. Typically, the Chair's vote will be utilized as a tie-breaker. Each member must be present at the meeting to cast a vote.

**c. Officers.**

The Advisory Committee shall consist of the following officers, as elected by the RTTAC. Officers shall begin term upon RTTAC action item approval.

- Chair                                      Shall preside at meetings.
- Vice-Chair                                Shall act on behalf of Chair during absence.

Officers may only be selected from current committee representatives. The appointment of an officer shall only be granted to a specific individual (not membership composition category representative). Only individuals elected may carry out functions of the officer.

**d. Service Terms. (Officers and Representatives)**

Advisory committee officers and representatives shall be reappointed annually in alignment with current members. A member may be reappointed to multiple terms without term limits; however, must be re-designated each term by LRGVDC Board of Directors.

**e. Attendance.**

Members who fail to attend three (3) consecutive meetings shall be subject to removal of voting privileges. Reinstatement of voting privileges shall occur after attending three (3) consecutive meetings.

**f. Alternates.**

Members of the Advisory Committee shall designate up to two (2) alternates who will have full voting privileges during a member absence. Alternates must confirm on record as part of Advisory Committee minutes and shall meet all membership qualifications.

**g. Vacancies.**

A vacancy occurs when:

- Term expires without reappointment;
- Member voluntarily resigns;
- Member is physically unable to perform duties of committee; or
- LRGVDC Board of Directors reappoints committee member due to conduct, disqualification of representation, or other business-related reasons.

Vacancies shall be filled through committee level selection and recommendation process and approved by LRGVDC Board of Directors. The RTTAC shall recommend revisions to selection process, as appropriate to support the functions of the committee.



#### **h. Conduct.**

Each Advisory Committee member shall maintain professionalism and objectivity when carrying out business of the Committee. Unbecoming conduct of committee members shall be addressed by LRGVDC staff liaison or executive director. Removal from advisory committee may result if necessary.

#### **Conflict of Interest.**

All Advisory Committee members must disclose perceived or actual conflicts of interest and/or abstain from applicable votes. It is the responsibility of each Committee Member to discharge his or her duties in those respective capacities in good faith, in a manner the person reasonably believes to be in the best interests of RTTAC and LRGVDC, and with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances. A conflict of interest is defined as referring only to personal, proprietary interests of the persons covered by this policy and their immediate families. Committee members shall not be present during presentations involving funding and/or prioritizations.

#### **i. Ex-Officio Membership:**

As an inclusive resource to the region, executives and administrators representing organizations designated to provide regional marketing services and resources shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting member at the recommendation of the committee which include:

- Convention Visitors Bureau (CVBs)
- Chambers of Commerce
- RGVISION
- Rio South Texas Economic Council (RSTEC)
- Three (3) airports (Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen)
- CaraCara Trails
- Texas Information Center (TIC)

### **Article V: Procedures:**

#### **a. Meetings.**

Regular meetings shall be held approximately quarterly (or as needed) with written notice and agenda submitted to all members at least (3) business days prior to meeting date. Special meetings may be called more frequently, at the discretion of the Advisory Committee or a LRGVDC designated staff liaison with written notice and agenda submitted to all members at least (3) business days prior to meeting date. Advisory Committee meetings shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order.

#### **b. Quorum.**

There shall be no quorum requirement for this advisory committee; however, only voting members present shall vote and participate in the transaction of substantive action.

**c. Minutes.**

A designated LRGVDC staff member shall maintain minutes of each Advisory Committee meeting. Minutes shall be reviewed and approved as a standing agenda item.

**d. Subcommittees.**

The Advisory Committee shall maintain the authority to designate standing, technical, ad-hoc and/or temporary subcommittees within scope to improve the recommendations and nature of the advisory committee. Subcommittee activity updates shall be recorded at Advisory Committee meetings.

**e. Open Meetings.**

RTTAC Advisory Committee meetings shall be open to the public and generally subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

**Article VI: Amendments:**

The Advisory Committee shall propose amendments to bylaws by subcommittee recommendation, regular, or special meetings; however, shall not be effective or approved until formal action is taken by LRGVDC Board of Directors as per Article II.

**a. Bylaws Adoption/Amendment History.**

**Adopted:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting**

February 26, 2020

**Item #5: Department Reports**

**B. Community & Economic Development**

**Program Action Item**

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Tourism & Travel Advisory Committee (RTTAC) Chair and Vice-Chair.

The committee recommends the following committee members as Chair and Vice Chair for the RTTAC:

Chair	Sergio Contreras, President/CEO, RGV Partnership
Vice chair	Barbara Garza, President/CEO, Weslaco Area Chamber Executive Director

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

February 26, 2020

## Item #5: Department Reports

### A. Community & Economic Development

#### Program Status Reports

- Regional Small Cities Coalition

The Regional Small Cities Coalition Meeting (RSCC) was held on February 13, 2020 at 11:30 am at City of La Feria – Our Lady of the Lake University where regional funding opportunities and LRGVDC grants were discussed.

The next meeting for RSCC is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 11:30 am at City of Hidalgo and the Old Pump House.

- Explore RGV

The Regional Tourism & Travel Advisory Committee (RTTAC) meeting was held February 11, 2020 at 10:00 am at the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council – Building B. The RTTAC will provide guidance, programmatic implementation, and/or recommendations relative to the function and scope of the committee or as otherwise directed by LRGVDC Board of Directors.

The next meeting will be April 7, 2020 at 10:00 am the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council – Building B.

Download the Explore RGV app at the Apple Store and Google Play or visit [www.goexplorergv.com](http://www.goexplorergv.com). Please follow @goexplorergv on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

- Census 2020

The Census 2020 Regional Taskforce met on February 14, 2020 at 10:00 am at the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council – Building B to provide regional updates and best practices for community outreach. Self-response date begins March 12, 2020 and Census Day is April 1, 2020.

- HUD Disaster Recovery Housing Program

The LRGVDC was awarded contracts with the Texas General Land Office as a subrecipient to administer HUD CDBG-Disaster Recovery funding issued as a result of Hurricane Dolly. All funds have been expended for the following, Non-Family Rental, Multi-Family Rental and Administrative costs. The grants awarded to the LRGVDC were expended and projects have been completed at a 100%. The contract between

LRGVDC and the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for Multi-Family Rental ended December 31, 2018. LRGVDC is working with GLO to finalize contract close-out.

- **Solid Waste Management Program**

The Solid Waste Grant opened on January 6, 2020 at 12:00 pm and closed on February 14, 2020 at 12:00 pm.

The SWAC Scoring & Ranking meeting will be in March 11, 2020 at 10:00 am at the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council – Building B.

Staff continues to provide technical assistance and outreach and continues to monitor all Solid Waste Management Projects. All information about the Solid Waste Program is available at [www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html](http://www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html).

- **Water Quality Program**

Staff continues to provide education and outreach to cities/communities on water quality issues by attending different functions.

- **Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee**

The Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 2:00 am and Director Colleen Jones, PhD., from Texas General Land Office gave a presentation on Regional Flood Studies.

The next meeting for the RWRAC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 2:00 pm at the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council - Building B.

- **Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)**

The next meeting of the Region M Group is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 10:30 am. The Voting Membership approved making requests for local funds based on a \$0.05 per capita formula to fund administrative services for the Regional Water Planning Group. Municipalities within the 8-county Water Planning Group Region will receive a letter of explanation and an invoice in April.

The Group will hold two public hearings, one on April 8 in Eagle Pass and one on May 6 in Weslaco to review and receive comments on the region's Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) for the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan. Notices will be sent to water stakeholders within the 8-county region. All Region M meetings are open to the public and include opportunities for public comment.

Please visit the Region M Website at [www.riograndewaterplan.org](http://www.riograndewaterplan.org) for updates on the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan and other Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group activities.

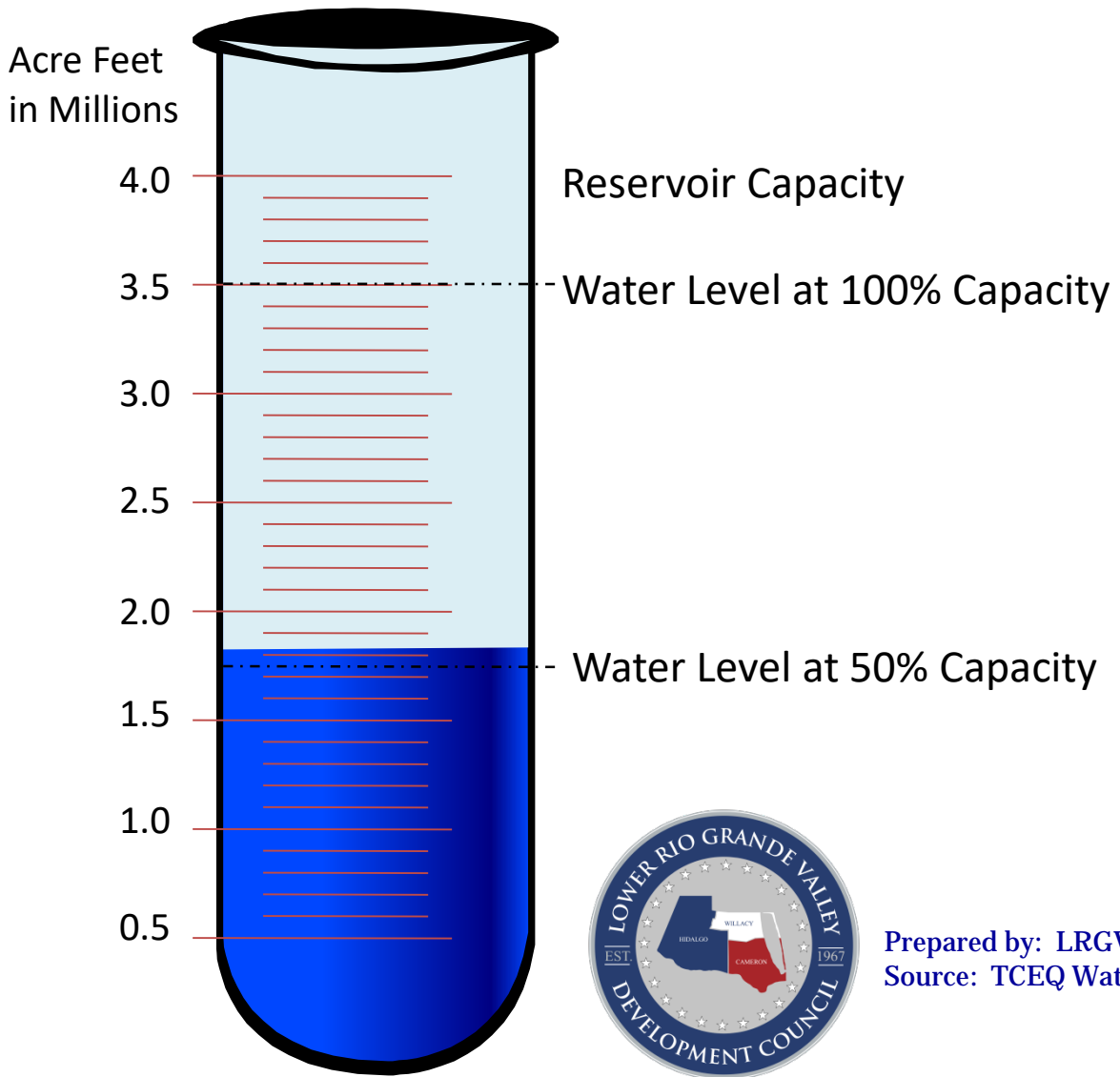
- **Reservoir Levels**

On February 15, 2020, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 53.49% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,814,369 acre-feet, down from 64.18% (2,176,756 AF) of normal conservation a year ago. Overall the system is holding 37.44% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 2,217,292 acre-feet with Amistad at 50.61% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,657,902 acre-feet and Falcon at 21.13% of conservation capacity, impounding 559,390 acre-feet. Mexico has 15.92% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 402,923 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

# Water Levels at Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs (U.S. Ownership)

**2/15/2020, 53.49% of Capacity or 1,814,369 AF**

Down from 2,176,756 AF of Normal Conservation a year ago



Prepared by: LRGVDC  
Source: TCEQ Watermaster

**NOTE: Mexico Ownership/Reservoir Capacity for  
February 15, 2020: 15.92% (402,923) A.F.**

# Rio Grande Watermaster Report

**02/15/20**

**AMISTAD RESERVOIR**

Normal Conservation Elevation	340.462	Meters	1,117.00 Feet	
Water Elevation	330.890	Meters	1,085.59 Feet	-31.40
Total Normal Conservation Capacity	4,040,325	TCM	3,275,532 Acre-Feet	
Total Combined Storage	2,045,000	TCM	1,657,902 Acre-Feet	50.61%
US Share of Current Storage	1,636,000	TCM	1,326,322 Acre-Feet	80.00%
Mexico share of Current Storage	409,000	TCM	331,580 Acre-Feet	20.00%
TOTAL RELEASES AVG	55.20	CMS	1,949 CFS	
US Release AVG	51.60	CMS	1,822 CFS	93.48%
Mexico Release AVG	3.60	CMS	127 CFS	6.52%
TOTAL INFLOWS AVG	42.70	CMS	1,508 CFS	
US Inflows AVG	31.20	CMS	1,102 CFS	
Mexico Inflows AVG	11.50	CMS	406 CFS	
TOTAL LOSSES AVG	7.27	CMS	257 CFS	
US Reservoir Loss AVG	5.83	CMS	206 CFS	
Mexico Reservoir Loss AVG	1.44	CMS	51 CFS	

**FALCON RESERVOIR**

Normal Conservation Elevation	91.805	Meters	301.20 Feet	
Water Elevation	80.365	Meters	263.66 Feet	-37.53
Total Normal Conservation Capacity	3,264,813	TCM	2,646,817 Acre-Feet	
Total Combined Storage	690,000	TCM	559,390 Acre-Feet	21.13%
US Share of Current Storage	602,000	TCM	488,047 Acre-Feet	87.25%
Mexico share of Current Storage	88,000	TCM	71,342 Acre-Feet	12.75%
Total Releases AVG	58.50	CMS	2,066 CFS	
US Release AVG	58.50	CMS	2,066 CFS	100.00%
Mexico Release AVG	0.00	CMS	0 CFS	0.00%
TOTAL INFLOWS AVG	62.20	CMS	2,197 CFS	
US Inflows AVG	56.70	CMS	2,002 CFS	
Mexico Inflows AVG	5.50	CMS	194 CFS	
TOTAL LOSSES AVG	3.70	CMS	131	
US Reservoir Loss AVG	3.24	CMS	114 CFS	
Mexico Reservoir Loss AVG	0.46	CMS	16	

**OVERALL STATUS**

Normal Conservation Capacity - <b>Amistad</b>	4,040,325	TCM	3,275,532 Acre-Feet	
US Share of Amistad Normal Conservation	2,270,663	TCM	1,840,849 Acre-Feet	
Current US share of Normal Conservation	1,636,000	TCM	1,326,322 Acre-Feet	72.05%
Normal Conservation Capacity - <b>Falcon</b>	3,264,813	TCM	2,646,817 Acre-Feet	
US Share of Falcon Normal Conservation	1,913,180	TCM	1,551,034 Acre-Feet	
Current US share of Normal Conservation	602,000	TCM	488,047 Acre-Feet	31.47%
Normal Capacity - Amistad/Falcon System	7,305,138	TCM	5,922,348 Acre-Feet	
Normal Conservation Capacity - US	4,183,843	TCM	3,391,883 Acre-Feet	57.27%
Normal Conservation Capacity - Mexico	3,121,295	TCM	2,530,466 Acre-Feet	42.73%
Current Storage US	2,238,000	TCM	1,814,369 Acre-Feet	53.49%
Current Storage Mexico	497,000	TCM	402,923 Acre-Feet	15.92%
Current Storage - Amistad - Falcon System	2,735,000	TCM	2,217,292 Acre-Feet	
Percent of Storage Capacity	37.44%		37.44%	



**ITEM #5. B.**

**HEALTH**

**&**

**HUMAN SERVICES**

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 26, 2020**

**Item #5: Department Reports**

**B. Health & Human Services**

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Items ..... Jose L. Gonzalez, Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Authorize Issuing Special Request for Proposals for Special Projects Serving the Elderly

Staff is seeking authorization to issue a special request for proposals for the period of April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020. The purpose of the RFP is to provide an opportunity to local organizations to apply for special projects serving the elderly. The source of funds are carryover funds in the amount of \$300,000.

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Authorize Staff to Acquire Medication Management Software for the Opioid Misuse Prevention for Older Texans Grant

Staff is seeking authorization to contract with HomeMeds, a national evidence-based program utilized by many Area Agencies on Aging for medication reviews. Medication review is the major component of the Opioid Grant. Following is the cost breakdown for the program.

<b>Opioid Misuse Prevention for Older Texans Grant</b>			
<b>HomeMeds Cost</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Units</b>	
Software Cost	\$ 332.00	6	\$ 1,992
Pharmacy Review	\$ 20.00	1,160	\$ 23,200
Webinar Training	\$ 3,000.00	1	\$ 3,000
			\$ 28,192

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Authorize Entering into a Contract with Amigos Del Valle Regarding Opioid Misuse Prevention for Older Texans Grant

Staff is seeking authorization to contract with Amigos Del Valle regarding the Opioid Misuse Prevention for Older Texans grant. The purpose of the contract is to have Amigos Del Valle staff gather medication lists from new home delivered meals clients and pay Amigos del Valley a \$15.00 stipend per client once the information is submitted to Area Agency on Aging staff. All data will be entered in the Medication Management program to identify seniors that may be at risk.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Status Report ..... Jose L. Gonzalez, Director

- Congregate Meal Project

The Health and Human Services Commission received a grant from the Administration for Community Living for looking into the issue of the lack of interest among seniors to attend the congregate meal sites. This issue is a national phenomenon regarding the lack of participation in the congregate meal programs. The Lower Rio Grande Valley is one of 14 sites that have been selected to host focus groups to get a local perspective on this issue.

- Home-Delivered Meals Project

The Health and Human Services Commission is initiating a new initiative regarding the home delivered meals. Providers are being allowed to determine what type of meals participants will be receiving. The type of meals are hot, frozen, or shelf stabled. The program has also done away with the meal delivered period.

**ITEM #5. C.**

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Purchase of Promotional Items for Telecommunicators Week

Staff requests Board approval to purchase promotional items in the amount of \$38,864.49. As part of our ongoing efforts within the 9-1-1 community every year during the second week of April telecommunications personnel in the LRGVDC are honored. During that week it is a time to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public.

The Emergency Communications/9-1-1 Department is utilizing an existing contract with Promo Direct. This is a budgeted and planned line item under Public Education.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Public Safety

Program Action Item

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Police Academy Advisory Board Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

The Regional Police Academy Advisory Board convened on January 23, 2020 and recommends the following members as Chair and Vice Chair.

Chair - Chief Michael Sullenger – Harlingen VIA

Vice Chair - Chief Robert Dominguez – Mission Police Department

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Public Safety

Program Action Item

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Police Academy Advisory Board Members in the Law Enforcement Category

The Regional Police Academy Advisory Board convened on January 23, 2020 and recommends Board approval of the following three new members:

Chief Patrick Quill – Combes Police Department  
Chief Jesus Ortega – Hidalgo Police Department  
Lieutenant Michael Cerda – Edinburg Police Department

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Public Safety

Program Action Item

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Increase to Regional Police Academy Tuition

Over that past few years the RPA has taken on new costs with the addition of maintaining a fleet of four vehicles to be used for the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC). The RPA conducts at least three EVOCs a year. To prepare the units for the most recent academy nearly \$8,000 and last year was nearly \$14,000 was spent to ensure the units were in a safe operational condition. With the cost of maintenance to keep the vehicles operating additional funding is needed.

In addition to the vehicle maintenance and upkeep, the total additional costs incurred during the course of the academy consists of the following items:

Taser cartridges – 3 @ \$35.00 ea.	\$105.00
Textbooks	\$65.00
CPR Certification	\$30.00
Vehicle Maintenance/Upkeep	\$100.00
Total	\$300.00

LRGVDC Regional Police Academy tuition is currently \$2,200 and the Regional Police Academy Board is recommending increasing it to \$2,500 to cover these expenses. The cost to attend other academies in the Lower Rio Grande Valley remains above \$2,600, which makes the LRGVDC RPA the most cost-effective option.



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Public Safety

Program Action Item

5. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Increase in Hourly Rate for Regional Police Academy Contract Instructors

The Academy proposes an increase in hourly rate from \$25 an hour to \$30 an hour for instructional staff. Contractual personnel that operate in a support function will remain at \$25 an hour. This will allow the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy to remain competitive with rates other academies are paying their contract instructors. Should the Board approve, this rate increase would take effect March 2, 2020.

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

## Item #5: Department Reports

### C. Public Safety

#### 9-1-1/Emergency Communications Status Report

- **Location Validation Program**  
Staff continues routinely issuing 9-1-1 physical addresses and addressing new subdivisions for Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. Staff met with the Edcouch City Council to discuss their addressing issues. Also, staff has initiated field work on 200 new wind turbines being built in the Willacy County area.
- **Database Program**  
Database staff continues routinely updating the 9-1-1 database, updating over 90 streets in the 911Net. In January over 320 address request calls were received which resulted in 296 address tickets for 9-1-1 physical addresses.
- **Mapping Program**  
Mapping GIS team continues their daily work of mapping all of our address tickets, while maintaining data quality. The GIS Team has begun the transition from our traditional 9-1-1 database to a GIS based GeoMsag, this project is scheduled to run through May. The switch to GeoMsag will allow our area to be the first of the South Texas 9-1-1 entities to route 9-1-1 calls via GIS data.
- **System and Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Operations**  
Systems team has begun the transition into NG9-1-1 by meeting with AT&T and CSEC to kick off the NSO project that will convert our older Cama-trunks, to I.P. zip trunks. By implementing this new system, the dependability of the PSAPs relying on the Harlingen tandem will be obsolete and provide redundancy to our 9-1-1 call delivery. We continue to monitor the 9-1-1 Network and focus on improvements to help progress with Next Gen 9-1-1.
- **Public Education /Training Program**  
Public Education is an ongoing priority for the 9-1-1/Emergency Communications Division. Staff continues to reach out to communities to educate residents. This month staff participated at a Career Day presentation at Muñoz Elementary in Donna. Staff is also preparing to be part of the Border Fest and Livestock Show parades.

**Event Request Notice:** All event requests must be submitted through our online system. This “*Online Request Form*” must be submitted 14 business days prior to the event. All fields must be populated, and the event flier must be uploaded. To view the online system, visit our website: [www.lrgvdc911.org](http://www.lrgvdc911.org) and select the “*Event Request*” tab. Once the event has been submitted an ECOMMS staff member will receive the notification and approve or deny the event based on availability.

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

**Item #5: Department Reports**

**C. Public Safety**

**Criminal Justice Program**

- Staff is providing technical assistance to applicants applying for the Criminal Justice Grants; applications are due February 27 on eGrants (Texas).
- Regional Crime Victim Liaison staff have been collaborating with Common Thread and Refugee Services of Texas to create a coalition. The mission of the Crime Victim Services Coalition will be to provide services to any victim of a crime and their family in the lower South Texas region, specifically Cameron and Willacy Counties.
- Regional Crime Victim Liaison staff is planning to host a self-care and wellness event on May 13. The goal of this event is to bring awareness of the importance of self-care for first responders, mental health providers and advocates. Staff will send out a notice for this event.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Item #5: Department Reports


C. Public Safety

Homeland Security Program

Staff attended the South Texas Coastal Zone Area Committee Meeting on January 22 at the Port of Brownsville, and the Texas Association of Regional Councils Bi-Annual Meeting on February 5, 2020 in Austin, TX. Staff also attended trainings on the Essentials of Community Cyber Security and Community Preparedness for Cyber Incidents on February 11-12, 2020; the trainings were held at the Regional Center for Public Safety Excellence in Pharr, TX.

Staff is currently providing technical assistance to applicants applying for the Homeland Security Grants; applications are due February 27 on eGrants (Texas). Staff also provided technical assistance and presented on the FY2020/21 Homeland Security and Criminal Justice grant at the Small Cities Coalition Meeting on February 13, 2020.

SOUTH TEXAS  
2020  
ALL HAZARDS  
CONFERENCE



**8th Annual South Texas All Hazards Conference**

*March 25-26, 2020*

McAllen Convention Center & McAllen Performing Arts Center  
700 Convention Blvd., McAllen, Texas 78501

Registration Now Open!

<https://bit.ly/34QQB3V>

or

Refer to attachment!

## Regional Animal Care Coalition

- On January 30, 2020, the RACC conducted a workshop to review the resources available and needs of the RGV in relation to the overpopulation of animals. The priority that will be addressed is an animal care facility or shelter and the ideal location would be in Hidalgo County. This would benefit the region as a whole in that it would provide a resource for day-to-day operations and a location for evacuation purpose.

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

**Item #5: Department Reports**

**C. Public Safety**

**Regional Police Academy Status Report**

- The Regional Police Academy thanks Payne Arena and the City of Hidalgo for their continued support of the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy. On Wednesday February 5, 2020 Payne Arena hosted the graduation of the 201<sup>st</sup> Basic Peace Officer Course. In total, 54 cadets graduated and passed their state licensing exam.
- The 202<sup>nd</sup> Night Academy began on Monday January 27, 2020. The 202<sup>nd</sup> is currently conducting class in the Ken Jones Executive Board Room. The 203<sup>rd</sup> Basic Peace Officer Course will begin on Monday March 2, 2020 and will operate at locations to be determined in accordance with final enrollment numbers.

**ITEM #5. D.**

**TRANSPORTATION**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status Report ..... Tom Logan, Director

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Revise Drug and Alcohol Policy

Staff requests Board approval to incorporate revisions to the Drug and Alcohol Policy as recommended by our federal funding agency (Federal Transit Administration) and to ensure program compliance with its regulations.



**LRGVDC**  
**Transit Services Department**  
**Drug & Alcohol**  
**Free Workplace Policy**



LRGVDC Board of Directors

Approve date:

**February 26, 2020**

*Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council*

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status Report ..... Tom Logan, Director

- Ridership Report

Both the rural and urban transit systems are in operation and all systems are monitored daily. For the month of January 2020, ridership for the urban system, which operates Monday through Saturday in the urban areas of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Starr Counties has been averaging **15,234** passengers a week. Ridership for the rural system which operates in the rural areas of Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Starr, and Zapata Counties has an average of **3,703** passengers per week for the month of January.

- Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity

The RTAP met in January to discuss regional planning and service coordination. The RTAP will meet again on April 30, 2020, at 10:00 am at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room.