

# MINUTES

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019 – 12:00 PM  
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS  
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: MAYOR DAVID SUAREZ, PRESIDENT

- DRAFT-

President David Suarez called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared.

He then moved to item 2: Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes (June 26, 2019 Board Meeting). ***The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Veronica Whitacre seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

President Suarez then moved to item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation and recognized Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. Senator Lucio briefed the board on activities from the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and how they will benefit the Valley. Upon conclusion of his legislative update, Senator Lucio recognized the Hon. Norma G. Garcia, much to her surprise, for her record number of five (5) terms as LRGVDC Board President and her tenure on the Board of Directors. He presented her with a proclamation for her years of service to the LRGVDC, the state flag of Texas, and a “Texas-sized” gavel.

Upon conclusion of Senator Lucio’s presentation, President Suarez moved to item 4: Administration and addressed the following:

A. Presentation and Consider Action on 2018 Annual Audit

Mr. Guillermo Reyna with Oscar R. Gonzalez, CPA & Associates was recognized and stated that his firm has rendered a clean (unmodified) opinion on the 2018 Annual Audit, and that no findings were identified. ***Commissioner Rick Salinas made a motion to accept the 2018 Annual Audit as presented. Commissioner Edward Gonzales seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

B. Consideration and Action on Quarterly Investment Report

***The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to accept the Quarterly Investment Report. Mr. Troy Allen seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

C. Presentation on Texas Gas Service’s Energy Efficiency Program Workshop

Ms. Naomi Perales, Texas Gas Service, was recognized and introduced Ms. Haley Cunningham, Texas Gas Services Manager of the Energy Efficiency Program. Ms. Cunningham gave a presentation on the status of the Energy Efficiency Program noting that the program is in its third year of operation.

D. Executive Director Report

LRGVDC Executive Director Ron Garza to address the following:

## LRGVDC Updates & Activities

### 1. Introduction of New Staff Members

Mr. Garza announced that the following individuals have recently joined the LRGVDC staff:

Mr. Emmanuel Escobedo, Accounting Technician II, Finance Department

Ms. Leticia Pantoja, Economic Development VISTA

Ms. Yarisney Falcon, Vehicle Driver II, Valley Metro was unable to attend.

The Board warmly welcomed our new staff members.

### 2. MPO Planning Agreement between TxDOT, RGVMPO, and LRGVDC

Mr. Garza presented this agreement and provided hard copies to the Board. He stated that this agreement has standardized language that cannot be altered. The RGVMPO Policy Board took action and unanimously approved this agreement at their last meeting. The agreement stipulates that the RGVMPO will have the sole responsibility to hire and terminate the Planning Director and the future Executive Director of the RGVMPO. TxDOT's legal department has also approved this agreement. The LRGVDC as the fiscal agent will have the responsibility to supervise the day-to-day functions of the RGVMPO and evaluate staff performance. ***Ms. Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the MPO Planning Agreement between TxDOT, RGVMPO, and the LRGVDC as presented; the Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

### 3. Consider Appointment of Board Designee and Alternate to Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC)

Mr. Garza informed the Board that this is an annual designation. Mr. Javier Deleon has faithfully served in this capacity for three years, with Mayor Jim Darling serving as his alternate for the last two years. Mayor Darling has expressed interest in serving as LRGVDC's TARC designee for the next fiscal year, and during discussion Commissioner Rick Guerra agreed to serve as his alternate. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Mr. Javier Deleon made a motion to approve Mayor Jim Darling as the TARC designee with Commissioner Rick Guerra as his alternate. The Hon. Norma G. Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

### 4. Census 2020

Mr. Garza informed the Board that current census activities are gearing up for the April 2020 Census and "Listers" will begin going door-to-door to confirm addresses. The next Complete Count Committee meeting is scheduled for September 17.

### 5. RGV B-Cycle

Mr. Garza presented the purchase agreement between LRGVDC and B-Cycle, LLC for equipment and services for the RGV B-Cycle program. He explained that there are three steps to making this program come to fruition:

Step 1 - Enter into an agreement between LRGVDC and B-Cycle, LLC.

Step 2 - The LRGVDC to enter into a special agreement with the City of McAllen for their B-Cycle infrastructure to be combined with this regional effort.

Step 3 - Have an agreement with every city that wants to partner in the RGV B-Cycle program.

Mr. Garza informed the Board that the Purchase Agreement has been thoroughly vetted by LRGVDC's legal counsel. Of note is the fact that through their national canvassing efforts the attorneys have not found a program quite like this across the US. In terms of a regional effort for this type of structure RGV B-Cycle will be a unique program. Board action is required to authorize him to sign this agreement on behalf of the organization and begin this process. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the RGV B-Cycle agreement as presented. Commissioner Veronica Whitacre seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

6. Road to Recycling Tire Project

Mr. Garza informed the Board that staff recently concluded the funding for this program which expires on August 31, 2019. He thanked all those who participated in the Road-to-Recycling Tire Collection efforts this year and announced that over 40,000 tires have been removed from our environment. Every event like this helps the region learn more about this problem and how to mitigate it.

He reminded the Board that he learned a great deal from his trip to Arkansas this past May. Staff has had productive discussions with UTRGV's Civil Engineering Department. They have agreed to do a preliminary study of the feasibility of creating a tire recycling project, similar to the one in Arkansas, that would shred tires down to a certain compound and then determine a use for that compound. Mr. Garza stated that our goal for this project is to gather all the information possible over the next year and a half and present it at the next legislative session as supporting documentation for a state supported tire recycling program.

Judge Aurelio Guerra stated that in Willacy County tires have been piling up for decades. The County made the decision to invest in efforts to eliminate this problem and the Road-to-Recycling Tire Collection project has helped tremendously with the collection effort as well as making the Region aware of this problem. He thanked the LRGVDC for this initiative.

7. Animal Care Coalition Advisory Committee

Mr. Garza informed the Board that the LRGVDC has been hosting the Animal Care Coalition for about a year. The purpose of this coalition is to bring stakeholders together for another out-of-sight, out-of-mind issue, like illegally dumped tires. The coalition has grown organically and has requested that the Board consider making them an advisory committee that would report here at the monthly Board meetings. There is no funding available for this group, but there are enough regional resources to coordinate this effort. ***Ms. Veronica Gonzales made a motion to approve the creation of the LRGVDC Animal Care Coalition Advisory Committee. Commissioner Edward Gonzales seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

8. Disaster Mitigation Forum (Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Garza announced that the LRGVDC Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) will host a Disaster Mitigation Forum on Thursday, September 26 at 2:00 pm. He stated that the GLO has allocated \$4.3 billion for disaster recovery and the rules for this funding have just been published. The purpose of the Disaster Mitigation Forum is to advocate the Valley's needs to the GLO who is in the process of creating an action plan for this funding. The reason they have allocated such a large amount is because it is for storms from 2015, two of which impacted the Valley, storms from 2016, and Hurricane Harvey. Hurricane Harvey will take a large portion of this funding, but the Valley is eligible for a portion of the \$4.3 billion for the two disaster declarations in 2015.

The GLO created an online survey for those effected by the storms to report their damages, but unfortunately not many entities from the Valley responded to the survey. With our partnership with the GLO staff asked them to consider the idea of the LRGVDC RWRAC facilitating this forum. They readily agreed because they know the Valley was impacted and they need our information. A report will be made with the information gathered at the forum and will be submitted to the GLO for inclusion in their action plan.

Mr. Garza stressed the importance of participation in this forum by city managers and elected officials to provide as much information as possible about the impacts the storms had on their communities.

Mr. Garza also announced that another \$46.4 million has been appropriated for the June 2018 RGV flood event and it is currently in the rules making process. In addition, the EDA has advised the LRGVDC that they have disaster supplemental funds for the flooding that occurred on June 24, 2019. He offered support to any Valley community who might need it because the LRGVDC can administer EDA programs and grant projects.

9. Partnership with UTRGV for Mid-Valley "Park-n-Ride"

Mr. Garza informed the Board that through LRGVDC Transportation Department's partnership with UTRGV, they have requested the creation of a park-n-ride on the north side of the main parking lot at the Railroad Street Main Campus in Weslaco. This idea developed after the opening of the UTRGV Center for Innovation and Commercialization (CIC) located across Texas Blvd next to Weslaco City Hall. UTRGV has brought academic programs to the CIC and LRGVDC Valley Metro currently has special bus routes going from the CIC to the UTRGV Edinburg and Brownsville Campuses. With the high ridership demand on these routes, UTRGV proposed the idea of expanding it with a park-n-ride. The north side of the main parking lot is seldom utilized, and as part of this agreement UTRGV will stripe the currently blank asphalt for parking spaces. Creating a Mid-Valley Park-n-Ride will benefit the general public as well as UTRGV students. The final agreement has not yet been drafted, but it will consist of UTRGV striping the lot and providing a match for the bus stop with LRGVDC making the space available for this purpose. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Ms. Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve the partnership with UTRGV to create a Park-n-Ride as presented. Mr. Javier Deleon seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Upon conclusion of the Executive Director report Mr. Garza showed an amazing video of the first successful up-and-down test flight of the Space X Star Hopper that took place yesterday. He noted that the success of Space X could open many Economic Development opportunities for this region.

President Suarez next moved to item 5: Department Reports.

A. Community & Economic Development

Ms. Blanca Davila, Assistant Director was recognized to address the following:

Program Action Items:

1. Consideration and Action to Appoint Members to the Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC)

At their August 14 meeting the RWRAC nominated the following committee members:

Chair	Commissioner David Fuentes
Vice Chair	Commissioner Eduardo Gonzales
Special Purpose District – Drainage (Willacy)	Glen Wilde
Region M Water Planning Group	Mayor Jim Darling and Alt. Jamie Flores
Special Purpose District – General and Non-Profits	Javier Guerrero
Institute of Higher Education	VACANT

***Mr. Javier Deleon made a motion to approve the membership appointments as presented. Ms. Celeste Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

The status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review.

B. Health & Human Services

Program Action Items:

Mr. Richard Flores, Assistant Director of Area Agency on Aging, was recognized to report on the following:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Fiscal Year 2020 Funding (Nutrition Services, Senior Center Services, and Caregiver Support)

Mr. Flores informed the Board that the AAA Advisory Council recommends approval to provide Older Americans Act Funding to the organizations listed on the attached Advisory Council Funding Recommendations for FY 2020. These recommendations include the providers selected as part of LRGVDC's required competitive bidding process. The list includes the organizations, the amount of the recommended funding, and the service the funding will support. The program year for this funding is October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. The total amount of funding being awarded is \$2,919,733 to provide congregate meals, home delivered meals, transportation to and from the nutrition sites, senior centers, and caregiver support services. ***Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 funding for nutrition services, senior center services, and caregiver support as presented. Commissioner Veronica Whitacre seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Fiscal Year 2020 Direct Purchased Services Contractor (Vendor) Pool

Mr. Flores informed the Board that this will be the pool of contractors (vendors) that Case Managers use to purchase services for their clients. These services include medications, medical supplies, durable medical equipment, homemaker services, respite services, and residential modifications. These recommendations were made based on responses from open solicitation of contractors and will support case management clients to help them remain independently at home. The contracts will be for the program year of October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. ***The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Direct Purchased Services contractor pool as presented. Judge Aurelio Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

#### Program Status Report

The status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review.

#### C. Public Safety

##### Program Action Items:

It was the consensus of the Board to act on the next four items in one motion. President Suarez next recognized Director Manuel Cruz to summarize the following:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve the Purchase of 780 (Seven Hundred and Eighty) All Hazard Weather Radios

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that these All Hazard Weather Radios will be used to continue 9-1-1/ECOMMS outreach efforts for community preparedness and 9-1-1 public education. The total amount of this purchase is \$45,240. With the LRGVDC's implementation of the Two NOAA transmitter systems staff continues partnering with NGOs, city and county emergency managers, state agencies, and the National Weather Service. The purpose of these radios is to provide effective notifications regarding emergencies related to potential acts of terrorism, preparedness and impending severe weather-related disasters.

This purchase will be made utilizing the current contract with Promo Direct as the vendor. This is a budgeted line item and the funding was made possible through the Homeland Security Grant Program - Community Preparedness and Commission on State Emergency Communications – ECOMMS/9-1-1 Public Education Program.

2. Consideration and Action to Renew Recorder Software Licenses in Order to Continue Recording 9-1-1 Calls at Our 18 PSAPs

Mr. Cruz stated that this purchase will renew recorder software licenses in order to continue recording 9-1-1 calls. The renewal is estimated at \$30,371.25 for one year of Tier 3 maintenance. The maintenance period on recorders is due to expire on August 31, 2019. The recorders are used to record all 9-1-1 incoming calls at the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). Licenses must be renewed before the current contract expires to continue to use the license associated with the recorders.

Commercial Electronics is the current vendor and maintains the recorders, therefore, the software license is proprietary, and the continuation of this service agreement will continue to honor the current warranty of the equipment. For this reason, Commercial Electronics is selected as the vendor and this is a Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) approved budgeted line item.

3. Consideration and Action to Purchase 9-1-1 Promotional Material for Public Education

Mr. Cruz stated that consideration is requested to purchase a stock replenishment of 9-1-1 promotional material. The total amount of this purchase is estimated at \$88,000. These items will be used during Public Education Outreach events. Reading material and promotional items that have messages about ongoing 9-1-1 campaigns assist staff in promoting important information to the public.

ECOMMS/9-1-1 has an existing contract with Promo Direct to purchase promotional items and this is a CSEC approved budgeted line item. Public Education Outreach is a key performance objective of the ECOMMS/9-1-1 division.

4. Consideration and Action to Purchase Cinema Advertisement in Theatres within Hidalgo County for FY 2019/2020

The LRGVDC ECOMMS/9-1-1 Department would like to purchase air time for service announcements that will run in Cinemark theaters in Hidalgo County at a cost of \$189,608.71. As part of our programmatic approach to continue to provide 9-1-1 awareness to the community we look forward to continuing our 9-1-1 Public Education campaign and continue to display public service announcements at local theaters.

The selected vendor is National CineMedia. They are the single, exclusive sales and marketing representative and therefore the purchase contract will be a sole source. This is a CSEC approved budgeted line item. Public Education Outreach is a key performance objective of the ECOMMS/9-1-1 division. ***Upon conclusion of the reading of each motion, the Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to approve items 5. C. 1-4 as presented. Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzales Garza seconded the motion.*** Ms. Celeste Sanchez called for discussion on methods of distribution for the All Hazard Radios in item 5. C. 1. and how the public is informed on where to get them. Mr. Cruz stated that the LRGVDC ECOMMS Public Education Department attends many public education events including National Nights Out where promotional materials, such as All Hazard Radios, are distributed to the public. One method of publicizing these events is through LRGVDC's partnership with KRGV-TV Channel 5.

Discussion turned to the effectiveness of advertising 9-1-1 messages in movie theatres as requested in action item 5. C. 4. Various methods of advertising were discussed as well as means by which to measure their effectiveness. At the end of the discussion Mr. Garza suggested including the question of "how did you hear about us?" in the address validation process when citizens come to LRGVDC's ECOMMS/9-1-1 office to get their physical address. Upon conclusion of discussion, ***President Suarez called for a vote on the motion to approve items 5. C. 1.-4., the vote was unanimously in favor and the motion carried.***

Program Status Reports:

Upon conclusion of action Mr. Cruz stated that the program status reports were in the meeting packet for review.

D. Transportation

Program Action Items:

It was the consensus of the Board to act on the next three items in one motion. President Suarez next recognized Valley Metro Director Tom Logan to address the following:

1. Consideration and Action to Purchase IT Hardware and Software

Approval is requested to purchase Information Technology Hardware and Software to be used by the Valley Metro division. This equipment and software will be used to conduct daily operations and for reporting program requirements. It will replace those that have met their useful life and this purchase will ensure that our information processing systems are reliable and up-to-date.

The purchase of IT hardware and software will be made using FTA grant (#TX-2019-042-00) and TxDOT Transportation Development Credits (TDC) approved by LRGVDC Procurement through the following vendor contracts/sole-source quotes:

- 1) "Dell Marketing LP" (DIR-TSO-2763) for IT Hardware (PCs, Monitors, Printers, Tablets, and Peripherals) at \$74,222.63
- 2) "Ride Systems" (sole-source) for IT Hardware (Mobile Routers) at \$33,000.

2. Consideration and Action to Revise Title VI / Limited English Proficiency / Environmental Justice Policy

Staff requests Board approval to incorporate revisions to the Title VI Policy to ensure compliance with Federal Transit Administration's Title VI Program. This update is required every 3 years.

3. Consideration and Action to Revise LRGVDC Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy

Staff requests Board approval to incorporate revisions to the language inherent in LRGVDC's Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy regarding the Drug and Alcohol Program. These revisions are imperative to bring the Policy into full compliance with both TxDOT and FTA transit program requirements. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Ms. Celeste Sanchez made a motion to approve items 5. D. 1-3 as presented. Commissioner Veronica Whitacre seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports:

The Valley Metro Status reports were provided in the meeting packet.

Program Status Reports:

Mr. Andrew Canon, HCMPO Director, was recognized and informed the Board that tomorrow the TxDOT Commission will vote on the 10-year plan or UTP (Unified Transportation Program) for projects in the State of Texas. The meeting will be live-streamed, and he encouraged the Board to view it if possible. He then listed several Rio Grande Valley projects included in the UTP that totaled approximately \$75 billion dollars. He noted that with the RGVMPPO officially beginning operation this October 1 more funding will become available to the Rio Grande Valley as it will be the 5<sup>th</sup> largest MPO in the State of Texas.

President Suarez next moved to item 6. – Executive Session

A. Deliberation Regarding Real Property (LRGVDC Program Staff Office) in accordance with the Texas

Government code, Section 551.072, the Board reserves the right to retire into executive session for deliberation regarding real property.

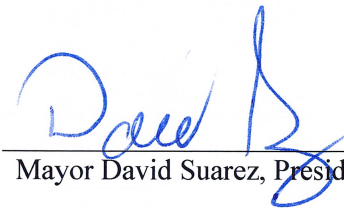
***At 1:19 pm Judge Aurelio Guerra made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Commissioner Rick Salinas seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

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


President Suarez reconvened open session at 1:35 pm. ***Commissioner Rick Salinas made a motion to explore the possibility of acquiring real-estate for a satellite office in Cameron County for multi-program. Ms. Celeste Sanchez 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, President Suarez called for a motion to adjourn. ***The Hon. Norma G. Garcia made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Jesse Zuniga seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.***

  
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Mayor David Suarez, President

ATTEST:

  
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Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary