

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL ELECTIONS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

12:00PM Wednesday May 27, 2026

HELD IN-PERSON AND BROADCAST VIA YOUTUBE VIDEO CONFERENCE.
INITIATED AND CHAIRED FROM LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS
301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO, TEXAS BUILDING B,
KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:20 p.m. quorum was attained.

Present: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County
Commissioner Nurieth Galonsky, City of Brownsville
Mayor Omar Ochoa, City of Edinburg
Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen
Mayor Pro Tem Pete Garcia, City of Weslaco
Mayor Pablo Morales, City of Lyford
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna
Mayor Pro-Tem Rene Pena, City of Sullivan City
Councilwoman Aarin Hartwell City of South Padre Island
Commissioner Pepe Cabeza de Vaca, City of McAllen
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Mr. Ron Garza, UTRGV
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake
Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large
Mr. Oscar Garcia, Member-at-Large
Mr. Andres Chavez, Member-at-Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

Absent:

Commissioner Joey Lopez, Cameron County
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County
Mayor Oscar Montoya, City of Mercedes
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr
Mayor Pete Galvan, City of San Benito
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Ernesto Cavazos, Willacy Co, Navigation District

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item#2

Item #2 Consideration and ACTION to approve meeting Minutes April 29, 2026. **Mayor Norma Sepulveda made a motion to approve the April 29, 2026, meeting minutes. Councilwoman Aarin Hartwell seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

Item #3: Public Comment – Mr. Rick Carrera began by noting that some attendees may be aware that he is no longer employed by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC). He now works for the Council for South Texas Economic Progress (COSTEP), a regional economic development authority serving the seven counties of Deep South Texas along the Texas-Mexico border. He explained that the region is divided into two areas: the Rio Grande Valley region and the Laredo region.

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that COSTEP will soon distribute its latest report, which highlights the benefits of manufacturing and manufacturing recruitment efforts and examines how manufacturing supports the broader economic development spectrum, including retail, logistics, and warehousing. He emphasized that attracting manufacturing industries to the region generates a significantly greater economic impact and multiplier effect than many other sectors, including retail. While acknowledging that this information may not be new to those experienced in economic development, Mr. Carrera stated that the report provides valuable data and analysis prepared by a third-party consultant to quantify these impacts.

In addition, COSTEP will be releasing another report that evaluates the potential benefits to the Rio Grande Valley if it were recognized as a single Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). He noted that this topic has been discussed for some time, and the study was conducted to provide measurable data regarding its potential economic advantages.

Mr. Carrera explained that the reports will be distributed to those in attendance, as well as to other elected officials and economic development professionals throughout the region. He concluded by offering to answer any questions and noted that he had copies of the reports available and would remain at the meeting for anyone wishing to discuss them further.

Item #4: Administration

4. A. Consideration and ACTION on recommendations from Nominating Committee. Mr. Cruz stated that the item before the Board was a recommendation from the previous Board's Elections Committee. The committee recommended five Citizen Members-at-Large to the LRGVDC General Membership for election at the Annual Election Meeting held that day. The Chair noted that these individuals were largely the same members who had previously served in these positions.

Those now serving for the 2025–2026 term was:

NAME:	CITY:	COUNTY:
<i>Mr. Oscar Garcia</i>	<i>Harlingen</i>	<i>Cameron</i>
<i>Mr. David Penoli</i>	<i>McAllen</i>	<i>Hidalgo</i>
<i>Ms. Ann Cass</i>	<i>McAllen</i>	<i>Hidalgo</i>
<i>Mr. Jim Darling</i>	<i>McAllen</i>	<i>Hidalgo</i>
<i>Mr. Andres Chavez</i>	<i>Raymondville</i>	<i>Willacy</i>

1. Selection of five (5) persons for election as Members-at-large to the General Membership. **Troy Allen made a motion to approve the following 5 members at large, Pepe Cabeza de Vaca seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

The nominees presented for the 2026–2027 term were:

NAME:	CITY:	COUNTY:
Mr. Oscar Garcia	Harlingen	Cameron
Mr. David Penoli	McAllen	Hidalgo
Ms. Ann Cass	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. Andres Chavez	Raymondville	Willacy

2. Selection of three at Large members to be elected to the 2026-2027 Board of Directors. **Pepe Cabeza de Vaca made a motion to approve the 3 at large members for 2026-2027 Board of Directors. Commissioner Edward Gonzalez seconded the motion, upon a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.**

Those serving for the 2025-2026 were:

NAME:	CITY:	COUNTY:
Mr. Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. Oscar Garcia	Harlingen	Cameron
Mr. Andres Chavez	Raymondville	Willacy

Nominees for the upcoming 2026-2027 are:

NAME:	CITY:	COUNTY:
Mr. Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. Oscar Garcia	Harlingen	Cameron
Mr. Andres Chavez	Raymondville	Willacy

4.B. Ratification of Executive Committee ACTION on Approving the Purchase of Dell Pro Laptops and Docking Stations utilizing Disaster Funding Awarded as a result of the March 27, 2025, Harlingen Flood event. We did request assistance from HHS, and fortunately disaster relief funds were available. Those funds will help replenish the resources we lost as a result of the flooding event. Therefore, the Executive Committee is recommending approval. Troy Allen made a motion to approve the purchase for dell Pro Laptops and docking Stations utilizing Disaster Funding Awarded as a result for the March 27, 2025, Harlingen Flooding Event. Pepe Cabeza de Vaca seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.

B. Executive Director Reports - Before we move into the next item, as you know, May is our election month. Earlier today, the Board took action to transition its officers and Executive Committee leadership. Each year, we nominate a new President, and as mentioned, our incoming President will be Judge Aurelio Guerra of Willacy County. Judge Guerra will officially preside over his first meeting next month. Judge, welcome, and we look forward to working with you in this leadership role.

Before the gavel is passed, however, we would like to take a moment to recognize and honor our outgoing President, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza. Mayor Garza assumed the presidency during a particularly challenging period for our organization and region. Her term coincided with significant uncertainty at the federal level regarding program funding and policy changes. Throughout the year, she worked closely with staff and leadership to stay informed on evolving federal actions and to support our advocacy efforts on behalf

of the communities we serve. Beginning in March of 2025, several executive orders and actions created concerns regarding the future of programs administered through councils of governments across Texas and the nation. One of the programs initially identified for possible funding reductions was our Area Agency on Aging, which provides critical services to older adults throughout the region. We also faced ongoing uncertainty regarding Homeland Security funding; another key program administered through the Council. Fortunately, legislation was ultimately approved to continue funding for these important services, but throughout the process, Mayor Garza remained engaged, supportive, and committed to helping advance our advocacy efforts. Her leadership came during a time that required diligence, communication, and a strong commitment to regional collaboration. We are grateful for the support she provided as we navigated these challenges together.

At this time, we would like to formally recognize and express our sincere appreciation to Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza for her dedicated service as President through May 27, 2026. Throughout her term, Mayor Garza demonstrated steady leadership, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to public service and regional cooperation. Under her leadership, the Board continued to advance initiatives and programs that benefit the communities and residents of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. On behalf of the Executive Committee, staff, and member governments of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, we extend our deepest gratitude for her time, guidance, and dedication throughout this year of service. It is our honor to present this plaque in recognition and appreciation of her leadership, service, and contributions to our region.

Mr. Cruz then asked Judge Aurelio Guerra to pass the Gavel on to Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza. Judge Aurelio Guerra had a couple of words for Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza; First of all, thank you for everything you do. I think it's also important to recognize the time and dedication that everyone has contributed to making this organization successful. A special thank you to you. You faced some challenging times along the way, and we're grateful that everything worked out well. Throughout those challenges, you remained a strong source of support and leadership. When we needed someone to step up and guide us, you were there. Your influence and commitment made a real difference, and we truly appreciate all that you've done. Thank you for your leadership and service.

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza then had a few words as well. I would like to sincerely thank everyone for this beautiful plaque. It's hard to believe how quickly this year has gone by. A lot has happened over the past year, and while there have certainly been some challenges along the way, we've been fortunate to have a great team and a great captain leading us.

The waters may have been a little choppy at times, but thanks to everyone's dedication and support, we've continued moving forward. I'm hopeful that even smoother waters lie ahead.

This recognition is incredibly thoughtful, and I truly appreciate it. Although my term may be ending, I'm still going to be around, and it has been an absolute pleasure serving alongside all of you. I want to thank the entire team, each and every one of you, for your hard work, commitment, and friendship throughout the year. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with such an outstanding group of people. Thank you all very much.

Updates on regional News, Funding Opportunities, training and Legislation - Mr. Cruz presented all new staff. Mr. Cruz then moved on to other updates. A brief funding update was provided to make members aware of two current funding opportunities.

The first opportunity is through the FTA Section 5310 Program, which has approximately \$2.3 million available. The call for projects opened in April, and applications are due by May 29 at 5:00 p.m. Funding obligations are anticipated to occur in August. The second opportunity is through the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO) Category 7 Program. Approximately \$41 million is available for projects within the MPO service area. The application period opened on May 20 and closes on June 19, providing a 30-day window for submissions. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will review applications from June 22 through June 29, with project rankings expected to be approved in August or September before being

presented to the Policy Board for final approval. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit the RGVMPO website for additional information and application materials. An additional update was provided regarding federal funding. The Department of Homeland Security funding legislation was recently signed into law by the President. Through the Homeland Security Program, funding will continue to be made available to support first responders throughout the region by assisting with the purchase of equipment and resources needed for emergency response and public safety operations.

No further questions or comments President then moved on to Item # 5 on agenda.

Item #5 Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development – Melisa Gonzales-Rosas had one action item on agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve Nomination on an Elected or Appointed of a Non-entitlement community to be Considered of Appointment to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) by the Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner. The recommended representative is Mr. Ben Medina, who has served in this role over the past year and has graciously agreed to continue serving. This year, we were also given the opportunity to designate an alternate representative. Mr. Jared Hockema has volunteered to serve in that capacity. Therefore, I am requesting approval to appoint Mr. Medina as our USC representative and Mr. Jared Hockema as our USC alternate representative. ***Aarin Hartwell made a motion to approve Nomination on an Elected or Appointed of a Non-entitlement community to be Considered of Appointment to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) by the Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner. Oscar Garcia seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports - Several announcements were shared with the board.

First, members were reminded that the second AI Data Centers Workshop will be held tomorrow in the Ken Jones Room from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Those interested in learning more about AI data centers are encouraged to attend. Additionally, on June 17 at 10:00 a.m., a COSTEP Data Systems Workshop will be conducted by Mr. Rick Carrera. This will be a hands-on training session, and participants are encouraged to bring a laptop or tablet to fully engage in the training and learn how to use the data system.

Members were also informed that the Economic Development Administration (EDA) currently has open applications for disaster recovery and public infrastructure funding opportunities. Organizations interested in pursuing infrastructure or disaster-related projects are encouraged to apply, it was announced that the Region M Request for Proposals (RFP) for the seventh cycle of the Regional Plan is now open. Applications will be accepted through June 30.

For my final announcement, I would like to share that on May 12 we had the opportunity to visit our SWIFFT program in action in Mission. While we were excited to be there, I think the students were even more excited because we had a special guest in attendance, Mayor Norie. Mayor Norie, thank you for taking the time to join us. The visit was truly impressive. The students did an outstanding job, and it was exciting to see the project firsthand. For anyone who has not had the opportunity to observe the food composting and vermicomposting process, it is fascinating to see how it works. The worms play a critical role in the process, and it was amazing to see them actively doing their job, even in the South Texas heat. Overall, it was a great experience and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students and program staff. At this time, I would like to invite Mayor Norie to share a few remarks.

Mayor Norie Shared a few words; It was truly exciting and refreshing to see the enthusiasm on the students' faces. They are genuinely committed to their projects and take great pride in the work they are doing. As we

spoke with them, they shared how the program is not only helping them learn new skills and concepts but also strengthening their social interactions and teamwork. In a time when so many young people spend much of their day on tablets and electronic devices, it was wonderful to see students actively engaged, working with their hands, exploring, learning, and not being afraid to get a little dirty in the process. That hands-on experience is invaluable. It was a truly rewarding experience, and I want to thank everyone involved for the work you're doing to engage and inspire these students. The impact of this program is clearly meaningful and memorable for them. I was incredibly impressed by their dedication, excitement, and passion for what they are learning.

Melisa Gonzales-Rosas stated that I would also like to share that we are expanding this project throughout the region. The program will be launching in the City of Mercedes this summer as part of its enrichment activities. We are also targeting expansion into Raymondville and Rio Hondo next fall. Mission has truly been leading the way and serving as a model for the region, and we are excited to build on that success as we bring the program to additional communities.

As a reminder, we have developed a food composting curriculum that will be available free of charge to any school, organization, or community interested in implementing a similar program. Once the curriculum receives final approval from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), we will be happy to share it with anyone who is interested. We look forward to continuing to grow this initiative and expanding its impact across the region.

B. Health & Human Services - Margarita Lopez had one action items on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the final Lower Rio Grande Valley Area Plan FY 2027-2029 following the conclusion of the public comment period and incorporation of any edits received. The plan you have in front of you reflects all the updates provided today. These include a revision to the organizational chart to remove the housing navigator position, as well as the percentage adjustments I mentioned last month. Aside from these two changes, no additional information has been added. ***Jim darling made a motion o approve the final Lower Rio Grande Valley Area Plan FY 2027-2029 following the conclusion of the public comment period and incorporation of any edits received. Aarin Hartwell seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports – Margarita Lopez mentioned that she had a critical program update to share, and I will read it exactly as it was received from HHS. Although this was also included in my monthly status report, I am required to make a public announcement.

On May 7, 2026, the ADRC received formal notification from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has mandated budget reductions to the Money Follows the Person grant for fiscal year 2026. As a result, HHS has directed that certain Money Follows the Person–funded activities be discontinued no later than May 31, 2026. The two programs directly impacted and required to be closed out are the Housing Navigator Program and the Local Contact Agency Project. These updates are reflected in both the organizational chart and the area plan. The Housing Navigator Program will no longer continue; however, we were able to retain housing navigation language and assistance by identifying alternative funding sources to support our aging population and individuals in need.

In addition, all local contact agency project activities funded through this grant will be discontinued. A closeout plan has already been completed and implemented without any issues or concerns. The final program end date will be May 31, 2026.

This is a milestone for us after going through several closeout attempts last year. We are still standing, and this reflects our continued compliance and stability. We remain committed to moving forward and sustaining our work despite the challenges we've faced.

C. Public Safety

C.1.A – Emergency Services, Criminal Justice & Homeland Security

Program Status Reports Cesar Merla started off with Homeland Security & Criminal Justice: I would also like to echo the comments Mr. Cruz made earlier regarding Homeland Security funding. Additional funding opportunities have recently become available, including the SAFER Grant and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). These FEMA-funded programs are specifically geared toward supporting fire departments and first responders. The current application period is open from May 19 through June 22.

For any jurisdictions interested in applying, please feel free to contact either myself or Mr. Cruz for assistance. As a reminder, applicants should reference their THIRA and SPR documents when preparing grant applications, as those documents play an important role in the funding process.

In addition to these grant opportunities, our staff continue to support the region through both the Criminal Justice Division and the Homeland Security Division as we await the release of additional funding. We anticipate receiving guidance on the FY 2025 Homeland Security allocation, as well as the FY 2026 allocation, sometime in June or July. Once those allocations are finalized, we will work through the Governor's Office to notify recipients and provide any necessary guidance regarding the use and administration of those funds.

As for Criminal Justice funding, those grant opportunities typically become available in October. We will continue to monitor developments and provide updates as information becomes available.

RGV 911 Status Reports: On the 911 side of the house, our GIS Division has been working closely with the newly formed Emergency Service Districts 5 and 6 to update mapping software and related systems. As a result, we now have dedicated mapping coverage for the ESD 5 and 6 service areas in the Mission and Alton region, helping to improve emergency response capabilities and overall coordination.

Our IT Division has also been actively working with all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) throughout the region to update critical systems and software, ensuring continued reliability and smooth operations. In addition, staff are assisting with the transition to a new service provider that is expected to reduce costs while maintaining service quality.

Our Public Education Team has remained extremely busy as well. As reflected in the report, they are engaged in outreach activities throughout the region almost daily. From the City of Mission and the City of Alton to organizations such as ARISE Adelante and numerous other community-based partners, our team continues to promote public awareness and emergency preparedness. If your community or organization would like RGV 911 staff to participate in an event or make a presentation, please let us know and we will be happy to coordinate with you.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to highlight our newly established RGV Public Safety Emergency Communications Conference. Building on the success of last year's LISTO Conference and Public Wellness Seminar, we have combined the efforts of the Criminal Justice Division, Homeland Security Division, and RGV 911 to create a comprehensive regional conference focused on public safety and emergency communications.

This year, we were able to secure the South Padre Island Convention Center as the conference venue, with Margaritaville serving as the host hotel. Attendees will be eligible to book rooms at the government GSA rate, making participation more affordable. We have also been able to reduce the registration fee from previous years. Registration is now only \$50 per person, compared to prior rates of \$75 to \$100. The conference is scheduled for October 14–16, 2026, and we encourage all interested agencies and partners to participate.

C.2 - Lower Rio Grande Police Academy - Mr. Javier Solis started off with his Program Action Items.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the LRGV Academy and the City of Donna Texas, for the surplus and donation of LRGV Academy Police vehicles to the Donna Police Department. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve Interlocal Agreement between the LRGV Academy and the City of Donna Texas, for the surplus and donation of LRGV Academy Police vehicles to the Donna Police Department, Pepe Cabeza de Vaca seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the addition of the New Policy to the LRGV Academy enrollment requirements for the United States Military Veterans. ***Troy Allen made a motion to approve the addition of the New Policy to the LRGV Academy enrollment requirements for the United States Military Veterans, Commissioner Edward Gonzales seconded the motion upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports Last week, we commenced our 234th LRGV Police Academy in the City of Rio Grande City. This marks our second police academy to be conducted in Starr County, and training is now officially underway.

Our 232nd Police Academy, currently being held in Mission, has entered its final phase of training. The cadets have less than one month remaining and are scheduled to graduate on July 16. Mayor, I will be sure to send you an invitation to attend the graduation ceremony.

Additionally, the cadets enrolled in our 233rd Part-Time Police Academy have successfully completed Phase I of their training and will begin Phase II this coming week. During this phase, they will receive instruction in traffic law enforcement and the detection and recognition of intoxicated and impaired drivers.

Regarding training activities for the month, we conducted three in-service training courses, providing instruction to 82 law enforcement officers and generating a total of 2,376 contact hours of training.

Lastly, I would like to share an exciting development. Last week, I attended the 2026 National Police Canine Conference in Amarillo, Texas, hosted by the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA) in partnership with the Amarillo Police Department. During the conference, their training provider experienced an unexpected issue, and our academy was asked to step in and report the training hours for the event.

This conference attracts hundreds of police K-9 teams and law enforcement professionals from across the country each year. In addition to its professional value, it generates a significant economic impact for the host community, bringing tens of thousands of dollars in revenue to local businesses.

I am pleased to report that the 2027 conference will be held in El Paso, Texas, and the LRGV Academy has been selected as a finalist to host the 2028 National Police Canine Conference. Next year, we will present our proposal alongside other finalist locations, including communities in Louisiana, San Angelo, Texas, and Lexington, Kentucky.

Our goal is to bring this prestigious national conference to South Padre Island, Texas. Hosting this event would not only showcase our region on a national stage but also provide substantial economic and professional benefits to the Rio Grande Valley.

D. Transportation

Valley Metro - Ms. Sandra Carrizales began by reminding attendees that Route 31 is available for anyone who may need transportation home. She noted that those who are unsure of the route's stops can easily access that information through the Transloc app. Ms. Carrizales encouraged everyone, as well as their staff and colleagues, to download and utilize the app, as increased usage helps strengthen and improve the platform's effectiveness for the community.

1. Consideration and ACTION to Rescind Prior Board Approval Authorizing Acceptance of (7) MCI Coach Buses from Green Mountain Transit (GMT). At the time of the original Board action, Valley Metro was actively coordinating with GMT regarding its request for acknowledgment of interest in the buses, and a comprehensive on-site operational assessment had not yet been completed. Following additional reviews conducted by Valley Metro staff, including evaluations of operations, maintenance requirements, infrastructure, and fiscal capacity—several concerns were identified related to long-term operational capability, necessary rehabilitation investments, facility limitations, and overall financial sustainability. Because the proposed transfer previously received formal Board approval, staff is bringing this item back before the Board to formally rescind the prior action. This will allow Valley Metro to coordinate any necessary closeout activities with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region 6 and ensure all requirements are appropriately addressed. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve to Rescind Prior Board Approval Authorizing Acceptance of (7) MCI Coach Buses from Green Mountain Transit (GMT). Andres Chavez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports - Ms. Carrizales had a few announcements to share with the Board.

First, she highlighted Valley Metro's new ridership snapshot report. After many years of providing more than a dozen pages of ridership data, staff have streamlined the report to include an overall monthly ridership summary, year-over-year comparisons, and information on the system's top-performing routes.

For April 2026, Valley Metro experienced a year-over-year ridership increase of more than 35 percent compared to the same period last year. Total ridership for the fiscal year to date reached approximately 339,000 passenger trips, representing a 36 percent increase over the previous fiscal year.

Ms. Carrizales also reported that staff met with the Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) this month and continues to work closely with partner agencies throughout the region. These collaborative efforts are focused on exploring service expansion opportunities and enhancing the overall quality of public transportation services.

Lastly, she provided an update on the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan. The project recently transitioned to a new project manager, Mr. Todd Hanson, replacing Mr. Richard Sampson. Since that transition, significant progress has been made. Survey links have been distributed to partner agencies, and stakeholder interviews are continuing throughout the region.

Ms. Carrizales noted that some Board members and stakeholders may have already been contacted as part of the outreach process and encouraged everyone to participate. Their input will help ensure the plan reflects the most current information and regional transportation needs.

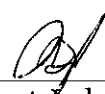
Item #6 - New & Unfinished Business - Mayor Norma Sepulveda had a few words, I would like to commend Mayor Norrie for her outstanding leadership. Navigating these challenges has not been easy, especially in the face of funding reductions and the many uncertainties that come with them. While we are fortunate to have an exceptional team and staff members like Manny, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to support this organization, the responsibility of leading through these difficult circumstances ultimately rests at the top. Throughout it all, you handled every challenge with grace, professionalism, and determination.

Your advocacy on behalf of this body has been truly appreciated, and I want to sincerely thank you for your service, leadership, and commitment. It has made a meaningful difference, and we are all grateful for your efforts.

Update on Reservoir by Jim Darling - Okay, well, I was hoping for better news. At least we're holding steady at around 27%. I mean, most of the municipal accounts are full. Agriculture is really the sector that's taking the brunt of it, and we're seeing a lot more activity with groundwater. I even noticed that one of the other counties around Raymondville is drilling wells, and you all are doing a little bit of that as well. So, I think people are realizing that groundwater may be part of the solution. We'll see how that goes.

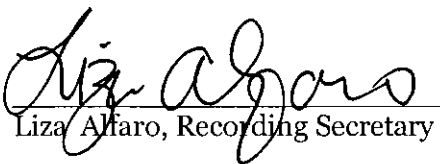
Otherwise, all we can do is pray for rain.

Item #7 Adjourn



President Judge Aurelio Guerra

ATTEST:



Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary