

MINUTES

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2006- 1:30 P.M.
WESLACO CITY HALL – LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER
255 SOUTH KANSAS - WESLACO, TEXAS
PRESIDING: COMMISSIONER SYLVIA HANDY

President Sylvia Handy called the meeting to order, and asked Mr. Ken Jones to call roll. Upon completion of the roll call it was ascertained that a quorum was present, and the President moved to agenda item 2. – Approval of July 27, 2006 Meeting Minutes. As there were no changes **Judge Simon Salinas made a motion for approval. Mayor Pro-tem Johnny Cuellar seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.**

Following action on the minutes, the Chairman moved to agenda item 3.A. - Public Comments. As there were no Public Comments the President moved to item 3.B. – Consider Authorization to Submit Application RE: “Bien Com” (Border Interoperable Enforcement Network Program). Mr. Tom Hushen, Cameron Co. Emergency Management Coordinator, was recognized and explained that “Bien Com” was a billion dollar nationwide competitive grant that law enforcement and first responder entities would like to utilize to purchase computer equipment for the 700 MHz Plan that would build on existing investments possessed by these entities within the valley, ensuring there would be no duplication of what had already been expended. Mr. Hushen explained that this grant was for high risk areas, such as the Texas / Mexico Border, and then gave a video presentation about this program. At the conclusion of the discussion after the presentation **Mayor Rick Morales made a motion for approval. Judge Simon Salinas seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action on item 3.B. President Handy moved to item 3.C. – Discuss Concept of a Regional MPO for the Lower Rio Grande Valley (Tabled at May 25, 2006 Board and Membership Meeting). President Handy announced that Mr. Mario Jorge, Regional Director for TxDOT, was unable to attend this meeting, but would be available for the September meeting to give a presentation that would answer many of the Board’s questions on this matter; therefore, the President asked that this item be left on the table until then.

There being no action needed on item 3.C. President Handy then moved to item 3.D. – Status Reports. Mayor Pro-tem Gen Long was recognized and asked to report on item 1. – Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB). Mayor Pro-tem Long informed the Board that staff was currently working on the next report that was due for the GNEB, and that although this organization required much time and dedication, it was also very interesting and rewarding; Mayor Pro-tem Long added that it was especially fulfilling to have representation in our region. President Handy announced that regarding item 3.D.2. – NADO News, that

that information was in the Board binders.

At the conclusion of the status reports President Handy moved to item 4. – TRACS Report from Professional Advisory Review Panel (PARP). Mr. Oscar Cuellar was recognized and informed the Board that the PARP met on August 9, 2006, and reviewed the following funding applications and was recommending approval of all, however application #6 had been tabled at the July Board meeting; **Mr. Don Medina made a motion to take application #6 off the table. Mr. Arturo Guajardo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

1. Active Relationships Center – Hispanic Active Relationships Program (HARP)
\$586,222.....DHHS
2. Department of Modern Languages/UTPA – The Medical Spanish Initiative
\$746,395.....DOE
3. Region One Education Service Center – Learning communities High School Redesign Project
\$5,175,000.....DOE
4. Town of South Padre Island – The South Padre Island Birding & Nature Center
\$2,000,000.....TPWD
5. Education Service Center Region 19 Head Start Program – Healthy Marriages Demonstration Grant: Strengthening & Promoting Healthy Marriages Among Hispanic Families
\$5,000,000.....DHHS
6. UTB & Texas Southmost College – Making the Break Healthy Lifestyles
\$739,536.44.....(Tabled at July Board meeting).....USDA

Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion to approve applications 1 through 6, as recommended by the PARP and the LRGVDC Staff. Mr. Arturo Guajardo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

At conclusion of action on PARP the President moved to item 5. – Report from Area Agency on Aging and asked Mr. Joe Gonzalez to report. Regarding item 5.A.1. – Consider Approval of Funding Recommendations for Title III Services RE: Fiscal Year 2007. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the Advisory Council was recommending total funding in the amount of \$1,874,652. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval. Mr. Arturo Guajardo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** At the conclusion of discussion and action Mr. Gonzalez stated that the status reports were in the Board folders.

President Handy then moved to item 6. – Report from Economic Development Department and asked Ms. Terrie Salinas to report. Regarding item 6.A.1. – Consider Request by City of Weslaco RE: Amendment to EDA Administrative Contract, Ms. Salinas stated that the amendment was for a time extension for the administrative grant for the City of Weslaco's World Birding Center. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval. Commissioner Victor Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Don Medina inquired as to when the next EDA conference will be held. Mr. Jones stated that it was scheduled for October 25th – 27th. Mr. Medina mentioned that the TML Conference was also scheduled for that same time. At conclusion of discussion it was determined that the TML conference would pose a conflict to the October Board meeting scheduled for October 26th as many of the Board members would be attending the conference. It was the consensus of the Board to add to the September agenda discussion RE: Rescheduling the October Board meeting.

The President then moved to item 7. – Report from Transportation Department. Regarding item 7.A. – Presentation RE: Rio Transit Facility Expansion, Mr. David Negrete of Negrete & Kolar Architects was recognized and presented the plans and drawings for the expansion project. At the conclusion of the presentation Mr. Jones informed the Board that the COG was able to facilitate this project by using the equity from the land value to meet the local match requirement. President Handy informed the Board that status reports were in the Board binders.

Upon conclusion of action on item 7, the President moved to item 8. – Report from Regional Planning & Services and stated that reports for item 8.A. were in the Board binders. President Handy then moved to item 8.A.2. – Solid Waste Management, item a. – Consider Solid Waste Advisory Committee Recommendations RE: FY 2007. Mr. Arturo Guajardo was recognized and stated that the SWAC met on August 10th to review and rank Solid Waste Grant Applications for FY 2007 funding, and that the total amount of funding available for FY 2007 was \$284,966 and the committee reviewed a total of twenty-five applications. **Mr. Arturo Guajardo made a motion for approval. Mr. Don Medina seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Upon conclusion of action President Handy stated that the program status report was in the Board binder, and moved to item 8.A.3. – Water Quality 604 B Contract, item a. – Consider Approval to Execute 604 B Water Quality Contract. Mr. Ken Jones reported that Texas Commission on Environmental Quality submitted the continuation contract for signature and approval on the 604 B Water Quality Contract and that the scope of work included three tasks: 1, State Loan Review; 2, Information Campaign for Phase II Storm Water Permits; and 3, Arroyo Colorado Education & Outreach, and that the total amount of funding was \$24,681. **Commissioner Victor Perez made a motion for approval. Mayor Lalo Sosa seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action, President Handy moved to item 8.B. – Community & Economic Development Assistance (CEDA), item 1, - Consider Approval to Submit FY 2006/2007 CEDA Application. Mr. Jones reported that this was a continuation application for \$12,997 for staff support for the Regional Review Committee. **Mr. Arturo Ramirez made a motion for approval. Commissioner Victor Perez seconded the motion and upon a vote the**

motion carried unanimously.

President Handy then moved to item 9. – Homeland Security & Training, and asked Mr. Manuel Cruz to report. Mr. Cruz announced that regarding items A.1. – Homeland Security Advisory Committee Recommendations, Consider Approval RE: Replacements on the HSAC Membership. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that two HSAC members had stepped down and staff was recommending Chief Ricardo Saldana of the City of Mission as Chair, and Chief Robert Rodriguez of the Town of South Padre Island and Mr. Victor Fonseca of Hidalgo County EMC as new committee members. ***Commissioner Victor Perez made a motion for approval. Mayor Orlando Correa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***


Upon conclusion of action, President Handy moved to item 9.A.2. – Regional Communication Committee Recommendations RE: Establish a Jurisdiction Unified Financial Account at the COG for Maintenance and Upkeep of Communication Equipment. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that Homeland Security had recently received a 31% cut in funding statewide. Chief Ricardo Saldana was recognized and informed the Board that at the last meeting the Regional Communication Committee discussed the funding changes and advised the members of the pending budget cuts and how it would affect the program. Chief Saldana stated that the final cut was actually 61% due to a redirection of funds from Homeland Security to the Life Scan and TDEX programs for law enforcement, but that some of the funding would be replaced from other sources. At conclusion of discussion ***Mr. Don Medina made a motion for approval. Mayor Lalo Sosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*** At conclusion of discussion and action the President stated that status reports on Homeland Security Funding, Regional Communications, and Emergency Management Planning were in the Board binders.

President Handy then moved to item 9.B. – Report from Police Academy, item 1. – Consider Sponsorship of Courses RE: Basic and Advanced Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and asked Mr. Tom Hushen to report. Mr. Hushen informed the Board that Mr. Richard De Los Santos of the National Institute for Crime Prevention had approached him regarding sponsoring the Cameron County area for a class that was to be held at South Padre Island and offered to allow some Cameron County law enforcement personnel to attend the classes at a lower rate or no charge. Mr. De Los Santos was recognized and informed the Board that in exchange for the LRGVDC's Regional Sponsorship the National Institute for Crime Prevention would grant either 10 - \$100 class fee reductions OR 4 spots in the class at no charge, a \$395 value, for a regional sponsorship. Mr. Hushen explained that these classes are usually held in Las Vegas, and it was not feasible to send local law enforcement there to attend, therefore this was a great opportunity. Mr. Hushen added that there would be no dollar amount charged to the COG for its sponsorship, but the class attendees would have to reference the LRGVDC on their registration form. ***Commissioner Victor Perez made a motion for the Homeland Security Advisory Committee to review the available options and come back to the Board with its recommendation. Mayor Pro-tem Gen Long seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*** At conclusion of action the President stated that the Regional Police Academy Status report was in the Board binders.

The President then stated that the status reports for item 9.C. – Criminal Justice Division/Citizen Corps, 9.D. – Metropolitan Medical Response Systems (MMRS), 9.E. – Lower Rio Grande Valley Amber Alert, and 10. – Report from 9-1-1 were all in the Board binders.

President Handy then moved to item 11. – Old or New Business. Mr. Don Medina opened discussion regarding approaching the state legislature regarding using left over 9-1-1 funds to fund interoperability communications. Mr. Ken Jones stated that currently this is not an eligible use of 9-1-1 service fees, however CSEC was seeking additional appropriations from the 9-1-1 fund at the next legislative session for eligible uses and suggested that the Corporation for Texas Regionalism (CTR) be contacted about this issue prior to the TARC conference. It was the consensus of the Board to have status reports on CTR activities at future meetings.

At conclusion of discussion President Handy asked for a motion for adjournment. **Mr. Arturo Guajardo made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Victor Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the meeting was adjourned.**


COMMISSIONER SYLVIA HANDY, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:


HONORABLE NORMA GARCIA, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT


Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

HOMELAND SECURITY AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

August 24, 2006

Report from LRGVDC Homeland Security.....Manuel Cruz, Program Administrator

A. Homeland Security Advisory Committee Recommendations

1. Consider approval of replacements on the HSAC membership
RE: City of Mission Chairman. Town of South Padre Island and Hidalgo County as members

The HSAC convened on August 09, 2006 to discuss and nominate a replacement due to the resignation of South Padre Island EMC membership and replacement of the Hidalgo County EMC member to the HSAC. The HSAC's is recommending approval to add Chief Ricardo Saldana City of Mission as Chairman. Chief Robert Rodriguez, Town of South Padre Island and Victor Fonseca, Hidalgo County EMC as new members.

ACTION ITEM

2. Regional Communication Committee Recommendations:
RE: Establish a jurisdiction unified financial account at the COG for maintenance and upkeep of communication equipment held by four jurisdictions for regional mutual aid

The RCC convened on August 01, 2006 to discuss communication equipment maintenance issues on four mobile command vehicles located in Harlingen, Pharr, Weslaco and Willacy County. The RCC's recommendation is for the LRGVDC to contact all the jurisdictions within the three county areas, (Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties), present them with their portion of funding contributions, and set up an account to fund any and all maintenance associated with the mobile command units. The committee's goal is to collect \$13,000.00

Attached are the funding recommendations for each jurisdiction contribution. All funds collected would be restricted for the use of action proposed.

ACTION ITEM

Regional Communication Plan - City Contribution

Option 1

Option 2

Based on Population

Based on Population

Financial Estimate for Communication Equipment Maintenance

\$13,000

Financial Estimate for Communication Equipment Maintenance

\$13,000

City	Population	% Population	\$ Contribution
Abilene	17,157	1.61%	\$209
Alton	7,410	0.70%	\$90
Bayview	391	0.04%	\$5
Brownsville	163,206	15.31%	\$1,991
Cameron County	80,712	7.57%	\$984
Combes	2,736	0.26%	\$33
Donna	16,084	1.51%	\$196
Edeouch	4,009	0.38%	\$49
Edinburg	60,409	5.67%	\$737
Elsa	6,126	0.57%	\$75
Granjeno	324	0.03%	\$4
Harlingen	66,411	6.23%	\$810
Hidalgo	10,310	0.97%	\$126
Hidalgo County	205,684	19.30%	\$2,509
Indian Lake	551	0.05%	\$7
La Feria	6,934	0.65%	\$85
La Joya	4,096	0.38%	\$50
La Villa	1,361	0.13%	\$17
Laguna Vista	2,586	0.24%	\$32
Los Fresnos	5,255	0.49%	\$64
Los Indios	1,282	0.12%	\$16
Lufkin	2,349	0.22%	\$29
McAllen	120,865	11.34%	\$1,474
Mercedes	14,691	1.38%	\$179
Mission	60,421	5.67%	\$737
Palm Valley	1,248	0.12%	\$15
Palmhurst	5,393	0.51%	\$66
Palmview	4,630	0.43%	\$56
Peñitas	1,239	0.12%	\$15
Pharr	57,903	5.43%	\$706
Port Isabel	5,221	0.49%	\$64
Primera	3,591	0.34%	\$44
Progreso	5,291	0.50%	\$65
Progreso Lakes	252	0.02%	\$3
Rancho Viejo	1,877	0.18%	\$23
Rangerville	195	0.02%	\$2
Raymondville	9,879	0.93%	\$120
Rio Hondo	2,157	0.20%	\$26
San Benito	25,391	2.38%	\$310
San Juan	31,215	2.93%	\$381
San Perlita	718	0.07%	\$9
Santa Rosa	3,089	0.29%	\$38
South Padre Island	2,668	0.25%	\$33
Walls	4,203	0.39%	\$51
Weslaco	30,416	2.85%	\$371
Willacy County	7,922	0.74%	\$97
Total	1,065,858	100.00%	\$13,000.00

Each cities contribution

\$283

Regional Communications Districts

Option 1 Breakdown Based on Population				Option 2 Breakdown Based on Number of Cities	
Financial Estimate for Communication Equipment Maintenance			\$13,000	Financial Estimate for Communication Equipment Maintenance	\$13,000
City	Population	% Population	\$ Contribution	Each cities contribution	
Alamo	17,157	2.56%	\$333		
Alton	7,410	1.11%	\$144		
Donna	16,084	2.40%	\$312		
Edinburg	4,009	0.60%	\$78		
Edinburg	60,409	9.02%	\$1,173		
Elsa	6,126	0.92%	\$119		
Granjeno	324	0.05%	\$6		
Hidalgo	10,310	1.54%	\$200		
Hidalgo County	205,684	30.72%	\$3,994		
La Joya	4,096	0.61%	\$80		
La Villa	1,361	0.20%	\$26		
McAllen	120,865	18.05%	\$2,347		
Mercedes	14,691	2.19%	\$285		
Mission	60,421	9.02%	\$1,173		
Palmhurst	5,393	0.81%	\$105		
Palmview	4,630	0.69%	\$90		
Peñitas	1,239	0.19%	\$24		
Pharr	57,903	8.65%	\$1,124		
Progreso	5,291	0.79%	\$103		
Progreso Lakes	252	0.04%	\$5		
San Juan	31,215	4.66%	\$606		
Sullivan City	4,203	0.63%	\$82		
Weslaco	30,416	4.54%	\$591		
Total Population	669,489	100.00%	\$13,000		

Cameron County

Breakdown Based on Population				Breakdown Based on Number of Cities	
Financial Estimate for Communication Equipment Maintenance			\$13,000	Financial Estimate for Communication Equipment Maintenance	\$13,000
City	Population	% Population	\$ Contribution	Each cities contribution	
Bayview	391	0.10%	\$14		
Brownsville	163,206	43.46%	\$5,650		
Cameron County	80,712	21.49%	\$2,794		
Combes	2,736	0.73%	\$95		
Harlingen	66,411	17.69%	\$2,299		
Indian Lake	551	0.15%	\$19		
La Feria	6,934	1.85%	\$240		
Laguna Vista	2,586	0.69%	\$90		
Los Fresnos	5,255	1.40%	\$182		
Los Indios	1,282	0.34%	\$44		
Palm Valley	1,248	0.33%	\$43		
Port Isabel	5,221	1.39%	\$181		
Primera	3,591	0.96%	\$124		
Rancho Viejo	1,877	0.50%	\$65		
Rangerville	195	0.05%	\$7		
Rio Hondo	2,157	0.57%	\$75		
San Benito	25,391	6.76%	\$879		
Santa Rosa	3,089	0.82%	\$107		
South Padre Island	2,668	0.71%	\$92		

Total	375,877	100.00%	\$13,000
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WILLACY COUNTY

Population Based on Population				Based on Number of Homes	
Financial Estimate for Communication Equipment Maintenance			\$13,000	Financial Estimate for Communication Equipment Maintenance	\$13,000
City	Population	% Population	\$ Contribution	\$3,250	
Lxford	2,349	11.26%	\$1,463		
Raymondville	9,879	47.34%	\$6,154		
San Peabita	718	3.44%	\$447		
Willacy County	7,922	37.96%	\$4,935		
Total	20,868	100.00%	\$13,000		

Note: %'s are based on the 2003 Population Estimates(Census Bureau)