# #2009-071

## AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN The Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Hatton Hatton, North Dakota and The Comptroller of the Currency

The Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Hatton, Hatton, North Dakota ("Bank") and the Comptroller of the Currency of the United States of America ("Comptroller") wish to protect the interests of the depositors, other customers, and shareholders of the Bank, and, toward that end, wish the Bank to operate safely and soundly and in accordance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

The Comptroller, through his National Bank Examiner, has examined the Bank and his findings are contained in the Report of Examination, dated December 31, 2008 ("ROE").

In consideration of the above premises, it is agreed, between the Bank, by and through its duly elected and acting Board of Directors ("Board"), and the Comptroller, through his authorized representative, that the Bank shall operate at all times in compliance with the articles of this Agreement.

## ARTICLE I

#### JURISDICTION

(1) This Agreement shall be construed to be a "written agreement entered into with the agency" within the meaning of 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b)(1).

(2) This Agreement shall be construed to be a "written agreement between such depository institution and such agency" within the meaning of 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e)(1) and 12 U.S.C. § 1818(i)(2).

(3) This Agreement shall be construed to be a "formal written agreement" within the meaning of 12 C.F.R. § 5.51(c)(6)(ii). See 12 U.S.C. § 1831i.

(4) This Agreement shall be construed to be a "written agreement" within the meaning of 12 U.S.C. § 1818(u)(1)(A).

(5) All reports or plans which the Bank or Board has agreed to submit to the AssistantDeputy Comptroller pursuant to this Agreement shall be forwarded to the:

Assistant Deputy Comptroller Fargo Field Office 3211 Fiechtner Drive SW Fargo, ND 58103-2394

# ARTICLE II

# **RISK MANAGEMENT**

(1) Within one hundred twenty (120) days, the Board shall develop, implement, and thereafter ensure Bank adherence to a risk management program to include, at a minimum, the following:

- (a) identification of existing credit, interest rate, liquidity, transaction, compliance, strategic, and reputation risks;
- (b) action plans and time frames to reduce risks where exposure is high,
   particularly with regard to credit, interest rate, liquidity, and compliance
   risks, as more fully discussed in the ROE;
- (c) policies, procedures or standards which limit the degree of risk the Board is willing to incur. The policies and procedures shall ensure that the risk tolerances are effectively communicated and followed throughout the

Bank and shall describe the actions to be taken where noncompliance with risk policies is identified;

- (d) systems to measure and control risks within the Bank. Measurementsystems shall provide timely and accurate risk reports to the Board; and
- (e) procedures to ensure that Bank employees have the necessary skills to supervise effectively the current and the new business risks within the Bank, and procedures to describe the actions to be taken to address deficiencies in staff levels and skills.

The risk management program shall be consistent with the "Bank Supervision Process" booklet of the *Comptroller's Handbook*.

(2) The Board shall ensure that the Bank has processes, personnel, and control systems to ensure implementation of and adherence to the program developed pursuant to this Article.

# ARTICLE III

## CAPITAL MINIMUMS

(1) The Bank shall achieve by June 30, 2009, and thereafter maintain the following capital levels (as defined in 12 C.F.R. Part 3):

- (a) Tier 1 capital at least equal to eight percent (8%) of adjusted total assets.
- (b) Total Risk Based Capital of at least twelve percent (12%) of risk-weighted assets.

(2) The requirement in this Agreement to meet and maintain a specific capital level means that the Bank may not be deemed to be "well capitalized" for purposes of 12 U.S.C.
§ 18310 and 12 C.F.R. Part 6 pursuant to 12 C.F.R. § 6.4(b)(1)(iv).

(3) Prior to paying any dividends, the Board shall provide a written request to the Assistant Deputy Comptroller for review and determination of no supervisory objection.

## ARTICLE IV

## CONSUMER COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

(1) Within one hundred twenty (120) days, the Board shall adopt and implement a consumer compliance program to include, but not be limited to:

- (a) a trained, knowledgeable person as the Bank's Compliance Officer. The Board needs to ensure this individual has sufficient time to devote to ensure the compliance program is effective;
- (b) adequate internal controls to ensure compliance with consumer protection laws, rules, and regulations;
- (c) an audit program to test for compliance with consumer protection laws, rules and regulations;
- (d) procedures to ensure that exceptions noted in the audit reports are corrected and responded to by the appropriate Bank personnel;
- (e) the education and training of all appropriate Bank personnel in the requirements of all federal and state consumer protection laws, rules and regulations;

- (f) correct all violations of laws and regulations noted in the most recent ROE; and
- (g) periodic reporting of the results of the consumer compliance audit to the Board or a committee thereof.

Upon adoption, a copy of the program shall be forwarded to the Assistant DeputyComptroller for review.

(3) The Board shall ensure that the Bank has processes, personnel, and control systems to ensure implementation of and adherence to the program developed pursuant to this Article.

## ARTICLE V

## BANK SECRECY ACT

(1) Within one hundred twenty (120) days of the date of this Agreement, the Board shall enhance, implement, and thereafter ensure Bank adherence to a written program of policies and procedures to provide for compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act ("BSA"), as amended (31 U.S.C. §§ 5311 et seq.), the regulations promulgated thereunder at 31 C.F.R. Part 103, as amended, and 12 C.F.R. Part 21, Subparts B and C, and the rules and regulations of the Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") (collectively referred to as the "Bank Secrecy Act" or "BSA") and for the appropriate identification and monitoring of transactions that pose greater than normal risk for compliance with the BSA. This program shall include the following enhancements:

- (a) system of internal controls to ensure ongoing compliance, including controls and procedures to ensure that all suspicious and large currency transactions are identified and reported;
- (b) address findings of the independent testing of BSA compliance;
- (c) designate a competent person as the Bank's BSA Officer and hold the individuals responsible for monitoring day-to-day BSA activities accountable to ensure duties are completed in a timely manner;
- (d) comprehensive training for all Bank personnel at least annually and for new employees when hired; and
- (e) complete a BSA risk assessment.

(2) The BSA Officer or his/her designee shall periodically review, not less than each calendar year, all account documentation for all high risk accounts and the related accounts of those customers at the Bank to determine whether the account activity is consistent with the customer's business and the stated purpose of the account.

(3) The Board shall ensure that the Bank has processes, personnel, and control systems to implement and adhere to the program developed pursuant to this Article.

(4) In revising these policies and procedures, the Board shall refer to the "Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering Examination Manual."

## ARTICLE VI

#### LENDING POLICY

(1) Within ninety (90) days, the Board shall review and revise the Bank's written loan policy. In revising this policy, the Board shall refer to "Loan Portfolio Management" booklet of the *Comptroller's Handbook*. This policy shall incorporate, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- (a) a description of acceptable types of loans;
- (b) a provision that current and satisfactory credit information will be obtained on each borrower;
- (c) maturity scheduling related to the anticipated source of repayment, the purpose of the loan, and the useful life of the collateral;
- (d) maximum ratio of loan value to appraised value or acquisition costs of collateral securing the loan;
- (e) collection procedures, to include follow-up efforts, that are systematically and progressively stronger;
- (f) a pricing policy that takes into consideration costs, general overhead, and probable loan losses, while providing for a reasonable margin of profit;
- (g) a definition of the Bank's trade area;
- (h) guidelines and limitations for loans originating outside of the Bank's trade area;
- (i) a limitation on aggregate outstanding loans in relation to other balance sheet accounts;
- (j) distribution of loans by category;

- (k) a prohibition regarding the use of brokered deposits to fund loan growth or support criticized loans;
- guidelines for loans to insiders, including a statement that such loans will not be granted on terms more favorable than those offered to similar outside borrowers;
- (m) guidelines and limitations on concentrations of credit, including unsecured loans;
- (n) a limitation on the type and size of loans that may be made by loan
   officers without prior approval by the Board or a committee established by
   the Board for this purpose;
- (o) measures to correct the deficiencies in the Bank's lending procedures noted in any ROE;
- (p) guidelines designed to improve Board oversight of the loan approval process, specifically with regard to credits exhibiting significant risk. At a minimum, the policy shall:
  - (i) establish dollar limits on extensions of credit to any one borrower, above which the prior approval of the Board, or a committee thereof, would be required;
  - (ii) establish dollar limits on aggregate extensions of credit to any one borrower, above which any new extensions of credit to that borrower, regardless of amount, would require the prior approval of the Board, or a committee thereof; and

- (iii) require that all credits which deviate from the Bank's normal course of business, including all credits which deviate from the Bank's strategic plan, receive the prior approval of the Board, or a committee thereof.
- (q) guidelines consistent with Banking Circular 255, dated July 30, 1991,
   setting forth the criteria under which renewals of extensions of credit may
   be approved. At a minimum the policy shall:
  - (i) ensure that renewals are not made for the sole purpose of reducing the volume of loan delinquencies; and
  - (ii) provide guidelines and limitations on the capitalization of interest.
- (r) charge-off guidelines, by type of loan or other asset, including Other Real Estate Owned, addressing the circumstances under which a charge-off would be appropriate and ensuring the recognition of losses within the quarter of discovery; and
- (s) guidelines for periodic review of the Bank's adherence to the revised lending policy.

Upon adoption, the policy shall be implemented, the Board shall thereafter ensureBank adherence to the policy, and a copy of the policy shall be forwarded to the AssistantDeputy Comptroller for review.

(3) The Board shall ensure that the Bank has processes, personnel, and control systems to ensure implementation of and adherence to the policy developed pursuant to this Article.

## ARTICLE VII

### PARTICIPATIONS PURCHASED

(1) Effectively immediately, the Bank may grant, purchase, assume or acquire in any manner, directly or indirectly, or as a fiduciary or nominee, any loan, loan participation, loan obligation or other asset, as long as such grant, purchase, assumption, or acquisition is consistent with safe and sound banking practices, the guidelines set forth in Banking Circular 181 (Revised), dated August 2, 1984, and the requirements of 12 C.F.R. Part 34.

## ARTICLE VIII

## UNSECURED LENDING

- (1) Within thirty (30) days, the Board shall:
  - (a) establish a prudent limit on the aggregate dollars of unsecured loans as a percentage of capital;
  - (b) monitor and report to the Board the level of unsecured loans and compliance with the limit on a quarterly basis; and
  - (c) develop and implement an action plan to reduce the level of unsecured loans if the limit is exceeded.

(2) The Board shall ensure that the Bank has processes, personnel, and control systems to ensure implementation of and adherence to this Article.

#### ARTICLE IX

## LOAN UNDERWRITING AND CREDIT AND COLLATERAL INFORMATION

(1) Within ninety (90) days, the Board shall obtain current and satisfactory credit information on all loans lacking such information, including those listed in the ROE, in any subsequent ROE, in any internal or external loan review, or in any listings of loans lacking such information provided to management by the National Bank Examiners at the conclusion of an examination.

(2) Within ninety (90) days, the Board shall ensure proper collateral documentation is maintained on all loans and correct each collateral exception listed in the ROE, in any subsequent ROE, in any internal or external loan review, or in any listings of loans lacking such information provided to management by the National Bank Examiners at the conclusion of an examination.

(3) Effective immediately, the Bank may grant, extend, renew, alter or restructure any loan or other extension of credit only after:

- (a) documenting the specific reason or purpose for the extension of credit;
- (b) identifying the expected source of repayment in writing;
- (c) structuring the repayment terms to coincide with the expected source of repayment;
- (d) obtaining and analyzing current and satisfactory credit information,including cash flow analysis, where loans are to be repaid from operations;
  - (i) Failure to obtain the information in (3)(d) shall require a majority of the full Board (or a delegated committee thereof) to certify in writing the specific reasons why obtaining and analyzing the

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information in (3)(d) would be detrimental to the best interests of the Bank; and

- (ii) A copy of the Board certification shall be maintained in the credit file of the affected borrower(s). The certification will be reviewed by this Office in subsequent examinations of the Bank.
- (e) documenting, with adequate supporting material, the value of collateral and properly perfecting the Bank's lien on it where applicable.

(4) Within ninety (90) days, the Bank may grant, extend, renew, alter or restructure any loan or other extension of credit in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to any borrower only if such grant, extension, renewal, alteration, or restructure:

- (a) complies with the Bank's lending policy established pursuant to ArticleVI;
- (b) is not used to repay or refinance, in whole or in part, tax liens or otherdebts that are delinquent, in default, in process of foreclosure, or otherwisetroubled; and
- (c) has none of the following structural weaknesses, as described in AppendixF to the "Rating Credit Risk" booklet of the *Comptroller's Handbook*:
  - (i) repayment highly dependent on projected asset values;
  - (ii) repayment highly dependent on projected cash flows;
  - (iii) repayment highly dependent on projected equity values;
  - (iv) repayment dependent on projected refinancing or recapitalization;
  - (v) advances to fund interest payments (e.g., capitalization of interest and use of interest reserves), except when such advances are made to fund interest during the development or construction phase of a

real estate development or construction loan in a manner consistent with the guidance in the "Commercial Real Estate and Construction Lending" booklet of the *Comptroller's Handbook;* 

- (vi) repayment terms that are not supported by the borrower's and guarantor's documented capacity to repay; and
- (vii) inadequate guarantor support.

(5) Effective immediately, the Bank may grant, extend, renew, alter or restructure any loan or other extension of credit to any borrower only if the terms of such loan or extension of credit are consistent with the terms that were approved by the committee or officer authorized to approve such loan or extension of credit.

(6) The Board shall ensure that the Bank has processes, personnel, and control systems to ensure adherence to the requirements of this Article.

## ARTICLE X

## **REAL ESTATE VALUATIONS**

(1) Within ninety (90) days, the Board shall obtain a current appraisal or evaluation, as applicable, of the real estate securing each of the loans listed in the ROE.

(2) The appraisals obtained pursuant to paragraph (1) above and all future appraisals shall conform to the minimum appraisal standards set forth at 12 C.F.R. § 34.44 and the evaluations shall conform to the guidelines for evaluations set forth in the "Interagency Appraisal and Evaluation Guidelines" dated October 27, 1994. (Also, see "Frequently Asked Questions on the Appraisal Regulations and the Interagency Statement on Independent Appraisal and Evaluation Functions" dated March 22, 2005.)

(3) Within thirty (30) days of receipt of each appraisal or evaluation obtained pursuant to paragraph (1) above, the Board shall reassess the risk rating and accrual status of the loan, as well as the amount of impairment, if any, in accordance with FASB Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 114, Accounting by Creditors for Impairment of a Loan.

(4) Within sixty (60) days, the Board shall adopt, implement, and thereafter ensureBank adherence to a real estate appraisal and evaluation review process.

#### ARTICLE XI

#### LOAN RISK RATING SYSTEM

(1) Within one hundred twenty (120) days, and on an ongoing basis thereafter, the Board must ensure that the Bank's internal risk ratings of commercial credit relationships in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) (covered relationship), as assigned by responsible loan officers and by internal loan review, are timely, accurate, and consistent with the regulatory credit classification criteria set forth in the "Rating Credit Risk" booklet of the *Comptroller's Handbook*. At a minimum, the Board must ensure, on an ongoing basis, that with respect to the assessment of credit risk of any covered relationship:

- (a) the primary consideration is the strength of the borrower's primary sourceof repayment (i.e., the probability of default rather than the risk of loss);
- (b) if the primary source of repayment is cash flow from the borrower's operations, the strength of the borrower's cash flow is determined through analysis of the borrower's historical and projected financial statements, past performance, and future prospects in light of conditions that have occurred;

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- (c) collateral, non-government guarantees, and other similar credit risk mitigants that affect potential loss in the event of default (rather than the probability of default) are taken into consideration only if the primary source of repayment has weakened and the probability of default has increased;
- (d) collateral values should reflect a current assessment of value based on actual market conditions and project status;
- (e) credit risk ratings are reviewed and updated whenever relevant new information is received, but no less frequently than annually; and
- (f) the credit risk rating analysis is documented and available for review by the Board and the OCC upon request.

(2) Within one hundred twenty (120) days, and on an ongoing basis thereafter, the Board must ensure that any covered relationship with a high probability of payment default or other well-defined weakness is rated no better than Substandard, unless the debt is secured by marketable securities or cash. Consistent with the guidance in the "Rating Credit Risk" booklet of the *Comptroller's Handbook*, the presence of illiquid collateral or existence of a plan for improvement does not, and a non-government guarantee generally will not, mitigate the probability of default or a well-defined weakness.

(3) The Board shall ensure that the Bank has processes, personnel, and control systems to ensure implementation of and adherence to the program developed pursuant to this Article.

## ARTICLE XII

## ANNUAL CREDIT REVIEWS

(1) Within ninety (90) days, the Board shall adopt, implement, and thereafter ensure Bank adherence to an annual credit review program for borrowers with aggregate commercial or agricultural loan balances over one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). The annual credit review shall be conducted by the responsible lending officer and shall document, at a minimum:

- (a) the specific reason or purpose of the loan;
- (b) the expected source of repayment;
- (c) past repayment performance;
- (d) terms and covenants related to each loan;
- (e) a global analysis of the borrower's current financial position, cash flow, and repayment ability;
- (f) an analysis of collateral coverage and documentation of the Bank's lien position;
- g) a description of events that could have a material adverse effect on the borrower's financial condition or repayment capacity; and
- (h) the assigned credit risk rating, including accrual designation and the amount of any impairment reserve, if necessary.

(2) Upon adoption, a written description of the program called for in this Article shall be forwarded to the Assistant Deputy Comptroller for review and determination of no supervisory objection.

#### ARTICLE XIII

### CRITICIZED ASSETS

(1) The Bank shall take immediate and continuing action to protect its interest in those assets criticized in the ROE, in any subsequent ROE, by internal or external loan review, or in any list provided to management by the National Bank Examiners during any examination.

(2) Within one hundred twenty (120) days, the Board shall adopt, implement, and thereafter ensure Bank adherence to individual workout plans designed to eliminate the basis of criticism of assets criticized in the ROE, in any subsequent ROE, or by any internal or external loan review, or in any list provided to management by the National Bank Examiners during any examination as "doubtful," "substandard," or "special mention". Each workout plan shall include, at a minimum:

- (a) an identification of the expected sources of repayment;
- (b) the current value of supporting collateral and the position of the Bank's lien on such collateral where applicable;
- (c) an analysis of current and satisfactory credit information, including a global cash flow analysis of the borrower's repayment ability; and
- (d) the primary and secondary actions to eliminate the basis of criticism and the time frame for accomplishment.

(3) Upon adoption, a copy of the workout plans for all criticized assets equal to or exceeding one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) shall be forwarded to the Assistant Deputy Comptroller.

(4) The Board, or a designated committee, shall conduct a review, on at least a quarterly basis, to determine:

- (a) the status of each criticized asset or criticized portion thereof that equals or exceeds one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000);
- (b) management's adherence to the workout plans adopted pursuant to this Article;
- (c) the status and effectiveness of the plans; and
- (d) the need to revise the plans or take alternative action.

(5) A copy of each review shall be forwarded to the Assistant Deputy Comptroller on a quarterly basis.

(6) The Bank may extend credit, directly or indirectly, including renewals, extensions or capitalization of accrued interest, to a borrower whose loans or other extensions of credit are criticized in the ROE, in any subsequent ROE, in any internal or external loan review, or in any list provided to management by the National Bank Examiners during any examination and whose aggregate loans or other extensions exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) only if each of the following conditions is met:

- (a) the Board or designated committee finds that the extension of additional credit is necessary to promote the best interests of the Bank and that prior to renewing, extending or capitalizing any additional credit, a majority of the full Board (or designated committee) approves the credit extension and records, in writing, why such extension is necessary to promote the best interests of the Bank; and
- (b) a comparison to the plans adopted pursuant to this Article shows that the Board's formal plan to collect or strengthen the criticized asset will not be compromised.

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(7) A copy of the approval of the Board or of the designated committee shall be maintained in the file of the affected borrower.

## ARTICLE XIV

## ALLOWANCE FOR LOAN AND LEASE LOSSES

(1) Within ninety (90) days, the Board shall adopt, implement, and thereafter ensure adherence to written policies and procedures for maintaining an adequate Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses ("ALLL") in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The ALLL policies and procedures shall be consistent with the guidance set forth in the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council's "Interagency Policy Statement on the Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses" dated December 13, 2006, (OCC Bulletin 2006-47) ("Interagency Statement") and shall at a minimum include:

- (a) procedures for determining whether a loan is impaired and measuring the amount of impairment, consistent with FASB Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 114, Accounting by Creditors for Impairment of a Loan;
- (b) procedures for segmenting the loan portfolio and estimating loss on groups of loans that are consistent with FASB Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5, Accounting for Contingencies, and address the nine qualitative factors set forth in the Interagency Statement;
- (c) procedures for validating the ALLL methodology; and

(d) a process for summarizing and documenting, for the Board's review and approval, the amount to be reported in the *Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income* ("Call Reports") for the ALLL. Any deficiency between the ALLL balance as determined by the analysis required by this Article and the Bank's actual ALLL balance, regardless of the amount of such deficiency, shall be remedied through additional provision expense in the quarter it is discovered, prior to the filing of the Call Reports.

(2) The Board shall ensure that the Bank has processes, personnel, and control systems to ensure implementation of and adherence to the policies and procedures developed pursuant to this Article.

## ARTICLE XV

#### CONCENTRATIONS OF CREDIT

(1) Within one hundred eighty (180) days, the Board shall adopt, implement, and thereafter ensure Bank adherence to an asset diversification program consistent with "Loan Portfolio Management" booklet of the *Comptroller's Handbook*. The program shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- (a) a written analysis of any concentration of credit identified in order to identify and assess the inherent credit risk; and
- (b) an action plan approved by the Board to reduce the risk of any concentration deemed imprudent in the above analysis.

(2) For purposes of this Article, a concentration of credit is as defined in the "LoanPortfolio Management" booklet of the *Comptroller's Handbook*.

(3) The Board shall ensure that future concentrations of credit are subjected to the analysis required by subparagraph (a) and, if that analysis demonstrates that the concentration subjects the Bank to undue risk, it takes appropriate steps to mitigate such risk.

(4) The Board shall forward a copy of any analysis performed on existing or potential concentrations of credit to the Assistant Deputy Comptroller immediately following the review.

(5) The Board shall ensure that the Bank has processes, personnel, and control systems to ensure implementation of and adherence to the program developed pursuant to this Article.

## ARTICLE XVI

## **INTEREST RATE RISK POLICY**

(1) Within one hundred fifty (150) days, the Board shall adopt, implement, and thereafter ensure Bank adherence to a written interest rate risk policy. In formulating this policy, the Board shall refer to the "Interest Rate Risk" booklet of the *Comptroller's Handbook*. The policy shall provide for a coordinated interest rate risk strategy and, at a minimum, address:

- (a) the establishment of adequate management reports on which to base sound interest rate risk management decisions;
- (b) establishment and guidance of the Bank's strategic direction and tolerance for interest rate risk;
- (c) implementation of effective tools to measure and monitor the Bank's performance and overall interest rate risk profile;
- (d) employment of competent personnel to manage interest rate risk;

(e) prudent limits on the nature and amount of interest rate risk that can be taken; and

(f) periodic review of the Bank's adherence to the policy.

Upon adoption, a copy of the written policy shall be forwarded to the AssistantDeputy Comptroller for review.

(3) The Board shall ensure that the Bank has processes, personnel, and control systems to ensure implementation of and adherence to the policy developed pursuant to this Article.

## ARTICLE XVII

### VIOLATIONS OF LAW

(1) The Board shall immediately take all necessary steps to ensure that Bank management corrects each violation of law, rule, or regulation cited in the ROE and in any subsequent ROE. The monthly progress reports required by Article I of this Agreement shall include the date and manner in which each correction has been effected during that reporting period.

(2) Within one hundred twenty (120) days of the ROE and any subsequent ROE which cites violations of law, rule, or regulation, the Board shall adopt, implement, and thereafter ensure Bank adherence to specific procedures to prevent future violations as cited in the ROE and shall adopt, implement, and ensure Bank adherence to general procedures addressing compliance management which incorporate internal control systems and education of employees regarding laws, rules and regulations applicable to their areas of responsibility.

(3) Upon adoption, a copy of these procedures shall be promptly forwarded to the Assistant Deputy Comptroller.

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(4) The Board shall ensure that the Bank has policies, processes, personnel, and control systems to ensure implementation of and adherence to the procedures developed pursuant to this Article.

## ARTICLE XVIII

## **CLOSING**

(1) Although the Board has agreed to submit certain programs and reports to the Assistant Deputy Comptroller for review or prior written determination of no supervisory objection, the Board has the ultimate responsibility for proper and sound management of the Bank.

(2) It is expressly and clearly understood that if, at any time, the Comptroller deems it appropriate in fulfilling the responsibilities placed upon him by the several laws of the United States of America to undertake any action affecting the Bank, nothing in this Agreement shall in any way inhibit, estop, bar, or otherwise prevent the Comptroller from so doing.

(3) Any time limitations imposed by this Agreement shall begin to run from the effective date of this Agreement. Such time requirements may be extended in writing by the Assistant Deputy Comptroller for good cause upon written application by the Board.

(4) The provisions of this Agreement shall be effective upon execution by the parties hereto and its provisions shall continue in full force and effect unless or until such provisions are amended in writing by mutual consent of the parties to the Agreement or excepted, waived, or terminated in writing by the Comptroller. (5) In each instance in this Agreement in which the Board is required to ensure adherence to, and undertake to perform certain obligations of the Bank, it is intended to mean that the Board shall:

- (a) authorize and adopt such actions on behalf of the Bank as may be
   necessary for the Bank to perform its obligations and undertakings under
   the terms of this Agreement;
- (b) require the timely reporting by Bank management of such actions directed by the Board to be taken under the terms of this Agreement;
- (c) follow-up on any non-compliance with such actions in a timely and appropriate manner; and
- (d) require corrective action be taken in a timely manner of any noncompliance with such actions.

(6) This Agreement is intended to be, and shall be construed to be, a supervisory "written agreement entered into with the agency" as contemplated by 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b)(1), and expressly does not form, and may not be construed to form, a contract binding on the Comptroller or the United States. Notwithstanding the absence of mutuality of obligation, or of consideration, or of a contract, the Comptroller may enforce any of the commitments or obligations herein undertaken by the Bank under his supervisory powers, including 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b)(1), and not as a matter of contract law. The Bank expressly acknowledges that neither the Bank nor the Comptroller has any intention to enter into a contract. The Bank also expressly acknowledges that no officer or employee of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has statutory or other authority to bind the United States, the U.S. Treasury Department, the Comptroller, or any other federal bank regulatory agency or entity, or any officer or employee of any of those entities to a contract affecting the Comptroller's exercise of his supervisory responsibilities. The terms of this Agreement, including this paragraph, are not subject to amendment or modification by any extraneous expression, prior agreements or prior arrangements between the parties, whether oral or written.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the undersigned, authorized by the Comptroller, has hereunto set his hand on behalf of the Comptroller.

/s/

5/11/09

Date

Craig E. Rise Assistant Deputy Comptroller Fargo Field Office

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the undersigned, as the duly elected and acting Board of Directors of the Bank, have hereunto set their hands on behalf of the Bank.

Richard Jordahl	Date
/s/	5/11/09
Kenley Just	Date
/s/	5/11/09
Ray Kvalvog	Date
Terry McNea	Date
/s/	5/11/09
Frederick Schlanser	Date