

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

STATE OF MONTANA  
DIVISION OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
HELENA, MONTANA

Written Agreement by and among

BELT VALLEY BANK  
Belt, Montana

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF  
MINNEAPOLIS  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

and

MONTANA DIVISION OF BANKING AND  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
Helena, Montana

Docket No. 11-040-WA/RB-SM

WHEREAS, in recognition of their common goal to maintain the financial soundness of Belt Valley Bank, Belt, Montana (the “Bank”), a state-chartered bank that is a member of the Federal Reserve System, the Bank, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (the “Reserve Bank”), and the State of Montana Division of Banking and Financial Institutions (the “Division”) have mutually agreed to enter into this Written Agreement (the “Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2011, the board of directors of the Bank, at a duly constituted meeting, adopted a resolution authorizing and directing Bruce A. Hoyer to enter into this Agreement on behalf of the Bank, and consenting to compliance with each and every provision of this Agreement by the Bank and its institution-affiliated parties, as defined in section 3(u) of

the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended (the “FDI Act”) (12 U.S.C. § 1813(u)).

NOW, THEREFORE, the Bank, the Reserve Bank, and the Division agree as follows:

### **Board Oversight**

1. Within 60 days of this Agreement, the board of directors of the Bank shall submit to the Reserve Bank and the Division a written plan, along with a timeline, to strengthen board oversight of the management and operations of the Bank. The plan shall, at a minimum, address, consider, and include:

(a) The actions that the board of directors will take to improve the Bank’s condition and maintain effective control over, and supervision of, the Bank’s senior management and major operations and activities, including but not limited to, credit risk management, lending and credit administration, loan grading and loan review, asset quality, capital, and earnings;

(b) the responsibility of the board of directors to set executive compensation based on actual job responsibilities and evaluations of performance, and to assess compensation not less than annually;

(c) the establishment of a compensation committee consisting of at least two outside directors;

(d) the responsibility of the board of directors to monitor management’s adherence to approved Bank policies and procedures, and to require management to document exceptions thereto; and

(e) a description of the information and reports that will be regularly reviewed by the board of directors in its oversight of the operations and management of the Bank, including information on the Bank’s lending and credit administration, loan grading and loan review, asset quality, allowance for loan and lease losses (“ALLL”), capital, and earnings.

## **Credit Risk Management**

2. Within 60 days of this Agreement, the Bank shall submit to the Reserve Bank and the Division an acceptable written plan to strengthen credit risk management practices. The plan shall, at a minimum, address, consider, and include:

- (a) Timely and accurate identification and quantification of credit risk within the loan portfolio;
- (b) timely recognition of losses;
- (c) stress testing of the loan portfolio;
- (d) enhanced portfolio reporting of all exceptions to loan policy and credit administration standards; and
- (e) strategies to minimize credit losses and reduce the level of problem assets.

## **Lending and Credit Administration**

3. Within 60 days of this Agreement, the Bank shall submit to the Reserve Bank and the Division acceptable revised written lending and credit administration policies and procedures that shall, at a minimum, address, consider, and include:

- (a) Underwriting standards for extending credit, including, but not limited to, analysis, documentation, and approval requirements;
- (b) standards for the appropriate use of loan covenants;
- (c) standards for renewing or modifying existing loans, including, but not limited to, analysis, documentation, and approval requirements;
- (d) standards for the timely movement of loans to non-accrual status;

(e) procedures to ensure the timely and consistent analyses of borrowers' and guarantors' current financial condition, including financial statements, global cash flow, repayment sources, and performance;

(f) a description of required loan documentation and a requirement for the timely maintenance of such documentation in the loan file;

(g) appropriate training for loan officers on loan underwriting standards and documentation requirements;

(h) procedures to correct all loan documentation exceptions;

(i) a methodology for documenting, compiling, quantifying and reporting all exceptions to loan policy, including instances where requirements have been waived, to the loan committee, management and the board of directors, and a requirement that such reporting be done on a periodic basis; and

(j) enhanced policies and procedures that provide for, among other things, the identification of concentrations, thresholds for acceptable concentrations, and periodic reporting to the board of directors.

#### **Loan Grading and Loan Review**

4. Within 30 days of this Agreement, the Bank shall submit to the Reserve Bank and the Division an acceptable written program to ensure the accurate grading of the Bank's loan portfolio. The program shall provide for processes and procedures for the timely and ongoing grading of loans. The program shall, at a minimum, address, consider, and include:

(a) Procedures for the early identification of problem loans;

(b) procedures to re-evaluate the grading of loans in the event of material changes in the borrower's performance or the value of the collateral;

- (c) procedures to evaluate the grading of all loans assigned less than a pass grade at least quarterly;
- (d) designation of the person(s) responsible for the grading of loans;
- (e) controls to ensure staff's consistent application and adherence to the loan grading system; and
- (f) a mechanism for reporting to senior management and the board of directors, at least monthly, that at a minimum: summarizes the Bank's loan grades; describes trends in asset quality; identifies the loans that are nonperforming, adversely graded, or identified as needing special attention, describes the status of those loans, and describes the actions taken, or to be taken, by management for strengthening of the quality of any such loans.

5. The board of directors, or a committee thereof, shall evaluate the loan review report(s) and take appropriate steps to ensure that management takes prompt action to address findings noted in the report(s).

### **Asset Improvement**

6. The Bank shall not, directly or indirectly, extend, renew, or restructure any credit to or for the benefit of any borrower, including any related interest of the borrower, whose loans or other extensions of credit are criticized in the report of examination of the Bank conducted by the Reserve Bank that commenced on August 30, 2010 (the "Report of Examination") or in any subsequent report of examination, without the prior approval of a majority of the full board of directors or a designated committee thereof. The board of directors or its committee shall document in writing the reasons for the extension of credit, renewal, or restructuring, specifically certifying that: (i) the Bank's risk management policies and practices for loan workout activity are acceptable; (ii) the extension of credit is necessary to improve and protect

the Bank's interest in the ultimate collection of the credit already granted and maximize its potential for collection; (iii) the extension of credit reflects prudent underwriting based on reasonable repayment terms and is adequately secured; and all necessary loan documentation has been properly and accurately prepared and filed; (iv) the Bank has performed a comprehensive credit analysis indicating that the borrower has the willingness and ability to repay the debt as supported by an adequate workout plan, as necessary; and (v) the board of directors or its designated committee reasonably believes that the extension of credit will not impair the Bank's interest in obtaining repayment of the already outstanding credit and that the extension of credit or renewal will be repaid according to its terms. The written certification shall be made a part of the minutes of the meetings of the board of directors or its committee, as appropriate, and a copy of the signed certification, together with the credit analysis and related information that was used in the determination, shall be retained by the Bank in the borrower's credit file for subsequent supervisory review. For purposes of this Agreement, the term "related interest" is defined as set forth in section 215.2(n) of Regulation O of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System ("Board of Governors") (12 C.F.R. § 215.2(n)).

7. (a) Within 60 days of this Agreement, the Bank shall submit to the Reserve Bank and the Division an acceptable written plan designed to improve the Bank's position through repayment, amortization, liquidation, additional collateral, or other means on other real estate owned ("OREO"), and on each loan, relationship, or other asset in excess of \$250,000 that is past due as to principal or interest more than 90 days as of the date of this Agreement, is on the Bank's problem loan list, or was adversely classified in the Report of Examination.

(b) Within 30 days of the date that the Bank acquires OREO, or any additional loan, relationship, or other asset in excess of \$250,000 becomes past due as to principal or

interest for more than 90 days, is on the Bank's problem loan list, or is adversely classified in any subsequent report of examination of the Bank, the Bank shall submit to the Reserve Bank and the Division an acceptable written plan to improve the Bank's position on such loan, relationship, or asset.

(c) Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter thereafter, the Bank shall submit a written progress report to the Reserve Bank and the Division to update each asset improvement plan, which shall include, at a minimum, the carrying value of the loan or other asset and changes in the nature and value of supporting collateral, along with a copy of the Bank's current problem loan list, a list of all loan renewals and extensions without full collection of interest in the last quarter, and a past due/non-accrual report.

#### **Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses**

8. (a) Within 10 days of this Agreement, the Bank shall eliminate from its books, by charge-off or collection, all assets or portions of assets classified "loss" in the Report of Examination that have not been previously collected in full or charged off. Thereafter, the Bank shall, within 30 days from the receipt of any federal or state report of examination, charge off all assets classified "loss" unless otherwise approved in writing by the Reserve Bank and the Division.

(b) Within 60 days of this Agreement, the Bank shall review and revise its ALLL methodology consistent with relevant supervisory guidance, including the Interagency Policy Statements on the Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses, dated July 2, 2001 (SR 01-17 (Sup)) and December 13, 2006 (SR 06-17), and the findings and recommendations regarding the ALLL set forth in the Report of Examination, and submit a description of the revised methodology to the Reserve Bank and the Division. The revised ALLL methodology shall be

designed to maintain an adequate ALLL and shall address, consider, and include, at a minimum, the reliability of the Bank's loan grading system, the volume of criticized loans, concentrations of credit, the current level of past due and nonperforming loans, past loan loss experience, evaluation of probable losses in the Bank's loan portfolio, including adversely classified loans, and the impact of market conditions on loan and collateral valuations and collectibility.

(c) Within 60 days of this Agreement, the Bank shall submit to the Reserve Bank and the Division an acceptable written program for the maintenance of an adequate ALLL. The program shall include policies and procedures to ensure adherence to the revised ALLL methodology and provide for periodic reviews and updates to the ALLL methodology, as appropriate. The program shall also provide for a review of the ALLL by the board of directors on at least a quarterly calendar basis. Any deficiency found in the ALLL shall be remedied in the quarter it is discovered, prior to the filing of the Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income, by additional provisions. The board of directors shall maintain written documentation of its review, including the factors considered and conclusions reached by the Bank in determining the adequacy of the ALLL. During the term of this Agreement, the Bank shall submit to the Reserve Bank and the Division, within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter, a written report regarding the board of directors' quarterly review of the ALLL and a description of any changes to the methodology used in determining the amount of the ALLL for that quarter.

### **Capital Plan**

9. Within 60 days of this Agreement, the Bank shall submit to the Reserve Bank and the Division an acceptable written plan to maintain sufficient capital at the Bank. The plan shall,

at a minimum, address, consider, and include the Bank's current and future capital requirements, including:

(a) Compliance with the Capital Adequacy Guidelines for State Member Banks: Risk-Based Measure and Tier 1 Leverage Measure, Appendices A and B of Regulation H of the Board of Governors (12 C.F.R. Part 208, App. A and B);

(b) The volume of adversely classified assets;

(c) the adequacy of the loan loss reserve;

(d) any planned asset growth;

(e) the anticipated level of retained earnings;

(f) anticipated and contingent liquidity needs; and

(g) the source and timing of additional funds to fulfill the future capital and loan loss reserve needs of the Bank.

10. The board of directors shall notify the Reserve Bank and the Division, in writing, no more than 30 days after the end of any quarter in which the Bank's capital ratios (total risk-based, tier one risk-based, or leverage) fall below the plan's minimums ratios. Together with the notification, the Bank shall submit an acceptable capital plan that details the steps it will take to increase the Bank's capital ratios to or above the plan's minimums.

### **Earnings Plan and Budget**

11. (a) Within 60 days of this Agreement, the Bank shall submit to the Reserve Bank and the Division a written business plan for 2011 to improve the Bank's earnings and overall condition. The plan, at a minimum, shall provide for or describe:

(i) A realistic and comprehensive budget for 2011, including income statement and balance sheet projections; and

(ii) a description of the operating assumptions that form the basis for, and adequately support, major projected income, expense, and balance sheet components.

(b) A business plan and budget for each calendar year subsequent to 2011 shall be submitted to the Reserve Bank and the Division at least 30 days prior to the beginning of that calendar year.

### **Dividends**

12. (a) The Bank shall not declare or pay any dividends without the prior written approval of the Reserve Bank, the Director of the Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation of the Board of Governors (the “Director”), and the Division.

(b) All requests for prior written approval shall be received at least 30 days prior to the proposed dividend declaration date. All requests shall contain, at a minimum, current and projected information on the Bank’s capital, asset quality, earnings, and ALLL needs; and identification of the sources of funds for the proposed payment. The Bank must also demonstrate that the requested declaration or payment of dividends is consistent with the Board of Governors’ Policy Statement on the Payment of Cash Dividends by State Member Banks and Bank Holding Companies, dated November 14, 1985 (Federal Reserve Regulatory Service, 4-877 at page 4-323).

### **Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

13. (a) In appointing any new director or senior executive officer, or changing the responsibilities of any senior executive officer so that the officer would assume a different senior executive officer position, the Bank shall comply with the notice provisions of section 32 of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. § 1831i) and Subpart H of Regulation Y of the Board of Governors (12 C.F.R. §§ 225.71 et seq.).

(b) The Bank shall comply with the restrictions on indemnification and severance payments of section 18(k) of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. § 1828(k)) and Part 359 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's regulations (12 C.F.R. Part 359).

#### **Approval and Implementation of Plans, Programs, Policies, and Procedures**

14. (a) The Bank shall submit written plans, programs, policies and procedures that are acceptable to the Reserve Bank and the Division within the applicable time periods set forth in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7(a), 7(b), 8(c), 9, and 10 of this Agreement.

(b) Within 10 days of approval by the Reserve Bank and the Division, the Bank shall adopt the approved plans, programs, policies and procedures. Upon adoption, the Bank shall implement the approved plans, programs, policies and procedures, and thereafter fully comply with them.

(c) During the term of this Agreement, the approved plans, programs, policies and procedures shall not be amended or rescinded without the prior written approval of the Reserve Bank and the Division.

#### **Progress Reports**

15. Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter following the date of this Agreement, the Bank shall submit to the Reserve Bank and the Division written progress reports detailing the form and manner of all actions taken to secure compliance with this Agreement and the results thereof.

## **Communications**

16. All communications regarding this Agreement shall be sent to:
  - (a) Ms. Diann G. Townsend  
Assistant Vice President  
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis  
90 Hennepin Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1804
  - (b) Mr. David Novotny  
Deputy Commissioner  
Montana Division of Banking and Financial Institutions  
301 South Park, Suite 316  
Helena, Montana 59601
  - (c) Mr. Bruce A. Hoyer  
Chief Executive Officer  
Belt Valley Bank  
111 Castner Street  
Belt, Montana 59412

## **Miscellaneous**

17. Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement, the Reserve Bank and the Division may, in their sole discretion, grant written extensions of time to the Bank to comply with any provision of this Agreement.

18. The provisions of this Agreement shall be binding upon the Bank and its institution-affiliated parties, in their capacities as such, and their successors and assigns.

19. Each provision of this Agreement shall remain effective and enforceable until stayed, modified, terminated, or suspended in writing by the Reserve Bank and the Division.

20. The provisions of this Agreement shall not bar, estop, or otherwise prevent the Board of Governors, the Reserve Bank, the Division, or any other federal or state agency from taking any other action affecting the Bank, or any of its current or former institution-affiliated parties and their successors and assigns.

21. Pursuant to section 50 of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. § 1831aa), this Agreement is enforceable by the Board of Governors under section 8 of the FDI Act (12 U.S.C. § 1818).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed as of the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011.

BELT VALLEY BANK

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK  
OF MINNEAPOLIS

By: /s/ Bruce A. Hoyer  
Bruce A. Hoyer  
Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ James M. Barnes  
James M. Barnes  
Vice President

MONTANA DIVISION OF BANKING  
AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

By: /s/ Melanie S. Griggs  
Melanie S. Griggs  
Commissioner