

Minutes of Meeting
Souris River Joint Water Resource Board
Banking Selection Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 30, 2025

A meeting of the Banking Selection Committee of the Souris River Joint Water Resource District was called to order by Ryan Ackerman at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, after announcing that a quorum was present. The meeting was held online via Microsoft Teams. The committee members in attendance were Tom Klein, Dan Steinberger and Dave Lakefield.

Ryan Ackerman opened up the meeting with discussion on weighted percentages, which were as follows: 10.00% for current statement of conditions of the financial institution and prior 12 months; 20.00% for experience in providing deposit services to public entities; 30.00% for interest rates on public accounts; 20.00% for fees for deposit services; 20.00% for security measures for safeguarding public funds. Dan Steinberger indicated he felt that interest rates on public accounts should be 20.00% and security measures for safeguarding public funds should be 30.00%. Tom Klein agreed with this modification.

The spreadsheets for evaluations completed by Klein, Dan Steinberger and Dave Lakefield were reviewed and weighted scores were calculated for each financial institution. The top total weighted score was Bravera Bank (24.70), followed by First Western Bank (24.30) and Bell Bank (21.40).

Dave Lakefield joined the discussion and pointed out that the interest rates were significantly different on the three submittals. The SRJB accounts are currently held at First Western Bank. Dave Lakefield pointed out that the safeguarding measures are required by law – they have to pledge securities or have a mechanism to accomplish that. And the interest rates are more important with the amount of cash on hand at any given time. Dave Lakefield indicated he felt more emphasis should be placed on the interest rates. Dave Lakefield indicated interest rates and fees are the biggest items that would differentiate the institutes and suggested the interest rate remain at 30.00%, fees for deposit services at 30% and security measures for safeguarding public funds at 10.00%.

The committee next discussed whether the funds are held exclusively in a checking account or set up with cash sweeps from a money market account.

Final figures of 10.00% for current statement of conditions of the financial institution and prior 12 months; 20.00% for experience in providing deposit services to public entities; 30.00% for interest rates on public accounts; 30.00% for fees for deposit services; and 10.00% for security measures for safeguarding public funds were agreed upon by the committee. Using these allocations, the top total weighted score was First Western Bank (24.30), followed by Bell Bank (20.70) and Bravera Bank (24.20). There was a discussion about putting any other banks on an exclusion list if funds are deposited at other institutions. The committee agreed to present the SRJB with the suggestion to open a Certificate of Deposit at Bravera Bank. This recommendation will be presented to the Joint Board to consider before official action is taken.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Jack Dwyer
Legal Counsel