

Subpart G—Mergers, Consolidations, and Charter Amendments of Associations

§ 611.1120 General authority.

(a) An amendment to an association charter may relate to any provision that is properly the subject of a charter, including, but not limited to, the name of the association, the location of its offices, or the territory served.

(b) The Farm Credit Administration may make changes in the charter of an association as may be requested by that association and approved by the Farm Credit Administration pursuant to § 611.1121 of this part.

(c) The Farm Credit Administration may, by order of the Chairman and on its own initiative, make changes in the charter of a Federal land bank association or a production credit association where the Chairman determines that the change is necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Act.

[50 FR 20400, May 16, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 41945, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 611.1121 Charter amendment procedures.

This section shall apply to any request by an association to amend its charter.

(a) An association which proposes to amend its charter shall submit a request to its supervising bank containing the following information:

(1) A statement of the provision(s) of the charter that the association proposes to amend and the proposed amendment(s);

(2) A statement of the reasons for the proposed amendment(s), the impact of the amendment(s) on the association and its stockholders, and the requested effective date of the amendment(s);

(3) A certified copy of the resolution of the board of directors of the association approving the amendment(s);

(4) Any additional information or documents that the association wishes to submit in support of the request or that may be requested by the supervising bank.

(b) Upon receipt of a proposed amendment from an association, the district bank shall review the materials submitted and provide the association

with its analysis of the proposal within a reasonable period of time. Concurrently, the bank shall communicate its recommendation on the proposal to the Farm Credit Administration, including the reasons for the recommendation, and any analysis the bank believes appropriate. Following review by the bank, the association shall transmit the proposed amendment with attachments to the Farm Credit Administration.

(c) Upon receipt of an association's request for a charter amendment, the Farm Credit Administration shall review the materials submitted and either approve or disapprove the request. The Farm Credit Administration may require submission of any supplemental materials it deems appropriate.

(d) The Farm Credit Administration shall notify the association of its approval or disapproval of the amendment request, and provide a copy of such communication to the bank. A notification of approval shall be accompanied by a copy of the charter, as amended.

[50 FR 20400, May 16, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 32441, Sept. 12, 1986]

§ 611.1122 Requirements for mergers or consolidations.

This section shall apply to any request for approval of a proposed merger or consolidation of associations. A merger involves the combination of one or more associations into a continuing constituent association, which retains its charter and bylaws (except as amended to effect the merger proposal). A consolidation involves the combination of two or more associations into a newly organized association having a new charter and bylaws.

(a) Where two or more associations plan to merge or consolidate, or where the district board has adopted a reorganization plan for the associations in the district, the associations involved shall jointly submit a request to the district bank containing the following:

(1) In the case of a merger, a copy of the charter of the continuing association reflecting any proposed amendments. In the case of consolidation, a copy of the proposed charter of the new association;

(2) A statement of the reasons for the proposed merger or consolidation, the impact of the proposed transaction on the associations and their stockholders, and the planned effective date of the merger or consolidation;

(3)(i) A certified copy of the resolution of the board of directors of each association recommending approval of the merger or consolidation; or

(ii) In the case of a district reorganization plan, a certified copy of the resolution of the board of directors of each association recommending either approval or disapproval of the proposal.

(4) A copy of the agreement of merger or consolidation;

(5) Two signed copies of the continuing or proposed Articles of Association;

(6) All of the information specified in paragraph (e) of this section; and

(7) Any additional information or documents each association wishes to submit in support of the request or that the supervising bank or the Farm Credit Administration requests.

(b) Upon receipt of a request for approval of an association merger or consolidation, the district bank shall review the materials submitted to determine whether they comply with the requirements of these regulations and shall communicate with the associations concerning any deficiency. When the bank approves the request to merge or consolidate it shall notify the associations and the Farm Credit Administration of its approval together with the reasons for its approval and any supporting analysis the bank deems appropriate. The associations shall jointly submit the proposal together with required documentation to the Farm Credit Administration for preliminary approval.

(c) Upon receipt of an association merger or consolidation request, the Farm Credit Administration shall review the request and either deny or give its preliminary approval to the request. When a request is denied, written notice stating the reasons for the denial shall be transmitted to the associations and a copy provided to the bank. When a request is preliminarily approved, written notice of the preliminary approval shall be given to the associations and a copy provided to the

bank. Preliminary approval by the Farm Credit Administration shall not constitute approval of the merger or consolidation. Approval of a merger or consolidation shall be only pursuant to paragraph (g) of this section.

(d) Upon receipt of preliminary approval by the Farm Credit Administration of a merger or consolidation request, each constituent association shall call a meeting of its voting stockholders. The meeting shall be called on written notice to each stockholder entitled to vote on the transaction, and held in accordance with the terms of each association's bylaws. The affirmative vote of a majority of the voting stockholders of each association present and voting or voting by written proxy at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be required for stockholder approval of a merger or consolidation proposal.

(e) Notice of the meeting to consider and act upon a proposed merger or consolidation of associations shall be accompanied by the following information covering each constituent association.

(1) A statement either on the first page of the materials or on the notice of the stockholders' meeting, in capital letters and bold face type, that:

THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION HAS NEITHER APPROVED NOR PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THE INFORMATION ACCOMPANYING THE NOTICE OF MEETING OR PRESENTED AT THE MEETING AND NO REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY SHALL BE MADE OR RELIED UPON.

(2) A description of the material provisions of the agreement of merger or consolidation and the effect of the proposed merger or consolidation on the associations, their stockholders, the new or continuing board of directors, and the territory to be served. In addition, a copy of the agreement must be furnished with the notice to stockholders.

(3) A summary of the provisions of the charter and bylaws of the continuing or new association that differ materially from the existing charter or

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bylaw provisions of the constituent associations.

(4) A brief statement by the boards of directors of the constituent associations setting forth the basis for the boards' recommendation on the merger or consolidation.

(5) A description of any agreement or arrangement between a constituent association and any of its officers relating to employment or termination of employment and arising from the merger or consolidation.

(6) A presentation of the following financial data:

(i) A balance sheet and income statement for each constituent association for each of the 2 preceding fiscal years.

(ii) A balance sheet for each constituent association as of a date within 90 days of the date the request for preliminary approval is forwarded to the Farm Credit Administration presented on a comparative basis with the corresponding period of the prior fiscal year.

(iii) An income statement for the interim period between the end of the last fiscal year and the date of the required balance sheet presented on a comparative basis with the corresponding period of the preceding fiscal year. The balance sheet and income statement format shall be that contained in the association's annual report to stockholders; shall contain any significant changes in accounting policies that differ from those in the latest association annual report to stockholders; and shall contain appropriate footnote disclosures, including data relating to high-risk assets and other property owned, and allowance for loan losses, including net chargeoffs as required in paragraph (e)(10) of this section.

(7) The financial statements (balance sheet and income statement) shall be in sufficient detail to show separately all significant categories of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities and the income or expense accrued thereon.

(8) Attached to the financial statements for each constituent association, either:

(i) A statement signed by the chief executive officer and each member of the board of directors of the associa-

tion that the various financial statements are unaudited, but have been prepared in all material respects in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (except as otherwise disclosed therein) and are, to the best of the knowledge of the board, a fair and accurate presentation of the financial condition of the association; or

(ii) A signed opinion by independent certified public accountant that the various financial statements have been examined in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as were considered necessary in the circumstances, and, as of the date of the statements, present fairly the financial position of the association in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis, except as otherwise noted thereon.

(9) A presentation for each constituent association regarding its policy on accounting for loan performance, together with the number and dollar amount of loans in all performance categories, including those categorized as high-risk assets.

(10) Information of each constituent association concerning the amount of loans charged off in each of the 2 fiscal years preceding the date of the balance sheet, the current year-to-date net chargeoff amount, and the balance in the allowance for loan losses account and a statement regarding whether, in the opinion of management, the allowance for loan losses is adequate to absorb the risk currently existing in the loan portfolio. This information may be appropriately included in the footnotes to the financial statements.

(11) A management discussion and analysis of the financial condition and results of operation for the past 2 fiscal years for each constituent institution. This requirement can be satisfied by including the materials contained in the management discussion and analysis of each institution's most recent annual report.

(12) A discussion of any material changes in financial condition of each constituent institution from the end of the last fiscal year to the date of the interim balance sheet provided.

(13) A discussion of any material changes in the results of operations of each constituent institution with respect to the most recent fiscal-year-to-date period for which an income statement is provided.

(14) A discussion of any change in the tax status of the new institution from those of the constituent institutions as a result of merger or consolidation. A statement on any adverse tax consequences to the stockholders of the institution as a result of the change in tax status.

(15) A statement on the proposed institution's relationship with an independent public accountant, including any change that may occur as a result of the merger or consolidation.

(16) A pro forma balance sheet of the continuing or consolidated association presented as if the merger or consolidation had occurred as of the date on the balance sheets required in paragraph (e)(6) of this section, as recommended to the stockholders. A pro forma summary of earnings for the continuing or consolidated association presented as if the merger or consolidation had been effective at the beginning of the interim period between the end of the last fiscal year and the date of the balance sheets.

(17) A description of the type and dollar amount of any financial assistance that has been provided during the past year or will be provided by the supervising bank or other party to assist the constituent or the continuing or new association(s), the conditions on which financial assistance has been or will be extended, the terms of repayment or retirement, if any, and the impact of the assistance on the subject association(s) or the stockholders.

(18) A presentation for each constituent association of interest rate comparisons for the last 2 fiscal years preceding the date of the balance sheet, together with a statement of the continuing or new association's proposed interest rate and fee programs, interest collection policies, capitalization rates, dividends or patronage refunds, and other factors that would affect a borrower's cost of doing business with the continuing or new association. Where agreement has not been reached on such matters, current related infor-

mation shall be presented for each constituent association.

(19) A description for each constituent association of any event subsequent to the date of the financial statements, but prior to the merger or consolidation vote, that would have a material impact on the financial condition of the constituent or continuing or new association(s).

(20) A statement of any other material fact or circumstance that a stockholder would need in order to make an informed decision on the merger or consolidation proposal, or that is necessary to make the required disclosures not misleading.

(21) Where proxies are to be solicited, a form of written proxy, together with instructions on the purpose and authority for its use, and the proper method for signature by the stockholder.

(f) No bank or association, or director, officer, or employee thereof, shall make any untrue or misleading statement of a material fact, or fail to disclose any material fact necessary under the circumstances to make statements made not misleading, to a stockholder of any association in connection with an association merger or consolidation.

(g) Upon approval of a proposed merger or consolidation by the stockholders of the constituent associations, a certified copy of the stockholders' resolution shall be forwarded to the Farm Credit Administration. Each constituent association shall notify its stockholders not later than 30 days after the stockholder vote of the final results of the vote. If no petition is filed with the Farm Credit Administration to reconsider the vote, upon final approval by the FCA, the merger or consolidation shall be effective on the date specified in the merger agreement or at such later date as may be required by the Farm Credit Administration to grant final approval. Notice of final approval shall be transmitted to the associations and a copy provided to the affiliated bank.

(h) No director, officer, or employee of a bank or an association shall make an oral or written representation to any person that a preliminary or final

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approval by the Farm Credit Administration of an association merger or consolidation constitutes, directly or indirectly, either a recommendation on the merits of the transaction or an assurance concerning the adequacy or accuracy of any information provided to any association's stockholders in connection therewith.

(i) The notice and accompanying information required under paragraph (e) of this section shall not be sent to stockholders until preliminary approval of the merger or consolidation has been given by the Farm Credit Administration.

(j) Where a proposed merger or consolidation will involve more than three associations, the Farm Credit Administration may require the supplementation, or allow the condensation or omission of any information required under paragraph (e) of this section in furtherance of meaningful disclosure to stockholders. Any waiver sought under this paragraph shall be obtained before preparation of the financial statements and accompanying schedules required under paragraph (e) of this section.

(k) The effective date of a merger or consolidation may not be less than 35 days after the date of mailing of the notification to stockholders of the results of the stockholder vote, or 15 days after the date of submission to the Farm Credit Administration of all required documents for the Agency's consideration of final approval, whichever occurs later. If a petition for reconsideration is filed within 35 days after mailing of the notification to stockholders of the results of the stockholder vote, the constituent institutions must agree on a second effective date to be used in the event the merger or consolidation is approved on reconsideration. The second effective date may not be less than 60 days after stockholder notification of the results of the first vote, or 15 days after the date of the reconsideration vote, whichever occurs later.

[50 FR 20400, May 16, 1985; 50 FR 32165, Aug. 9, 1985, as amended at 51 FR 32441, Sept. 12, 1986; 53 FR 50396, Dec. 15, 1988; 56 FR 2674, Jan. 24, 1991; 58 FR 48790, Sept. 20, 1993; 63 FR 64844, Nov. 24, 1998]

§ 611.1123 Merger or consolidation agreements.

(a) Associations operating under the same title of the Act may merge or consolidate voluntarily only pursuant to a written agreement. The agreement shall set forth all of the terms of the transaction, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) The proposed effective date of the merger or consolidation.

(2) The proposed name and headquarters location of the continuing or consolidated association.

(3) The names of the persons nominated to serve as directors until the first regular annual meeting of the continuing or consolidated association to be held after the effective date of the merger or consolidation. Any director of a constituent association may be designated in the agreement to serve as a director of the continuing or consolidated association for a period not to exceed his or her current term, after which he or she must stand for reelection. However, the terms of the agreement must provide for the election of at least one director at each annual meeting subsequent to the effective date of the merger or consolidation. The bylaws of the continuing or consolidated association shall reflect the provisions of the merger or consolidation agreement regarding director terms.

(4) A statement of the formula to be used to exchange the stock of the constituent associations for the stock of the continuing or consolidated association. No fractional shares of stock shall be issued.

(5) A statement of any conditions which must be satisfied prior to the effective date of the proposed transaction, including but not limited to approval by stockholders, the supervising bank, and the Farm Credit Administration.

(6) A statement of the representations or warranties, if any, made or to be made by any association, or its officers, directors, or employees that is a party to the proposed transactions.

(7) A statement that the board of directors of each constituent association can terminate the agreement before