

IN THE PRESS

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Bank of Marin extends 'green' practices to the board room

Bank of Marin, which recently earned its Green Business Program certification from the county of Marin, has taken its green practice one step further.

The 14-member board of directors has traded in its binders, notebooks and pencils for Bank of Marin-issued laptop computers. A new Web-based program has been implemented that allows Bank of Marin directors to receive and review board and committee meeting materials on their laptops, using an online program called Diligent Boardbooks rather than the 150-page monthly reports.

"Once we delved further into this program, we were astonished we could save about five trees a year based on the amount of paper we use annually for board meetings and committees," said Joel Sklar, Bank of Marin board chairman. "When we discovered on conservatree.com that one ream of paper is the equivalent of 6 percent of a tree, our decision was obvious. It's particularly rewarding that the corporate practices of the board can follow the lead that the bank's management has established throughout its branches and administrative offices. Our directors can access board reports at any time, anywhere over the Internet."



Bank of Marin directors pictured left to right: Dietrich Stroeh, Pat Hunt, Robert Heller, Judy Allen, Jim Deitz, Joe Martino.

Achieving the Paperless Board Meeting

by Megan Carter, Bank of Marin

DECEMBER MARKED THE first full month of a "paperless" Board Meeting. The Bank implemented a new online service that allows the Bank of Marin Directors to receive and review board materials through a web portal from their own computers. When they arrive at the monthly Board Meeting and committee meetings, we have an individual laptop for each director to access the site and view the materials during the meeting over the web.

In the spirit of "going green," let me convert the use of this new system to the paper savings it allows. For example, had we not had this system in place this month, I would have made each director an individual binder filled with paper materials (as we always have in the past). The board book this month was 167 pages and would have made 20 binders. This means that in the month of December I would have used 3,340 pages or 6.68 reams of paper to make all of the board books for the Board Meeting.

Also, the Bank has five Board Committees that meet on a monthly to quarterly basis. To give an example, in December the Asset/Liability Committee

(ALCO) met and had we not had this system, we would have copied paper materials for the five members. The ALCO book consisted of 117 pages and at five copies that would have been 585 pages or just over 1 ream of paper.

This means for just the Board Meeting and the ALCO meeting in the month of December we would have used a total of 3,925 pages or 7.85 reams of paper. And after these meetings were over, I would have taken almost all of the 3,925 pages and thrown them into the shredder. On an annual basis, using an average of a 150-page board book and a 100-page ALCO book, we were using approximately 84 reams of paper to create these books! And this is only the board and one committee! I won't even go into the other committees!

We are happy to report that our new system has eliminated the need for paper and in fact, in using this new system in December, I only threw ONE, SINGLE sheet of paper into the shredder! Now, the answer that I would like is how many trees does it take to make 84 reams of paper? ▲