EXHIBIT H
MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW OF  
Paul Piikkila

DATE OF INTERVIEW  
April 15, 2015

INTERVIEWED BY  
Special Agent Sara Hager

INTERVIEW HELD AT  
US Attorney’s Office – Eastern District of Wisconsin

205 Doty Street, Green Bay, WI

PEOPLE PRESENT  
Piikkila, Sanders, Martin, Humble, Hammen, Giyan, Hager, Lasee, Dorsey

1. Paul Piikkila was interviewed on the above mentioned date by FDIC-OIG Special Agent Sara Hager, FBI Special Agents Ronald Hammen and Tad Giyan, Assistant US Attorney Dan Humble, Brown County (Wisconsin) District Attorney David Lasee and Special Prosecutor Bryant Dorsey.

2. Also present at the interview were Piikkila’s attorneys Dan Sanders and Martin Kohler from Kohler Hart Attorneys at Law. The interview took place at the US Attorney’s Office located in Green Bay, WI. Piikkila was provided a proffer letter from the US Attorney’s Office which he reviewed with his attorney’s. Piikkila provided the following information:

3. Piikkila worked in the banking industry for approximately 20 years at multiple financial institutions including: Bank One, M & I, First National Bank of Fox Valley and Anchor Bank. Piikkila worked at Horicon Bank from 2007 to 2010 as a lender. His annual salary was $102,000. He did not receive incentives such as bonuses for loans generated. Piikkila hoped that he would work the remainder of his career at Horicon Bank.

4. When Piikkila was hired he was told his market area was the entire State of Wisconsin. His individual lending authority was $250,000 secured loans, $25,000 unsecured loans and $350,000 residential loans.

5. Al Schwab (Schwab) was Piikkila’s direct supervisor. Schwab was a member of the loan committee. Piikkila did not have any formal portfolio reviews with Schwab.

6. Piikkila stated that his normal process for generating and approving loans was as follows: he would meet with clients to receive all of their financials. He would then perform a global and cash flow analysis to determine their ability to pay back the loan. Based on this analysis, Piikkila would decide if it was a sound loan. If the loan amount was over his lending limit he would take it to loan committee. Piikkila stated that he was at all loan closings related to Ronald Van Den Heuvel (VDH).

7. Piikkila stated that he previously worked with VDH when he was at Anchor Bank. While at Anchor Bank in 2005, Piikkila was originated to a $750,000 line of credit for VDH. Piikkila could not recall the borrowing entity for the loan, but speculated it was TruPure Ozone. Piikkila said that because of the amount of the loan it “went up the chain” and was approved by management.
Piikkila was not certain if that was the only VDH loan at Anchor, but said it was the only loan he was involved with.

Piikkila stated that VDH somehow found out that he was working at Horicon Bank and approached him for a loan. Piikkila did not know VDH found out he was working at Horicon. Piikkila stated that VDH had lots of experience in the paper industry and was extremely well connected and therefore, Piikkila was confident in VDH's business plan. VDH told Piikkila that he needed to buy equipment for the sorting line at his paper mill. The equipment would sort recyclables from garbage to make pulp for paper. VDH had numerous contacts in the fast food industry to get waste paper, so Piikkila believed this was a sound business venture. Piikkila approved a $250,000 loan to RVDH, which was owned by VDH. The purpose of the loan was to purchase equipment and for start-up capital. Piikkila was shown the loan proceed checks which he acknowledged he signed (Attachment 1). However, when the checks were issued he was not aware that they were endorsed by John Jez and used for other purposes than to buy equipment. Piikkila stated that he tried to follow up with VDH to determine that the equipment had been purchased and the loan was properly collateralized, but VDH would always make excuses as to why Piikkila could not inspect the equipment. Piikkila could not recall how many times he asked to inspect the equipment. He stated that he had a "feeling" that VDH did not have the equipment but did not follow up on it. As a result the loan was not properly collateralized for the life of the note, which was over two years. Piikkila was also questioned on why he took RVD's personal guarantee when he had a low credit score of 586.

Piikkila stated that VDH's personal financial statement showed a high net worth, but Piikkila did not conduct any due diligence to determine of VDH's financials were accurate.

Piikkila stated that RVDH did not make any payments to the loan. When the loan came close to the payment date Piikkila would renew it so it would not be placed on the nonaccrual list. Piikkila said that he kept doing this because he had faith that VDH would be able to turn the business around and then be able to make payments.

Piikkila presented a $7.1 million loan to the Loan Committee for approval. Piikkila stated that he loan purpose was to purchase equipment for the paper mill. Piikkila said that the loan committee denied the loan because they did not like VDH's character. Piikkila reviewed the loan presentation and his attention was brought to the section intended to list other related loans (Attachment 2). The RVDH loan previously discussed was not listed in this section. Piikkila could not explain why he hadn't listed that loan.

Piikkila restructured the $7.1 million loan several times and presented it to the loan committee. The loan was denied each time.

Piikkila denied multiple times that bank management told him not to loan money to VDH or his related businesses. He was presented an email from Schwab to Piikkila which stated that the bank was not interested in loaning to VDH unless the loan was collateralized by CDs (Attachment 3). Piikkila did not remember that email. Piikkila stated that he continued to loan to VDH because he felt he "could handle" him.

Piikkila stated that VDH came to him and asked if he could approve a loan to William Bain (Bain). Bain is VDH's former brother-in-law. VDH said that he would pledge collateral for the loan.
Case 1:16-cr-00064-WCG-DEJ   Filed 06/19/17   Page 4 of 6   Document 114-8

CONTINUATION SHEET

INTERVIEW OF                  DATE OF INTERVIEW                  FILE NUMBER
Paul Piikkila                        April 15, 2015                        C213-002

Piikkila claimed that he thought the loan proceeds would be a split between Bain and VDH.
Pilkkila said that at the closing Bain said he was not going to make any payments to the loan.
Pilkkila counseled him that he should not sign for the loan if he did not understand that he was
responsible. Bain then signed for the loan. When asked if he thought this was a red flag, Pilkkila
said he didn’t think so because Bain was an accomplished businessman and knew what signing for
a loan entailed.

Piikkila stated that Kelly Van Den Heuvel, VDH’s wife, introduced Julie Gumban (Gumban) to
him for a loan. Pilkkila said he kept it as a short term loan so that he could keep tabs on it and
extend the due date if needed. Pilkkila stated that it seemed as though Gumban did not really
understand what was going on because she didn’t speak English very well. He thought that Kelly
Van Den Heuvel was pushing her into getting the loan. Pilkkila approved the loan anyway. Pilkkila
thought that Gumban was investing in KYHKJG, a LLC owned by Kelly Van Den Heuvel.

Piikkila stated that Gumban had taken out previous loans and credit cards for the Van Den Heuvel.
Piikkila was asked why he approved a loan for Gumban because she had a low credit score of 655,
lots of credit card debt and the unsecured loan was half of her annual salary. Pilkkila stated that he
thought Gumban’s living expenses were low and therefore she would be able to repay the loan.

Piikkila then admitted that he knew that Gumban’s loan would be used to pay down VDH’s other
loans at Horicon. Piikkila stated that he approved this loan so VDH’s loans would stay off the
watch list.

At this point in the interview Pilkkila’s attorney’s asked for a break so they could speak to their
client.

After the break, Pilkkila explained why he thought doing business with VDH would be beneficial to
the bank. He stated that Earth, LLC was the endgame and Pilkkila had faith that VDH would be
successful in this venture. After Earth, LLC took off, VDH would bring his deposits to Horicon and
this would be a big payoff. Pilkkila stated that he did this for his reputation and would hopefully get
an additional bonus. Pilkkila had worked closely with VDH while he was at Anchor Bank, and
spoke to him on a weekly basis. Pilkkila reiterated that he did not know how VDH knew that he
was at Horicon Bank and Pilkkila did not seek him out for business.

Piikkila was questioned regarding the Steven Peters loans. Pilkkila originated two loans, $100,000
and $30,000 which were later refinanced into a $129,950 note. Pilkkila denied knowledge that
VDH was going to make the payments for this loan. He stated that Peters had loans at other banks
for the pulp mill. Pilkkila made the loan knowing that the loan proceeds would be used to keep
VDH’s other Horicon loans off the nonaccrual list so bank management would not find out about
the loans. Pilkkila also still had faith that VDH’s business would start performing and he would
catch up on loan payments. Pilkkila said that he “drank the kool aid” and believed VDH. Pilkkila
stated that he knew what he did was wrong, but did not know it was illegal.

Piikkila approved two additional loans to KYHKJG. This is a business owned by Kelly Van Den
Heuvel, however, VDH brought this loan proposal to Pilkkila. Pilkkila approved a $250,000 loan to
refinance of a rental property. Pilkkila found out that VDH’s first wife [agent’s note: documents
show her name is Jan Van Den Heuvel] was living in the home after the loan was funded. The
second $70,000 line of credit was a “slush fund” to cover VDH’s business expenses. Piikkila
relayed that VDH lived in a very big house and had large alimony payments to Jan Van Den
Heuvel. Piikkila was uncertain if any loan proceeds or investor funds (for Earth, LLC) went to her.
Piikkila was shown the renewals for these loans and specifically asked why the signatures looked so
different. Piikkila could not explain why but said he mailed out the renewals so he did not know
who signed them.

Piikkila originated a loan to RVDH for $10,000. Piikkila said at this point both he and VDH were
scrambling to do whatever they had to make the loans current. The loan was collateralized by
VDH’s property in Georgia. After VDH found out Piikkila was leaving the bank he said that he
never would have put up the property as collateral had he known this.

Piikkila stated that he and VDH both discussed using straw borrowers. Piikkila told VDH that he
could not loan any more money to him and VDH suggested bringing in other people. Piikkila
agreed to go along with it.

Piikkila made a $250,000 loan to Source of Solutions. The authorized signer was Debra Stary.
VDH made her a Vice President of the company so she could sign for the note to keep VDH’s
name off the paperwork so bank management would not notice it. Piikkila added that Stary also
typed up the lease agreements for the collateral which were later disputed by the bank.

Piikkila’s attorneys noted that Stary’s signature looked very similar to the renewal signature for the
$70,000 KYHKJG line of credit.

Piikkila worked for VDH after he was fired from Horicon Bank. He provided some information on
VDH and potentially defrauded investors.

VDH tried to get a grant from the WI Department of Workforce Development for $150,000 to
repay Piikkila for office expenses he had personally paid during his employment with VDH. It is
unknown if that grant was funded.

When Piikkila went to work for VDH, he was promised business stock shares but he never received
any stock. He did not receive any salary, either. Piikkila worked for VDH from May 2010 to
October 2011.

Debra Stary and William Bain’s wife are sisters.

Ty Willinhanz is VDH’s in-house counsel.

Debra Stary no longer works for VDH and is now with NPS. She was very close with VDH and
would do anything he asked. Piikkila stated that her family had an intervention to get her to quit
working for VDH.

Earth LLC is in the development stage. The concept is to take waste such as cartons and cups from
fast food restaurants and convert it to pulp for paper. Earth would also take the plastic and use it as
fuel. Piikkila said there are no operations for this company that make a profit. Howard Bedford, a
former VDH associate, would know the investors for Earth. Bedford and VDH had a falling out.

VDH would make false statements to Earth investors that the operations were bleach free. Piikkila
said that bleach free operations are not currently possible.

The electric bills for the plants are approximately $75-80,000/month. Piikkila said that the plants
were only producing 40 tons of pulp per day and in order to make a profit, 120 tons needed to be
produced daily. That was not possible because of the high electric costs. VDH misrepresented to
investors that the facility output was 200 tons/day.

Piikkila said that the only time employees were paid was when large amounts of investor money
came in. That money was also used to pay debts owed.

Piikkila said that Debra Stary kept two financial spreadsheets on VDH on her computer; one for
business and one for personal. Piikkila did not have any additional information on these
spreadsheets.

VDH forbid anyone to talk to investors. VDH doesn’t use the computer so he had people draft
investor reports and edited. Piikkila said VDH’s investor sales pitches were all “horse shit.”

Piikkila said that he sued VDH for reimbursement for business expenses and he received $5,000.
Piikkila thought it was possible that Dr. Marco Araujo investment went to pay off Piikkila.

VDH tried to get a $550,000 grant for Greenbox Detroit from the government. VDH also received
funds from the government EB-5 Visa program.

Piikkila stated that VDH took advantage of a lot of people including:

- George Wertz - $150,000
- Howard Bedford – millions of dollars
- Ken Dardes - $500,000

Tammy Phillips and Brian Glyne also work for VDH.