



First Busey Corporation Earnings Release for Quarter Ended March 31, 2006

Apr 18, 2006

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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Net income increased \$331,000 or 5.1% to \$6,867,000 during the quarter ended March 31, 2006, compared to \$6,536,000 during the first quarter of 2005. The growth in earnings is due to increases in net interest income and non-interest income which were partially offset by an increase in non-interest expenses. Earnings per share on a fully-diluted basis were \$0.32 during the first quarter of 2006, reflecting no change from earnings per share of \$0.32 during the first quarter of 2005.

Net interest margin for the first quarter of 2006 was 3.70%, compared to 3.64% during the first quarter of 2005. Net interest income increased \$2,237,000 or 13.8% to \$18,498,000 during the first quarter of 2006, compared to \$16,261,000 in the comparable quarter in 2005. Interest income increased \$7,597,000 to \$33,160,000 during the first quarter of 2006, compared to \$25,563,000 during the comparable period in 2005, due primarily to loan growth combined with higher yields on investment securities and outstanding loans. Interest expense increased \$5,360,000 or 57.6% to \$14,662,000 during the first quarter of 2006, compared to \$9,302,000 during the comparable period in 2005, due primarily to increased deposit and borrowing costs combined with growth in deposits and long-term debt. The increase in long-term debt is associated primarily with the July, 2005, acquisition of Tarpon Coast.

Provision for loan losses was \$400,000 during the first quarter of 2006 compared to \$690,000 during the comparable period in 2005. As a percentage of total outstanding loans, the allowance for loan losses was 1.33% as of March 31, 2006 and 1.31% as of March 31, 2005. The Corporation recognized \$96,000 in net credit losses during the first quarter of 2006 compared to \$126,000 during the comparable period in 2005.

Non-interest income increased \$618,000 or 11.1% to \$6,173,000 during the first quarter of 2006 from \$5,555,000 during the first quarter of 2005. Growth in non-interest income is due primarily to growth in service charge income, brokerage commissions, gains on the sale of real estate loans, and trust fees. During the first quarter of 2006 the Corporation recognized net gains of \$224,000 from the sale of securities compared to \$162,000 during the first quarter in 2005.

Non-interest expense increased \$2,894,000 or 25.7% to \$14,143,000 during the first quarter of 2006 compared to \$11,249,000 during the first quarter of 2005, due primarily to increased operating costs and amortization expense associated with growth in the Florida market. The Corporation adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standard 123R, Share Based Payment, on January 1, 2006. Adoption of this standard did not have a material impact on the Corporation's first quarter operating results.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2006	2005
	(in thousands, except per share data)	
Earnings & Per Share Data		
Net income	\$6,867	\$6,536
Basic earnings per share	0.32	0.32
Fully diluted earnings per share	0.32	0.32
Dividends per share	0.16	0.14
Average Balances		
Assets	\$2,255,128	\$1,982,410
Investment securities	331,980	328,204
Loans	1,748,415	1,491,894
Earning assets	2,086,000	1,847,684
Deposits	1,795,128	1,577,835
Stockholders' equity	170,350	138,305
Performance Ratios		
Return on average assets	1.23%	1.34%
Return on average equity	16.35%	19.17%
Net interest margin	3.70%	3.64%
Efficiency ratio	55.25%	50.26%
Loan Performance		
Net credit losses	\$96	\$126
Accruing loans 90+ days past due	865	1,830

Non-accrual loans	4,769	1,974
Foreclosed assets	258	4,191

March 31, 2006		
NASDAQ symbol	BUSE	
Closing price	\$21.10	
Price/earnings ratio	14.86X	
Price/book ratio	264%	
52-week price range	\$18.07 - \$21.25	
Book value per share	\$7.99	
YTD dividend per share	\$0.16	
Common shares outstanding	21.5 million	

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (unaudited)

	March 31,	
	2006	2005
	(in thousands except per share data)	
Asset		
Cash and due from banks	\$48,983	\$48,403
Federal funds sold	14,500	21,300
Investment securities	330,216	317,867
Loans	1,760,498	1,507,949
Less allowance for loan losses	(23,494)	(19,781)
Net loans	\$1,737,004	\$1,488,168
Premises and equipment, net	39,863	27,245
Goodwill and other intangibles	58,969	35,442
Other assets	43,531	42,705
Total assets	\$2,273,066	\$1,981,130
Liabilities & Stockholders' Equity		
Non-interest bearing deposit	\$245,160	\$197,371
Interest-bearing deposits	1,580,567	1,391,931
Total deposits	\$1,825,727	\$1,589,302
Federal funds purchased & securities sold under agreements to repurchase	49,724	43,075
Short-term borrowings	-	10,000
Long-term debt	159,883	147,851
Junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trusts	50,000	40,000
Other liabilities	16,179	12,054
Total liabilities	\$2,101,513	\$1,842,282
Common stock	\$22	\$6,291
Common stock to be issued	326	-
Surplus	44,973	21,767
Retained earnings	133,175	118,030
Other comprehensive income	6,159	6,965
Treasury stock	(11,041)	(11,737)
Unearned ESOP shares	(2,058)	(2,456)
Deferred compensation for stock grants	(3)	(12)
Total stockholders' equity	\$171,553	\$138,848
Total liabilities & stockholders' equity	\$2,273,066	\$1,981,130
Per Share Data		
Book value per share	\$7.99	\$6.76
Tangible book value per share	\$5.24	\$5.03
Ending number of shares outstanding	21,477,532	20,537,651

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2006	2005
	(in thousands, except common share data)	
Interest and fees on loans	\$29,982	\$22,862
Interest on investment securities	3,125	2,541
Other interest income	53	160
Total interest income	\$33,160	\$25,563
Interest on deposits	\$11,331	\$6,775
Interest on short-term borrowings	488	229
Interest on long-term debt	1,850	1,541
Junior subordinated debt owed to unconsolidated trusts	993	757
Total interest expense	\$14,662	\$9,302
Net interest income	\$18,498	\$16,261
Provision for loans losses	400	690
Net interest income after provision	\$18,098	\$15,571
Trust fees	\$1,516	\$1,440
Commissions and brokers' fees	669	526
Fees for customer services	2,536	2,333
Gain on sale of loans	534	423
Net security gains	224	162
Other	694	671
Total non-interest income	\$6,173	\$5,555
Salaries and wages	\$6,497	\$5,197
Employee benefits	1,503	1,204
Net occupancy expense	1,247	947
Furniture and equipment expense	800	683
Data processing expense	404	489
Amortization expense	352	195
Other operating expenses	3,340	2,534
Total non-interest expense	\$14,143	\$11,249
Income before income taxes	\$10,128	\$9,877
Income taxes	3,261	3,341
Net Income	\$6,867	\$6,536
Common Share Data		
Basic earnings per share	\$0.32	\$0.32
Fully-diluted earnings per share	\$0.32	\$0.32
Average shares outstanding	21,460,308	20,584,835

CORPORATE PROFILE

First Busey Corporation (Nasdaq: BUSE) is a financial holding company headquartered in Urbana, Illinois. First Busey Corporation has two wholly-owned banking subsidiaries with locations in three states. Busey Bank is headquartered in Urbana, Illinois and has twenty-one banking centers serving Champaign, McLean, Ford, Peoria, and Tazewell Counties in Illinois. Busey Bank also has a banking center in Indianapolis, Indiana, and a loan production office in Ft. Myers, Florida. On March 31, 2006, Busey Bank had total assets of \$1.8 billion. On July 29, 2005, First Busey Corporation acquired Tarpon Coast Bancorp, Inc. and its primary subsidiary, Tarpon Coast National Bank, Port Charlotte, Florida. Busey Bank Florida and Tarpon Coast National Bank merged at the close of business on February 17, 2006, and the resultant bank is Busey Bank, N.A. Busey Bank N.A. is a federally-chartered bank headquartered in Port Charlotte, Florida, with seven banking centers serving Lee, Charlotte, and Sarasota Counties in Southwest Florida. Busey Bank N.A. had total assets of \$422 million as of March 31, 2006. Busey provides electronic delivery of financial services through Busey e-bank, <http://www.busey.com>.

Busey Investment Group is a wholly-owned subsidiary of First Busey Corporation and owns three subsidiaries. First Busey Trust & Investment Co.

specializes in asset management and trust services. First Busey Securities, Inc. (member NASD/SIPC) is a full-service broker/dealer subsidiary. Busey Insurance Services, Inc. is a provider of personal insurance products. Busey Investment Group has approximately \$2.3 billion in assets under care.

First Busey Corporation's common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Stock Exchange under the symbol "BUSE." First Busey Corporation has a repurchase program in effect under which it is authorized to purchase up to 750,000 shares of stock.

SOURCE First Busey Corporation

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(BUSE)

CO: First Busey Corporation

ST: Illinois

IN: FIN

SU: ERN

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