

CALLON PETROLEUM CO
Form DEF 14A
April 01, 2016
UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Rule 14a-101

Schedule 14A Information

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Callon Petroleum Company

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

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CALLON PETROLEUM COMPANY

200 NORTH CANAL STREET

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI 39120

NOTICE OF THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016

To Our Stockholders:

Notice is hereby given and you are cordially invited to attend the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the “Annual Meeting”) of Callon Petroleum Company (“Callon,” the “Company,” “us,” “we,” “our” or like terms), a Delaware corporation, which will be held in Natchez, Mississippi, on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time (“CDT”), in the Grand Ballroom of the Natchez Grand Hotel, 111 Broadway Street, Natchez, Mississippi 39120, to consider and vote on the following proposals:

- The election of three Class I Directors, Messrs. Larry D. McVay, John C. Wallace and Michael L. Finch, for a three-year term;
- The approval, by non-binding advisory vote, of the compensation of our named executive officers (“NEOs”);
- The approval of an amendment to Article Four of the Company’s Certificate of Incorporation increasing the number of authorized shares of Common Stock of the Company (“Common Stock”) from 150 million shares to 300 million shares;
- The ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016; and
- The transaction of other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment(s) thereof.

We describe these proposals in detail within the accompanying proxy materials. Only holders of record of our common stock at the close of business on March 18, 2016 (the “Record Date”), are entitled to notice of and to attend the Annual Meeting and to vote on the above listed matters. Beginning on or about April 1, 2016, we mailed a Notice Regarding the Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the “Notice”) to our stockholders. The Notice contained instructions on how to access the proxy statement and related materials online and how to vote your shares. Instructions for requesting a paper copy of the proxy materials are contained in the Notice. A list of stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting will be available at our office at 200 North Canal Street, Natchez, MS 39120 during normal business hours for a period of ten days prior to the meeting and will also be available for inspection at the Annual Meeting.

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, please vote electronically via the Internet or by telephone, or please complete, sign, date and return the accompanying proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope as soon as possible. See “Information About Voting and The Meeting” in the proxy statement for more details.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors

By: /s/ B.F. Weatherly

Natchez, Mississippi

B.F. Weatherly

April 1, 2016

Corporate Secretary

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YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT!

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the
Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 12, 2016:

This proxy statement and our 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K are available at
<https://www.iproxydirect.com/CPE> and www.callon.com

If you have any questions or need assistance voting your shares, please call our proxy solicitor:

Morrow & Co., LLC

470 West Avenue - 3rd Floor

Stamford, CT 06902

Banks and Brokerage Firms, please call (203) 658-9400.

Stockholders, please call toll free (800) 414-4313.

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PROXY SUMMARY

This summary is included to provide an introduction and overview of the information contained in the Proxy Statement. This is a summary only and highlights information contained elsewhere in this Proxy Statement. This summary does not contain all of the information you should consider and is not a form for voting. You should read the entire Proxy Statement carefully before voting.

2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Date and Time: May 12, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., Central Daylight Time

Location: Natchez Grand Hotel, 111 Broadway Street, Natchez, Mississippi 39120

Record Date: March 18, 2016

Proxy Voting: Stockholders as of the close of business on the Record Date are entitled to vote. Each share of Common Stock is entitled to one vote at the Annual Meeting

Voting Matters and Board Recommendation

| | Board Recommendation |
|---|----------------------|
| Proposal | |
| No. 1: Election of Three Director Nominees to Serve for a Three-Year Term Expiring in 2019 | FOR |
| No. 2: Advisory Vote to Approve Named Executive Officer Compensation | FOR |
| No. 3: Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation to Increase Authorized Shares of Common Stock from 150 million to 300 million | FOR |
| No. 4: Ratification of the Appointment of Grant Thornton, LLC as the Company's Independent registered Public Accounting Firm for 2016 | FOR |

Executive Compensation Highlights

Our Board has a “pay-for-performance” philosophy and recognizes the leadership of Mr. Fred L. Callon, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, and our other executive officers in contributing to the Company’s success in 2015. Our compensation program is designed to reward, in both the short-term and the long-term, performance that contributes to the implementation of our business strategies, maintenance of our culture and values and the achievement of our objectives. In addition, we reward qualities that we believe help achieve our business strategies, such as teamwork, individual performance in light of general economic and industry-specific conditions, relationships

with shareholders and vendors, the ability to manage and enhance production from our existing assets, the ability to explore new opportunities to increase oil and natural gas production, the ability to identify and acquire additional acreage, the ability to increase year-over-year proved reserves, the ability to control unit production costs, level of job responsibility, industry experience and general professional growth.

- As a result of the achievements detailed herein in the compensation discussion and analysis section, the Committee awarded bonuses above target for our NEOs for 2015 performance;
- In May 2015, the Committee granted long-term incentives to our NEOs, 60% of which were tied to total stockholder return, or TSR;
- The Committee certified the results of the 2013 grants of TSR phantom shares, which measured Callon's TSR against its peers for the 2013-2015 time period. Callon ranked first out of 13 peers, resulting in 200% of the targeted number of phantom shares vesting; and
- No changes were made to NEO base salaries in 2015.

In 2015, approximately 96% of the shares voted at last year's annual meeting approved our 2014 executive compensation by supporting our "Say-on-Pay" proposal.

Key Elements of our Executive Compensation

- “Pay-for-Performance” philosophy linking compensation directly to performance, with a significant portion of total annual compensation placed “at risk”
 - Competitive base salary
- Annual cash bonus incentive tied to the achievement of specified Company performance targets
- Long-term equity or equity-based incentive awards and performance share program based on relative TSR
- Other benefit plans and programs, such as retirement, health benefits and severance protection

Governance Highlights

- Board meetings in 2015: 5
- Committee meetings: Audit – 9; Compensation – 5; Nominating and Corporate Governance – 3; Strategic Planning and Reserves – 3
- 7 out of 8 Directors are independent and committees are comprised entirely of independent Directors
- Majority vote standard in election of Directors
- Classified Board of Directors with staggered terms
- Director and Officer stock ownership guidelines
- Elimination of tax gross-ups
- “Double Trigger” severance agreements with fixed term
- Policy prohibiting hedging transactions [related to stock ownership positions]
- Recently updated governance documents, such as the Corporate Governance Guidelines, Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, and Board Committee Charters.

PROXY STATEMENT

CALLON PETROLEUM COMPANY

200 North Canal Street

Natchez, Mississippi 39120

(601) 442-1601

2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016

INFORMATION CONCERNING SOLICITATION AND VOTING

We are providing you this proxy statement in connection with the solicitation of proxies by our board of directors (the “Board” or individually “Director” and collectively “Directors”) to be voted at the 2016 annual meeting (the “Annual Meeting”) of stockholders of Callon Petroleum Company (“Callon,” the “Company,” “us,” “we,” “our” or like terms). The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. CDT in the Grand Ballroom of the Natchez Grand Hotel, 111 Broadway Street, Natchez, Mississippi 39120. This proxy statement contains important information for you to consider when deciding how to vote on the matters brought before the meeting. Please read it carefully.

The Board will primarily solicit proxies by mail, and we will bear all costs incurred in the solicitation of proxies, including the preparation, printing and mailing of these proxy materials. In addition to solicitation by mail, our Directors, officers and employees may solicit proxies personally or by telephone, email, facsimile or other means, without additional compensation. We may also make arrangements with brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for the forwarding of solicitation material to the beneficial owners of the common stock held by such persons, and we may reimburse those brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for reasonable expenses incurred in connection therewith. In addition, to assist us with our solicitation efforts, we have retained the services of Morrow & Co., LLC for a fee of approximately \$7,500, plus out-of-pocket expenses.

INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING AND THE MEETING

Who may vote

You may vote if you are the record holder of our common stock as of the close of business on March 18, 2016, the "Record Date." On that date, 96,122,341 shares of our common stock were outstanding and are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Each share of common stock is entitled to one vote on each matter considered at this meeting.

Attending the Meeting

If you meet the above criteria to vote at our Annual Meeting, you may attend the Annual Meeting. If you wish to attend the Annual Meeting in person, you must present valid, government-issued picture identification. If your shares are held in the name of a bank, broker or other nominee and you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, in order to be admitted you must present proof of your beneficial ownership of the common stock, such as a bank or brokerage account statement, indicating that you owned shares of our common stock at the close of business on the Record Date.

For safety and security reasons, no cameras, recording equipment, cellular telephones, electronic devices, large bags, briefcases or packages will be permitted in the Annual Meeting. No banners, signs, firearms or weapons will be allowed in the meeting room. We reserve the right to inspect all items entering the meeting room.

Proposals

Qualifying stockholders will vote on the following four proposals at the meeting:

- 1) The election of Directors;
- 2) Advisory approval of our executive compensation;
- 3) The approval of an amendment to the Company's Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of Common Stock from 150 million to 300 million; and
- 4) The ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP.

Notice and Access

Rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") allow companies to send stockholders a notice of internet availability of proxy materials (the "Notice"), rather than mail stockholders full sets of proxy materials, often referred to as "notice and access." Consistent with the past few years, we have elected to send a separate Notice to our stockholders instead of a paper copy of the proxy materials. This approach conserves natural resources and reduces the costs of printing and distributing our proxy materials, while providing stockholders with a convenient way to access our proxy materials. This Notice includes instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet or to request a paper copy of proxy materials, including a proxy card or voting instruction form. In addition and as described in the Notice, stockholders may request to receive future proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by email. A stockholder's election to receive proxy materials by mail or email will remain in effect until terminated by the stockholder.

Our Board has made these proxy materials available to you on the Internet on or about April 1, 2016 at <https://www.iproxydirect.com/CPE>, which is the cookies-free website described in the Notice. Accordingly, we are sending the Notice to our stockholders of record and beneficial owners of our stock, and filing the Notice with the SEC, on or about April 1, 2016. Please note that the Notice identifies the items on which stockholders will vote at the meeting, but stockholders cannot vote by marking the Notice and returning it. The Notice provides instructions on how to vote via the Internet, by telephone or by requesting and returning a paper proxy card, or by submitting a ballot in person at the meeting.

In addition to the proxy materials being available for review at <https://www.iproxydirect.com/CPE>, the site contains instructions on how to access the proxy materials on a website or to request free of charge printed materials, including a copy of our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 as filed with the SEC. On an ongoing basis, stockholders may contact our Corporate Secretary at our principal offices in Natchez, Mississippi to request proxy materials by mail or by e-mail.

Casting your vote

There are three methods for registered stockholders to vote by proxy without attending the Annual Meeting:

- 1) By Internet. You can vote online via the Internet by going to the website address for Internet voting provided on your Notice or proxy card. You will need to use the control and request ID appearing on your proxy card to vote via the Internet. You can use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions up until 11:59 p.m. CDT on May 11, 2016. If you vote via the Internet, you do NOT need to vote by telephone or return a proxy card. Internet voting is available 24 hours a day.
- 2) By Telephone. You can also vote by telephone by calling the toll-free telephone number provided on your proxy card. You will need to use the control and request ID appearing on your proxy card to vote by telephone. You may transmit your voting instructions from any touch-tone telephone up until 11:59 p.m. CDT on May 11, 2016. Voting by telephone is available 24 hours a day.
- 3) By Mail. If you received a printed copy of the proxy card, you can vote by marking, dating and signing it, and returning it in the reply envelope provided. Please promptly mail your proxy card to ensure that we receive it prior to the closing of the polls at the Annual Meeting.

If you get more than one Notice and/or proxy statement then it means that your shares are likely registered in more than one account. Please provide voting instructions for all Notices, proxy and voting instruction cards you receive. If you send us a signed proxy card without marking your voting selections, your shares will be voted on each proposal as recommended by our Board, and in the discretion of the proxy holders as to any other matters that may properly come before the meeting or any postponement or adjournment of the meeting. The Board is not presently aware of any other proposals or any other business to be considered at the Annual Meeting.

If your shares are registered in the name of a broker, bank or other nominee (typically referred to as being held in “Street Name”), you will receive instructions from your broker, bank or other nominee that you must follow in order for your broker, bank or other nominee to vote your shares per your instructions. Many brokerage firms and banks have a process for their beneficial holders to provide instructions via the Internet or over the telephone. If Internet or telephone voting is unavailable from your broker, bank or other nominee, please complete and return the enclosed voting instruction card in the addressed, postage paid envelope provided.

In the event you do not provide instructions on how to vote shares held in Street Name, your broker may have authority to vote your shares. Under the rules that govern brokers who are voting with respect to shares that are held in Street Name, brokers have the discretion to vote such shares on routine matters, but they are not permitted to vote (a “broker non-vote”) on non-routine or non-discretionary items absent instructions from the beneficial owner. With respect to the Annual Meeting, brokers are prohibited from exercising discretionary authority in the election of Directors and the non-binding advisory proposal on executive compensation, but such brokers may exercise discretionary authority with respect to the amendment of our certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares and the ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm. Your vote is especially important. Therefore, please promptly instruct your broker regarding how to vote your shares on these matters.

If you hold shares through a broker, bank or other nominee and wish to be able to vote in person at the meeting, you must obtain a legal proxy from your broker, bank or other nominee and present it to the inspector of election with your ballot at the meeting. If you need assistance in obtaining a legal proxy, please call Morrow & Co., LLC toll-free at (800) 414-4313. Submitting your proxy by mail will not affect your right to vote in person if you decide to attend the Annual Meeting.

Revoking a proxy

You may revoke or change a previously delivered proxy at any time before the meeting by delivering another proxy with a later date, by voting again via the Internet or by telephone, or by delivering written notice of revocation of your proxy to our Corporate Secretary at our principal offices in Natchez, Mississippi before the beginning of the meeting. You may also revoke your proxy by attending the meeting and voting in person, although attendance at the meeting will not necessarily revoke a valid proxy that was previously delivered. If you hold shares through a broker, bank or other nominee, you must contact that nominee to revoke any prior voting instructions. You also may revoke any prior

voting instructions by voting in person at the meeting if you obtain a legal proxy as described above.

Recommendation of the Board

The Board unanimously recommends you vote “FOR” each of the proposals. A proxy that is properly completed and submitted will be voted at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the instructions on the proxy. If you properly complete and submit a proxy, but do not indicate any contrary voting instructions, your shares will be voted as follows:

- “FOR” the election of each of the nominees named in this Proxy Statement to our Board of Directors;
- “FOR” the approval, on an advisory basis, of our executive compensation;
- “FOR” the approval of an amendment to the Company’s Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of Common Stock from 150 million to 300 million; and
- “FOR” the ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016

Counting the Vote

We have appointed Issuer Direct to serve as the inspector of election and to tabulate and certify the vote.

Quorum

A quorum is the number of shares that must be present to hold the meeting. The quorum requirement for the meeting is a majority of the outstanding shares as of the Record Date, present in person or represented by proxy. We will count your shares for purposes of determining if there is a quorum if either you are present and vote in person at the meeting or have voted on the Internet, by telephone or by properly submitting a proxy card or voting instruction card by mail. Abstentions and broker non-votes also count toward the quorum.

Required Vote

Proposal 1. Election of Directors

The nominees for election as directors at the Annual Meeting who each receive a majority of the votes cast shall be elected, provided that if the number of director nominees at such meeting exceeds the number of directors to be elected, the directors shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast. Because the number of director nominees equals the number of directors to be elected at this Annual Meeting, to be elected, each director must receive a majority of the votes cast. A majority of the votes cast means that the number of shares voted “for” a director must exceed the number of shares voted “against” that director. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not be included in determining the number of votes cast in the election of directors and will not have any effect on the outcome.

Proposal 2. Advisory Vote to Approve Named Executive Officer Compensation

The advisory vote on our executive compensation is non-binding, so no specific vote is required. Abstentions will have the same effect as a vote against this proposal, and broker non-votes will not be counted as shares present and entitled to vote, and, accordingly, will not affect the outcome of the vote on this proposal. While the law requires this advisory vote, the vote will neither be binding on us or our Board, nor will it create or imply any change in the fiduciary duties of, or impose any additional fiduciary duty on, us or our Board. However, the views of our stockholders are important to us, and our Compensation Committee will take into account the outcome of the vote when considering future executive compensation decisions. We urge you to read the section entitled “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” (“CD&A”), which discusses in detail how our executive compensation program implements our compensation philosophy.

Proposal 3. Approval of the Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation

Approval of the amendment to the Company's Certificate of Incorporation requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of our Common Stock. We believe that the amendment to our certificate of incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares is a "routine matter" under the rules of the NYSE, so brokers will be permitted to vote shares for which they do not receive instructions from the beneficial owners. An abstention and any broker non-votes will have the effect of a vote against this proposal.

Proposal 4. Ratification of the Appointment of the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Ratification of the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the 2016 fiscal year requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares of common stock entitled to vote and present in person or by proxy at the Annual Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have the same effect as a vote against this proposal.

Voting Results

We will announce the preliminary voting results at the Annual Meeting and will publish the final voting results in a current report on Form 8-K to be filed with the SEC within four business days of the meeting.

PROPOSAL 1

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board currently consists of eight directors, and our Certificate of Incorporation provides for a classified Board. The current Board is divided into three classes designated as Class I, Class II and Class III, with staggered, three-year terms. The following table provides information with respect to the nominees and all current directors whose terms will continue after the 2016 Annual Meeting until the election and qualification of their respective successors or until their earlier death, retirement, resignation or removal.

| Name | Age | Director Since | Position (Committee Memberships) |
|--|-----|----------------|--|
| Class I Directors (term expires in 2016) | | | |
| Larry D. McVay | 68 | 2007 | Director, Nominee (1,2,3,4) |
| John C. Wallace | 77 | 1994 | Director, Nominee (1,2,3,4) |
| Michael L. Finch | 60 | 2015 | Director, Nominee (3) |
| Class II Directors (term expires in 2017) | | | |
| Anthony J. Nocchiero | 64 | 2011 | Director (1,2,3,4) |
| Matthew Regis Bob | 58 | 2014 | Director (3,4) |
| James M. Trimble | 67 | 2014 | Director (2,4) |
| Class III Directors (term expires in 2018) | | | |
| Fred L. Callon | 66 | 1994 | Director, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) |
| L. Richard Flury | 68 | 2004 | Director (1,2,3,4) |

(1) Audit Committee

(2) Compensation Committee

(3) Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

(4) Strategic Planning and Reserves Committee

Based on the recommendations from the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, our Board has nominated its current Class I Directors, Messrs. Larry D. McVay, John C. Wallace and Michael L. Finch, for election to our Board as Class I Directors, with a term of office expiring at our 2019 Annual Meeting, or, in each case, until the election and qualification of their respective successors or until their earlier death, retirement, resignation or removal. Mr. Wallace has expressed his intent to resign upon completion of the first two years of such three-year term.

Nominees

Larry D. McVay was appointed to the Board in October 2007. Mr. McVay has been a Managing Director of Edgewater Energy, LLC, a privately held oil and gas investment company, since 2007. From 2003 until 2006, he served as Chief Operating Officer of TNK-BP Holding, one of the largest oil producing companies in Russia. From 2000 to 2003, he served as Technology Vice President and Vice President of Health, Safety and Environment for BP. He also led the global E&P Operations Excellence effort for improving the operating efficiency of BP's upstream operations. Mr. McVay earned a mechanical engineering degree from Texas Tech University, where he was recognized as a Distinguished Engineer in 1995. In January 2008, Mr. McVay became a member of the board of directors of Praxair, Inc., an industrial gases company in North and South America, where he serves on the Audit Committee, the Technology, Safety and Sustainability Committee and is chairman of the Finance & Pension Committee. Mr. McVay is also a member of the board of directors of Chicago Bridge and Iron, N.V., a publicly traded engineering, procurement, and construction company, where he serves on the Audit Committee, the Strategic Initiatives Committee and is the chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee. Mr. McVay has been directly involved in nearly all aspects of the oil and gas industry, including drilling, production, finance, environmental risk, and safety. We believe that this experience and his knowledge of the oil and gas exploration and production ("E&P") industry, particularly in the Permian Basin, provides invaluable insight in the development of our long-term strategies.

John C. Wallace has been a member of our Board since 1994. Mr. Wallace has been retired since 2010. Mr. Wallace is a Chartered Accountant having qualified with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Canada in 1963, after which he joined Baring Brothers & Co., Limited in London, England. Prior to his retirement in December 2010, Mr. Wallace served for over twenty-five years as Chairman of Fred. Olsen Ltd., a London-based corporation that he joined in 1968 and which specializes in the business of shipping, renewable energy and property development. He received his B. Comm degree majoring in Accounting and Economics from McGill University in 1959. In November 2004, he successfully completed the International Uniform Certified Public Accountant Qualification Examination and has received a CPA Certificate from the State of Illinois. Mr. Wallace is also retired from the board of directors of Ganger Rolf ASA and Bonheur ASA, Oslo, both publicly-traded shipping companies with interests in offshore energy services and renewable energy. In May 2012, Mr. Wallace was appointed as a non-executive director to the board of directors of Siem Offshore Inc., a publicly traded shipping company in Norway with a fleet of vessels active in the offshore energy sector, and for which he is a member of the Audit Committee. In addition, Mr. Wallace serves as a Director of Secunda Holdings LP, a Canadian company, which is 50% owned by Siem Offshore Inc. As a result of his association with Fred Olsen, Ltd. and various associated or related companies, Mr. Wallace has extensive financial and accounting experience in not only the oil and gas industry, but in a number of other related industries qualifying him as “financial expert.” We believe that this experience and his unique perspective of the risks and rewards in the oil and gas industry will continue to be beneficial to us.

Michael L. Finch was elected to the Board at the 2015 Annual Meeting. He served as Chief Financial Officer and a member of the Board of Directors of Stone Energy Corporation from its initial public offering in 1993 until his resignation in 1999. He was affiliated with Stone in a variety of capacities for nineteen years. Prior to his service with Stone, he was employed by Arthur Andersen & Co. in New Orleans, Louisiana from 1976 to 1980. Mr. Finch has been a private investor since 1999. He was licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in 1978 (inactive status at present), and received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of South Alabama in 1976. Currently, Mr. Finch is an independent director of Petroquest Energy, Inc., a publicly traded oil and gas company. Since his election to Petroquest’s Board in 2003, he has served as chairman of the Audit Committee, as a member of the Compensation Committee, and as a member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Mr. Finch has extensive financial and operating experience within our industry, and his background, prior experiences, professional credentials and expertise qualify him as a director and “financial expert”. Mr. Finch was initially appointed to our Board pursuant to a settlement agreement with Lone Star Value Management.

In February 2016, pursuant to an agreement with Lone Star Value Management LLC and certain of its related entities to, we agreed to nominate Michael L. Finch, Larry D. McVay and John C. Wallace as Class I nominees to the Board at the 2016 Annual Meeting, each to serve for a three (3) year term expiring in 2019; provided, however, that Mr. Wallace has expressed his intent to resign upon completion of the first two years of such three year term. The Company agreed that Mr. Finch would remain as a member of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and shall also be considered along with all other Board members for Board committee appointments in connection with the Board’s annual review of committee composition. Lone Star Value Management agreed to vote the shares it owns for the election of our director nominees.

In 2015, the Board amended our Corporate Governance Guidelines to adopt a majority voting policy in uncontested director elections. At any stockholder meeting for the election of directors at which a quorum is present, any nominee for director who receives a greater number of votes “withheld” from his or her election than votes “for” such election (“Majority Withheld Vote”) shall tender his or her resignation for consideration by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee following certification of the stockholder vote, unless the number of nominees exceeds the

number of directors to be elected as of the record date for such meeting, in which event the directors shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast. Such resignation will only be effective upon Board acceptance of such resignation after receiving the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

If a director nominee receives a Majority Withheld Vote, then, promptly following certification of the election results, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will consider any factors it deems relevant to the best interests of the Company and our stockholders in determining whether to accept the director's resignation and recommend to the Board the action to be taken with respect to the tendered resignation. Within 120 days following certification of the stockholder vote, the Board shall consider the recommendation and make a determination as to whether to accept or reject such director's resignation and shall notify the director concerned of its decision. We will also promptly publicly disclose the

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Board's decision and process in a periodic or current report filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

If you hold your shares through a broker and you do not instruct the broker how to vote, your broker will not have the authority to vote your shares. Abstentions and broker non-votes will each be counted as present for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum, but will have no effect upon the outcome of the vote. All shares of common stock represented by the proxies will be voted "FOR" the election of the above director nominees, except where authority to vote in the election of directors has been withheld. Should the nominees become unable or unwilling to serve as a director at the time of the 2016 Annual Meeting, the person or persons exercising the proxies will vote for the election of substitute nominees designated by the Board, or the Board may choose to reduce the number of members of the Board to be elected at the 2016 Annual Meeting in order to eliminate the vacancy. Your proxy cannot be otherwise voted for a person who is not named in this Proxy as a candidate for director or for a greater number of persons than the number of director nominees named. The Board has no reason to believe that the nominees will be unable or unwilling to serve if elected.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE "FOR" THE THREE NOMINEES.

Directors Continuing in Office

Biographical information for our other directors continuing in office is as follows:

Fred L. Callon has been Chairman of our Board since May 2004 and our President and Chief Executive Officer since January 1997. Prior to January 1997, he was our President and Chief Operating Officer, positions he had held with us or our predecessors since 1984. He has been employed by us or our predecessors since 1976. Mr. Callon graduated from Millsaps College in 1972 and received his M.B.A. degree from the Wharton School of Finance in 1974. Following graduation and until his employment by Callon Petroleum Operating Company, he was employed by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., certified public accountants. He is son of the late Sim C. Callon, one of our co-founders, and the nephew of the late John S. Callon, the other co-founder. We believe that Mr. Callon's strong financial background, combined with his longevity with us and many years of operational experience in the E&P industry throughout changing conditions in the market, provide him with the ability to successfully lead us forward.

L. Richard Flury was appointed to the Board in 2004. Mr. Flury has been retired since 2001. Prior to 2001, he spent over 30 years with Amoco Corporation, and later, BP p.l.c., most recently as Chief Executive, Gas and Power and Renewables. Prior to Amoco's merger with BP in 1998, he served in various executive positions, including Chief Executive for Worldwide Exploration and Production and Executive Vice President of Amoco Corporation. Mr. Flury was a member of the Board of QEP Resources, Inc., a publicly traded oil and gas exploration company, from 2010 until 2015, and is also a director and the non-executive Chairman of Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, N.V., a publicly-traded engineering, procurement and construction company. He is a graduate of the University of Victoria (Canada). Mr. Flury has many years of prior experience with a major oil and gas company, as well as continued involvement in the industry through his other directorship positions. Mr. Flury's vast experience and extensive knowledge of the E&P industry, together with his executive-level perspective and strategy-making abilities, strengthen the Board's collective qualifications, skills and experience, and will continue to prove very beneficial to us.

Anthony J. Nocchiero, was first elected to the Board in March 2011. Since 2010, Mr. Nocchiero has been retired. From April 2007 until September 2010, Mr. Nocchiero held the position of senior vice president and Chief Financial Officer for CF Industries, Inc. From July 2005 until March 2007, he was the vice president and Chief Financial Officer for Merisant Worldwide, Inc. From January 2002 to July 2005, Mr. Nocchiero was self-employed as an advisor and private consultant. From January 1999 until December 2001, Mr. Nocchiero served as vice president and Chief Financial Officer of BP Chemicals, the global petrochemical business of BP p.l.c. Prior to that, he spent twenty-four years with Amoco Corporation in various financial and management positions, including service as Amoco's vice president and controller from April 1998 to January 1999. Mr. Nocchiero holds a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from Washington University in St. Louis and an M.B.A. degree from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. Mr. Nocchiero has previous experience serving as a member of the board of directors of various public and private companies, including Terra Nitrogen LP, Keytrade AG, Vysis Corporation and the Chicago Chamber of Commerce. He brings to Callon a broad knowledge of the oil and gas industry, as well as extensive experience with finance and M&A related transactions, which we believe benefits the Board. In addition, Mr. Nocchiero has the accounting or financial management expertise to be considered a "financial expert" as defined and required by the NYSE rules and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act").

Matthew Regis Bob was elected to the Board at the 2014 Annual Meeting. Mr. Bob has been the founder and Managing Member of MB Exploration and affiliated companies since 1994. MB Exploration is engaged in the oil and gas exploration, development and consulting business. Effective August 1, 2014, Mr. Bob was appointed President of Eagle Oil and Gas. Mr. Bob also served as President of Hall Phoenix Energy LLC, a privately held oil and gas company, from 2009 to 2011. Prior to forming MB Exploration in 1994, Mr. Bob was Chief Geophysicist at Pitts Oil Company. He began his career at Union Oil Company of California where he held various geological positions. He is a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Society of Exploration Geophysicists and the Dallas Petroleum Club, and is a registered Geoscientist in the States of Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana. He holds a B.A. in Geology from St. Louis University, an M.S. in Geology from Memphis University, and is a graduate of Harvard University's Executive Management Program. We believe Mr. Bob's extensive experience in the oil and gas business and his technical expertise are a benefit to the Board of Directors. Mr. Bob was initially appointed to our Board pursuant to a settlement agreement with Lone Star Value Management.

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James M. Trimble was elected to our Board at the 2014 Annual Meeting. Mr. Trimble was Chief Executive Officer and President of PDC Energy, Inc. from 2011 until his resignation effective January 1, 2015, and has served on the board of PDC since 2009. Mr. Trimble was an officer of PDC in September 2013 when twelve partnerships for which PDC was the managing general partner each filed for bankruptcy in the federal bankruptcy court, Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division. From 2005 until 2010, Mr. Trimble was Managing Director of Grand Gulf Energy, Limited, a public company traded on the Australian Securities Exchange, and President and Chief Executive Officer of Grand Gulf's U.S. subsidiary Grand Gulf Energy Company LLC, an exploration and development company focused primarily on drilling in mature basins in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. From 2000 through 2004, Mr. Trimble was Chief Executive Officer of Elysium Energy and then TexCal Energy LLC, both of which were privately held oil and gas companies that he managed through workouts. Prior to this, he was Senior Vice President of Exploration and Production for Cabot Oil and Gas, a publicly traded independent energy company. Mr. Trimble was hired in July 2002 as CEO of TexCal (formerly Tri-Union Development) to manage a distressed oil and gas company through bankruptcy, and that company filed for Chapter 11 reorganization within 45 days after the date that Mr. Trimble accepted such employment. He successfully managed the company through its exit from bankruptcy in 2004. From November 2002 until May 2006 he also served as a director of Blue Dolphin Energy, an independent oil and gas company with operations in the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Trimble currently serves on the Board of Directors of Seisgen Exploration LLC, a small private exploration and production company operating in southern Texas. Mr. Trimble is a Registered Professional Engineer who brings many years of oil and gas industry executive management experience to the Board, including experience as a chief executive officer, and knowledge of current developments and best practices in the industry. Mr. Trimble was initially appointed to our Board pursuant to a settlement agreement with Lone Star Value Management.

All of our Directors are United States citizens, except Mr. Wallace, who is a citizen of Canada, and Mr. Flury, who holds both U.S. and Canadian citizenship.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Board of Director Structure and Responsibilities

General. Our Board is responsible for determining the ultimate direction of our business, determining the principles of our business strategy and policies, and promoting the long-term interests of the Company. The Board of Directors possesses and exercises oversight authority over our business but, subject to our governing documents and applicable law, delegates day-to-day management of the Company to our Chief Executive Officer and our executive management. The Board generally fulfills its responsibilities through regular quarterly meetings to review significant developments affecting us and to act on matters requiring Board approval. Between regularly scheduled meetings, the Board may also hold special meetings, execute unanimous written consents, and participate in telephone conference calls when an important matter requires Board action. During 2015, our Board met formally five times and transacted business on twelve occasions during the year by unanimous written consent. All of our directors attended each of the Board meetings either in person or by telephone. In addition, to promote open discussion, the non-employee directors meet in executive session without management following each quarterly board meeting. The chairperson of such executive sessions is the chairperson of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee unless, at the first

executive session held in each fiscal year, the independent directors select a different independent director to serve as the chairperson for all executive sessions held during that fiscal year. L. Richard Flury, Chairman of the Compensation Committee, was selected to preside over all executive sessions during 2015. It is the policy of the Board that, to the extent possible, all directors attend the annual meeting. All then current directors attended the 2015 annual meeting.

The Board, in consultation with the Nominating and Governance Committee, has determined that a classified board structure continues to be appropriate for us, particularly in an industry where long-term strategic planning is critical for the successful exploration, development and production of oil and natural gas resources. Our future success depends in significant part on the in-depth knowledge of our business and operations by our directors. We believe that a classified board promotes stability, continuity and experience among our directors, which is essential to developing and implementing long-term strategies, while resisting the pressure to focus on short-term results at the expense of enhancing long-term value and success.

Director Independence. It is a policy of the Board that a majority of the non-employee members of the Board be independent. Currently the only member of our Board who is not independent is our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. In accordance with the standards for companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) and the rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC, as well as our Corporate Governance Guidelines, the Board considers a director to be independent if it has affirmatively determined that the director has no material relationship with the Company that could compromise his ability to exercise independent judgment in carrying out his responsibilities. The Board makes independence determinations when it approves director nominees for election at the annual meeting and also whenever a new director joins the Board between annual meetings. The Board reviewed the independence of its directors and nominees in accordance with the standards described above, and affirmatively determined that each of its directors and nominees (other than Mr. Callon) is independent. The Board will evaluate the independence of each non-employee director on an ongoing basis.

Board Leadership Structure. One of the Board’s key responsibilities is determining the appropriate leadership structure for the Board, which helps ensure its effective and independent oversight of management on behalf of the our stockholders. Our Board understands that there is no one generally accepted approach to providing board leadership and that given the dynamic and competitive environment in which we operate, the optimal board leadership structure may vary as circumstances warrant. To this end, our Board has no policy mandating the combination or separation of the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, but periodically discusses and considers the structure as circumstances change. Mr. Fred L. Callon serves as our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. The Board believes its current structure, including the combined CEO and Chairman role, best serves the interests of our stockholders and is efficient and cost effective for the size of our company and the independent E&P industry. The CEO is uniquely positioned to provide the greatest insight into our performance, opportunities and challenges and is most capable of effectively identifying and executing the business strategy adopted by our Board. The Board believes that combining the Chairman and CEO roles fosters accountability, effective decision-making and alignment on the execution of the long-term corporate strategy.

The Board is currently comprised of eight directors, of which seven are independent. Independent directors and management generally have different perspectives and roles in strategy development. Our independent directors have backgrounds in the oil and gas industry allowing them to uniquely contribute their relevant experience, oversight, objectivity and expertise to Callon, which compliments the CEO’s comprehensive, company-specific perspective, experience and expertise. As the director having primary responsibility for managing our daily operations and identifying strategic priorities, the CEO is best positioned to lead the Board through reviews of key business and strategy decisions. This dynamic effectively promotes the opportunity for a successful blend of our independent directors’ perspectives and oversight responsibilities and facilitates information flow and communication between senior management and the Board, which are both essential to effective governance. The Board’s structure does not currently provide for an independent lead director. The Board has four standing committees, each of which is comprised entirely of independent directors. Accordingly, the Compensation Committee maintains its independence to both objectively and subjectively evaluate Mr. Callon’s performance when reviewing or modifying his compensation. The Board believes that this commitment to committee independence counterbalances any perceived risk posed by having Mr. Callon serve as the Chairman, President and CEO.

The role of our Chairman is to oversee and ensure Board effectiveness, and in his capacity as Chairman, Mr. Callon has the following responsibilities:

- schedules all meetings of the Board;
- establishes Board meeting agendas and ensure critical issues are included;
- chairs meetings of the Board and the Annual Meeting of Stockholders;
- ensures that the flow of information provided to the Board is timely, complete, and accurate;
- communicates with all directors on key issues and concerns outside of Board meetings;
- represents us to and interacts with external stockholders; and
- assists the Board and executive officers in assuring compliance with and implementation of our governance principles.

Standing Committees of the Board of Directors

In order to facilitate the various functions of the Board, the Board currently has four standing committees, each of which is comprised solely of independent directors, including the:

- Audit Committee;
- Compensation Committee;
- Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee; and
- Strategic Planning and Reserves Committee.

Each committee, discussed below in greater detail, has a written charter that has been adopted by the Board, which sets forth guidance on the role of the chairman of such committee and the roles and responsibilities of the committee as a whole.

Audit Committee Functions and Responsibilities

Purpose: The principal function of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board in overseeing the areas of financial reporting and accounting integrity.

Members: The Audit Committee is currently comprised of the following independent Directors, with two Directors deemed by the Board to be financial experts, as defined and required by the NYSE rules and the Exchange Act (“Financial Expert”):

- John C. Wallace (Chairman and Financial Expert)
- L. Richard Flury
- Larry D. McVay
- Anthony J. Nocchiero (Financial Expert)

The Board has determined that all members meet the independence requirements of the SEC and NYSE rules and the financial literacy requirements of the NYSE. Members of the Audit Committee may not simultaneously serve on the audit committee of more than three other public companies.

Meetings: The committee met nine times during 2015. All members of the Audit Committee attended each meeting.

Responsibilities: Pursuant to its charter, our Audit Committee functions in an oversight role and has the following purposes:

- overseeing the quality, integrity and reliability of the financial statements and other financial information we provide to any governmental body or the public;
- overseeing our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;
- selecting and hiring (subject to ratification by our stockholders) the independent public accounting firm;
- overseeing the qualifications, independence and performance of the independent auditor;
- overseeing the effectiveness and performance of our internal audit function;
- overseeing our internal control function regarding finance, accounting, legal compliance and ethics;
- establishing and overseeing procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or audit matters, including the confidential, anonymous submission of concerns regarding such matters;
- producing the Audit Committee Report for inclusion in our annual proxy statement; and
- performing such other functions our Board may assign to the Audit Committee from time to time.

The Audit Committee oversees our accounting and auditing procedures and financial reporting practices, and is responsible for the engagement of and oversight of all audit work conducted by our independent registered public

accounting firm. The Audit Committee meets periodically, generally quarterly, with our executive and financial management teams, internal auditor and our independent registered public accounting firm to review our financial information and systems of internal controls. The independent registered public accounting firm reports directly to the Audit Committee and, if requested, meets with the Audit Committee in executive session without management representatives present. The Audit Committee has the authority to investigate any matters brought to its attention and to retain outside legal, accounting or other consultants if deemed necessary.

The Audit Committee is required to pre-approve all audit, audit-related and non-audit services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm. These services may include audit services, audit-related services, tax services and other services. The Audit Committee approved all of the fees described in Proposal 4.

Relationship with Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls over financial reporting and for assessing the effectiveness of those controls. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing independent audits of our consolidated financial statements and internal controls over financial reporting in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (“PCAOB”) (United States) and issuing reports thereon. The Audit Committee’s responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes.

Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, served as our independent registered public accounting firm during 2013, 2014 and 2015. Following the shift in our asset base and operational focus stemming from our 2013 exit from the Gulf of Mexico, the Audit Committee evaluated other independent accounting firms, including Ernst & Young LLP, with the ability and expertise to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm. Following this review, the Committee appointed Grant Thornton LLP to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm.

Compensation Committee Functions and Responsibilities

Purpose: The purpose of the Compensation Committee is to establish our compensation policies and oversee the administration of our compensation program.

Members: Consistent with the listing requirements of the NYSE, the Compensation Committee is composed entirely of independent members of our Board, as each member meets the independence requirements set by the NYSE and applicable federal securities laws. The Compensation Committee is currently comprised of the following independent Directors:

- L. Richard Flury (Chairman)
- Larry. D. McVay
- John C. Wallace
- Anthony J. Nocchiero
- James M. Trimble

Meetings: The Compensation Committee met five times during 2015. All members of the Compensation Committee attended each meeting.

Responsibilities: Pursuant to its charter, our Compensation Committee's duties include the responsibility to:

- evaluate the performance of and establish the compensation of the CEO;
- review with the CEO the compensation for our other executive officers;
- review incentive compensation arrangements to confirm that executive compensation does not encourage unnecessary risk taking;
- review matters relating to management succession;
- administer our long-term incentive plans;
- review and discuss with management, the CD&A;
- review and recommend to the Board compensation for non-employee Directors;

- retain and oversee compensation consultants, including the independence of the consultants;
- review and approve performance criteria and results for bonus and performance-based equity awards for senior executive officers and approve awards to those officers; and
- perform such other functions as our Board may assign to the Compensation Committee from time to time.

The Committee retained the services of Meridian Compensation Partners LLC, an independent compensation consulting firm, to assist in the annual review of market and industry data to assess our competitive position with respect to each element of total compensation and to ensure the attraction, retention and appropriate reward to our CEO and other executive officers.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation: We have never employed, as an officer or otherwise, a member of the Compensation Committee. Additionally, none of our executive officers served as a member of the board or compensation committee (or other board committee performing similar functions or, in the absence of any such committee, the entire board) of any other entity that has one or more of its executive officers serving on the Company's Compensation Committee.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee Functions and Responsibilities

Purpose: The purpose of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is to identify and recommend qualified candidates to the Board for nomination as members of the Board, assess Director, Board and committee effectiveness, and develop and implement our Corporate Governance Guidelines and otherwise taking a leadership role in shaping the corporate governance of our Company.

Members: Each member of the Committee meets the independence requirements of the NYSE and applicable federal securities laws. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is currently comprised of the following independent Directors:

- Anthony J. Nocchiero (Chairman)
- L. Richard Flury
- Larry D. McVay
- John C. Wallace
- Matthew R. Bob
- Michael L. Finch

Meetings: The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met three times during 2015. All members of the Committee attended each meeting.

Responsibilities: Pursuant to its charter, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's duties include the responsibility to assist the Board in:

- evaluating a set of specific criteria for Board membership and identifying individuals qualified to become Board members, recommending nominees for election at the next annual meeting of stockholders, reviewing the suitability for continued service as a Director of each Board member, or otherwise filling any vacancies;
- assessing the size and composition of the Board and its committees and recommending to the Board the members and chair for each Board committee;
- advising the Board and making recommendations regarding appropriate corporate governance practices and assist the Board in implementing those practices, including periodically reviewing the adequacy of our Corporate Governance Guidelines, our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, and the various Board committee charters, and making recommendations for changes thereto to the Board;
- overseeing the annual self-evaluation of the performance of the Board and its committees;
 - overseeing and approving plans for management continuity and succession;
 - recommending to the Board a successor to the CEO when a vacancy occurs; and

- performing other such functions as the Board may assign to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee from time to time.

Director Identification and Selection

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has established criteria it considers as guidelines in considering nominations to our Board and evaluates potential nominees based on the contribution such nominee's background and skills could have upon the overall functioning and chemistry of the Board. While not an exhaustive list, key criteria include:

- level and diversity of experience and knowledge (specifically within the industry and relevant industries in which we operate, as well as his or her overall experience and knowledge), and an understanding and general acceptance of our current corporate strategy;
- personal characteristics, including such matters as integrity, education, absence of potential conflicts of interest with us or our operations, and the availability and willingness to devote sufficient time to the duties required of our Directors;
- experience in corporate management, such as serving as an officer or former officer of a publicly held company, particularly within the industry and relevant industries in which we operate;
- experience as a board member of another publicly held company, particularly within the industry and relevant industries in which we operate;
- a candidate's ability to work with our other Directors and executives in accomplishing our objectives and representing stockholders, and the contribution such nominee's competence, background and skills could have upon the overall functioning, collaborative spirit and chemistry of the current Board; and
- practical and mature business judgment.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Board may also consider other qualifications and attributes that they believe are appropriate in evaluating the ability of an individual to serve as a member of the Board. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee's goal is to assemble a Board that brings to us a variety of perspectives and skills derived from high quality business and professional experience, while also having the requisite business and oil and gas industry experience to perform its oversight role satisfactorily for our stockholders. In making its determinations, the Committee evaluates each individual in the context of the Board as a whole, with the objective of assembling a group that can best represent stockholder interests through the active, objective and constructive participation in meetings and the strategic decision-making processes. Although the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has no formal diversity policy, the Board believes that diversity with respect to viewpoint, skills and experience should be considered as part of the overall assessment of the Board's functioning and needs and the Director nomination process specifically includes disclosure of the diversity provided by each candidate. In addition to qualities of intellect, integrity and judgment, it takes into consideration diversity of personal and professional background, executive management experience, breadth of experience in the oil and natural gas E&P industry, finance, accounting, technology or law. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee makes its determination in the context of an assessment of the perceived needs of the Board at that point in time.

In accordance with our Certificate of Incorporation, any stockholder may nominate a person for election to the Board upon delivery of written notice to us of such nomination. Such notice must be sent as provided in our Certificate on or

before the deadline set forth in our Certificate, and must otherwise comply with the procedures set forth in our Certificate of Incorporation. For nominations at the 2016 Annual Meeting, the Board will consider individuals identified by stockholders on the same basis as nominees identified from other sources. A submission recommending a nominee should include:

- sufficient biographical information to allow the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee to evaluate the qualifications of a potential nominee in light of the Director nomination procedures and criteria and any other information that would be required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for the election of directors;
- an indication as to whether the proposed nominee will meet the requirements for independence under NYSE and SEC guidelines;

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- information concerning any relationships between the potential nominee and the stockholder recommending the potential nominee; and
- the proposed nominee's written consent to serve if nominated and elected.

In making its nominations, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee identifies nominees by first evaluating the current members of the Board willing to continue their service and any potential need to expand the Board to include additional expertise. Current members with proven service and a record of quality contribution to the Board and the qualifications and skills that are consistent with the Committee's criteria for Board service are re-nominated. As to vacancies, the Committee will generally poll the Board members and members of management for recommendations. The Committee may also review the composition and qualification of the boards of directors of our competitors, and may seek input from industry experts or analysts. The Committee may in the future choose to engage third-party search firms in situations where particular qualifications are required or where existing contacts are not sufficient to identify an appropriate candidate for membership in the Board.

Strategic Planning and Reserves Committee Functions and Responsibilities

Purpose: The purpose of the Strategic Planning and Reserves Committee is to manage and oversee the Board's participation in the development of the Company's strategic plan, and assist management and the Board with its oversight of the integrity of the determination of our oil and natural gas reserve estimates.

Members: The Strategic Planning and Reserves Committee shall consist of no fewer than three members of the Board, and is currently comprised of the following independent Directors:

- Larry D. McVay (Chairman)
- L. Richard Flury
- John C. Wallace
- Anthony J. Nocchiero
- Matthew Regis Bob
- James M. Trimble

Meetings: The Strategic Planning and Reserves Committee met three times during 2015. All members of the Committee attended each meeting during 2015. This Committee meets periodically during the year, generally prior to the scheduled quarterly Board meetings, to review the progress of our capital expenditure budget and to evaluate recent trends in the independent oil and gas industry that may have an impact on our current business strategy for the remainder of the year.

Responsibilities: The Strategic Planning and Reserves Committee was created to oversee the responsibilities of the Board relating to strategic planning, including:

- organizing and overseeing the Board's participation in the development of a strategic plan, including, but not limited to, the risk assessment and management process;
- monitoring the progress of the implementation of the strategic plan, and advising the Board if additional Board action appears to be needed;
- assuring that management is addressing the personnel requirements for the successful implementation of the strategic plan;
- assisting management and the Board with its oversight of the integrity of the determination of the Company's oil and natural gas reserves and the work of the Company's independent petroleum reservoir and reserve engineering firm; and
- performing other such functions as the Board may assign to the Strategic Planning and Reserves Committee from time to time.

Corporate Governance Matters

Corporate Governance Principles

The Board believes that sound corporate governance practices and policies provide an important framework to assist it in fulfilling its duty to stockholders. The framework for our corporate governance can be found in our governance documents, which include:

- Corporate Governance Guidelines;
- a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics; and
- Charters for the Audit, Compensation, Nominating and Corporate Governance, and Strategic Planning and Reserves Committees.

Each of these documents is available on our website www.callon.com, under the “About Callon – Governance” menu. Stockholders may obtain a printed copy, free of charge, by sending a written request to our Corporate Secretary at our principal offices in Natchez, Mississippi. We also promptly post on our website any amendments to these documents and any waivers from the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for our Directors and principal executive, financial and accounting officers.

Ethics

Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics sets forth the policies and expectations applicable to every Director, officer and employee. The Code addresses a number of topics, including conflicts of interest, relationships with others, corporate payments, disclosure policy, compliance with laws, corporate opportunities and the protection and proper use of our assets. The Code meets the NYSE’s requirements for a code of business conduct and ethics, as well as the SEC’s definition of a code of ethics applicable to our senior officers. Neither the Board nor any Board committee has ever granted a waiver of the Code.

Board Risk Oversight

As an independent E&P company, we face a number of risks. Assessing and managing material risk is the responsibility of our management team, while our Board, as a whole and through its committees, generally oversees risk management and our long-term strategic direction, ensuring that risks undertaken by the Company are consistent with the Board’s risk tolerance. Our Board leadership structure and our practice of a high degree of interaction between our directors and members of senior management facilitate this oversight function. Our executive officers regularly attend the Board meetings and are available to address any questions or concerns raised by the Board on risk

management-related and any other matters. Other members of our management team periodically attend the Board meetings or are otherwise available to confer with the Board to the extent their expertise is required to address risk management matters. The information flow and communication throughout the year between our Board and senior management regarding long-term strategic planning and short-term operational reporting includes matters of material risk inherent in our business of exploring for and producing oil and natural gas. The Board realizes, however, that it is not possible or prudent to eliminate all risk and that appropriate risk-taking is essential in order to achieve our near and longer-term objectives.

While the Board is ultimately responsible for risk oversight, the Board exercises additional risk oversight responsibilities through its committees, which are comprised solely of independent directors. Each such committee has primary risk oversight responsibility with respect to all matters within the scope of its duties as contemplated by its charter and as described below.

- The Audit Committee, among other duties, is charged with overseeing material financial risk exposures in the areas of financial reporting, internal controls and compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. This Committee also oversees responses to any alleged violations of our policies made by whistleblowers.
- The Compensation Committee reviews and attempts to mitigate associated risks that may result from our compensation policies in order that they do not encourage unnecessary and excessive risk taking by management.

- The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee focuses on issues relating to Board and Board committee composition and assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the management of risks associated with board organization, membership and structure, succession planning for our Directors and executive officers, and our corporate governance principals.
- The Strategic Planning and Reserves Committee organizes and oversees the Board's participation in the risk assessment and management process as it relates to the development and implementation of our strategic plan and the integrity of our reserve estimation reporting process and related disclosures.

Communication with Directors

Stockholders may communicate with the full Board, independent Directors as a group, or individual Directors, by sending a letter in care of the Corporate Secretary at our principal office, P. O. Box 1287, Natchez, MS 39121. Our Corporate Secretary has the authority to discard any solicitations, advertisements, or other inappropriate communications, but will forward any other mail to the named Director or group of Directors. Our Corporate Secretary will forward approved mail addressed to the full Board to Mr. Callon as Chairman of the Board who, if appropriate, will share the item with the full Board.

Executive Officers

The following table sets forth the names, ages and positions of our current executive officers:

| Name | Age | Positions Held |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| Fred L. Callon | 66 | Director, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer |
| Gary A. Newberry | 61 | Senior Vice President, Operations |
| Joseph C. Gatto, Jr. | 45 | Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer |
| Jerry A. Weant | 57 | Vice President, Land |
| Mitzi P. Conn | 46 | Corporate Controller and Principal Accounting Officer |

The following is a brief description of the background and principal occupation of each executive officer:

Fred L. Callon, Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer. Please see above for the biography of Mr. Callon.

Gary A. Newberry joined us in April 2010 as Vice President – Production and Development. In September 2010, Mr. Newberry was promoted to Senior Vice President – Operations. After graduation, he joined Marathon Oil Company as a Production and Drilling Engineer working in Alaska, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Rockies. He held various supervisory and management roles of increasing responsibility over production and drilling operations in the Mid-Continent, Alaska and the Permian Basin. As a Business Unit Leader, Mr. Newberry was responsible for all upstream business activity in Oklahoma, Alaska, and the Rockies and served as Marathon’s Worldwide Operations Manager. Mr. Newberry retired from Marathon Oil Company after 33 years of service. Mr. Newberry graduated from Marietta College in 1977 with a B.S. degree in Petroleum Engineering.

Joseph C. Gatto, Jr. joined us in April 2012 as Senior Vice President, Corporate Finance, with responsibility for our capital markets and strategic planning functions, in addition to investor relations activities. Effective March 31, 2014, the Board appointed Mr. Gatto as Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. Prior to joining Callon, Mr. Gatto was a Managing Director in the energy investment banking groups of Merrill Lynch & Co. and Barclays Capital from July 1997 until February 2009, with involvement in all phases of M&A and capital raising transactions for his clients. In February 2009, he founded MarchWire Capital, LLC, a financial advisory and strategic consulting firm, and subsequently served as Head of Structuring and Execution with Merrill Lynch Commodities, Inc. from January 2010 until November 2011. Mr. Gatto graduated from Cornell University with a BS degree in 1992 and The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania with an MBA in 1997.

Jerry A. Weant joined us in September 2013, as Vice President, Land. Mr. Weant joined Callon from Pioneer Natural Resources, an independent oil and gas company, where he was focused on Midland Basin operations, acting as a liaison with Permian Basin asset teams and coordinating internal efforts for the assessment of horizontal drilling programs. Mr. Weant spent the first 27 years of his career working as a landman in Midland, Texas, including working for Texaco, Inc. Pogo Producing, Inc., as well as other independents. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration/Petroleum Land Management from the University of Texas and is a Certified Professional Landman and a member of the American Association of Professional Landmen and the Permian Basin Landman's Association.

Mitzi P. Conn joined us in June 1993 and has been our Corporate Controller since May 2007. Effective March 31, 2014, the Board also appointed Mrs. Conn as our Principal Accounting Officer. Prior to May 2007, she served as Assistant Controller since May 2004 and has held various other positions in our finance and accounting departments. Prior thereto, she was a general accountant for Graham Resources, Inc. Mrs. Conn received her B.S. degree in accounting from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1990 and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants.

PROPOSAL 2

APPROVE, ON AN ADVISORY BASIS, THE COMPENSATION
OF THE COMPANY'S NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

We seek a non-binding advisory vote from our stockholders to approve the compensation of our NEOs, as described in this proxy statement. The Board recognizes that executive compensation is an important matter for our stockholders. The Compensation Committee is tasked with the implementation of our executive compensation philosophy and, as described in detail under the heading "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" below, the design of our executive compensation programs to align the interests of our executive officers with the interests of our stockholders. Under these programs, our executive officers are rewarded for the achievement of specific annual, long-term corporate and strategic goals tied to long-term value for stockholders.

As described in the CD&A, we believe our compensation program is effective, appropriate and strongly aligned with the long-term interests of our stockholders and that the total compensation package provided to the NEOs is reasonable and not excessive. As you consider this Proposal 2, we urge you to read the CD&A section of this proxy statement for additional details on executive compensation. Further, in determining whether to approve this proposal, we believe that stockholders should also consider the following:

- Independent Compensation Committee. Executive compensation is reviewed and established by a Compensation Committee of the Board consisting solely of independent Directors. The Compensation Committee meets in executive session, without executive officers present, in determining annual compensation. The Compensation Committee receives data, analysis and input from a compensation consultant that is independent of management and free of conflicts of interest with us.
- Performance-Based Incentive Compensation. Our executive compensation program is designed to attract, motivate and retain individuals with the skills required to formulate and drive our strategic direction and achieve the annual and long-term performance necessary to create stockholder value. The program also seeks to align executive compensation with stockholder value on an annual and long-term basis through a combination of base pay, annual incentives and long-term incentives.
- Elimination of Tax Gross-ups. Started in 2011, executive officers are not eligible for a tax related gross-up on any element of current and future compensation.
- "Double Trigger" Severance Agreements with Fixed Term. Callon's change in control severance agreements with executive officers require an actual or constructive termination of employment before benefits are paid following any change in control.
- Long-Term Incentive Plans. Our long-term incentive plans generally include three-year minimum vesting periods for time-based awards, and prohibit repricing or exchange of outstanding option awards.
- Stock Ownership Guidelines. Each of the NEOs has been granted equity to provide a stake in our long-term success. The purpose of the ownership requirements is to further our goal of increasing stockholder value by further aligning the interests of our NEOs with the interests of our stockholders. We believe that this "tone at the top" guides our other officers and management personnel to obtain and maintain meaningful ownership stakes Callon.
- Hedging Policy. Our directors and executive officers are prohibited from entering into transactions in puts, calls and other derivative securities with respect to our securities on an exchange or in any other organized market as well as

short sales of our securities. These types of transactions can hedge against decreases in our stock price and encourage risky behavior. We believe these activities are often perceived as involving insider trading and may focus the holder's attention on our short-term performance rather than our long-term objectives.

In light of the above, we believe that the compensation of our NEOs for 2015 was appropriate and reasonable, and that our compensation programs and practices are sound and in the best interests of us and our stockholders. We therefore respectfully request that Stockholders vote on the following resolution:

“RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to Callon’s Named Executive Officers, as disclosed in Callon’s 2016 proxy statement (including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables and related footnotes and narrative disclosures), is hereby approved.”

The vote on this resolution is not intended to address any specific element of compensation; rather the vote relates to the compensation of the NEOs, as described in this proxy statement in accordance with the compensation disclosure rules of the SEC. Although this vote is advisory and is not binding on the Board, the Compensation Committee of the Board values the input and views of our stockholders and will take into account the outcome of the vote in connection with their evaluation of future executive compensation policies and decisions. For a review of the results of the previous years’ vote, which reflects overwhelming validation from our stockholders of our pay philosophy and approach, please see the Role of Stockholder Say-on-Pay Advisory Vote summary in the CD&A section.

Notwithstanding the advisory nature of this vote, the foregoing resolution will be deemed approved, on an advisory basis, with the affirmative vote of the majority of the votes cast on the proposal at the Annual Meeting. If you hold your shares through a broker and you do not instruct the broker how to vote, your broker will not have the authority to vote your shares. Abstentions will have the effect as a vote cast against the proposal. Broker non-votes will not be counted as shares present and entitled to vote, and so will have no effect upon the outcome of the vote. Lone Star Value Management has agreed to vote its shares as recommended by Institutional Shareholder Services with respect to the forgoing “Say-on-Pay” resolution.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE “FOR” APPROVAL OF THIS RESOLUTION.

PROPOSAL 3

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE FOUR OF THE COMPANY'S CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
INCREASING THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED SHARES OF COMMON STOCK
OF THE COMPANY FROM 150 MILLION SHARES TO 300 MILLION SHARES

Proposed Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation

The Board has adopted a resolution approving and recommending to the stockholders for their approval a proposal to amend Article Four of the Company's Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of authorized shares of Common Stock from 150 million shares to 300 million shares (the "Article Four Amendment").

The form of the Article Four Amendment is as follows:

The first sentence of Article Four is hereby amended and restated to be read in its entirety as follows:

"The Corporation shall have authority to issue two classes of stock, and the total number authorized shall be 300,000,000 shares of Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share, and 2,500,000 shares of Preferred Stock, par value \$.01 per share."

Background and Reasons for Increasing the Authorized Shares of Common Stock

We have significantly grown our onshore asset base over the past five years and are seeking the approval of additional authorized shares of Common Stock in order to provide flexibility to meet the demands of future growth and other corporate obligations. We have a successful track record of funding acquisitions using the proceeds from equity offerings.

For example, during 2015, we raised approximately \$183.7 million in gross proceeds from two common equity offerings to support recent acquisitions and our ongoing development efforts in the Midland Basin. In 2015, we acquired nearly 628 net acres located in our existing Carpe Diem and CaBo area (Cassleman-Bohannon fields) located primarily in Midland and Andrews counties for approximately \$29.8 million and 305 net acres in our CaBo area for

approximately \$9.3 million. These acquisitions contributed significantly to a 70% increase in our net daily production for calendar year 2015 as compared to calendar year 2014. In addition, our net proved reserves at December 31, 2015 increased 65% as compared to year-end 2014. Our market capitalization increased by 122% in 2015 as compared to 2014.

As part of a prudent capital management program in this depressed commodity price environment, we expect to continue to fund possible future strategic acquisitions with the proceeds from equity offerings. As the current capitalization table below indicates, there are only 13,230,793 shares currently available for issuance to accommodate possible equity demands in the future. By not having a sufficient amount of authorized but unissued Common Stock available, our ability to take advantage of potential growth opportunities that might arise is limited.

The Board concurs with this assessment and believes that the recommended increase in the number of authorized shares of Common Stock is warranted and will give us the financial flexibility to satisfy the future equity capital requirements of our business and to capitalize on potential acquisition opportunities in a timely manner. If the Certificate of Incorporation is amended, the additional shares would be available for possible acquisitions, equity issuances in capital markets transactions, stock incentive plans, the reservation related to the Series A Preferred Stock (as described below), and for any other proper general corporate purpose. There will be no increase to the number of authorized shares of preferred stock.

Except as described below, we have no present plans, agreements or understandings for the issuance of any of the additional shares to be authorized by the proposed amendment. We are actively pursuing several acquisition opportunities with a primary focus on the Permian Basin, including current negotiations and discussions relating to more than one acquisition, which include both producing and non-producing properties (the "Possible Acquisitions"). However, as of the date of the proxy we have not entered into definitive agreements in connection with the Possible Acquisitions. If definitive agreements are ultimately reached, we may, depending on the size of any such Possible Acquisitions, fund all or a portion of any such Possible Acquisitions with net proceeds from the issuance of our Common Stock. There can be no assurances

that an agreement for any of the Possible Acquisitions will be reached or that any Possible Acquisition or any other acquisition will be consummated.

Capitalization Tables

We have outstanding 1,458,948 shares of Series A Cumulative Preferred Stock (“Series A Preferred Stock”) with a total liquidation value of \$73 million. The Series A Preferred Stock provides that upon a change of control, generally defined as the acquisition of 50% of the Company’s Common Stock by a person or group of persons and following the acquisition, neither the Company nor the surviving entity has a class of common securities listed on a national securities exchange) (“Change of Control”), we may make a cash offer to purchase the Series A Preferred Stock within 120 days following the Change of Control for the liquidation value plus accrued dividends. The Series A Preferred Stock further provides that if we do not elect (or are unable) to purchase the Series A Preferred Stock for cash, the holders of the Series A Preferred Stock may convert the liquidation value of their holdings into shares of Common Stock at the then current market price of Common Stock, but in no event more, in the aggregate, than 39,113,887 shares of Common Stock. Based on our Common Stock price as of March 18, 2016, the Series A Preferred Stock would theoretically be able to convert into 8,452,769 Common Shares if all of the events described above occurred.

Currently, our authorized capital stock consists of 150,000,000 shares of Common Stock and 2,500,000 shares of Preferred Stock. We have 96,122,341 shares of Common Stock outstanding and an additional 40,646,866 shares reserved for issuance upon vesting or exercise of restricted stock, stock options and the limited conversion rights of the Series A Preferred Stock. The following table depicts our authorized capital stock as of the Record Date prior to the amendment of the Certificate of Incorporation and assuming the proposed amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation is adopted by the stockholders:

Current:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Total authorized | 150,000,000 |
| Less: | |
| Total shares outstanding | 96,122,341 |
| Reserved for issuance upon exercise of outstanding stock options | 15,000 |
| Reserved for issuance upon vesting of outstanding equity awards & 401(k) Plan | 1,517,979 |
| Reserved for issuance for limited conversion feature of Series A Preferred Stock (“Share Cap”) (1) | 39,113,887 |
| Total outstanding and reserved | 136,769,207 |
| Total available | 13,230,793 |

Post-Amendment:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Total authorized | 300,000,000 |
| Less: | |
| Total shares outstanding | 96,122,341 |
| Reserved for issuance upon exercise of outstanding stock options | 15,000 |
| Reserved for issuance upon vesting of outstanding equity awards & 401(k) Plan | 1,517,979 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Reserved for issuance for limited conversion feature of Series A Preferred Stock (“Share Cap”) (1) | 39,113,887 |
| Total outstanding and reserved | 136,769,207 |
| Total available | 163,230,793 |

(1) Pending stockholder approval of the amendment to increase the authorized Common Stock, we reserve the right to allocate amounts, not to exceed 22,313,887 shares of Common Stock, reserved under the Share Cap for other corporate purposes in accordance with Delaware law.

If the stockholders approve the amendment to our Certificate of Incorporation to increase our authorized Common Stock, we will have 163,230,793 shares of authorized Common Stock available for future issuance. The additional shares of Common Stock authorized by the amendment that are not reserved for other purposes may be issued periodically on authorization by the Board, without further approval by the stockholders, unless such authorization is required by applicable law or the rules of the NYSE. Shares of Common Stock may be issued for such consideration as the Board may determine, and as may be permitted by applicable law.

The proposed amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation does not change the terms of the Common Stock. The additional shares of Common Stock to be authorized by adoption of the amendment would have rights identical to the currently outstanding Common Stock of the Company. Any future issuance of additional shares of Common Stock would not affect the rights of the holders of currently outstanding Common Stock of the Company, except for effects incidental to increasing the number of shares of our Common Stock outstanding, such as a dilutive effect on the Company's earnings per share. If our stockholders do not approve the proposal, we will have only 13,230,793 shares of authorized Common Stock for general corporate purposes and, as a result, may not be able to access the capital markets, complete acquisition transactions or partnerships, attract, retain and motivate employees, or pursue other business opportunities integral to its growth and success. However, non-approval will not have any impact on the existing terms and conditions of the Series A Preferred Stock, including the current Share Cap.

The existence of certain provisions contained in the Company's Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws may be to render more difficult the accomplishment of any attempted merger, takeover or other change in control affecting the Company and/or the removal of the Company's incumbent Board and management. However, this proposal is not in response to any effort of which the Company is aware to accumulate its stock or to obtain control of the Company and it is not part of a plan by management to recommend a series of similar amendments to the Board and the stockholders.

Effective Date

If approved by the stockholders, it is anticipated that the amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation will become effective as soon as practicable after the Annual Meeting. Upon approval of this proposal at the Annual Meeting, we will file the Article Four Amendment with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware, and the number of authorized shares of Common Stock will be increased from 150 million shares to 300 million shares (without affecting par value).

If stockholders do not approve this proposal at the Annual Meeting, then we may seek to obtain stockholder approval of an increase in authorized shares at future stockholder meetings. Approval of the amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of our outstanding shares of Common Stock. We believe that this is a "routine matter" for purposes of the NYSE rules, and so brokers will be entitled to vote shares with respect to which they do not receive voting instructions from the beneficial owners. Abstentions and any broker non-votes will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal to amend the Certificate of Incorporation. Lone Star Value Management has agreed to vote its shares in accordance with the recommendation of Institutional Shareholder Services with respect to the approval of the amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation to increase the number of shares.

"RESOLVED, that the amendment to Article Four of the Company's Certificate of Incorporation increasing the total number of authorized shares of Common Stock is hereby approved."

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE "FOR" THE INCREASE IN AUTHORIZED SHARES OF COMMON STOCK FROM 150 MILLION SHARES TO 300 MILLION SHARES

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PROPOSAL 4

RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED

PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM, GRANT THORNTON LLP, FOR 2016

The Audit Committee has appointed Grant Thornton LLP, as the independent registered public accounting firm, to audit our consolidated financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2016. We are asking stockholders to ratify this appointment.

The Audit Committee conducted a competitive process to review the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2016. The process included consideration of audit firms, in addition to Ernst & Young LLP, which was the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the year ended December 31, 2015. The decision to evaluate more than one potential audit firm was made in connection with the Audit Committee's annual review of the independent registered public accounting firm. Upon completion of this process, the Audit Committee informed Ernst & Young LLP that they would no longer serve as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm no later than the date of the filing of the Company's Form 10-K for the 2015 fiscal year. The Audit Committee appointed Grant Thornton LLP, effective as of March 3, 2016, as the Company's registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2016.

Ernst & Young LLP's audit report on the Company's consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015 did not contain an adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor was it qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles. During the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2015 and through March 2, 2016, there were no (i) disagreements (as defined in Item 304(a)(1)(iv) of Regulation S-K) between the Company and Ernst & Young LLP on any matter of accounting principle or practice, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure which, if not resolved to Ernst & Young's satisfaction, would have caused it to make reference to the matter in its report on the Company's consolidated financial statements for the relevant year.

Fees

The following table sets forth the fee incurred by us in fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for services performed by Ernst & Young LLP:

| Fee Category | 2014 | 2015 |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Audit (1) | \$749,664 | \$ 765,117 |
| Tax (2) | 17,150 | 32,700 |

Total \$766,814 \$ 797,817

- (1) Audit fees consist of the aggregate fees billed for professional services related to the audit and quarterly reviews of our financial statements and for services that are normally provided by the accountant in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.
- (2) Tax fees consist of the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered for tax compliance (including filing state and federal tax returns), tax advice and tax planning. Tax fees do not include fees for services rendered in connection with the audit.

Pre-Approval Policy. The Audit Committee pre-approves all audit and permissible non-audit services (including the fees and terms thereof) to be performed for us by our independent registered public accounting firm, as required by applicable law or listing standards and subject to the terms of the audit and non-audit services pre-approval policy in accordance with the Audit Committee charter. The Committee may delegate authority to one or more of its members when appropriate, including the authority to grant pre-approvals of audit and permitted non-audit services, provided that decisions of any such member to grant pre-approvals are consistent with the terms of the Pre-Approval Policy and are presented to the full Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

Audit Committee Report

Acting pursuant to its Charter, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed our audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015, with management and Ernst & Young LLP, and recommended to our Board that our audited

consolidated financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015, for filing with the SEC. This recommendation was based on:

- the Audit Committee's review of the audited financial statements;
- discussion of the financial statements with management;
- discussion with our independent registered public accounting firm, Ernst & Young LLP, of the matters required to be discussed by auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, including the communication matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 1301, Communications with Audit Committees, issued by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board;
- receipt from Ernst & Young LLP of the written disclosures and letter required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees);
- discussions with Ernst & Young LLP regarding its independence from Callon, its Board and management;
- Ernst & Young LLP's confirmation that it would issue its opinion that the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, our financial position and the results of our operations and cash flows for the periods presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and
- other matters the Audit Committee deemed relevant and appropriate.

Management is responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of our consolidated financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the establishment and maintenance of our disclosure controls and procedures, and the establishment, maintenance and evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing an independent audit of our consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB and issuing reports thereon. The Audit Committee's responsibilities include monitoring and overseeing these processes.

Members of the Audit Committee rely, without independent verification, on the information provided to them and on the representations made by management and our independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee's considerations and discussions referred to above do not assure that the audit of our financial statements and internal control over financial reporting have been carried out according to the standards of the PCAOB, that the financial statements are presented according to GAAP, or that Ernst & Young LLP is in fact independent.

Respectfully submitted by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors,

John C. Wallace, Chairman

L. Richard Flury

Larry D. McVay

Anthony J. Nocchiero

The submission of this matter for approval by stockholders is not legally required; however, the Board and Audit Committee believe that this submission is consistent with best practices in corporate governance and is an opportunity for stockholders to provide direct feedback to the Board and Audit Committee on an important issue of corporate governance. Although the results of the vote are not binding on the Audit Committee, if the appointment is not ratified the Audit Committee will consider whether it should select another independent registered public accounting firm. A representative of both Ernst & Young LLP and Grant Thornton LLP will be present at the 2016 Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement, if they desire, and to respond to appropriate questions from stockholders.

This proposal will be approved if it receives the affirmative vote of a majority of shares of our common stock cast at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote on this proposal. Broker non-votes and abstentions will not affect the outcome of this proposal. Lone Star Value Management has agreed to vote its shares for approval of Grant Thornton LLP as our auditors.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT YOU VOTE “FOR” THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GRANT THORNTON LLP AS THE COMPANY’S INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016.

BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Management and Principal Stockholders

The following table sets forth, as of the Record Date, certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of shares of common stock held by: (i) all persons known by us to be the beneficial owners of 5% or more of the outstanding common stock; (ii) each Director; (iii) the nominees for Director; (iv) each current executive officer named in the Summary Compensation Table; and (v) all of our executive officers and Directors as a group. Information set forth in the table with respect to beneficial ownership of common stock has been obtained from filings made by the named beneficial owners with the SEC as of the Record Date or, in the case of our executive officers and Directors, has been provided to us by such individuals. As of March 18, 2016, the Company had 96,122,341 shares of Common Stock issued, outstanding, and eligible to vote.

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owner | Common Stock | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|-------|
| | Beneficial Ownership | Notes | % |
| Directors | | | |
| Fred L. Callon | 620,322 | (a)(b) | <1% |
| L. Richard Flury | 167,999 | (a)(c) | <1% |
| Larry D. McVay | 112,169 | (a)(d) | <1% |
| Anthony J. Nocchiero | 99,033 | (a)(e) | <1% |
| John C. Wallace | 5,000 | (a)(f) | <1% |
| Matthew R. Bob | 23,184 | (a)(g) | <1% |
| James M. Trimble | 4,184 | (a)(h) | <1% |
| Michael L. Finch | - | (a)(i) | <1% |
| Officers | | | |
| Gary A. Newberry | 276,560 | (a)(j) | <1% |
| Joseph C. Gatto, Jr. | 151,030 | (a)(k) | <1% |
| Jerry A. Weant | 36,961 | (a)(l) | <1% |
| Mitzi P. Conn | 61,294 | (a)(m) | <1% |
| Directors and Executive Officers (12 persons, as a group) | 1,557,736 | (n) | 1.61% |
| Certain Beneficial Owners | | | |
| Wellington Management Group, LLP | 7,112,875 | (o) | 7.40% |
| Dimensional Fund Advisors LP | 5,443,862 | (p) | 5.66% |

(a) Unless otherwise indicated, each of the persons listed in the table may be deemed to have sole voting and dispositive power with respect to such shares. Beneficial ownership does not include the unvested portion of stock awards due to lack of voting and disposition power, unless such award will vest within sixty days of March 18, 2016. Percentage ownership of a holder or class of holders is calculated by dividing (i) the number of shares of

common stock beneficially owned by such holder or class of holders plus the total number of shares of common stock underlying options exercisable or stock awards vesting within sixty days of March 18, 2016, by (ii) the total number of shares of common stock outstanding plus the total number of shares of common stock underlying options exercisable and stock awards vesting within sixty days of March 18, 2016, but not common stock underlying such securities held by any other person.

- (b) Of the 620,322 shares beneficially owned by Fred L. Callon, 352,640 shares are owned directly by him; 25,215 shares are held by him as custodian for certain minor Callon family members; 160,378 shares represent unvested restricted stock units payable in stock and 28,302 restricted stock units payable in cash, which will vest within sixty days of March 18, 2016; and 53,787 shares are owned within the Company's Employee Savings and Protection Plan. Shares indicated as beneficially owned by Mr. Callon do not include 24,904 shares of common stock owned by his wife over which he disclaims beneficial ownership, 184,052 unvested restricted stock units payable in stock, 21,892 unvested restricted stock units payable in cash, and 158,916 unvested phantom shares payable in cash.
- (c) Of the 167,999 shares beneficially owned by L. Richard Flury, 121,328 shares are owned directly by him; 30,000 shares are held in joint tenancy with his wife; 5,000 shares in stock options, exercisable within 60 days; and 11,671 shares of unvested restricted stock, which will vest within sixty days of March 18, 2016. Shares indicated as beneficially owned by Mr. Flury do not include 23,336 restricted stock units awarded pursuant to his election under the Deferred Compensation Plan for Outside Directors, payable in cash upon his separation of service as a Director.
- (d) Of the 112,169 shares beneficially owned by Larry D. McVay, all are owned directly by him. Shares indicated as beneficially owned by Mr. McVay do not include 23,336 unvested restricted stock units payable in stock, and 11,671 restricted stock units awarded pursuant to his election under the Deferred Compensation Plan for Outside Directors, payable in cash upon his separation of service as a Director.

- (e) Of the 99,033 shares beneficially owned by Anthony J. Nocchiero, 87,362 shares are owned directly by him and 11,671 shares of unvested restricted stock that will vest within sixty days of March 18, 2016. Shares indicated as beneficially owned by Mr. Nocchiero do not include 23,336 unvested restricted stock units payable in stock.
- (f) Mr. John C. Wallace has 5,000 stock options exercisable within 60 days. Mr. Wallace transferred his equity ownership in the Company to The Wallace Family Trust in April 2008. All equity ownership in the Company acquired by Mr. Wallace since April 2008 has also been transferred to the Wallace Family Trust, with the exception of the 18,968 restricted stock units awarded in May 2011, 22,768 restricted stock units awarded in May 2012, 35,014 restricted stock units awarded in May 2013, 12,550 restricted stock units awarded in May 2014 and 14,970 restricted stock units awarded in May 2015 pursuant to his election under the Deferred Compensation Plan for Outside Directors, all of which are payable in cash upon his separation of service as a Director. Mr. Wallace has no voting and dispositive power over the shares owned by the Trust.
- (g) Of the 23,184 shares beneficially owned by Matthew R. Bob, all are owned directly by him. Shares indicated as beneficially owned by Mr. Bob do not include 23,336 unvested restricted stock units payable in stock.
- (h) Of the 4,184 shares beneficially owned by James M. Trimble, all are owned directly by him. Shares indicated as beneficially owned by Mr. Trimble do not include 23,336 unvested restricted stock units payable in stock.
- (i) Michael L. Finch is a new Director who currently does not own any shares of the Company's stock. Shares indicated as beneficially owned by Mr. Finch do not include 14,970 unvested restricted stock units payable in stock.
- (j) Of the 276,560 shares beneficially owned by Gary A. Newberry, 181,898 shares are owned directly by him; 47,492 shares are owned within the Company's Employee Savings and Protection Plan; and 40,095 shares represent unvested restricted stock units payable in stock and 7,075 restricted stock units payable in cash that will vest within sixty days of March 18, 2016. Shares indicated as beneficially owned by Mr. Newberry do not include 67,554 unvested restricted stock units payable in stock, 7,999 unvested restricted stock units payable in cash, and 58,069 unvested phantom shares payable in cash.
- (k) Of the 151,030 shares beneficially owned by Joseph C. Gatto, Jr., 85,482 shares are owned directly by him; 16,878 shares are owned within the Company's Employee Savings and Protection Plan; 1,500 shares are Series A Preferred Stock and 40,095 shares represent unvested restricted stock units payable in stock and 7,075 restricted stock units payable in cash that will vest within sixty days of March 18, 2016. Shares indicated as beneficially owned by Mr. Gatto do not include 1,600 shares of common stock owned by his mother over which he disclaims beneficial ownership, 67,554 unvested restricted stock units payable in stock, 7,999 unvested restricted stock units payable in cash, and 58,069 unvested phantom shares payable in cash.
- (l) Of the 36,961 shares beneficially owned by Jerry A. Weant, 30,000 shares are owned directly by him; 4,000 are held in a family trust and 2,961 shares are owned within the Company's Employee Savings and Protection Plan. Shares indicated as beneficially owned by Mr. Weant do not include 28,984 unvested restricted stock units payable in stock, 3,180 unvested restricted stock units payable in cash, and 20,842 unvested phantom shares payable in cash.

- (m) Of the 61,294 shares beneficially owned by Mitzi P. Conn, 20,548 shares are owned directly by her; 21,878 shares are owned within the Company's Employee Savings and Protection Plan; and 16,038 shares represent unvested restricted stock units payable in stock and 2,830 restricted stock units payable in cash that will vest within sixty days of March 18, 2016. Shares indicated as beneficially owned by Ms. Conn do not include 28,984 unvested restricted stock units payable in stock, 3,180 unvested restricted stock units payable in cash, and 20,842 unvested phantom shares payable in cash.
- (n) Includes 10,000 stock options, exercisable within 60 days; 325,230 shares of unvested restricted stock which will vest within sixty days of March 18, 2016; and 142,996 shares are owned within the Company's Employee Savings and Protection Plan.
- (o) Information is based upon a Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 11, 2016 by Wellington Management Group, LLP, Wellington Group Holdings LLP, Wellington Investment Advisors Holdings LLP and Wellington Management Company LLP (collectively "Wellington"). In this Schedule 13G, Wellington represents that it has shared voting power with respect to 7,112,875 shares of common stock and shared dispositive power with respect to 8,147,867 shares of common stock. The address of the principal business office of Wellington Management Group, LLP is 280 Congress St., Boston, MA 02210.
- (p) Information is based upon a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on December 31, 2015 by Dimensional Advisors LP ("Dimensional"). In this Schedule 13G, Dimensional represents that it has sole voting power with respect to 5,443,862 shares of common stock and sole dispositive power with respect to 5,615,116 shares of common stock. The address of the principal business office of Dimensional Advisors LP is 6300 Bee Cave Road, Austin, TX 78746.

With respect to shares issuable upon exercise of stock options, the holders or class of holders acquire investment power for these shares immediately upon a "change of control," as defined in the applicable plan.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance. Our executive officers and Directors are required to file reports with the SEC, disclosing the amount and nature of their beneficial ownership in our common stock, as well as changes in that ownership. To our knowledge, based solely on its review of these reports and written representations from these individuals that no other reports were required, all required reports were timely filed during 2015.

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Oversight of Executive Compensation Program

The Compensation Committee (the “Committee”), appointed by our Board, assists the Board in performing its fiduciary responsibilities relating to the compensation of our CEO and other NEOs. The Committee is responsible for the incentive compensation programs, which include programs designed for our executive management team, including the NEOs listed below.

The following compensation discussion and analysis (“CD&A”) is intended to cover all elements of compensation paid to our NEOs and to describe the Committee’s rationale in structuring our executive compensation program designed primarily to incentivize our NEOs to achieve both short-term and long-term corporate goals that enhance stockholder value. Specifically, we design policies to support the achievement of our strategic objectives by aligning the interests of our NEOs with those of our stockholders, with operational and financial performance goals linked to long-term equity and equity-based compensation.

Our NEOs for 2015 were:

| NEO | Title |
|----------------------|--|
| Fred L. Callon | Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and President (“CEO”) |
| Gary A. Newberry | Senior Vice President, Operations (“SVP Ops”) |
| Joseph C. Gatto, Jr. | Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (“CFO”) |
| Jerry A. Weant | Vice President, Land |
| Mitzi P. Conn | Corporate Controller and Principal Accounting Officer |

Executive Summary and 2015 Highlights

The Committee believes that our executive compensation program has played a significant role in our ability to deliver stockholder value built upon strong financial and operational results. Our industry has experienced a decline in commodity prices since the fourth quarter of 2014 stemming from the global oversupply of crude oil. While we have no control over commodity prices, we believe we have positioned the Company to better manage this challenging commodity price environment than many of our industry peers. Leveraging our operational momentum since becoming a pure-play, Permian Basin operator in late 2013, we have demonstrated our ongoing ability to consistently create stockholder value, even in this lower commodity price environment. Specifically, we focused on preserving our operating margin by working closely with our service partners to reduce our drilling, completion and operating costs,

while also working internally to reduce our overhead costs, allowing us to align our cost structure with current commodity prices. These quick responses in a challenging environment, coupled with two successful equity raises, strengthened our balance sheet and overall financial flexibility and liquidity. Collectively, our dramatic year-over-year production and proved reserves base growth demonstrate our success.

After entering 2015 with a three-drilling-rig development program, we responded to a challenging commodity price environment by quickly moderating our pace, returning to a two-drilling rig program during the first quarter of 2015. By the third quarter of 2015, we once again demonstrated our operational flexibility and commitment to maintaining a strong balance sheet by quickly modifying our development plans to focus almost exclusively on developing the Lower Spraberry zone across our Central Area – a zone that offers compelling returns even in a low commodity price environment. Ever mindful of the environment in which we operate and our stated goal of achieving cash flow neutrality during 2016, we further modified our development program during the first quarter of 2016 by slowing our development pace from two drilling rigs to one. The moderated activity level positions us to achieve cash flow neutrality in 2016 while simultaneously growing production, maintain operational momentum and healthy vendor relationship, and pursue inorganic growth opportunities on which we could utilize our second horizontal drilling rig.

Key accomplishments in 2015 include:

Accomplishment

Production growth Grew production 70% year-over-year to 9,610 BOE/d (80% oil) in 2015 vs. 5,649 BOE/d in 2014.

Reserve growth Increased proved reserves year-over-year by 65% to 54.3 MMBOE from 32.8 MMBOE at year-end 2014.

Operational efficiency Increased PDPs by 57% to 28.6 MMBOE from 18.2 MMBOE.
Drilled 36 gross (27.1 net) Horizontal (Hz) wells equating to 16 wells per drilling-rig, a 33% increase over the 12 Hz wells per drilling-rig in 2014.

Completed 34 gross (26.2 net) Hz wells, a 10% increase over the 31 gross Hz completions in 2014.

Continued to improve drilling and completion efficiency, achieving an average horizontal well cost of under \$5.5 million for 7,500' lateral wells vs \$7.4 million in 2014, with line-of-sight to further reductions to achieve target of \$5.0 - \$5.2 million, among the lowest cost operators in the Permian Basin.

Financial strength Enhanced financial flexibility by completing two strategic equity offerings, raising over \$175 million in net proceeds, funding growth and reducing leverage.

Built a strong derivatives position with more than 60% of our estimated 2016 production hedged with downside protection.

Increased the senior secured revolving credit facility's borrowing base to \$300 million, relative to \$250 million in 2014 and \$83 million in 2013.

Cost reductions Significantly reduced our operating and administrative cost structures delivering consistent operating margins each quarter throughout 2015 and positioning us for similar margins in 2016 despite lower commodity prices, achieving an LOE per BOE of \$7.71, down 29% from \$10.85 in 2014 and 45% from \$14.00 in 2013.

Acreage and well inventory growth - Acquisition Acquired nearly 630 net acres at competitive prices in our core Central Area fields (Carpe Diem and Cassleman-Bohannon fields ("CaBo"), located primarily in Midland and Andrews Counties, adding production of 360 BOE/d (84% oil) and added 34 net potential horizontal drilling locations.

Well inventory growth: Delineation Total acreage position is 100% HBP allowing for complete operational flexibility.
Successfully developed our first Middle Spraberry well during 2015, effectively de-risking 100 additional well locations across our Central Area fields.

Increased our horizontal drilling inventory to approximately 504 gross locations based solely on five currently producing zones. With the addition of drilling locations from other

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Well inventory growth: | prospective zones, this drilling inventory increases to over 1,000 drilling locations. |
| Down-spacing | Successfully tested tighter spacing in the Lower Spraberry zone, effectively adding approximately 50 de-risked horizontal well locations across our acreage. |
| Safety & Training | Achieved an OSHA Recordable Incident Rate (“ORIR”) in the field of 0.73, attributable to enhanced employee safety through near-miss reporting, with a focus on quality engagements. |
| Staging future efficiencies | <p>Had only one lost-time accident associated with our work activities in 2015.</p> <p>Ended 2015 with over 80% of our production tied into gathering systems after converting nearly 60% of our production gathering system during 2015, improving operating margins by reducing transportation expenses, while also improving operational reliability associated with trucking production.</p> <p>Built on the efficient, pad-development strategy we began in 2012 by investing in additional water handling infrastructure across our acreage to increase operational control by significantly reducing 3rd party service providers and reduce expenses associated with water off-take.</p> |

Role of Stockholder Say-on-Pay Advisory Vote

At the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders, our stockholders voted approximately 96% in favor of the compensation of the NEOs as described in our 2015 proxy statement. In consideration of the results, the Committee acknowledged the support received from our shareholders and viewed the results as a confirmation of the Company's existing executive compensation policies and decisions. Accordingly, the Committee substantially maintained our prior executive compensation policies for 2016. The Committee will continue to review stockholder votes on our executive compensation and determine whether to make any changes to the program as a result of these votes.

Role of Independent Compensation Consultant

As previously discussed, for 2015 the Committee retained Meridian Compensation Partners, LLC ("Meridian" or the "Consultant") as its independent consultant, which provided information and objective advice regarding NEO and Director compensation. The Committee retained Meridian, because of its extensive experience and familiarity with our NEO compensation program and the compensation programs of our Peer Group and sector. Importantly, the Committee makes all of the decisions with respect to our executive compensation, and as such, in setting compensation for our NEOs, considers the Consultant's advice as only one factor among many other factors discussed within this CD&A. Other factors include our overall performance, individual NEO's performance, experience, skills and tenure with Callon, industry trends and similar factors.

The Committee did not direct Meridian to perform its services in any particular manner or under any particular method. The Committee has the final authority to hire and terminate the Consultant, and the Committee evaluates the Consultant annually. Meridian provides no other services to Callon aside from its role as advisor to the Committee, and pursuant to applicable SEC and NYSE rules, the Committee has determined that no conflicts of interest exist because of Meridian's engagement by the Committee. The Committee has retained Meridian as its Consultant on NEO and Director compensation for 2016.

From time to time, Meridian contacts our NEOs for information needed to fulfill the objectives established by the Committee, and makes reports and presentations to both the Committee and our NEOs. However, the Committee established procedures that it considers adequate to ensure that the Consultant's advice to the Committee remains objective and is not influenced by our NEOs or other management.

The Committee considered the advice of the Consultant as only one factor in setting compensation of our NEOs, as actual compensation decisions are the result of the Committee's subjective analysis of a number of factors. To help ensure that our NEO compensation programs are competitive and consistent with our compensation philosophy, the Consultant assisted the Committee with the following:

- consult on executive compensation matters to align the Committee's actions with stockholder interests, our business strategy and pay philosophy, prevailing market practices and relevant legal and regulatory requirements;
- identify and assess potential peer groups against which to compare;
- provide, as needed, input into the design and level of outside Director compensation and executive compensation;
- provide comprehensive, competitive market data to consider in determining executive base salary and short- and long-term incentive plans and awards;
- review and provide feedback on the compensation-related disclosures in this Proxy Statement; and
- inform the Committee about marketplace compensation trends in the industry, best practices and generally other developments affecting executive compensation.

Compensation Assessment

In order to attract, motivate and retain talented executive officers, the Committee must ensure that our executive compensation program remains competitive with the types and ranges of compensation paid by our peer companies who compete for the same executive talent. On an annual basis, the Committee reviews and discusses compensation data for

our CEO and other NEOs as compared with compensation data for similarly situated executive officers at peer companies selected by the Consultant and approved by the Committee.

The Committee engages Meridian to conduct annual assessments of our industry peer group (“Peer Group”) in order to ensure each peer remains appropriate year-over-year. Meridian provides the Committee with market data from a group of peer companies in the independent E&P industry based on multiple metrics, such as operational and capital investment profiles, including enterprise value, market cap, asset size, and revenues. Our 2015 Peer Group consists of public companies with operational similarity in terms of size, scope and nature of business operations, and competitors, including geographic footprint and operational focus, particularly in the Permian Basin, with some larger and some smaller in size and scope, comparability of asset portfolio and availability of compensation data. The Committee believes this Peer Group provides a reasonable point of reference for comparing the compensation of our NEOs to others holding similar positions and having similar responsibilities.

The Committee does not target a specific percentile of the Peer Group, as the market data is just one of many factors considered by the Committee in determining compensation. The Committee and Meridian review the Peer Group each year and make changes based on changes in the Peer Group companies’ and our assets and operations in order to ensure the continued relevance to the market data and that the Peer Group provides the most appropriate comparison to the Company as part of the Committee’s competitiveness evaluation. The Committee considers Peer Group data relevant to, but not determinative of, the Committee’s consideration of overall executive compensation matters.

For the 2015 compensation decisions, the Committee’s selected Peer Group included the 12 companies listed below:

2015 Peer Group

Abraxas Petroleum Corp.
Approach Resources Inc.
Diamondback Energy Inc.
Gastar Exploration LTD
Goodrich Petroleum Corp.
Matador Resources Co
PDC Energy Inc.
Penn Virginia Corp.
Petroquest Energy Inc.
Resolute Energy Corp.
Rex Energy Corp.
Triangle Petroleum Corp.

The Committee also uses other proprietary benchmarking surveys from a broader sample of comparably sized oil and gas companies for additional market perspective, including:

- Meridian’s 2015 Oil & Gas E&P Survey (“Meridian Survey”), which outlines data from similarly sized E&P companies; and
- Survey data provided by Effective Compensation, Inc. (“ECI”), which provides data for over 300 jobs found in E&P firms in the United States.

The Committee understands the inherent limitations in using any peer group or data set, including fluctuations in survey participation from year to year and competition for executive talent by companies potentially much larger than Callon. Accordingly, the Committee does not consider data collected from any of these sources to be prescriptive. Rather, the Committee relies upon this and similar data as reference points around which to make informed decisions about the appropriate level and form of compensation for each NEO.

Risk Assessment Related to our Compensation Structure

The Committee believes our compensation plans are appropriately structured to encourage long-term value creation and are not reasonable likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company. The Committee, with assistance of the Consultant, reviewed the elements of executive compensation during 2015 to determine whether any portion of executive compensation encouraged excessive risk taking. Our management conducted a similar risk assessment with respect to other employees. Upon evaluation of those assessments, the Committee and management concluded that our compensation policies and practices for the NEOs and other employees do not present risks that are reasonable likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company. The Committee's risk review identified the following risk mitigating features designed into our executive compensation program:

- A balance of short-term and long-term programs to focus management on both elements of Callon's performance;
- Annual long-term equity and equity-based incentives designed to be the largest component of each NEOs compensation package, with typical vesting periods of three years that are based on the value of our common stock and not on any particular metric that could encourage risk-taking;
- The use by the Committee of its discretion to assess annual performance in the bonus plan;
- Performance targets measured at the corporate level, rather than at the individual or business unit level;
 - Committee discretion to decrease bonus payouts if it believed management exercised excessive risk taking;
- Reasonable change-in-control severance protections; and
- Significant executive stock ownership requirements.

Executive Compensation Components and Philosophy

The Committee designs our compensation program to maintain a balance between rewarding the achievement of short-term or annual results and Callon's long-term growth and success, thereby aligning our NEOs' interests with those of our stockholders. Our executive compensation program is designed to do the following:

- Emphasize pay for performance, in which Company and individual performance substantially influence an NEOs total compensation opportunity;
- Attract and retain a highly qualified and motivated management team by offering industry competitive opportunities;
 - Hold NEOs accountable and appropriately reward them for their contributions to the achievement of our key short-term and long-term strategic objectives through the use of variable compensation; and
- Align the compensation of our NEOs with the long-term interests of our stockholders by adjusting our compensation programs to be more weighted toward at-risk, performance-based compensation, consisting of a goal-driven annual incentive program and total shareholder return ("TSR") contingent equity awards.

The Committee believes that this approach awards and compensates our NEOs in a manner that fairly and reasonably provides incentives for the enhancement of stockholder value, for the successful implementation of our business plan, and the continuous improvement in corporate and personal performance. In order to compete in our industry, the Committee believes that our NEOs' compensation should include the following components:

| Component | Purpose | Philosophy Statement |
|---|--|--|
| Base Salary | Pay for expertise and experience | Competitive relative to similarly-sized peers Reflective of individual skills, experience tenure and expertise necessary to execute our business strategy |
| Annual Cash Bonus Incentive | <p>Attract and retain talented executives</p> <p>Provide compensation stability Compete with comparable companies</p> <p>Motivate our executive officers to achieve our short-term business objectives that drive long-term performance while providing flexibility to respond to opportunities and changing market conditions</p> <p>Provide annual recognition of performance based on achievement of individual and corporate strategic objectives</p> <p>Promote and encourage pay-for-performance</p> | <p>Modest or no reward for performance below expectations and potential for increased reward for exceptional performance</p> <p>Goals aligned with our annual performance targets</p> <p>Provide balance in compensation programs and avoid encouraging undue risk-taking</p> <p>Competitive relative to similarly-sized peers</p> <p>Reflective of internal equity considerations</p> <p>Ensures that realized value to the executive aligns with value delivered to stockholders</p> <p>Recognizes and rewards share price performance</p> |
| Long-Term Equity / Equity-Based Incentives Awards | Motivates NEOs to achieve our business objectives by tying incentives to the performance of our stock over the long term | |
| (60% TSR Phantom Units; 40% RUSs) | Match competitive practices to attract and retain employees | |

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|---|--|--|
| | <p>Provide a mix of equity awards that focuses the NEO on creating long- term value while avoiding undue risk-taking</p> | <p>relative to industry peers Provides a strong performance-based equity component</p> |
| | | <p>Aligns compensation with sustained long-term value creation</p> |
| | | <p>Allows NEOs to acquire a meaningful and sustained ownership stake in the Company</p> |
| <p>Other (Retirement; Benefits; Health Severance)</p> | <p>Provide financial security for the NEOs and their families</p> | <p>Helps attract and retain NEO talent and remain competitive among our peers by offering a comprehensive benefits package</p> |
| | <p>Ensure NEOs consider all possible transactions to increase stockholder value related to changes in control of the Company</p> | <p>Provides financial security in the event of various individual risks and maximizes the efficiency of tax-advantaged compensation vehicles</p> |
| | <p>Provide competitive level of benefits</p> | <p>Benefits levels based on peer group practices while considering stockholder value</p> |
| | <p>Match competitive practices to attract and retain NEOs</p> | <p>Attracts and retains NEOs in a competitive and changing industry, ensures NEOs act in the best interests of the stockholders in a change in control, and settles up front any potential dispute regarding</p> |

an NEOs
termination

Ensure a financial safety net

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Determination of Each Element of Compensation

Base Salaries

We provide all of our employees, including the NEOs, with an annual base salary to compensate them for their services throughout the year. Our Committee recognizes that a substantial amount of competition exists in the oil and gas industry for attracting and retaining qualified management teams, particularly in the Permian Basin. Accordingly, the Committee evaluates our NEOs' salaries together with other components of their compensation to ensure that the NEOs' total compensation is competitive relative to market practices in our Peer Group or our industry in general, and is consistent with the previously discussed Committee's compensation philosophy. However, the Committee, while being mindful that the overall mix remains competitive, designs the components of our compensation programs so that as a NEOs responsibility increases, the compensation mix is weighted more heavily toward performance-based, at-risk cash and non-cash compensation and less heavily toward base salary.

Annually, generally in March of each year, the Committee reviews the base salary of our NEOs. Individual salary amounts reflect the Committee's subjective analysis of a number of factors, including:

- Individual officer's experience, skills, contributions and tenure with Callon;
- Changes to the individual's position within Callon;
- Trends in compensation practices within our Peer Group and industry; and
- The NEO's roles, responsibilities and expected future contribution to Callon's success.

In addition, the Committee also considers the input and recommendations of Meridian regarding base salaries, as well as the input of the CEO when evaluating base salary for the other NEOs. Upon review of these various factors and noting that the base salary of our NEOs were generally in line with our Peer Group, the Committee decided to provide no increases to base salaries in 2015 for any of the NEOs.

Annual Cash Bonus Incentive

A core component of our NEO compensation philosophy is to tie compensation to performance by structuring a significant portion of total annual compensation as "at risk." To motivate employees to pursue our annual business goals in a way most beneficial to our stockholders, NEOs, senior management and other non-management technical personnel have the potential to receive a significant portion of their annual cash compensation as a bonus. The Committee set 2015 annual bonus award opportunities for each NEO as a percentage of the NEO's annual base salary, and ultimately awarded a cash bonus to the NEOs based on the achievement of specified Company performance targets and the NEO's individual performance, as determined at the Committee's discretion.

For 2015, the Committee made no changes to the target bonus opportunities, summarized in the table below:

| NEO | Target Bonus Opportunity (% of Base Salary) |
|----------------------|--|
| Fred L. Callon | 100% |
| Gary A. Newberry | 90% |
| Joseph C. Gatto, Jr. | 90% |
| Other NEOs | 60% – 70% |

The target bonus opportunity is a guideline whereby actual bonus amounts may be greater or less than such target, in the Committee's discretion.

Assessing Performance

For purposes of evaluating performance, the Committee, in collaboration with management and the Consultant, annually reviews and establishes corporate goals and objectives relevant to NEO compensation, that include financial, operational and strategic performance goals. The Committee believes that these quantitative factors and performance expectations, taken together, are objective indicators of overall successful performance. At regular meetings, the Committee periodically reviews the Company's progress toward meeting the bonus objectives for the year. The Committee prefers not to rely solely on a formulaic approach that results in automatic payouts, so the Committee retains the flexibility to exercise its discretion and take into account special or unusual factors that may have contributed to the achievement of these objectives, such as acquisitions, commodity prices, or other factors considered appropriate by the Committee at the time of the award.

The Compensation Committee then assessed management's performance against the 2015 operational, financial and strategic goals, and noted the following:

| Performance Goal | Rationale | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Operate in a Safe and Environmentally Friendly Manner | Strong correlation exists between positive operational, safety and environmentally-friendly performance | Achieved an OSHA Recordable Incident Rate (ORIR), well below the reported range by other similar sized operators in the Permian Basin and below our average ORIRs reported for the past two years. |
| Increase Daily Production (1) | Adding production directly contributes to our cash flow and operational growth | Increased both daily and annual Permian production by 70%, from 5,649 BOE/d in 2014 (82% oil) to 9,610 BOE/d in 2015 (80% oil), and from 2,062 MBOE in 2014 to 3,508 MBOE in 2015. |
| Increase Proved Reserves (1) | Reserves growth positions the organization for future success with resources to develop | Grew estimated net proved reserves by 65% to 54.3 MMBOE vs. year-end 2014 of 32.8 MMBOE, for an increase of 21.4 MMBOE. Importantly, our year-end 2015 reserves were 53% PDP and replaced more than 7x our 2015 production of 3,508 MBOE. |
| Increase Financial Flexibility | Financial flexibility positions us to successfully execute our operating strategy and lowers our risk profile | Successfully executed two strategic equity offerings, raising over \$175 million in net proceeds, funding growth and reducing leverage; achieved 20% growth in our Credit Facility borrowing base from \$250MM to \$300MM. |
| Maintain appropriate DEBT/EBITDA level | A healthy balance sheet and leverage profile are vital to future growth | Maintained DEBT/EBITDA level below 3.0x. See comments related to "Increase Financial Flexibility" goal above for factors driving this outperformance. |
| Reduce Lease Operating Expense ("LOE") | Improves operating margins | Reduced LOE by 29% to \$7.71/BOE vs. \$10.85/BOE in 2014. |

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| Reduce Cash G&A Expense | Improves operating margins | Reduced per-BOE Adjusted cash G&A by 41% from \$7.04/BOE to \$4.16/BOE in 2014 and 2015, respectively. |
| Reduce Drill-bit Finding & Development ("F&D") Costs | Improves operating margins | Significantly reduced F&D costs by 42% to \$8.98/BOE vs. \$15.51/BOE in 2014. |

- (1) Successful acquisitions added daily production and proved reserve growth of approximately 530 Boe/d and 3.4 MMBOE, respectively.

In addition to performance criteria above, the Committee considers other strategic achievements and management performance in response to external conditions. For 2015, the Committee took into account the following in setting bonus compensation:

- Management's ability to position the Company for success during a challenging commodity pricing environment;
- Management's ability to promptly redirect our strategy to reflect the decline in oil prices, including reducing costs and capital spending and high-grading our drilling operations;

- Management's continued progress in building a strong technical team and promoting and enhancing communication and teamwork throughout Callon; and
- Management's ability to protect margins through well-managed oil and gas derivative positions.

At the Committee meeting held in March 2016, the Committee evaluated the NEOs performance against the 2015 performance criteria described above and determined that the management team executed beyond the targets and significantly exceeded expectations on most of the financial and operational goals, along with other strategic achievements as noted above, despite a challenging commodity price environment. Thus, the Committee determined actual bonus amounts paid for 2015 performance above target as follows:

| | 2015 Annual Bonus (\$) |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Named Officer | |
| Fred L. Callon | \$ 800,000 |
| Gary A. Newberry | 600,000 |
| Joseph C. Gatto, Jr. | 600,000 |
| Jerry A. Weant | 225,000 |
| Mitzi P. Conn | 225,000 |

Annual Award of Long-term Equity and Equity-Based Incentives

The Committee believes that granting long-term equity and equity-based incentive awards are the most effective means to provide a substantial forward-looking incentive to our NEOs that emphasizes:

- Long-term value creation by linking compensation provided to our NEOs with long-term operational success;
- Aligns the long-term interests of our NEOs with those of our stockholders by directly linking rewards to stockholder return; and
- Fosters meaningful equity participation by our executive officers.

The Committee administers our long-term incentive plans, including approving award recipients, determining the total number of awards, vesting of awards and performance criteria, including TSR. The vesting period incorporated into stock-based compensation fosters a longer-term perspective necessary for executive retention, stability and continuity. For the grant of equity compensation to NEOs, the Committee will typically consider information provided by the Consultant related to the overall competitive environment associated with long-term compensation. We have no program, plan or obligation that requires us to grant equity compensation on specified dates. However, the Committee adheres to our policy of only granting stock-based compensation grants during open trading windows.

For 2015 long term incentive grants, the Committee approved a mix for our NEOs of time-based awards and performance-based awards tied to relative TSR, with a portion of each award paid in cash. The following table sets

forth the number of restricted stock units, phantom units and TSR Performance Units Awarded to the NEOs in 2015:

| Named Officer | Total Value | Restricted Stock | | TSR Phantom Units Payable in Stock (3) | TSR Phantom Units Payable in Cash (3) |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| | | Units Payable in Common Stock (1) | Phantom Units Payable in Cash (2) | | |
| Fred L. Callon | \$ 1,642,000 | 68,000 | 12,000 | 60,000 | 60,000 |