# Advanced BioEnergy, LLC 8000 Norman Center Drive, Suite 610, Bloomington, MN 55437

# Notice of Regular Meeting of Members to be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016

To our members:

The regular meeting of members of Advanced BioEnergy, LLC will be held at The Dakota Event Center, 720 Lamont Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 9 a.m. central time, for the following purposes:

- 1. To set at seven the number of directors to be selected for a term of one year;
- 2. To elect seven directors to serve for a period of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified;
- 3. To ratify the appointment of RSM US LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016;
- 4. To cast a non-binding advisory vote approving executive compensation; and
- 5. To transact other business that may properly be brought before the meeting.

February 1, 2016 is the record date for the meeting and only members of record at the close of business on that date are entitled to receive notice of and vote at the meeting.

Your proxy is important to ensure a quorum at the meeting. Even if you own only a few units, and whether or not you expect to be present, you are requested to date, sign and mail the enclosed proxy in the postage-paid envelope that is provided. Voting by proxy will not affect your right to subsequently change your vote or to attend the regular meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Scott A. Brittenham

Scott A. Brittenham *Chairman of the Board* 

Bloomington, Minnesota January 28, 2016

#### VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

The enclosed proxy is solicited by the board of directors of Advanced BioEnergy, LLC ("us" or the "Company") for use at the 2016 regular meeting of members to be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 and at any adjournment thereof. The regular meeting will be held at The Dakota Event Center, 720 Lamont Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 9 a.m. central time. Registration for the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. central time. This solicitation of proxies is being made by mail; however, we may also use our officers, directors, and employees (without providing them with additional compensation) to solicit proxies from members in person or by telephone, facsimile or letter. Distribution of this proxy statement and a proxy card is scheduled to begin on or about Friday, February 12, 2016. To vote:

#### BY MAIL

- Mark your selections on the proxy card;
- Date and sign your name exactly as it appears on your proxy card; and
- Mail the proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

#### BY FACSIMILE

- Mark your selections on the proxy card;
- Date and sign your name exactly as it appears on your proxy card; and
- Fax the proxy card to us at 763-226-2725 by 3:00 p.m. central time on Monday, March 14, 2016.

#### IN PERSON

You may vote in person at the meeting by attending the meeting and voting by ballot. Even if you plan to attend the meeting in person, we encourage you to vote by returning the enclosed proxy card by mail or by facsimile so we can ensure your vote is counted in the event you are not able to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT. THANK YOU FOR VOTING.

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# ADVANCED BIOENERGY, LLC 8000 Norman Center Drive, Suite 610, Bloomington, MN 55437

# PROXY STATEMENT FOR 2016 REGULAR MEETING OF MEMBERS

#### ABOUT THE REGULAR MEETING

The enclosed proxy is being solicited by our board of directors for use in connection with our regular meeting of members to be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. central time at The Dakota Event Center, 720 Lamont Street, Aberdeen, South Dakota, and at any adjournments thereof. The mailing of this proxy statement and our form of proxy to members will commence on or about Friday, February 12, 2016.

The board of directors requests that you vote on the proposals described in this proxy statement. You are invited to attend the meeting, but you do not need to attend the meeting in order to vote your units. Instead, you may follow the instructions below to vote your units through the enclosed proxy card. Your proxy is important to ensure a quorum at the meeting.

## What is the purpose of the regular meeting?

At the regular meeting, we will ask our members to vote on four matters:

- To set at seven the number of directors to be elected for a term of one year;
- To elect seven directors to serve for a period of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified;
- To ratify the appointment of RSM US LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016; and
- To cast a non-binding advisory vote approving executive compensation.

Following the formal portion of the meeting, our management will report on our performance and answer questions from our members.

### Who is entitled to attend the meeting?

Only members as of the record date February 1, 2016, or their duly appointed proxies, may attend the meeting. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. central time. Cameras, recording devices and other electronic devices will not be permitted at the meeting. Please RSVP your attendance with the card enclosed.

Please also note that if you hold your units in "street name" (that is, through a broker or other nominee), you will need to bring a copy of a brokerage statement reflecting your ownership as of the record date, or the proxy form described below under "How do I Vote?"

## Who is entitled to vote at the meeting?

Only members of record at the close of business on the record date for the meeting February 1, 2016 will be entitled to vote at the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

# How many votes do I have?

On any matter that may properly come before the meeting, each member entitled to vote will have one vote for each unit owned by that member as of the close of business on the record date.

## How many membership units are outstanding?

At the close of business on the record date, there were 25,410,851 outstanding membership units ("units"). Therefore, there are a total of 25,410,851 possible votes that may be submitted on any matter.

## What constitutes a quorum?

Pursuant to Section 6.9 of our Fifth Amended and Restated Operating Agreement dated March 16, 2012 (the "Operating Agreement"), the presence in person or by proxy of members holding at least 50% of the issued and outstanding units is required to constitute a quorum. On the record date we had 25,410,851 issued and outstanding units, each of which is entitled to vote at the meeting. Accordingly, the presence of holders of at least 12,705,426 units at the meeting will constitute a quorum. If you submit a proxy or appear at the meeting, then your units will be considered part of the quorum.

If a quorum is present, the meeting can proceed. Proxies received but marked as abstentions and broker non-votes will be included in the calculation of the number of units considered to be present at the meeting for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum.

#### How do I vote?

Units can be voted only if the holder of record is present at the meeting either in person or by proxy. You may vote using any of the following methods:

*Proxy card.* The enclosed proxy card is a means by which a member may authorize the voting of his, her, or its units at the meeting. The units represented by each properly executed proxy card will be voted at the meeting in accordance with the member's directions. We urge you to specify your choices by marking the appropriate boxes on your enclosed proxy card. After you have marked your choices, please sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return it in the enclosed envelope or by fax to us at 763-226-2725. In order for your vote to count, we must receive it by 3:00 p.m., central time, on Monday, March 14, 2016. If units are owned jointly by more than one person, either person may sign the proxy card.

*In person*. You may vote in person at the meeting by attending the meeting and voting by ballot. Even if you plan to attend the meeting in person, we encourage you to vote by returning the enclosed proxy card so we can ensure your vote is counted in the event you are not able to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

If you hold your units in "street name," you need to obtain a proxy form from the institution that holds your units. Members who hold units through a broker or agent should follow the voting instructions received from that broker or agent.

# What can I do if I change my mind after I vote my units?

You may revoke your proxy by:

- voting in person at the meeting, but attendance at the meeting alone will not revoke your proxy; or
- giving personal or written notice of the revocation, which is received by Richard R. Peterson, our Chief Executive Officer, President and Chief Financial Officer, at our offices at 8000 Norman Center Drive, Suite 610, Bloomington, MN 55437 on or before March, 2016 by 3:00 p.m. central time.

# What is the effect of an "abstention" or "withhold" vote on the proposals to be voted on at the meeting?

A unit voted "abstain" with respect to any proposal is considered as present and entitled to vote with respect to that proposal, but is not considered a vote cast with respect to that proposal. Because proposals 1, 3 and 4 require not less than the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the units present and entitled to vote on any proposal in order to pass, an abstention will have the effect of a vote against the proposals. Directors are elected by a plurality of units voting for directors. Therefore, a "withhold" vote with respect to a director will not prevent that director from being elected if a plurality of units are voted for that director.

## What is the effect of a "broker non-vote" on the proposals to be voted on at the meeting?

A "broker non-vote" occurs if your units are not registered in your name and you do not provide the record holder of your units (usually a bank, broker, or other nominee) with voting instructions on a matter and the record holder is not permitted to vote on the matter without instructions from you under applicable New York Stock Exchange rules. These rules apply to us even though our units are not listed on any securities exchanges. A broker non-vote is considered present for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists, but is not considered a "vote cast" or "entitled to vote" with respect to the matter.

Under New York Stock Exchange rules, proposal 3, the ratification of RSM US LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm, is a routine item. As a result, brokers who do not receive instructions how to vote on this matter generally may vote on this matter in their discretion. Brokers who do not receive instructions how to vote on our other proposals may not vote on these matters.

## What is the recommendation of the board of directors on my voting my units?

Our board of directors recommends a vote:

- *for* the setting at seven the number of directors to be elected for a term of one year as set forth in proposal 1,
- for the election of the seven nominees to our board of directors as set forth in proposal 2,
- *for* the ratification of RSM US LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm as set forth in proposal 3,
- for the advisory vote approving executive compensation as set forth in proposal 4.

# What if I do not specify a choice for a matter when returning a proxy?

Unless you indicate otherwise, the persons named as proxies on the proxy card will vote your units:

- *for* setting at seven the number of directors to be elected for a term of one year as set forth in proposal 1,
- for the election of the seven nominees to our board of directors as set forth in proposal 2,
- *for* the ratification of RSM US LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm as set forth in proposal 3, and
- *for* the advisory vote approving executive compensation as set forth in proposal 4. If any other matters come up for a vote at the meeting, the proxy holders will vote in line with the recommendations of the board of directors or, if there is no recommendation, at their own discretion.

#### What vote is required to approve each item?

Setting the Number of Directors. An affirmative vote of a majority of the units represented at the meeting and entitled to vote will result in the matter being approved.

*Election of Directors*. The director nominees who receive the greatest number of votes will be elected directors.

Ratify the Appointment of RSM US LLP as Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. An affirmative vote of a majority of the units represented at the meeting and entitled to vote will result in the matter being approved.

Advisory Vote Approving Executive Compensation. An affirmative vote of a majority of the units represented at the meeting and entitled to vote will result in the matter being approved.

## What is the effect of the 2009 Voting Agreement on the matters to be voted on?

The 2009 Voting Agreement further described in this proxy statement under "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners — Description of 2009 Voting Agreement" requires certain persons, who hold in the aggregate approximately 50.2% of our outstanding units, to vote in favor of the election of Mr. Brittenham, Mr. Miller, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Schlieman, and Mr. Peterson proposed by the board of directors as described in proposal 2. Therefore, assuming these units are voted in compliance with the 2009 Voting Agreement, Mr. Brittenham, Mr. Miller, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Schlieman, and Mr. Peterson will be elected as directors. The 2009 Voting Agreement does not require the parties to the 2009 Voting Agreement to vote for or against, or to abstain from, any of the other proposals described in this proxy statement.

### May the meeting be adjourned?

If a quorum is not present to transact business at the meeting or if we do not receive sufficient votes in favor of the proposals by the date of the meeting, the persons named as proxies may propose one or more adjournments of the meeting.

## Who pays the expenses incurred in connection with the solicitation of proxies?

We will pay the cost of soliciting proxies. In addition to solicitation by the use of the mail, certain directors, officers and regular employees may solicit proxies by telephone, facsimile, the internet, email or personal interview, and may request brokerage firms and custodians, nominees and other record holders to forward soliciting materials to the beneficial owners of our units. We will reimburse these records holders for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in forwarding these materials.

## What is a member proposal?

A member proposal is a recommendation that the Company or our board of directors take action on a matter that a member presents for approval at a meeting of our members. If you submit a proposal, your proposal should state as clearly as possible the course of action that you believe we should follow. If we place your proposal in our proxy statement, then we must also provide the means for members to vote on this proposal via the proxy card. We have explained below the deadlines and procedures for submitting member proposals.

# What is the deadline for submitting a member proposal for the 2017 regular meeting of members?

In order to be considered for inclusion in next year's proxy statement, member proposals must be submitted in writing to us by November 14, 2016. Member proposals may be submitted by members holding more than 1% of the then-outstanding units. We suggest that proposals for the 2017 regular meeting of members be submitted by certified mail, return receipt requested. The proposal must be in accordance with the provisions of Rule 14a-8 adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. We reserve the right to reject, rule out-of-order, or take other appropriate action with respect to any proposal that does not comply with these and other applicable requirements, including requirements in our Operating Agreement.

## How do I nominate a candidate for election as a director at next year's regular meeting?

We anticipate seven directors will stand for election at the 2017 regular meeting of members. Nominations for director seats are made by the board of directors. In addition, a member may nominate a candidate for director by following the procedures set forth in Section 5.3 of our Operating Agreement. Under our Operating Agreement, any member that intends to nominate one or more persons for election as directors at a meeting may do so only if written notice of the member's intent to make the nomination has been given, either by personal delivery or by United States mail, postage prepaid, to Advanced BioEnergy, LLC, Attention: Richard R. Peterson, 8000 Norman Center Drive, Suite 610, Bloomington, MN 55437, not less than 60 days nor more than 90 days prior to the first day of the month corresponding to the previous year's regular meeting. Your nomination must be received by January 1, 2017 for our 2017 regular meeting of members.

We may require any proposed nominee to furnish other information that may reasonably be required to determine the eligibility of the proposed nominee to serve as a director.

## How may I obtain additional copies of the annual report?

Our annual report for our fiscal year ended September 30, 2015, including audited financial statements, is included with this proxy statement. Our annual report as well as our most recent quarterly report on Form 10-Q are also available online at www.advancedbioenergy.com. For additional printed copies, which are available without charge, please contact us by telephone at 763-226-2701 or by mail at Advanced BioEnergy, LLC, Attention: Richard R. Peterson, 8000 Norman Center Drive, Suite 610, Bloomington, MN 55437.

# Why did my household receive only one proxy statement when multiple members share this address?

In order to reduce expenses, we delivered only one proxy statement and annual report to multiple members that share an address unless we received contrary instructions from one or more of the security holders. Upon written or oral request to Richard R. Peterson at 8000 Norman Center Drive, Suite 610, Bloomington, MN 55437 or 763-226-2701, we will promptly provide a separate copy of the proxy statement and annual report to a security holder with a shared address to which a single copy of the documents were delivered. If you wish to receive a separate copy of our proxy statements or annual reports in the future, or if you are receiving multiple copies of our proxy statements or annual reports and wish to receive a single copy in the future, please contact Richard R. Peterson as provided above.

#### Where is the Company's principal executive office located?

Our principal executive office is located at 8000 Norman Center Drive, Suite 610, Bloomington, MN 55437.

#### PROPOSALS 1 & 2

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

# Setting the Number of Directors at Seven

Section 5.2 of our Operating Agreement provides that the members will by resolution fix the number of directors to be elected at each regular meeting of members. The board will propose for member approval a resolution setting the number of directors at seven for the term ending at the 2017 regular meeting of members.

#### **Directors and Director Nominees**

Our Operating Agreement currently provides that the board of directors are elected for one year terms.

As described below under "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners — 2009 Voting Agreement," the Company and certain other parties are parties to the 2009 Voting Agreement, which, among other things, requires the parties thereto to nominate, recommend and vote for election to the board two designees of Hawkeye Energy Holdings, LLC ("Hawkeye Energy"), two designees of Clean Energy Capital, LLC ("CEC"), and the Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Our current board of directors is comprised of the following, each of whom is a nominee for election:

Name	Age	Position	Director Since
Nominee Directors:			
Scott A. Brittenham	58	Chairman & Director	2008
Daniel R. Kueter	47	Director	2014
Charles M. Miller	69	Director	2015
Joshua M. Nelson	43	Director	2009
Troy L. Otte	48	Director	2005
J.D. Schlieman	62	Director	2015
Richard R. Peterson	50	Chief Executive Officer, President,	2009
		Chief Financial Officer & Director	

## Biographical Information for Nominee Directors

Scott A. Brittenham became Chairman of the Company in October 2011. Mr. Brittenham co-founded and since 2003 has served as president and chief executive officer of CEC, formerly Ethanol Capital Management, LLC ("ECM"), the largest fund manager for ethanol investments in the United States. Pursuant to the 2009 Voting Agreement, Mr. Brittenham was elected as a board designee of a predecessor to CEC. From 1999 through 2003, Mr. Brittenham served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Fidelity Mortgage Corporation and from 1995 through 1999, Mr. Brittenham served as the president and a director of Brittenham Investment Management. On November 16, 2005, Mr. Brittenham, as President of Fidelity Mortgage Corporation, entered into a consent order with the State of Washington Department of Financial Institutions Consumer Services Division prohibiting Mr. Brittenham from participating in the conduct of the affairs of any mortgage broker licensed by the State of Washington Department of Financial Institutions or any mortgage broker exempt from such licensing requirements for a period of ten years. On October 17, 2014, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission entered an Order making findings and imposing remedial sanctions and a cease and desist order against Clean Energy Capital, LLC and Scott A. Brittenham pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, Section 15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and Sections 203(e), 203(f) and 203(k) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. The Order was related to activities of CEC and Brittenham with respect to private investment partnerships and limited liability companies and did not involve the Company.

Mr. Brittenham's deep knowledge of the ethanol industry and capital markets as well as his senior leadership positions and board experience with other ethanol companies provides the board and committees with extensive industry expertise.

Daniel R. Kueter has been a member of our Board of Directors since September 2014. Mr. Kueter has served as a Partner at FlagshipSailsRx, LLC since December 2012. FlagshipSailsRx, LLC provides "Go-To-Market consulting" for companies selling healthcare products and services. Mr. Kueter has also served as Chief Executive Officer of the University of Iowa Health Alliance since December 2012. Prior to his current positions, Mr. Kueter served in positions of increasing authority within UnitedHealth Group, serving most recently as Chief Executive Officer of UnitedHealthCare of Iowa and Central Illinois from 2006 until November 2012. The Board believes Mr. Kueter's experience in Board and leadership roles, and his knowledge of the Midwest business and agricultural community, brings strong practical experience to the Company's Board of Directors.

Charles M. Miller is a Senior Managing Director of Tigress Financial Partners. He has 35 years of experience in the investment business, including senior executive responsibility with Credit Suisse First Boston, Merrill Lynch Capital Markets and William Blair & Company. Mr. Miller began his career in international finance with Getty Oil Company. He also serves as a Senior Managing Director with Clean Energy Capital (CEC) and is a member of its investment committee. He has had a significant impact on the firm's ethanol strategy since joining the firm in 2009 and is familiar with the numerous challenges and opportunities facing the industry. He has expertise in international finance and has developed a comprehensive understanding and advised institutional clients across a variety of asset classes, including global and domestic tactical asset allocation, leveraged buyouts, currency management, venture capital, hedge funds and private equity transactions.

Mr. Brittenham and Mr. Miller serve as the two designees of CEC.

Joshua M. Nelson is a Managing Director at Thomas H. Lee Partners, L.P., a private equity firm based in Boston, Massachusetts where he has worked since 2003. Prior to this, he worked at JPMorgan Partners, the private equity affiliate of JPMorgan Chase. Mr. Nelson has been a director of Hawkeye Energy since 2006. Mr. Nelson also serves on the board of directors of InVentiv Health, Inc., Party City Holdings, Inc., 1-800 CONTACTS, Inc., and the board of managers of Hawkeye Energy. Mr. Nelson's financial acumen and understanding of risk and capital skills enhanced through serving on boards and committees provide the board with unique insight and acquisition experience.

*J.D. Schlieman* retired as President from Hawkeye Energy Holdings and its subsidiaries in 2011, which had combined annual ethanol production capacity of 460 million gallons per year. Hawkeye Gold, another subsidiary, marketed ethanol and distillers grains for all of Hawkeye's productions facilities as well as for third party plants. Mr. Schlieman was one of the two original founders of the company and his primary responsibilities included overall operations of the company, including risk management and business development activities. He also served as CFO from 2004 through April 2007. Prior to co-founding Hawkeye, Mr. Schlieman spent 10 years at Heartland Pork in Alden, Iowa, one of the largest hog production companies in the US. He was Vice President and CFO until their sale in early 2004. Prior to Heartland Pork he served as an agricultural lender within the Farm Credit System and for Grundy National Bank as well as three years as a commodity broker.

Mr. Nelson and Mr. Schlieman currently serve as the two designees of Hawkeye Energy pursuant to the 2009 Voting Agreement. Mr. Nelson has served as a director of Hawkeye Energy since 2006. On December 21, 2009, Hawkeye Renewables, LLC ("Hawkeye Renewables"), a subsidiary of Hawkeye Energy, filed for reorganization under chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in Delaware. On May 25, 2010, a Joint Plan of Reorganization of Hawkeye Renewables was filed with the court, which was confirmed on June 2, 2010, and became effective on June 18, 2010, the date on which Hawkeye Renewables emerged from protection under the Bankruptcy Code with new ownership.

*Troy L. Otte* has been involved in a family-owned farm in the Fillmore County, Nebraska area since 1990. The current operation consists of 5,000 acres of commercial corn, soybeans and Pioneer Hy-Bred International seed. Mr. Otte has served on the board from its inception and has first-hand knowledge of our history and business. He provides the board with agriculture and commodity market experience.

Richard R. Peterson joined our Company as vice president of accounting and finance and chief financial officer in November 2006 and was named chief executive officer of the Company in October 2008. From July 2001 until November 2006, Mr. Peterson served as the director of finance, North American Operations for Nilfisk-Advance, Inc., a manufacturer of commercial and industrial cleaning equipment. Prior to joining Nilfisk-Advance, Mr. Peterson served as the chief financial officer for PPT Vision, Inc., a manufacturer of 2D and 3D vision inspection equipment from April 1999 to July 2001, and served as the chief financial officer of Premis Corporation, a point-of-sale software development company from December 1996 to April 1999. Mr. Peterson currently serves on the board as our CEO Designee pursuant to the 2009 Voting Agreement. Mr. Peterson has intimate knowledge of our business operations, and understands the many challenges of running the Company. We believe his CEO perspective is critical for the board to effectively oversee the affairs of the Company and administration of its strategies.

Each of the nominees named above has indicated a willingness to serve as a director.

Our board of directors recommends that you vote for proposal 1 to set at seven the number of directors to be elected for a term of one year and for the election of each of the seven nominees listed above to serve on our board of directors.

#### **PROPOSAL 3**

## RATIFICATION OF THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

RSM US LLP (f/k/a McGladrey LLP) has been our independent registered public accounting firm since fiscal 2005. Upon recommendation from our audit committee, our board of directors selected RSM US LLP to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, subject to ratification by our members. While it is not required to do so, our board of directors is submitting the selection of this firm for ratification in order to ascertain the view of our members. If the selection is not ratified, our audit committee will reconsider its selection. Proxies solicited by our board of directors will, unless otherwise directed, be voted to ratify the appointment of RSM US LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for our fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

## RSM US LLP Attendance at Meeting

A representative of RSM US LLP will be present at the meeting and will be afforded an opportunity to make a statement if the representative so desires and will be available to respond to appropriate questions during the meeting.

## Fees Billed by RSM US LLP

The following table presents the aggregate fees billed for professional services by RSM US LLP and its affiliate in our fiscal years ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, for these various services:

Description of Fees	Fiscal 2015 Amount	Fiscal 2014 Amount
Audit fees	\$147,000	\$138,854
Audit-related fees	7,300	14,700
Total audit and audit-related fees Tax fees:	154,300	153,554
Tax compliance fees	45,756	55,185
Tax consultation and advice fees		
Total tax fees	45,756	55,185
Total	\$200,056	\$208,739

#### Audit Fees

Audit fees consist of fees billed for audit services related to review of our interim financial statements, audit of our fiscal year-end consolidated financial statement and separate audit of ABE South Dakota, LLC, and the audit of an employee benefit plan.

#### Audit-Related Fees

We were billed \$7,300 for audit-related fees during fiscal 2015, and we were billed \$14,700 for audit-related fees during fiscal 2014. The audit related fees relate to a RIN-agreed-upon procedures report, additional procedures related to board member activity and annual meeting attendance.

## Tax Compliance Fees

We were billed \$45,756 and \$55,185 for compliance services during the years ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Compliance services consist of planning and preparation of Company tax returns and related filings.

## Tax Consultation and Advice Fees

We were not billed for any tax consultation and advice fees for fiscal 2015 or 2014.

# **Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures**

In accordance with Section 10(A)(i) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, our audit committee approves the engagement of our independent registered public accounting firm to render audit and non-audit services before those services are rendered,

considering, among other things, whether the proposed engagement would impact the independence of the registered public accounting firm. All of the fees reflected above were approved by the audit committee and all of the work was performed by full-time, permanent employees of RSM US LLP.

Our board of directors recommends that you vote for proposal 3 to ratify the appointment of RSM US LLP.

#### PROPOSAL 4

#### ADVISORY VOTE APPROVING EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, or the Dodd-Frank Act, enables our members to vote to approve the compensation of our named executive officer as disclosed in this proxy statement on an advisory, non-binding basis. As described below in detail under the heading "Executive Compensation," our compensation programs are designed to retain management, to align the interests of our management with those of our members and to reward management for outstanding business results. Please read the "Executive Compensation" section below for additional details about our executive compensation programs, including information about the fiscal year 2015 compensation of our named executive officer.

At our 2015 regular meeting of members, our members approved the non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation as presented in our 2015 Proxy Statement by a vote of 16,328,691 in favor, 1,346,004 votes against, with 864,335 votes abstaining. We currently conduct our advisory votes to approve the compensation of our named executive officer on an annual basis, and we expect to conduct the next advisory vote at our 2017 regular meeting of members.

This proposal gives you, as a member, the opportunity to endorse or not endorse the compensation of our named executive officer as described in this proxy statement by voting for or against the following resolution. While our board of directors and compensation committee intend to carefully consider the member vote resulting from the proposal, which is commonly known as a "say-on-pay" proposal, the final vote will not be binding on us and is therefore, advisory in nature. The resolution reads:

"RESOLVED, that the members approve the compensation of the Company's named executive officer, as disclosed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the compensation tables, and the related disclosure contained in the proxy statement set forth under the caption 'Executive Compensation' of this proxy statement."

Our board of directors recommends that you vote for proposal 4 to approve the compensation of our named executive officer, as disclosed in this proxy statement.

#### **COMPANY GOVERNANCE**

## **Board Leadership Structure**

In the recognition of the time commitments and activities required to function effectively as both the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer (the "CEO") of a company with a relatively flat management structure, the Company separated the roles of Chairman of the board and CEO of the Company in 2008. Mr. Brittenham has served as Chairman since September 2011. Although the separation of these roles has been appropriate during this time period, the future structure of these roles depends upon the specific circumstances and dynamics of the Company's leadership. Separation of the two offices is not mandated by the Company's corporate governance guidelines or Operating Agreement. The separation of roles may also permit the board to recruit senior executives into the CEO position with skills and experience that meet the board's requirements for the position, but who may not have extensive board experience.

As non-executive Chairman of the board, Mr. Brittenham serves as the primary liaison between the CEO and the independent directors and provides strategic input and counseling to the CEO. With input from other members of the board, committee chairs and management, he develops or approves the agenda items developed by the CEO for board meetings, sets meeting schedules of the board and presides over meetings of the board and executive sessions of the independent directors.

## Board's Role in Risk Oversight

Management is responsible for identifying risk affecting the Company's strategy and establishing risk controls. The board implements its risk oversight responsibilities by having management provide periodic briefing and informational sessions on material risks that the Company faces and how the Company is planning on reducing risks to its strategy. In some cases, risk oversight is addressed as part of the full board's engagement with the CEO and management. In other cases, a board committee is responsible for oversight of specific risk topics. The risk management committee oversees issues related to internal control over financial reporting and risks related to commodity prices and instruments, while the compensation committee reviews the Company's compensation policies, programs and procedures, including the incentives they create, to determine whether they present a significant risk to the Company. Based on the compensation committee's review of the risk factors associated with our compensation programs, the compensation committee concluded that the Company's compensation policies, programs and procedures are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company. Presentations and other information for the board and board committees generally identify and discuss relevant risk and risk control, and the board members assess and oversee risks as a part of their review of the related business, financial, or other activity of the Company.

#### **Committees of Our Board of Directors**

Our board of directors has four standing committees: the audit committee, risk management committee, compensation committee, and governance and nominating committee.

*Audit Committee*. The audit committee consists of Messrs. Otte (Chairman), Kueter and Miller. The audit committee's function is one of oversight and, in that regard, this committee meets with our management and independent registered public accounting firm to review and discuss our financial reporting and our controls respecting accounting.

The board has determined each of Messrs. Otte, Kueter and Miller is independent as defined in the rules of the NASDAQ Stock Market and under SEC Rule 10A-3. The board has also determined that Messrs. Kueter and Miller are audit committee financial experts as that term is defined in Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K. The Company's audit committee charter is available on our website at www.AdvancedBioEnergy.com.

Risk Management Committee. The risk management committee consists of Messrs. Miller (Chairman), Kueter, Schlieman and Peterson from the board, and Ty Weisendanger, our VP of Trading and Commodities. The risk management committee's function is to assist the board of directors to assess and manage the risks associated with managing our processing margin and the purchase and sale of commodities required in connection with, or produced as a result of, our ethanol production.

Compensation Committee. The compensation committee consists of Messrs. Nelson (Chairman), Otte and Kueter. The compensation committee is responsible for discharging the board's responsibilities relating to compensation of our Company's executive officers. The compensation committee has the authority to approve and make recommendations to the board with respect to the compensation of the Company's CEO and the committee evaluates the CEO's performance in light of the executive's goals and objectives, as determined by the compensation committee. The compensation committee consults with the CEO with respect to compensation for the Company's other executives and the CEO may be present at meetings for deliberations on non-CEO executive officer compensation, but he may not vote. Although the compensation committee has the authority to engage consultants, the compensation committee is not currently engaging any compensation consultant. Our compensation committee charter is available on our website at www.AdvancedBioEnergy.com.

Governance and Nominating Committee. The governance and nominating committee consists of Messrs. Nelson (Chairman), Brittenham and Peterson. The governance and nominating committee is responsible for (i) identifying individuals qualified to become board members and recommending to the board of directors the director nominees to be considered for election by members and for election by the board of directors to fill any vacancy or newly created directorship, (ii) advising the Board regarding Board composition, procedures and committees, (iii) advising the Board regarding corporate governance guidelines and corporate governance matters applicable to the company, and (iv) overseeing the evaluation of the Board. Our governance and nominating committee charter is available on our website at www.AdvancedBioEnergy.com.

### **Board of Directors Meetings and Attendance**

Our board of directors held three meetings during fiscal 2015, acted by written consent in lieu of a meeting on two occasions, and held periodic update calls. During fiscal 2015, the audit committee held four meetings, the risk management committee held four meetings, the compensation committee had no meetings, and the governance/nominating committee had no meetings. During fiscal 2015, each serving director attended at least 75% of the aggregate of all meetings of our board of directors and of the board committees on which the director served.

## **Code of Ethics**

We have adopted a code of ethics for the guidance of our chief executive and senior financial officers, and it is posted on our website at <a href="www.AdvancedBioEnergy.com">www.AdvancedBioEnergy.com</a>. We intend to post on our website any amendments to, or waivers from, our code of ethics within five business days of the amendment or waiver.

# **Director Independence**

Our securities are not listed on a national securities exchange or in an inter-dealer quotation system that requires that a majority of the board of directors be independent. However, we use the independence rules of the NASDAQ Stock Market to evaluate the independence of our board of directors. We have determined that four of our non-employee directors, Messrs. Brittenham, Kueter, Miller and Otte, are independent within the definition of independence provided by the rules of the NASDAQ Stock Market. Our board of directors took into account that Mr. Brittenham has voting and disposition control over more than 10% of the Company's units, but, per SEC Rule 10A-3(e)(1)(ii)(B), ownership of 10% of an issuer's securities does not create a presumption of affiliation and thus lack of independence and, based upon all other factors, the board made the determination that Mr. Brittenham was independent.

## **Director Nominee Selection Policy**

Our governance and nominating committee does not have a formal policy for considering any candidates nominated by members. However, our Operating Agreement allows members to nominate directors for election and our governance and nominating committee will consider any and all candidates submitted for consideration by any member. Our governance and nominating committee does not have a formal policy with regard to diversity. However, it reviews the current composition of the board to determine the diversity needs of the board, including those related to skills, experience, race, national origin and gender. Any member that wishes to submit a potential candidate for consideration may do so by providing a written request for consideration, either by personal delivery or by United States mail, postage prepaid, to Advanced BioEnergy, LLC, Attention: Richard R. Peterson, 8000 Norman Center Drive, Suite 610, Bloomington, MN 55437, not less than 60 days nor more than 90 days prior to the first day of the month corresponding to the previous year's regular meeting. Your request for consideration must be received by January 1, 2017 for our 2017 regular meeting of members. Each notice must set forth:

- the name and address of record of the member who is making the recommendation;
- a representation that the member is a holder of record of our units entitled to vote at the meeting and intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate the person or persons specified in the notice;
- the name, age, business and residence address, and principal occupation of employment of each nominee;
- a description of all arrangements or understandings between the member and each nominee and any
  other person or persons (naming the person or persons) pursuant to which the nomination or
  nominations are to be made by the member;
- such other information regarding each nominee proposed by the member as would be required to be included in a proxy statement filed pursuant to the proxy rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- the consent of each nominee to serve as a director if so elected; and
- a nominating petition signed and dated by the holders of at least five percent (5%) of the thenoutstanding units and clearly setting forth the proposed nominee as a candidate for a director's seat to be filled at the next election of directors.

We may require any proposed nominee to furnish other information as may reasonably be required to determine the eligibility and desirability of the proposed nominee to serve as a director. Our Operating Agreement provides that if a nomination was not made in accordance with the procedures set forth in our Operating Agreement, the defective nomination can be disregarded.

## **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

None of the members of the board who served on our compensation committee during 2015 have ever been an officer or employee of our Company. No executive officer serves, or in the past has served, as a member of the board of directors or compensation committee (or other board committee performing equivalent functions) of any other entity that has any of its executive officers serving as a member of our board of directors or compensation committee.

#### **Attendance at Member Meetings**

The directors are encouraged, but not required, to attend all meetings of our members. Five of our thenserving directors attended our 2015 regular meeting of members.

## **Procedures for Contacting the Board of Directors**

Persons interested in communicating with the board of directors are encouraged to contact the chairman of the board, all outside directors as a group or an individual director by submitting a letter or letters to the desired recipients in sealed envelopes labeled with "chairman of the board" or the names of specified directors. This letter should be placed in a larger envelope and mailed to Advanced BioEnergy, LLC, Attention: Christine Schumann, 8000 Norman Center Drive, Suite 610, Bloomington, MN 55437. Christine Schumann will forward the sealed envelopes to the designated recipients.

## **Report of the Audit Committee**

The role of our Audit Committee is one of oversight of our Company's management and independent registered public accounting firm with regard to our Company's financial reporting and controls regarding accounting and risk of material loss. In performing its oversight function, this committee relied upon advice and information received in our discussions with management and the independent registered public accounting firm.

Our Audit Committee has (i) reviewed and discussed our audited financial statements for fiscal 2015 with our Company's management; (ii) discussed with our Company's independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended, as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T, regarding communication with audit committees (Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards, AU sec. 380); (iii) received the written disclosures and the letter from our Company's independent registered public accounting firm required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communications with the audit committee concerning independence; and (iv) discussed with our Company's independent registered public accounting firm the independent registered public accounting firm's independence. Based on the review and discussions with management and the independent registered public accounting firm referred to above, our committee recommended to the board of directors that the audited financial statements be included in our Company's annual report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2015 and filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

THE FISCAL 2015 AUDIT COMMITTEE

TROY L. OTTE
DANIEL R. KUETER
CHARLES M. MILLER

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

For further information relating to Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, see "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" below. For further information relating to Director Independence, see "Company Governance" above.

#### SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

The following table sets forth, as of February 1, 2016, the ownership of units by each member that we know owns beneficially more than 5% of the outstanding units, each director and director nominee, each named officer and all executive officers and directors as a group. At the close of business on February 1, 2016, there were 25,410,851 units issued and outstanding, each of which is entitled to one vote.

Unless otherwise indicated by footnote or under the "Description of 2009 Voting Agreement" below, the listed beneficial owner has sole voting power and investment power with respect to such units, no director or executive officer has pledged as security any units shown as beneficially owned, and the mailing address for each person listed in the table is 8000 Norman Center Drive, Suite 610, Bloomington, MN 55437.

Name of Beneficial Owner or Identity of Group	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(#)	Percentage of Outstanding Units
Non-Employee Directors:		
Scott A. Brittenham	2,683,857(1)	10.6%
Daniel R. Kueter	_	*
Charles M. Miller		*
Joshua M. Nelson	8,505,224(2)	33.5%
Troy L. Otte J.D. Schlieman	103,872	*
Named Executive Officer:		
Richard R. Peterson	175,400	*
Executive officer, directors and director nominees as a group (7 persons)	11,468,353	45.1% ===
More than 5% Owners:		
South Dakota Wheat Growers Association 908 Lamont Street South Aberdeen, SD 57402	1,275,996	5.0%
Clean Energy Capital, LLC 5151 E. Broadway, Suite 510 Tucson, AZ 85711	2,683,857(1)	10.6%
Hawkeye Energy Holdings, LLC 1650 Golden Aspen Drive, Suite 108 Ames, IA 50010	8,505,224(2)	33.5%

<sup>\*</sup> Less than 1%

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes: 475,462 units directly owned by Ethanol Capital Partners, L.P. Series T ("ECP Series T"), of which CEC is the general partner and investment advisor to and has sole voting and dispositive power over its assets. Mr. Brittenham and CEC disclaim beneficial ownership of these units, except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.

<sup>387,946</sup> units directly owned by Ethanol Capital Partners, L.P. Series N ("ECP Series N"), of which CEC is the general partner and investment advisor to and has sole voting and dispositive power over its assets. Mr. Brittenham and CEC disclaim beneficial ownership of these units, except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.

<sup>381,544</sup> units directly owned by Ethanol Capital Partners, L.P. Series Q ("ECP Series Q"), of which CEC is the general partner and investment advisor to and has sole voting and dispositive power over its assets. Mr. Brittenham and CEC disclaim beneficial ownership of these units, except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.

379,617 units directly owned by Ethanol Capital Partners, L.P. Series V ("ECP Series V"), of which CEC is the general partner and investment advisor and has sole voting and dispositive power over its assets. Mr. Brittenham and CEC disclaim beneficial ownership of these units, except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.

318,420 units directly owned by Ethanol Capital Partners, L.P. Series R ("ECP Series R"), of which CEC is the general partner and investment advisor to and has sole voting and dispositive power over its assets. Mr. Brittenham and CEC disclaim beneficial ownership of these units, except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.

258,249 units directly owned by Ethanol Capital Partners, L.P. Series O ("ECP Series O"), of which CEC is the general partner and investment advisor to and has sole voting and dispositive power over its assets. Mr. Brittenham and CEC disclaim beneficial ownership of these units, except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.

258,016 units directly owned by Ethanol Capital Partners, L.P. Series P ("ECP Series P"), of which CEC is the general partner and investment advisor to and has sole voting and dispositive power over its assets. Mr. Brittenham and CEC disclaim beneficial ownership of these units, except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.

115,072 units directly owned by Ethanol Capital Partners, L.P. Series L ("ECP Series L"), of which CEC is the general partner and investment advisor to and has sole voting and dispositive power over its assets. Mr. Brittenham and CEC disclaim beneficial ownership of these units, except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.

109,531 units directly owned by Ethanol Capital Partners, L.P. Series J ("ECP Series J"), of which CEC is the general partner and investment advisor to and has sole voting and dispositive power over its assets. Mr. Brittenham and CEC disclaim beneficial ownership of these units, except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.

(2) Includes 8,505,224 units owned by Hawkeye Energy of which Mr. Nelson is on the board of managers. Mr. Nelson disclaims beneficial ownership of these units, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.

## **2009 Voting Agreement**

In August 2009, Hawkeye Energy, entities associated with CEC (and predecessor entities), South Dakota Wheat Growers Association and certain directors entered into a voting agreement, as amended January 12, 2015 ("2009 Voting Agreement"), in conjunction with the issuance and sale of our units in a private equity offering. The number of units owned by each party to the 2009 Voting Agreement is set forth in the table below.

The 2009 Voting Agreement requires each of the parties thereto to (i) nominate for election to the board the following persons listed below (the "Designees"), (ii) recommend to the members of the Company the Designees, and (iii) vote (or act by written consent) all units beneficially owned by that party at any meeting of our members in favor of the Designees. The Designees include:

- two representatives designated by Hawkeye Energy Joshua M. Nelson and J.D. Schlieman are currently designated by Hawkeye Energy for this purpose;
- two representatives designated by CEC— Scott A. Brittenham and Charles M. Miller are currently designated by CEC for this purpose; and
- the Chief Executive Officer of the Company (the "CEO Board Member") Richard R. Peterson is currently designated for this purpose.

The 2009 Voting Agreement also requires that each party thereto not take any action that would result in the removal of any of the Designees without the consent of Hawkeye Energy, CEC and the CEO Board Member. Each of the parties to the 2009 Voting Agreement granted to Hawkeye Energy and EIP (now CEC) an irrevocable proxy coupled with an interest to vote such party's units in accordance with the terms of the 2009 Voting Agreement.

For purposes of Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, a total of 12,744,349 units may be deemed to be beneficially owned by virtue of the 2009 Voting Agreement, representing approximately 50.2% of our outstanding units. The number of such units held by each party to the 2009 Voting Agreement is as follows:

Name	Units Owned (#)
Ethanol Capital Partners L.P., Series T	475,462(1)
Ethanol Capital Partners L.P., Series N	387,946(1)
Ethanol Capital Partners L.P., Series Q	381,544(1)
Ethanol Capital Partners L.P., Series V	379,617(1)
Ethanol Capital Partners L.P., Series R	318,420(1)
Ethanol Capital Partners L.P., Series O	258,249(1)
Ethanol Capital Partners L.P., Series P	258,016(1)
Ethanol Capital Partners L.P., Series L	115,072(1)
Ethanol Capital Partners L.P., Series J	109,531(1)
Troy L. Otte	103,872
Richard R. Peterson	175,400
South Dakota Wheat Growers Association	1,275,996
Hawkeye Energy Holdings, LLC	8,505,224(2)
Total	12,744,349

<sup>(1)</sup> Scott A. Brittenham serves as the Managing Member, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Charles Miller serves as a Managing Director of CEC, which is the general partner of each of the Ethanol Capital Partners, L.P. Series in the table above.

<sup>(2)</sup> Joshua M. Nelson is a member of the board of managers of Hawkeye Energy.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

#### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

This section discusses the principal elements of compensation paid to our named executive officers and the compensation philosophy and objectives of our compensation program. Because Richard R. Peterson was our only named executive officer for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015 and he is currently our only named executive officer, the following discussion focuses on compensation for Mr. Peterson.

Our compensation committee is responsible for discharging the board's responsibilities relating to compensation of the Company's executives. Our compensation committee has the authority to retain compensation consultants to assist it in evaluating compensation. Our compensation committee also has the responsibility for monitoring adherence with our compensation philosophy, which is further described below, and ensuring that the total compensation paid to our executive officers is transparent, fair, reasonable and competitive. Our compensation committee has authority to delegate any of its responsibilities to subcommittees as the committee may deem appropriate.

In 2015, decisions regarding the compensation of Mr. Peterson were made by our board upon the recommendation of our compensation committee. To a large extent, the fiscal 2015 compensation of Mr. Peterson followed principals developed in earlier years.

## Compensation Philosophy and Objectives

Our compensation philosophy embodies the following principles:

- the compensation program should retain management to foster continuity in our operations;
- the compensation program should align the interests of our management with those of our members;
   and
- the compensation program should reward management for outstanding business results.

In structuring a compensation program that will implement these principles, we have developed the following objectives for our executive compensation program:

- overall compensation levels must be sufficiently competitive to retain executives; and
- a portion of total compensation should be contingent on, and variable with, achievement of personal and Company performance goals.

# **Compensation Elements**

The principal components of our 2015 compensation for our named executive officer included:

- · base salary;
- incentive cash bonuses:
- equity compensation; and
- perquisites and other personal benefits.

We expect that the principal components of compensation for Mr. Peterson and any other person who may serve as an executive officer in 2016 will be comprised of the same principal components. These components have typically been included in the employment agreements for any named executive officer, as well as in Company policies. In addition to employment agreements, we have also issued equity awards and change of control agreements that are further described below.

#### Base Salary

Base salary is targeted to provide named executive officers with a fixed base amount of compensation for services rendered during the year. We believe this is consistent with competitive practices and will help ensure we retain qualified leadership in those positions in light of salary norms in our industry and the general marketplace. Traditionally, base salary for our named executive officers has been included in employment agreements and Mr. Peterson's employment agreement includes a base salary of \$285,000. In the past, the amounts of base salary contained in our employment agreements were determined for each executive based on position and responsibility and other market data. In the past, our compensation committee targeted salaries for our named executive officer at the lower end of the median range for comparable companies. While it has been difficult for the compensation committee to gather information for comparable companies on an on-going basis, the compensation committee periodically reviews base compensation in connection with execution and renegotiation of employment agreements with executives to ensure we maintain a competitive position.

# Incentive Cash Bonuses

Our board of directors, under the recommendation of the compensation committee, has used, and expects to continue to use, incentive cash bonuses to focus our management on achieving key Company financial objectives, to motivate certain desired individual behaviors and goals and to reward substantial achievement of these Company financial objectives and individual behaviors and goals. Under the Second Amended and Restated Employment Agreement between the Company and our Chief Executive Officer Richard Peterson, as last amended June 7, 2014, Peterson is eligible to earn an annual bonus of up to 37% (\$105,450) of his base salary.

The Company's board and compensation committee did not establish specific bonus criteria for Peterson fiscal 2015, but directed Peterson to focus on (i) improving operations at the Company's South Dakota plants and (ii) refinancing the Company's debt maturing March 31, 2016. On January 27, 2016, the board, upon compensation committee recommendation, authorized the payment to Peterson of a cash bonus of \$100,000 for his fiscal 2015 performance, including achieving (i) Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization ("EBITDA") of approximately \$9.0 million; and (ii) improvements in plant operating metrics.

## **Equity Compensation**

Our board of directors, under the recommendation of the compensation committee, also used, and expects to continue to use, equity compensation to focus our management on achieving key Company financial objectives, to motivate certain desired individual behaviors and goals and to reward substantial achievement of these Company financial objectives and individual behaviors and goals.

The Board did not grant any equity compensation to Peterson for his fiscal 2015 performance, but on January 27, 2016 granted Peterson an equity award for 100,000 units for his efforts in enabling the Company to enter into a new \$30.0 million credit agreement that enabled the Company to pay off its existing indebtedness due March 31, 2016.

### Perquisites and Other Personal Benefits

We have traditionally provided named executive officers with perquisites and other personal benefits that the compensation committee believes are reasonable and consistent with our overall compensation program. We believe that these perquisites better enable us to attract and retain superior employees for key positions and are consistent with the Company's employment agreements. The compensation committee believes that the benefits provided to Mr. Peterson, which primarily consists of the use of a Company-owned vehicle, including all costs incurred in the use of the vehicle, are consistent with market practices and necessary for him to effectively serve as the chief executive officer of the Company.

#### Accounting and Tax Treatment

We account for equity compensation paid to our employees under generally accepted accounting principles, which require us to estimate and record an expense over the service period of the award. Accounting rules also require us to record cash compensation as an expense at the time the obligation is earned. We structure cash bonus compensation so that it is taxable to our executives at the time it becomes available to them.

The compensation committee reviews and considers the deductibility of executive compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which provides that we may not deduct compensation of more than \$1,000,000 that is paid to certain individuals, unless it meets an exception under Section 162(m). We currently intend that all cash compensation paid will be tax deductible.

## Consideration of Results of Prior Year's Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation

In establishing executive compensation for fiscal 2015, our compensation committee considered the result of our members' non-binding advisory vote. At our 2015 regular meeting of members, our members approved the non-binding advisory vote on executive compensation as presented in our 2015 Proxy Statement by a vote of 16,328,691 in favor, 1,346,004 votes against, with 864,335 votes abstaining. Based in part on these results, the committee believes that the current compensation structure is an effective method and the Company has retained the same principal elements of base salary, incentive cash bonuses, equity compensation, and perquisites and other personal benefits.

## **Compensation Committee Report**

The compensation committee has reviewed and discussed the foregoing Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management. Based on that review and discussion, the compensation committee recommended to the board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this proxy statement for the 2016 regular meeting of members.

Respectfully submitted,

The Fiscal 2015 Compensation Committee

JOSHUA M. NELSON DANIEL R. KUETER TROY L. OTTE

#### **Summary Compensation Table**

The following table shows, for our Chief Executive Officer, President and Chief Financial Officer, referred to as our named executive officer, information concerning compensation earned for services in all capacities for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013:

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)(1)	Option Awards (\$)(2)	Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)(3)	All Other Compensation (\$)(4)	Total (\$)
Richard R. Peterson	2015	285,000		_	100,000	20,056	405,056
Chief Executive Officer,	2014	285,000	720,000	_	75,000	19,334	1,099,334
President and Chief Financial	2013	285,000	172,500	_	_	18,377	475,877
Officer							

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- (1) The fiscal 2014 bonus consists of amounts related to agreements in connection with the fiscal 2013 Asset Sale. The fiscal 2013 bonus consists of the \$100,000 from the successful closing of the Asset Sale and a \$72,500 "Cost-Saving Bonus."
- (2) Mr. Peterson earned unit appreciation rights for 12,500 units and 200,000 units in Fiscal 2014 and 2013, respectively. The Company has assigned no value to these awards in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718-Stock Compensation ("Topic ASC 718"). See "Fiscal 2013 Unit Appreciation Right."
- (3) Amounts consist of bonuses earned under Mr. Peterson's annual performance-based bonus plan. The fiscal 2015 bonus was based on the Company's fiscal 2015 performance. See Executive Compensation Compensation Disclosure and Analysis Incentive Cash Bonuses.
- (4) The 2015 amounts consist of \$6,806 for the portion of the purchase, fuel, insurance and maintenance expense costs for personal use of a Company-owned vehicle. The 2015 amount also includes \$13,250 in Company contributions to the 401(k) plan. The 2014 amounts consist of \$6,334 for the portion of the purchase, fuel, insurance and maintenance expense costs for personal use of a Company-owned vehicle. The 2014 amount also includes \$13,000 in Company contributions to the 401(k) plan. The 2013 amounts consist of \$5,877 for the portion of the purchase, fuel, insurance and maintenance expense costs for personal use of a Company-owned vehicle. The 2013 amount also includes \$12,500 in Company contributions to the 401(k) plan.

## **Employment Agreement with Named Executive Officer**

On May 11, 2011, the Company entered into a Second Amended and Restated Employment Agreement ("2011 Employment Agreement") with Richard Peterson, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Under the 2011 Employment Agreement, Peterson received (i) an annual base salary of \$285,000 effective as of October 1, 2010; (ii) the right to participate in all employee benefit plans and programs of the Company; (iii) use of an automobile while employed by the Company; (iv) three weeks annually of paid vacation time off in accordance with the Company's normal policies; (v) reimbursement for all reasonable and necessary out-of-pocket business, travel and entertainment expenses; and (vi) an annual cash performance bonus of up to 37.0% of his base salary based on achievement of certain criteria established by the Company's compensation committee.

Mr. Peterson agreed, as part of the 2011 Employment Agreement, that (i) he will not divulge our confidential information or any know-how or trade secret information conceived or originated by him during his employ; (ii) he will not take a corporate opportunity from our Company; (iii) he will not engage in competition with our Company; (iv) he will not attempt to hire an employee of our Company during his employ or during a 24-month period thereafter; (v) he will not solicit our customers or suppliers during his employ or during the 24-month period thereafter; and (vi) he will disclose to, and give all rights and ownership to, the Company in any improvements, inventions or copyrightable material he conceives during his employ and relating to our business.

As a result of the December 2012 sale of substantially all the assets of our ABE Fairmont subsidiary, the Company and Mr. Peterson entered into an Amendment No. 1 dated January 18, 2013 to the 2011 Employment Agreement, under which, among other things, Mr. Peterson was guaranteed an extended employment term of 18 months, from December 7, 2012 through June 7, 2014 (the "Extended Term"). On the last day of the Extended Term or June 7, 2014, Mr. Peterson was entitled to the "Severance Payment", or 2 years of Mr. Peterson's base salary amount for a total of \$570,000.

Effective June 7, 2014, the Company and Mr. Peterson entered into Amendment No. 2 ("Amendment No 2") to Mr. Peterson's 2011 Employment Agreement. Under Amendment No. 2, the Company and Mr. Peterson agreed that Mr. Peterson's term as President and Chief Executive Officer would continue beyond June 7, 2014 on an "at will" basis and that the Company would pay Mr. Peterson the Severance Payment described in Amendment No. 1. The other provisions of Mr. Peterson's Employment Agreement remain in effect.

# Fiscal 2013 Unit Appreciation Right

The board awarded Mr. Peterson a Unit Appreciation Right ("UAR") for 200,000 units. The UAR vested 1/18 per month over an 18-month period beginning December 7, 2012 and will be paid in cash upon such time as ABE sells all or substantially all the assets of the South Dakota plants. The UAR became fully vested on June 7, 2014. The UAR will expire four years following the date of grant. The UAR was issued for no consideration and had an initial grant price of \$1.15 per unit at the time of the grant. The grant price for the UAR would be reduced by any distribution received by the Company's unit holders from (i) the \$12.5 million placed in escrow, (ii) the \$10 million of cash reserved by the Company in connection with the Asset Sale, or (iii) any other cash dividend received by the Company's unit holders from the cash reserves at the parent company, Advanced BioEnergy, LLC. The grant price would also be reduced in the event the \$12.5 million of escrow proceeds or the \$10.0 million of cash retained by the Company are not distributed to the Company's unit holders. In order to ensure compliance under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, the issuance of the UAR was subject to unit holder approval within 12 months of grant, and was approved by members at the 2013 regular meeting of members. In October 2013, the Company made a cash distribution of \$0.31 per unit to its unit holders and the price on Mr. Peterson's UAR was reduced to \$0.84 per unit. In June 2014, the Company made a cash distribution of \$0.48 per unit to its unit holders and the price on Mr. Peterson's UAR was reduced to \$0.86 per unit.

## **Additional Equity Awards**

On January 28, 2015, the Board of Directors, upon compensation committee recommendation, granted Peterson of a unit appreciation right ("UAR") to purchase 12,500 of the Company's units, with an exercise price of \$1.00 per unit. The UAR vested and was exercisable immediately, and expires on December 31, 2019. The 12,500 UAR was issued for the Company's fiscal 2014 performance.

On January 27, 2016, the Board of Directors granted Peterson a 100,000 equity award with an exercise price equal to the Company's book value at December 31, 2015. The equity award will become exercisable upon a change of control and expires on January 27, 2020. The 100,000 equity award was issued to Peterson for his efforts enabling the Company to enter into a new, five-year \$30.0 million credit agreement in December 2015 and pay off its existing bank indebtedness due on March 31, 2016.

#### Outstanding Equity Awards at 2015 Fiscal Year-End

The following table sets forth certain information concerning equity awards outstanding to the named executive officer at September 30, 2015.

### **OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT 2015 FISCAL YEAR-END**

		Option	awards		Stock awards		
Name	Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#) exercisable	Number of securities underlying unexercised option (#) unexercisable	Option exercise price (\$)	Option expiration date	0Number of shares or units of stock that have not vested (#)	Market value of shares or units of stock that have not vested (\$)	
Richard R. Peterson	200,000		\$0.36	12/07/2016	None	None	
Richard R. Peterson	12,500	_	\$1.00	12/31/2019	None	None	

#### **Director Compensation**

The following table shows director compensation earned for each of our non-employee directors during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015. The Company made these payments in the month following the end of each fiscal quarter.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)	Total (\$)
Scott A. Brittenham	35,500	35,500
Daniel R. Kueter	26,750	26,750
Charles M. Miller	24,000	24,000
Joshua M. Nelson	26,125	26,125
Troy L. Otte	30,250	30,250
J.D. Schlieman	20,750	20,750

## Fiscal 2016 Director Compensation

On October 22, 2015, our Board of Directors established non-employee director compensation for 2016 and determined the board compensation structure would remain the same as for fiscal 2015. For fiscal 2015, the board service payment structure was changed from an annual payment structure to payments made quarterly in arrears. Each non-employee director was entitled to receive a quarterly retainer of \$6,250, and the board Chairman received an additional \$2,500 quarterly retainer. Regular meeting attendance was required to receive retainer payments. Fees for serving on committees were also paid on a quarterly basis in arrears. Committee fees were paid on a per meeting basis, with meeting attendance required in order to receive payment. Committee members were paid \$750 per meeting for serving a member of the audit committee, and \$500 per meeting for each of the risk management, compensation and governance/nominating committees. The audit committee Chair receives an additional \$500 per meeting, while the Chairs of the risk management, compensation and governance/nominating committees received an additional \$250 per meeting. Each director is also reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending meetings of the board of directors and committees.

#### CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

#### **Transactions with Promoters and Related Persons**

The term "related person" as defined in Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K refers to our directors, executive officers, holders of more than 5% of our outstanding membership units and the immediate family members of any of those persons.

## **Related Party Transaction Approval Policy**

While we had no written related-party transaction policy in effect prior to March 16, 2012, at our 2012 Annual Meeting of Members, a revised Section 5.11 was added to our Fifth Amended and Restated Operating Agreement to establish a more thorough mechanism for resolving any conflicts of interest that may arise in the future. All future related party transactions, other than grain purchases, will be approved by a majority of the disinterested directors using this procedure. In addition to compensatory transactions described under "Executive Compensation," we have engaged in the following transactions with our related persons:

#### Grain Purchases from South Dakota Wheat Growers Association ("SDWG")

During fiscal 2015, ABE South Dakota purchased \$101,391,310 of corn from SDWG pursuant to a grain origination agreement. SDWG owns 5.02% of the Company's outstanding units.

#### **Grain Purchases from Directors**

From October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015, there were no grain purchases from any of the Company's directors or entities associated with any of the Company's directors.

## SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act requires our directors, officers and 10% or greater unit holders to file initial reports of unit ownership and reports of changes in unit ownership with the SEC. Our directors and officers are required by SEC regulations to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely on a review of the copies of other forms furnished to us and written representations from our directors and officers, all Section 16(a) filing requirements were met for fiscal 2015, except that Clean Energy Capital, LLC, ("CEC"), a 10% beneficial unit holder, filed a Form 5 on January 28, 2016 reporting the distribution of Company units to CEC investors effective January 1, 2015 and October 1, 2015.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As of the date of this proxy statement, we know of no matters that will be presented for determination at the meeting other than those referred to herein. If any other matters properly come before the meeting calling for a vote of members, it is intended that the persons named in the proxies solicited by our board of directors, in accordance with their best judgment, will vote the membership units represented by these proxies.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Scott A. Brittenham

Scott A. Brittenham *Chairman of the Board* 

January 28, 2016