

KAPSTONE PAPER & PACKAGING CORP
Form 10-Q
May 02, 2012
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

- x QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2012

- o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from to

Commission File Number: 001-33494

KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

20-2699372
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation

1101 Skokie Blvd., Suite 300

Northbrook, IL 60062

(Address of Principal Executive Offices including zip code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including area code **(847) 239-8800**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

There were 46,546,808 shares of the Registrant's Common Stock, \$0.0001 par value, outstanding at April 26, 2012, excluding 40,000 shares held as treasury shares.

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KAPSTONE PAPER AND PACKAGING CORPORATION

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Table of Contents**PART 1. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****KAPSTONE PAPER AND PACKAGING CORPORATION****Consolidated Balance Sheets****(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)****(unaudited)**

| | March 31, 2012 (Unaudited) | December 31, 2011 |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 20,066 | \$ 8,062 |
| Trade accounts receivable, less allowance of \$281 in 2012 and \$571 in 2011 | 114,462 | 108,320 |
| Other receivables | 7,176 | 11,247 |
| Inventories | 113,218 | 110,054 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 7,590 | 4,207 |
| Deferred income taxes | 10,048 | 10,048 |
| Total current assets | 272,560 | 251,938 |
| Plant, property and equipment, net | 563,952 | 567,195 |
| Other assets | 4,515 | 4,313 |
| Intangible assets, net | 61,302 | 63,715 |
| Goodwill | 237,553 | 237,193 |
| Total assets | \$ 1,139,882 | \$ 1,124,354 |
| Liabilities and Stockholders Equity | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Current portion of long-term debt | \$ 13,125 | \$ 6,094 |
| Other current borrowings | 2,477 | |
| Accounts payable | 80,096 | 81,051 |
| Accrued expenses | 19,439 | 21,217 |
| Accrued compensation costs | 16,805 | 27,445 |
| Accrued income taxes | 2,275 | |
| Total current liabilities | 134,217 | 135,807 |
| Other liabilities: | | |
| Long-term debt, net of current portion | 329,418 | 335,635 |
| Pension and postretirement benefits | 9,939 | 10,676 |
| Deferred income taxes | 89,562 | 84,316 |
| Other liabilities | 11,569 | 11,642 |
| Total other liabilities | 440,488 | 442,269 |
| Commitments and contingencies | | |
| Stockholders equity: | | |

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| | | | | |
|---|----|-----------|----|-----------|
| Preferred stock \$0.0001 par value; 1,000,000 shares authorized; no shares issued and outstanding | | | | |
| Common stock \$0.0001 par value, 175,000,000 shares authorized; 46,546,808 shares issued and outstanding (40,000 treasury shares outstanding) at March 31, 2012 and 46,449,695 issued and outstanding (40,000 treasury shares outstanding) at December 31, 2011 | | 5 | | 5 |
| Additional paid-in capital | | 233,934 | | 230,665 |
| Retained earnings | | 333,631 | | 318,068 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | | (2,393) | | (2,460) |
| Total stockholders' equity | | 565,177 | | 546,278 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$ | 1,139,882 | \$ | 1,124,354 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**KAPSTONE PAPER AND PACKAGING CORPORATION****Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income****(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)****(unaudited)**

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Net sales | \$ 299,843 | \$ 206,738 |
| Cost of sales, excluding depreciation and amortization | 214,074 | 142,651 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 15,176 | 11,791 |
| Freight and distribution expenses | 25,743 | 17,829 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 17,572 | 9,306 |
| Other operating income | 198 | 288 |
| Operating income | 27,476 | 25,449 |
| Foreign exchange gain/(loss) | 120 | 290 |
| Interest expense, net | 3,279 | 1,097 |
| Income before provision for income taxes | 24,317 | 24,642 |
| Provision for income taxes | 8,754 | 9,511 |
| Net income | \$ 15,563 | \$ 15,131 |
| Other comprehensive income | | |
| Total comprehensive income | \$ 15,563 | \$ 15,131 |
| Weighted-average number of shares outstanding: | | |
| Basic | 46,491,626 | 46,093,852 |
| Diluted | 47,841,371 | 47,454,574 |
| Net income per share: | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.33 | \$ 0.33 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.33 | \$ 0.32 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**KAPSTONE PAPER AND PACKAGING CORPORATION****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows****(In thousands)****(unaudited)**

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Operating activities | | |
| Net income | \$ 15,563 | \$ 15,131 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 15,176 | 11,791 |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 2,313 | 1,758 |
| Excess tax benefit from stock-based compensation expense | (445) | (66) |
| Amortization of debt issuance costs | 906 | 410 |
| Loss on disposal of fixed assets | 68 | 126 |
| Deferred income taxes | 6,202 | 7,135 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Trade accounts receivable, net | (5,766) | (7,228) |
| Other receivables | 4,071 | 39 |
| Inventories | (3,208) | (1,115) |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | (3,383) | (2,139) |
| Other assets | (225) | (31) |
| Accounts payable | (955) | (678) |
| Accrued expenses and other | (2,426) | (6,056) |
| Accrued compensation costs | (10,375) | (7,066) |
| Accrued income taxes | 2,275 | 443 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 19,791 | 12,454 |
| Investing activities | | |
| USC acquisition | (314) | |
| KPB acquisition earn-out payment | | (49,700) |
| Capital expenditures | (10,905) | (4,678) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (11,219) | (54,378) |
| Financing activities | | |
| Proceeds from revolving credit facility | 38,000 | 7,600 |
| Repayments on revolving credit facility | (38,000) | (7,600) |
| Repayments of long-term debt | | (4,709) |
| Proceeds from other current borrowings | 3,398 | 2,273 |
| Repayments on other current borrowings | (921) | (617) |
| Proceeds from the exercises of stock options | 420 | 178 |
| Proceeds from issuance of shares to ESPP | 90 | 97 |
| Loan amendment costs | | (244) |
| Excess tax benefit from stock-based compensation | 445 | 66 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 3,432 | (2,956) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 12,004 | (44,880) |
| Cash and cash equivalents-beginning of period | 8,062 | 67,358 |

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| | | | | |
|---|----|--------|----|--------|
| Cash and cash equivalents-end of period | \$ | 20,066 | \$ | 22,478 |
|---|----|--------|----|--------|

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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KAPSTONE PAPER AND PACKAGING CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

(unaudited)

1. Financial Statements

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements of KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation (the Company, we, us, our or KapStone) have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for interim financial information, the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of a normal recurring nature) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. Operating results for the three months ended March 31, 2012 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2012. For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and related footnotes included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

2. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standard Update (ASU) No. 2011-05, *Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Presentation of Comprehensive Income*, which amends current comprehensive income presentation guidance. The objective of this Update is to improve the comparability, consistency, and transparency of financial reporting and to increase the prominence of items reported in other comprehensive income. To increase the prominence of items reported in other comprehensive income and to facilitate convergence of U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and International Financial Reporting Standards, the FASB decided to eliminate the option to present components of other comprehensive income as part of the statement of changes in stockholders' equity, among other amendments in this Update. The amendments require that all non-owner changes in stockholders' equity be presented either in a single continuous statement of comprehensive income or in two separate but consecutive statements. In the two-statement approach, the first statement should present total net income and its components followed consecutively by a second statement that should present total other comprehensive income, the components of other comprehensive income, and the total of comprehensive income. For public entities, the amendments are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011. Early adoption is permitted, because compliance with the amendments is already permitted. The amendments do not require any transition disclosures. As a result of the implementation of this standard, the Company has adopted this provision in fiscal 2012 and modified the presentation of the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income.

In May 2011, the FASB issued ASU No. 2011-04, *Fair Value Measurements (Topic 820): Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and IFRSs*, which amends Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 820, *Fair Value Measurement* . The amended guidance clarifies the application of existing fair value measurement requirements and expands the disclosures for fair value measurements that use significant unobservable (Level 3) inputs. In addition to expanding the disclosures for Level 3 measurements, the guidance requires new disclosures for any not just significant transfers between quoted prices (Level 1) inputs and significant observable (Level 2) inputs of the fair value hierarchy and the hierarchy classification for assets and liabilities whose fair value is disclosed only in the

footnotes, such as loans carried at amortized cost whose fair values are required to be disclosed as well. The guidance is effective for annual and interim reporting periods beginning on or after December 15, 2011. As a result of the implementation of this standard, the Company has adopted this provision in fiscal 2012; however, there was no material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

3. USC Acquisition

On October 31, 2011, the Company consummated the acquisition of U.S. Corrugated Inc. (USC) from its stockholders by merger for \$330.0 million in cash plus \$1.6 million of working capital adjustments. On March 9, 2012 KapStone reached an agreement with USC on the final calculation of Merger Consideration and paid an additional \$0.3 million which was allocated to acquisition consideration.

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The following table summarizes the acquisition consideration:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|---------|
| Purchase price, net of cash acquired | \$ | 330,000 |
| Working capital adjustments | | 1,946 |
| Total acquisition consideration | \$ | 331,946 |

The USC acquisition was accounted for in accordance with the provisions of ASC 805, *Business Combinations*, and the accompanying consolidated financial statements include the results of USC since October 31, 2011. The Company estimated the fair value of the assets and liabilities of USC at the time of acquisition and used third-party appraisals to determine the fair market value for tangible and intangible assets. The excess of the purchase price over the aggregate estimated fair value of net assets acquired was allocated to goodwill. The allocation is not final as the review of the fair value of deferred income tax assets and liabilities and certain other acquired assets and liabilities is in process.

The following table summarizes the preliminary allocation of acquisition consideration to the fair value of the assets acquired and the liabilities assumed at the date of acquisition:

| | | |
|---|----|----------|
| Trade accounts receivable | \$ | 38,377 |
| Other receivables | | 5,745 |
| Inventories | | 33,159 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | | 754 |
| Plant, property and equipment | | 106,082 |
| Other assets | | 634 |
| Intangible assets | | 45,000 |
| Goodwill | | 183,042 |
| Deferred income tax asset | | 3,404 |
| Accounts payable | | (34,526) |
| Accrued expenses | | (3,660) |
| Accrued compensation costs | | (5,526) |
| Deferred income taxes | | (36,432) |
| Other liabilities | | (4,107) |
| Total acquisition consideration | \$ | 331,946 |

4. Inventories

Inventories consist of the following at March 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively:

| | (Unaudited) | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | March 31, 2012 | December 31, 2011 |
| Raw materials | \$ 49,106 | \$ 46,926 |
| Work in process | 1,815 | 1,780 |
| Finished goods | 36,810 | 36,747 |
| Replacement parts and supplies | 25,487 | 24,601 |

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|---------|----|---------|
| Inventories | \$ | 113,218 | \$ | 110,054 |
|-------------|----|---------|----|---------|

5. Debt

Debt Covenants

The Company's New Credit Agreement contains, among other provisions, covenants with which we must comply while the agreement is in force. The covenants limit our ability to, among other things, incur indebtedness, create additional liens on our assets, make investments, engage in mergers and acquisitions, pay dividends and sell any assets outside the normal course of business.

As of March 31, 2012, the Company was in compliance with all applicable covenants in the New Credit Agreement.

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Fair Value of Debt

At March 31, 2012 the fair value of the Company's debt approximates the carrying value of \$342.5 million as the variable interest rates re-price frequently at current market rates. The debt was valued using Level 2 inputs in the fair value hierarchy which are significant observable inputs including quoted prices for debt of similar terms and maturities.

Other Borrowing

In 2012 and 2011, the Company entered into financing agreements of \$3.4 million and \$2.3 million, respectively, at an annual interest rate of 2.00 and 1.75 percent, respectively, for its annual property insurance premiums. The agreements required the Company to pay consecutive monthly payments through the term of each financing agreement ending on December 1st. As of March 31, 2012, there was \$2.5 million outstanding under the current agreement which is included in Other current borrowings on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

6. Income Taxes

The Company's effective tax rate for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011 was 36.0 percent and 38.6 percent, respectively. The effective tax rate decreased in 2012 due to a higher expected benefit from the domestic manufacturing deduction. The differences between the effective tax rate and the federal statutory tax rate for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and 2011 are due to the impact of state tax, net of the federal benefit and the domestic manufacturing deduction.

The gross unrecognized tax benefits, including interest, as of March 31, 2012 is \$5.0 million and is unchanged from December 31, 2011. Unrecognized tax benefits of \$5.0 million are included in Other liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

In the normal course of business, the Company is subject to examination by taxing authorities. The Company's open tax year is 2010.

7. Net Income per Share

Basic and diluted net income per share is calculated as follows (\$000's except for share and per share data):

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Net income as reported | \$ 15,563 | \$ 15,131 |

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| | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| Weighted-average number of common shares for basic net income per share | 46,491,626 | 46,093,852 |
| Incremental effect of dilutive common stock equivalents: | | |
| Unexercised stock options | 947,121 | 927,451 |
| Unvested restricted stock awards | 402,624 | 433,271 |
| Weighted-average number of shares for diluted net income per share | 47,841,371 | 47,454,574 |
| Net income per share basic | \$ 0.33 | \$ 0.33 |
| Net income per share diluted | \$ 0.33 | \$ 0.32 |

Unexercised stock options to purchase a total of 0.1 million shares were outstanding during the three month period ended March 31, 2012, but were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share because the options were antidilutive.

8. Pension Plan and Post Retirement Benefits

Defined Benefit Plan

The KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Pension Plan) provides benefits for approximately 1,000 union employees.

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Net pension cost recognized for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011 for the Pension Plan is as follows:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Service cost for benefits earned during the quarter | \$ 1,024 | \$ 844 |
| Interest cost on projected benefit obligations | 252 | 203 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (234) | (185) |
| Amortization of net (gain)/loss | 54 | |
| Amortization of prior service cost | 92 | 141 |
| Net pension cost - Company plan | 1,188 | 1,003 |
| Net pension cost - multi-employer plan | 17 | |
| Total net pension cost | \$ 1,205 | \$ 1,003 |

KapStone funds the Pension Plan according to IRS funding requirements. Based on those limitations, KapStone funded \$1.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and expects to fund an additional \$2.3 million to the Pension Plan in 2012.

Defined Contribution Plan

The KapStone Defined Contribution Plan (Contribution Plan) covers all eligible employees. Company monthly contributions to the Contribution Plan are based on the matching of employee contributions. For the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company recognized expense of \$2.8 million and \$2.0 million, respectively. Effective October 31, 2011, former USC employees are included in the Contribution Plan.

9. Stock-Based Compensation

On March 7, 2012, the Compensation Committee of the board of directors approved stock awards to executive officers, certain employees and directors. The 2012 awards included 310,847 stock option grants and 124,341 restricted stock units.

The Company accounts for stock awards in accordance with ASC 718, *Compensation - Stock Compensation*, which requires that the cost resulting from all share-based payment transactions be recognized as compensation cost over the vesting period based on the fair value of the instrument on the date of grant.

Total stock-based compensation expense related to the stock option and restricted stock unit grants for the three months ended March 31, 2012 and 2011 is as follows:

Table of Contents**Stock Options**

Stock option awards vest as follows: 50% after two years and the remaining 50% after three years or upon the retirement of a grantee of such stock options who has reached the age 65. The stock options awarded in 2012 have a contractual term of ten years and are subject to forfeiture should the recipient terminate his or her employment with the Company for certain reasons prior to vesting in his or her awards, or the occurrence of certain other events such as termination with cause. The exercise price of these stock options is based on the closing market price of our common stock on the date of grant (\$19.75 for the 2012 awards described above) and compensation expense is recorded on an accelerated basis over the awards' vesting periods.

The weighted average fair value of the KapStone stock options granted in March 2012 was \$10.38. The fair value was calculated using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model based on the market price at the grant date and the weighted average assumptions specific to the underlying options. The Company uses the simplified method, defined in SEC Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) No. 107, to determine the expected life assumption for all of its options. The Company uses the simplified method, as permitted by SAB No. 110, as it does not have sufficient historical exercise data to provide a reasonable basis upon which to estimate expected life due to the limited time its equity shares have been publicly traded. The expected volatility assumption is based on the volatility of KapStone stock from the same time period as the expected term of the stock options. The risk-free interest rate was selected based upon yields of U.S. Treasury issues with a term similar to the expected life of the stock options.

The assumptions utilized for calculating the fair value of stock options during the period are as follows:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| KapStone Stock Options Black-Scholes assumptions (weighted average): | | |
| Expected volatility | 56.52% | 45.24% |
| Expected life (years) | 5.98 | 5.94 |
| Risk-free interest rate | 1.10% | 2.47% |
| Expected dividend yield | % | % |

The following table summarizes stock options amounts and activity:

| | Options | Weighted Average Exercise Price | Weighted Average Remaining Life (Years) | Intrinsic Value (dollars in Thousands) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|--|---|
| Outstanding at January 1, 2012 | 2,473,874 | \$ 7.86 | 6.7 | \$ 19,742 |
| Granted | 310,847 | 19.75 | 9.9 | |
| Exercised | (91,104) | 4.61 | | |
| Forfeited | | | | |
| Outstanding at March 31, 2012 | 2,693,617 | \$ 9.34 | 6.8 | \$ 27,916 |
| Exercisable at March 31, 2012 | 1,269,037 | \$ 6.18 | 5.1 | \$ 17,160 |

For the three months ended March 31, 2012, cash proceeds from the exercise of stock options totaled \$0.4 million.

Restricted Stock

Restricted stock units are restricted as to transferability until they vest three years from the grant date or upon the retirement of the grantee who has reached the age 65. These restricted stock units are subject to forfeiture should these employees terminate their employment with the Company for certain reasons prior to vesting in their awards, or the occurrence of certain other events. The value of these restricted stock units is based on the closing market price of our common stock on the date of grant and compensation expense is recorded on a straight-line basis over the awards' vesting periods.

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The following table summarizes unvested restricted stock units amounts and activity:

| | Units | | Weighted Average Grant Price |
|---------------------------------------|---------|----|---------------------------------------|
| Outstanding at January 1, 2012 | 496,395 | \$ | 9.22 |
| Granted | 124,341 | | 19.75 |
| Vested | | | |
| Forfeited | | | |
| Outstanding at March 31, 2012 | 620,736 | \$ | 11.33 |

10. Contingencies

We are subject to various legal proceedings arising from our operations. We establish reserves for claims and proceedings when it is probable that liabilities exist and where reasonable estimates can be made. While it is not possible to predict the outcome of these matters, based on our assessment of the facts and circumstances now known, we do not believe that these matters will have a material adverse effect on our financial position. However, actual outcomes may be different from those expected and could have a material effect on our results of operations or cash flows in a particular period. There have been no changes since December 31, 2011.

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ITEM 2.

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and projections about future events. These forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and assumptions about us that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, should, could, would, expect, plan, anticipate, believe, estimate, the negative of such terms or other similar expressions. Factors that might cause or contribute to such a discrepancy include, but are not limited to, those described in Part I Item 1A of our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011 and in our other Securities and Exchange Commission filings. The information contained in this Form 10-Q represents our best judgment at the date of this report based on information currently available. In providing forward-looking statements, KapStone does not intend, and does not undertake any duty or obligations, to update its statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

The Company has one reportable segment as of March 31, 2012. The Company manufactures and sells unbleached kraft paper and corrugated products.

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our Consolidated Financial Statements and related Notes thereto included elsewhere in this report.

**Comparison of Results of Operations for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2012
and the Three Months Ended March 31, 2011**

| (in thousands of U.S. dollars): | Three Months Ended March 31, | | Increase/ (Decrease) |
|--|------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | |
| Net sales | \$ 299,843 | \$ 206,738 | \$ 93,105 |
| Cost of sales, excluding depreciation and amortization | 214,074 | 142,651 | 71,423 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 15,176 | 11,791 | 3,385 |
| Freight and distribution expenses | 25,743 | 17,829 | 7,914 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | 17,572 | 9,306 | 8,266 |
| Other operating income | 198 | 288 | (90) |
| Operating income | 27,476 | 25,449 | 2,027 |
| Foreign exchange gain /(loss) | 120 | 290 | (170) |
| Interest expense, net | 3,279 | 1,097 | 2,182 |
| Income before provision for income taxes | 24,317 | 24,642 | (325) |
| Provision for income taxes | 8,754 | 9,511 | (757) |
| Net income | \$ 15,563 | \$ 15,131 | \$ 432 |

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Net sales for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 were \$299.8 million compared to \$206.7 million for the first quarter of 2011, an increase of \$93.1 million or 45.0 percent. The increase in net sales was driven by the USC acquisition which accounted for \$94.6 million. Excluding the acquisition, net sales decreased by \$1.5 million due to \$2.3 million reflecting a less favorable product mix and \$1.6 million due to lower average selling prices in the first quarter of 2012 compared to the first quarter of 2011. Net sales increased by \$2.8 million mainly due to higher volume. Average selling prices decreased primarily due to lower export containerboard prices partially offset by higher kraft paper prices announced in 2011. Average selling price per ton for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 was \$608 compared to \$618 for the prior year's quarter. Exchange rates negatively impacted net sales by \$0.4 million.

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The following represents the Company's tons of paper sold by product line:

| Product Line: | Three Months Ended March 31, | | Increase/ | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | (Decrease) | % |
| Domestic containerboard | 106,577 | 92,721 | 13,856 | 14.9 |
| Export containerboard | 79,763 | 74,215 | 5,548 | 7.5 |
| Kraft paper | 61,986 | 70,963 | (8,977) | (12.7) |
| Durasorb® | 57,616 | 60,939 | (3,323) | (5.5) |
| Kraftpak ® | 23,668 | 24,535 | (867) | (3.5) |
| Tons of paper sold | 329,610 | 323,373 | 6,237 | 1.9 |

Tons of paper sold for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 was 329,610 tons compared to 323,373 tons for the quarter ended March 31, 2011, an increase of 6,237 tons or 1.9 percent. Domestic containerboard sales increased 14.9 percent reflecting the impact of the acquisition and higher sales of lightweight containerboard. Export containerboard sales increased by 7.5 percent due to higher demand. Kraft paper sales decreased 12.7 percent reflecting increased competition and a transfer of volumes to lightweight containerboard grades. Durasorb® sales declined 5.5 percent due to lower demand in Asia and Europe.

Corrugated product sales for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 totaled 1.5 billion square feet compared to none for the quarter ended March 31, 2011. The increase in corrugated product sales was driven by the USC acquisition which closed in the fourth quarter of 2011.

The following represents a summary of tons of paper sold and produced by the Company:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | | Increase/ | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | (Decrease) | % |
| Tons of paper sold to third parties | 329,610 | 323,373 | 6,237 | 1.9 |
| Tons transferred to converting plants | 65,934 | | 65,934 | 100.0 |
| Inventory change | 58 | 2,012 | (1,954) | 97.1 |
| Tons of paper produced | 395,602 | 325,385 | 70,217 | 21.6 |

The 70,217 increase in tons of production in the first quarter of 2012 includes 60,840 tons from the USC acquisition and 9,377 tons from higher operating rates and one extra day of production.

Cost of sales, excluding depreciation and amortization expense, for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 was \$214.1 million compared to \$142.7 million for the first quarter of 2011, an increase of \$71.4 million, or 50.1 percent. The increase in cost of sales was mainly due to the \$71.6 million impact of the acquisition. Excluding the acquisition, cost of sales decreased by \$0.2 million due to \$4.3 million of productivity gains partially offset by \$4.1 million of inflation on labor, benefits and input costs and higher sales volumes.

Freight and distribution expenses for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 totaled \$25.7 million compared to \$17.8 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2011. The increase of \$7.9 million was primarily due to the \$7.3 million impact of the acquisition. Excluding the acquisition, freight and distribution expenses increased \$0.6 million due to the higher sales volumes and inflation on fuel costs.

Selling, general and administrative expenses for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 totaled \$17.6 million compared to \$9.3 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2011. The increase of \$8.3 million was primarily due to \$6.9 million from the acquisition and \$0.5 million of higher stock compensation. Excluding the acquisition, selling, general and administrative expenses increased \$0.9 million due to the higher sales volumes. For the quarter ended March 31, 2012, selling, general and administrative expenses as a percentage of net sales increased to 5.9 percent from 4.5 percent in the quarter ended March 31, 2011.

Foreign exchange gains for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 were \$0.1 million compared \$0.3 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2011. The change reflects fluctuations in the U.S. dollar to Euro exchange rate.

Net interest expense for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and 2011 was \$3.3 million and \$1.1 million, respectively. Interest expense reflects interest on the Company's senior credit agreement and amortization of debt issuance costs. Interest expense was \$2.2 million higher in the quarter ended March 31,

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2012 due to higher term loan balances as a result of entering into a new credit agreement in conjunction with the USC acquisition.

Provision for income taxes for the quarters ended March 31, 2012 and 2011 was \$8.8 million and \$9.5 million, respectively, reflecting an effective tax rate of 36.0 percent for the quarter ended March 31, 2012 compared to 38.6 percent for the similar period in 2011. The lower provision for income taxes in 2012 primarily reflects a lower effective tax rate due to a higher expected benefit from the domestic manufacturing deduction.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Credit Facilities

The Company's new credit facility includes an accordion provision which allows the Company, subject to certain terms and conditions, to increase the commitments by up to \$300.0 million and would be available for future acquisitions. In addition, the Company has \$142.2 million available under its revolving credit facility.

Voluntary and Mandatory Prepayments

For the three months ended March 31, 2012, the Company made no voluntary prepayments. No mandatory prepayments were required under the New Credit Agreement.

Other Borrowing

In 2012, the Company entered into a financing agreement of \$3.4 million at an annual interest rate of 2.00 percent, for the annual property insurance premium. The agreement required the Company to make consecutive monthly repayments through the term of the financing agreement ending on December 1. As of March 31, 2012, there was \$2.5 million outstanding under the current agreement.

Debt Covenants

Under the financial covenants of the New Credit Agreement, KapStone must comply on a quarterly basis with a maximum permitted leverage ratio. The leverage ratio is calculated by dividing KapStone's debt by its rolling twelve month total earnings before interest expense, taxes, depreciation and amortization and allowable adjustments. The maximum permitted leverage ratio declines over the life of the New Credit Agreement. On March 31, 2012, the maximum permitted leverage ratio was 3.50 to 1.00. On March 31, 2012, KapStone was in compliance with

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the New Credit Agreement with a leverage ratio of 1.87 to 1.00.

The New Credit Agreement also includes a financial covenant requiring a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio. This ratio is calculated by dividing KapStone's twelve month total earnings before interest expense, taxes, depreciation and amortization and allowable adjustments less cash payments for income taxes and capital expenditures by the sum of our cash interest and required principal payments during the twelve month period. From the closing date of the New Credit Agreement through the quarter ending March 31, 2012 the fixed charge coverage ratio was required to be at least 1.25 to 1.00. On March 31, 2012, KapStone was in compliance with the New Credit Agreement with a fixed charge coverage ratio of 6.97 to 1.00.

As of March 31, 2012, KapStone was in compliance with all applicable covenants in the New Credit Agreement.

Income taxes

The Company's effective tax rate for 2012 is projected at 36.0 percent. The cash tax rate for 2012 is projected at 10.0 percent reflecting utilization of federal net operating losses and the cellulosic biofuel producer's credit.

Sources and Uses of Cash

| Three months ended March 31 (in thousands of U.S. dollars) | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Operating activities | \$ 19,791 | \$ 12,454 |
| Investing activities | (11,219) | (54,378) |
| Financing activities | 3,432 | (2,956) |

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Cash and cash equivalents increased by \$12.0 million from December 31, 2011, reflecting \$19.8 million of net cash provided by operating activities, \$11.2 million of net cash used in investing activities and \$3.4 million of net cash provided by financing activities in the first three months of 2012.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$19.8 million primarily due to net income for the quarter of \$15.6 million and non-cash charges of \$24.2 million. Changes in operating assets and liabilities used \$20.0 million of cash. Net cash provided by operating activities increased by \$7.3 million in the quarter ended March 31, 2012 compared to the quarter ended March 31, 2011 mainly due to \$3.8 million of lower working capital and \$3.0 million of non-cash charges.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$11.2 million reflecting \$10.9 million of capital expenditures. For the quarter ended March 31, 2012, capital expenditures for legacy operations were \$8.7 million related to spending on equipment upgrades and replacements at the paper mills. In addition, there were \$2.2 million of capital expenditures related to the acquisition, primarily related to investments in information technology. Net cash used in investing activities decreased by \$43.2 million in the quarter ended March 31, 2012 compared to the quarter ended March 31, 2011 mainly due to the \$49.7 million contingent earn-out payment in 2011.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$3.4 million and reflects \$2.5 million of net proceeds from other current borrowings and \$0.9 million of proceeds from share transactions. Net cash provided by financing activities increased by \$6.4 million in the quarter ended March 31, 2012 compared to the quarter ended March 31, 2011 primarily due to a lower amount of debt repayments in the first quarter of 2012.

Future Cash Needs

We expect that cash generated from operating activities, and if needed, the ability to draw from our revolving credit facility, which has a current availability of \$142.2 million and \$300.0 million from our credit agreement's accordion provision, will be sufficient to meet anticipated 2012 cash needs. The Company expects to spend approximately \$50.0 million on capital expenditures for the balance of 2012. In addition, the Company has \$6.1 million of required long-term debt repayments for the balance of 2012 and expects to fund an additional \$2.3 million to its pension plan.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We have not entered into any off-balance sheet financing arrangements and have not established any special purpose entities. We have not guaranteed any debt or commitments of other entities or entered into any options on non-financial assets.

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ITEM 3.

QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Market risk is the sensitivity of income to changes in interest rates, commodity prices, equity prices, and other market-driven rates or prices.

Under KapStone's New Credit Agreement, at March 31, 2012, we have an outstanding credit facility consisting of a term loan and revolving credit facility totaling \$505.3 million. The initial term loan and the revolving credit facility have a maturity date of October 31, 2016. Depending on the type of borrowing, the applicable interest rate under the Credit Facility is calculated at a per annum rate equal to (a) LIBOR plus an applicable margin, which is currently 2.00% for Eurodollar loans, or (b) (i) the greatest of (x) the prime rate, (y) the federal funds effective rate plus 0.5% or (z) one-month LIBOR plus 1.00% plus (ii) an applicable margin, which is currently 1.00% for base rate loans. The unused portion of the Revolver will also be subject to an unused fee that will be calculated at a per annum rate (the Unused Fee Rate), which is currently 0.40%. Commencing with the delivery of the financial statements for the fiscal quarter ending March 31, 2012, the applicable margin for borrowings under the Credit Facility and the Unused Fee Rate will be determined by reference to a pricing grid based on the Company's total leverage ratio. Under such pricing grid, the applicable margins for the Credit Facility will range from 1.50% to 2.50% for Eurodollar loans and from 0.50% to 1.50% for base rate loans and the Unused Fee Rate will range from 0.30% to 0.50%.

Changes in market rates may impact the base rate in our Senior Credit Agreement. For instance, if the bank's LIBOR rate was to increase or decrease by one percentage point (1.0%), our annual interest expense would change by approximately \$3.6 million based upon our expected future monthly loan balances per our existing repayment schedule.

We are exposed to price fluctuations of certain commodities used in production. Key raw materials and energy used in the production process include roundwood and woodchips, OCC, fuel oil, electricity and caustic soda. We purchase these raw materials and energy at market prices, and do not use forward contracts or other financial instruments to hedge our exposure to price risk related to these commodities. We have three contracts to purchase coal at fixed prices with all expiring on December 31, 2012.

We are exposed to price fluctuations in the price of our finished goods. The prices we charge for our products are primarily based on market conditions.

We are exposed to currency fluctuations as we invoice certain European customers in Euros. The Company did not use forward contracts to reduce the impact of currency fluctuations during the quarter ended March 31, 2012. No such contracts were outstanding at March 31, 2012.

ITEM 4.

CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

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As of the end of the period covered by this report, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as required by Rule 13a-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of March 31, 2012.

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the three months ended March 31, 2012 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

There have been no material changes in the legal proceedings described in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

ITEM 1A.

RISK FACTORS

There have been no material changes from the Risk Factors described in our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011.

ITEM 2.

UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

None.

ITEM 3.

DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4.

MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

None.

ITEM 5.

OTHER INFORMATION

None.

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ITEM 6.

EXHIBITS

The following Exhibits are filed as part of this report.

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|------------------------|--|
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.1 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.2 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document. |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema. |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase. |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase. |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase. |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Extension Presentation Linkbase. |

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SIGNATURE

In accordance with the requirements of the Exchange Act, the registrant caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

KAPSTONE PAPER AND PACKAGING CORPORATION

May 2, 2012

By:

/s/ Andrea K. Tarbox
Andrea K. Tarbox
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
(duly authorized officer and principal financial officer)