

Mueller Water Products, Inc.

Form DEF 14A

December 14, 2017

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

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

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Mueller Water Products, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

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

(1) Title of each class of securities to which the transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which the transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of the transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of the transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

December 14, 2017

To My Fellow Stockholders:

It is my pleasure to invite you to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Mueller Water Products, Inc. The meeting will be held on January 24, 2018 at 10:00 A.M., Eastern Time, in the Peachtree Dunwoody Room on the 3rd Floor of Building 500 at Northpark Town Center, located at 1100 Abernathy Road, N.E. in Atlanta, Georgia. The meeting will begin with voting on the matters described in the attached Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement, followed by my report on our company's financial performance and operations.

The Board appreciates and encourages stockholder participation in our affairs. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, it is important your shares be represented and voted.

Sincerely,

Scott Hall

President and Chief Executive Officer

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT TO US.

PLEASE REVIEW THE ATTACHED MATERIALS AND SUBMIT YOUR VOTE PROMPTLY.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 24, 2018

To the Stockholders of Mueller Water Products, Inc.:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Mueller Water Products, Inc. will be held at 10:00 A.M., Eastern Time, on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 in the Peachtree Dunwoody Room on the 3rd Floor of Building 500 at Northpark Town Center, located at 1100 Abernathy Road, N.E., in Atlanta, Georgia, for the following purposes:

1. To elect eight directors;
2. To approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers;
3. To ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018; and
4. To transact any other business properly brought before the Annual Meeting and any reconvened or rescheduled meeting following any adjournments or postponements thereof.

Only our stockholders at the close of business on December 7, 2017, the record date for voting at the Annual Meeting, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting and any adjournments or postponements thereof.

This Proxy Statement and our 2017 Annual Report are available at www.proxyvote.com (for beneficial stockholders) and www.edocumentview.com/mwa (for registered stockholders).

We use Securities and Exchange Commission rules allowing issuers to furnish proxy materials to their stockholders over the Internet. A Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or this Proxy Statement will first be mailed to our stockholders on or about December 14, 2017. Please refer to the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, proxy materials email or proxy card you received for information on how to vote your shares and to ensure your shares will be represented and voted at the Annual Meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

Keith L. Belknap
Corporate Secretary
Atlanta, Georgia
December 14, 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PROXY STATEMENT SUMMARY	<u>1</u>
<u>MATTERS TO BE VOTED ON</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Proposal One: Election of Directors</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Proposal Two: Advisory Vote to Approve Executive Compensation</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Proposal Three: Ratification of the Appointment of the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>FEES AND SERVICES OF THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	<u>10</u>
Audit Fees and Other Fees	<u>10</u>
<u>Pre-Approval of Services Performed by the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Overview</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Board Composition</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Board Operations</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Related Person Transactions</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Communicating with the Board</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>DIRECTOR COMPENSATION</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Annual Retainer</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Meeting Fees</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Equity-Based Awards</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Travel Expenses</u>	<u>20</u>
Director Compensation Summary	<u>21</u>
<u>Deferred Compensation</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</u>	<u>22</u>
Highlights of 2017 Performance	<u>22</u>
<u>Highlights of 2017 Performance Related to Executive Compensation</u>	<u>23</u>
Highlights of 2017 Executive Compensation	<u>23</u>
Executive Compensation Program Overview	<u>25</u>
<u>Compensation Elements</u>	<u>26</u>
Other <u>Factors Considered by the Compensation Committee</u>	<u>32</u>
Other Compensation Practices and Policies	<u>33</u>
<u>REPORT OF THE COMPENSATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Summary Compensation Table</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table</u>	<u>38</u>
<u>Outstanding Equity Awards Table</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Option Exercises and Stock Vested Table</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Nonqualified Deferred Compensation During Fiscal 2017</u>	<u>40</u>

<u>Pension Plan</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Employment, Severance and Change-in-Control Arrangements</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control</u>	<u>41</u>

Table of Contents

<u>BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF COMMON STOCK</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING AND THE ANNUAL MEETING</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Other Business for Presentation at the Annual Meeting</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Other Information</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>STOCKHOLDER INFORMATION</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>Stockholder Proposals for Inclusion in Next Year's Proxy Statement</u>	<u>48</u>
Procedures for Business Matters and Director Nominations for Consideration at Next Year's Annual Meeting of Stockholders	<u>48</u>
<u>EXHIBIT A: RECONCILIATION OF NON-GAAP PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO GAAP PERFORMANCE MEASURES</u>	<u>A-1</u>

Please note attendance at the Annual Meeting will be limited to stockholders of Mueller Water Products, Inc. (or their authorized representatives) as of December 7, 2017. You will be required to provide the admission ticket that is detachable from your proxy card or other evidence of ownership, along with photo identification. If your shares are held by a bank or broker, please bring your bank or broker statement evidencing your beneficial ownership of our common stock as of the record date to gain admission to the Annual Meeting.

Table of Contents

PROXY STATEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this Proxy Statement. This summary does not contain all of the information you should consider, and you should read the entire Proxy Statement carefully before voting.

2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 24, 2018; 10:00 A.M., Eastern Time

Place: Peachtree Dunwoody Room, 3rd Floor, Building 500 Northpark Town Center, 1100 Abernathy Road, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia

Record Date: December 7, 2017

Voting: Stockholders as of the record date may vote by Internet, telephone, signing and dating the proxy card or in person at the Annual Meeting.

VOTING MATTERS

Matter	Board of Directors' recommendations
•	
Election of eight directors	FOR each director nominee
•	
Advisory resolution to approve executive compensation	FOR
•	
Ratification of the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm for 2018	FOR

Highlights of 2017 Performance

In fiscal 2017, we improved our operating performance and executed initiatives to return value to our stockholders.

Strong Operating Results

We increased net sales 3.2% over the prior year to \$826.0 million. Our operating income and net income in fiscal 2017 were \$100.7 million and \$123.3 million, respectively. Adjusted operating income from continuing operations improved 4.5%

Increased dividend

We increased our quarterly dividend per share to \$0.04 from \$0.03. We paid \$24.0

to \$121.9 million, from \$116.7 million in fiscal 2016. Adjusted income from continuing operations improved 17.1% to \$71.2 million, from \$60.8 million in the prior year.

million of dividends in fiscal 2017.

Repurchased Shares
We repurchased \$55.0 million of our outstanding Common Stock during fiscal 2017.

Highlights of
2017
Performance
Related to
Executive
Compensation

On January 6, 2017, we sold our former Anvil business. On February 15, 2017, we acquired Singer Valve. The results of operations of Anvil and Singer Valve had no impact on the compensation of our named executive officers for fiscal 2017. Accordingly, Anvil's and Singer Valve's results of operations and metrics have been excluded from all financial or performance information related to compensation contained in this proxy statement.

The Compensation and Human Resources Committee used several performance elements, including those set forth below, to assess and determine incentive plan compensation earned during fiscal 2017.

Table of Contents

	Adjusted Net Sales (\$ in millions)	Adjusted Operating Operations (\$ in millions)	Adjusted Income from Continuing Operations (\$ in millions)	Return on Net Assets (%)
2017	815.7	121.3	68.5	34.4
2016	800.6	116.7	57.3	34.0

See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Highlights of 2017 Performance Related to Executive Compensation” for more information and Exhibit A for a reconciliation of non-GAAP financial measures to GAAP financial results.

Highlights of 2017

Executive Compensation

We design our executive compensation programs to target total compensation for executives at or about the 50th percentile (plus or minus 15%) of our customized peer group. The principal elements of these compensation programs are base salary, annual performance-based cash bonus, long-term incentive and performance-based equity compensation, as well as broad-based employee benefit plans.

We structure a significant portion of our executives’ overall compensation as incentive compensation. For fiscal 2017, incentive compensation, which includes performance-based compensation, represented approximately 74% of the total target compensation of Scott Hall, our CEO, and an average of 65% of the total target compensation of our other named executives (excluding Mr. Hyland).

We structure performance-based compensation to pay for performance. Performance-based incentive compensation represented 42% of our CEO’s total target compensation for fiscal 2017. We set clear and measurable financial goals for Company and segment performance. In evaluating individual performance, we assess progress toward strategic priorities.

We paid performance-based compensation for fiscal 2017 that reflects Company and segment performance. Our named executives’ compensation was both positively and negatively affected by Company and segment performance in relation to targets set for fiscal 2017.

Annual cash bonuses earned by our continuing named executives ranged from 74% to 121% of target (compared with 101% to 129% of target last year).

Long-term compensation was achieved at 100% of target for fiscal 2017 based on “return on net assets”

We continue to maintain best practices for executive compensation.

We design our compensation programs to mitigate risk.

Our equity incentive plan prohibits the repricing or exchange of equity-based awards.

We prohibit hedging and pledging of our Common Stock by executives or directors.

Our executives and directors are subject to stock ownership guidelines.

We can “clawback” cash- or equity-based compensation paid to executives under certain circumstances.

See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Executive Compensation Program Overview”, “— Other Factors Considered by the Compensation Committee” and “— Other Compensation Practices and Policies” for more information regarding our compensation philosophy, structure and developments.

Table of ContentsDIRECTOR
NOMINEES

Each director stands for election annually. All nominees are independent, except Mr. Hall, our President and CEO. The Board held 10 meetings in fiscal 2017 and each director attended over 96% of the total number of meetings of the Board and committees of which he or she was a member.

The following table provides summary information about each director nominee. See “Matters to be Voted On — Proposal One” for more information about each nominee.

Name	Age	Director Since	Independent Experience	Board Committees ⁽¹⁾
Shirley C. Franklin	72	2010	Executive Chair of Purpose Built Communities, Inc.; former Mayor of Atlanta	Comp; EHS
Scott Hall	53	2017	President and Chief Executive Officer of Mueller Water Products, Inc.	Exec*
Thomas J. Hansen	68	2011	Former Vice Chairman of Illinois Tool Works Inc.	Audit; EHS
Jerry W. Kolb	81	2006	Retired Vice Chairman of Deloitte & Touche LLP	Audit*; Comp; Governance
Mark J. O'Brien ⁽²⁾	74	2006	Former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Walter Investment Management Corp.	Exec
Bernard G. Rethore	76	2006	Chairman Emeritus and former Chief Executive Officer of Flowserve Corporation	Audit; Governance*; Exec
Lydia W. Thomas	73	2008	Retired President and Chief Executive Officer of Noblis, Inc.	EHS*; Governance
Michael T. Tokarz	68	2006	Chairman of Tokarz Group, LLC	Comp*; Governance; Exec

* Denotes committee chairperson

Audit = Audit Committee; Comp = Compensation and Human Resources Committee; EHS = Environment, Health (1) and Safety Committee; Exec = Executive Committee; Governance = Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

(2) Mr. O'Brien serves as our Lead Director. See “Corporate Governance — Board Operations — Board Leadership Structure” for more information.

Table of Contents

MATTERS TO BE VOTED ON

PROPOSAL ONE:

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (the “Governance Committee”) is responsible for identifying qualified candidates to serve on the Board and recommending nominees to be submitted to our stockholders for election at each annual meeting of stockholders. After the Governance Committee completes its evaluation of candidates, it presents its recommendation to the Board for consideration and approval.

Gregory Hyland has served as our Executive Chairman since January 2017, and previously served as our Chairman, President and CEO from January 2006 to January 2017. After these many years of distinguished service, Mr. Hyland will retire from the Board at the 2018 Annual Meeting. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Hyland for his many years of service to Mueller Water Products, its Board and stockholders. In connection with Mr. Hyland’s retirement, the Board will follow the recommendation of the Governance Committee and reduce the size of the Board from nine to eight members.

The Governance Committee uses a matrix of key skills and experience to evaluate candidates. The Governance Committee carefully reviews all directors and director candidates in light of these factors based on the context of the current and anticipated composition of the Board and our current and anticipated strategic and operating requirements. In reviewing a candidate, the Governance Committee considers the following elements as qualifications required of all directors:

- Personal ethics and integrity • Collaborative skills • Commitment
- Independence • Interpersonal skills • Business acumen

The Governance Committee does not expect or intend each director to have the same background, skills and experience; instead, it expects the Board to be composed of directors with diverse backgrounds, skills and experience. Although the Board does not have a formal policy regarding diversity, diversity is among the criteria considered by the Board when evaluating candidates. Diversity may include gender, race, ethnicity, geographic origin/foreign citizenship or personal, educational and professional experience. The Governance Committee believes the backgrounds and qualifications of the directors, considered as a group, should provide an appropriate mix of experience, knowledge and abilities that will enhance the Board’s oversight role.

Set forth below is a summary of the key areas of skills and experience reflected in our director nominees.

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

Franklin Hall Hansen Kolb O’Brien Rethore Thomas Tokarz

CEO/Executive Leadership
Corporate Governance
Financial/Capital Allocation
Government and Regulatory Affairs
International Business
Marketing
Mergers and Acquisitions
Multiple-Part Manufacturing
Offshore Sourcing
Strategic Planning
Compliance/Risk Management
Environment, Health and Safety
Technology/Systems

Table of Contents

After evaluating each director and the composition of the full Board, the Governance Committee has recommended each of the current Board members (other than Mr. Hyland) for election. If elected, each of the eight individuals nominated for election to the Board will hold office until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. Each nominee has agreed to serve as a director if elected. However, if for some unforeseen reason a nominee becomes unwilling or unable to serve, proxies will be voted for a substitute nominee selected by the Board. In lieu of designating a substitute nominee, the Board, in its discretion, may reduce the number of directors.

Information about the nominees, including information concerning their qualifications for office, is set forth below:

Shirley C. Franklin

Age: 72

Director since: 2010

Board committees: Compensation, EHS

Other public company boards within the last five years: Delta Air Lines, Inc.

Ms. Franklin serves as Executive Chair of the board of directors of Purpose Built Communities, Inc., a national non-profit organization that works to transform struggling neighborhoods into sustainable communities. She also serves as Co-Chair of the Atlanta Regional Commission on Homelessness and as Chair of the board of directors of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. From 2002 to 2010, Ms. Franklin served as mayor of Atlanta, Georgia. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from Howard University and a Master's degree in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania.

The Board considered Ms. Franklin's record of civic involvement and significant executive management experience, which has spanned three decades. During her service as mayor of Atlanta, Ms. Franklin worked to rebuild the city's water infrastructure.

J. Scott Hall

Age: 53

Director since: 2017

Board committees: Executive

Mr. Hall has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer since January 2017. He served as President and CEO of Textron's Industrial segment from December 2009 until January 2017. Mr. Hall joined Textron in 2001 as president of Tempo, a multi-facility roll-up of communication test equipment. He was named president of Greenlee in 2003 when Tempo became part of the Greenlee business unit. Prior to joining Textron, Mr. Hall had several leadership roles at General Cable, a leading manufacturer of wire and cable. Mr. Hall ran General Cable's Canadian businesses before taking over responsibility for General Cable's Global Communications business. Mr. Hall received his Bachelor of Commerce degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland and his MBA from the University of Western Ontario Ivey School of Business.

The Board considered Mr. Hall's commercial experience and business leadership skills gained from his past and current positions in management.

Table of Contents

Thomas J. Hansen

Age: 68

Director since: 2011

Board committees: Audit, EHS

Other public company boards: Standex International Corporation, Terex Corporation

Until 2012, Mr. Hansen served as Vice Chairman of Illinois Tool Works Inc. (“ITW”), a manufacturer of fasteners and components, consumable systems and a variety of specialty products and equipment. He joined ITW in 1980 as a sales and marketing manager of the Shakeproof Industrial Products businesses. From 1998 to 2006, Mr. Hansen served as Executive Vice President of ITW. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from Northern Illinois University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Governors State University.

The Board considered Mr. Hansen’s experience as a senior executive of a large diversified industrial manufacturing company that faces many of the economic, social and governance issues we face.

Jerry W. Kolb

Age: 81

Director since: 2006

Board committees: Audit (Chair), Governance, Compensation

Other public company boards within the last five years: Walter Energy, Inc.

From 1986 to 1998, Mr. Kolb served as a Vice Chairman of Deloitte & Touche LLP, a registered public accounting firm. He is a certified public accountant. Mr. Kolb earned a Bachelor of Science degree in accountancy, with highest honors, from the University of Illinois and a Master of Business Administration degree from DePaul University.

The Board considered Mr. Kolb’s broad perspective in accounting and financial reporting matters and his extensive experience in audit, finance and compensation matters and in executive management based on his 41-year career with Deloitte & Touche.

Mark J. O’Brien

Age: 74

Director since: 2006

Board committees: Executive and ex officio member of all other standing committees

Other public company boards within the last five years: Walter Investment Management Corp.

Mr. O’Brien serves as our Lead Director. He served as Chairman of Walter Investment Management Corp. (formerly Walter Industries’ Homes Business), a mortgage portfolio owner and mortgage originator and servicer, from 2009 through December 2015, and he served as its Chief Executive Officer from 2009 to October 2015. Mr. O’Brien has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Brier Patch Capital and Management, Inc., a real estate management and investment firm, since 2004. He served in various executive capacities at Pulte Homes, Inc., a home building company, for 21 years, retiring as President and Chief Executive Officer in 2003. Mr. O’Brien earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of Miami.

The Board considered Mr. O'Brien's knowledge of capital markets, municipal finance and the homebuilding and real estate sectors of the economy.

Table of Contents

Bernard G. Rethore

Age: 76

Director since: 2006

Board committees: Audit, Governance (Chair), Executive

Other public company boards within the last five years: Dover Corp., Walter Energy, Inc., Belden, Inc.

Mr. Rethore has served as Chairman Emeritus of Flowserve Corporation, a manufacturer of pumps, valves, seals and components, since 2000. From January 2000 to April 2000, he served as Flowserve's Chairman. Mr. Rethore had previously served as its Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. In 2008, Mr. Rethore was honored by the Outstanding Directors Exchange as an Outstanding Director of the Year, and in 2012, he was designated a Board Leadership Fellow by the National Association of Corporate Directors. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics (Honors) from Yale University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a Joseph P. Wharton Scholar and Fellow.

The Board considered Mr. Rethore's more than 30 years of experience at senior executive level positions with public manufacturing companies and his service on the boards of multiple public companies, as a member and chair of their executive, audit, compensation, environment, health and safety, governance and special committees. His extensive management experience makes him a valuable contributor to the Board on matters involving business strategy, capital allocation and merger and acquisition opportunities.

Lydia W. Thomas

Age: 73

Director since: 2008

Board committees: Governance, EHS (Chair)

Other public company boards: Washington Mutual Investors Fund

Other public company boards within the last five years: Cabot Corporation

Dr. Thomas served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Noblis, Inc., a public interest scientific research, technology and strategy company, from 1996 to 2007. She was previously with The MITRE Corporation, Center for Environment, Resources and Space, serving as Senior Vice President and General Manager from 1992 to 1996, Vice President from 1989 to 1992 and Technical Director from 1982 to 1989. In 2013, she was honored by the Outstanding Directors Exchange as an Outstanding Director of the Year. Dr. Thomas earned a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology from Howard University, a Master of Science degree in microbiology from American University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in cytology from Howard University.

The Board considered Dr. Thomas' extensive experience at senior executive level positions and particular expertise related to information technology and environment, health and safety matters.

Table of Contents

Michael T. Tokarz

Age: 68

Director since: 2006

Board committees: Compensation (Chair), Governance, Executive

Other public company boards: MVC Capital, Inc. (Chairman)

Other public company boards within the last five years: Walter Energy, Inc., Dakota Growers Pasta Company, IDEX Corporation, CNO Financial Group, Inc., Walter Investment Management Corp.

Since 2002, Mr. Tokarz has served as a member of the Tokarz Group, LLC, an investment company. From 1996 until 2002, Mr. Tokarz served as a member of the limited liability company that serves as the general partner of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. L.P., a private equity company. In 2007, he was honored by the Outstanding Directors Exchange as an Outstanding Director of the Year. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics with high distinction and a Master of Business Administration degree in finance from the University of Illinois.

The Board considered Mr. Tokarz's knowledge and experience in banking and finance, his entrepreneurial and business leadership skills, his more than 20 years of board experience with publicly traded companies and his corporate governance training.

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast in respect of the shares of Common Stock present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote shall be required to elect these nominees (or a substitute nominee as designated by the Board) to serve as directors, which means that the number of votes cast in favor of a nominee's election exceeds the number of votes cast against that nominee's election. If an incumbent director fails to receive a majority of the votes cast, the incumbent director will promptly tender his or her irrevocable offer of resignation to the Board. The Board can then choose to accept the resignation, reject it or take such other action that the Board deems appropriate. See "Corporate Governance — Overview" for more information.

The Board recommends a vote FOR each nominee for director.

Table of Contents

PROPOSAL TWO:
ADVISORY VOTE TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

We provide our stockholders with the annual opportunity to cast an advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers. The vote on this proposal represents an additional means by which we obtain feedback from our stockholders about executive compensation. Our Compensation and Human Resources Committee (the “Compensation Committee”) sets executive compensation.

The overall objective of our executive compensation program is to encourage and reward the creation of sustainable, long-term stockholder value. To meet this objective, the Compensation Committee has designed compensation plans for our executive officers that target total compensation at the 50th percentile (plus or minus 15%) of our customized peer group. A significant portion of our executives’ overall compensation is structured as incentive compensation. For fiscal 2017, incentive compensation represented approximately 74% of our current CEO’s total target compensation, and an average of 65% of the total target compensation of the other named executive officers. We believe an emphasis on both short-term and long-term incentive compensation aligns executives’ and stockholders’ interests.

We encourage our stockholders to read the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this Proxy Statement, which discusses how our compensation policies and procedures implement our compensation philosophy. The Board and the Compensation Committee believe these policies and procedures are strongly aligned with the long-term interests of our stockholders and are effective in implementing our compensation philosophy and in achieving our strategic goals.

Accordingly, we ask for stockholder approval of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the stockholders approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation paid to the named executive officers of Mueller Water Products, Inc., as disclosed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, the accompanying compensation tables and the related narrative disclosure in the Company’s proxy statement for the 2018 annual meeting of stockholders.

This vote is advisory and therefore not binding on us, the Board or the Compensation Committee. At last year’s annual meeting of stockholders, over 98% of votes cast were in support of the compensation of our named executive officers. The Board and the Compensation Committee value the opinions of our stockholders. The Compensation Committee will consider the result of this year’s vote, as well as other communications from stockholders relating to our compensation practices, and take them into account in future determinations concerning our executive compensation program. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Highlights of 2017 Executive Compensation”.

The Board recommends a vote FOR Proposal Two.

Table of Contents**PROPOSAL THREE:****RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee has authority to retain and terminate the services of our independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee has appointed Ernst & Young LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm to audit our consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, subject to negotiation of definitive fee arrangements. Although stockholder ratification of Ernst & Young's appointment is not required, the Board believes submitting the appointment to our stockholders for ratification is a matter of good corporate governance. See below for a description of the fees Ernst & Young billed us for fiscal 2017 and fiscal 2016.

A representative of Ernst & Young is expected to be present at the Annual Meeting. The representative will have an opportunity to make a statement and will be available to respond to stockholder questions.

The Board recommends a vote FOR Proposal Three.

**FEES AND SERVICES OF THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee appointed Ernst & Young as the independent registered public accounting firm to audit our consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting for fiscal 2017.

Audit Fees and Other Fees

The following table shows the approximate fees for audit and other services provided by Ernst & Young for fiscal years 2017 and 2016 (in millions).

	2017	2016
Audit fees ⁽¹⁾	\$2.4	\$2.5
Audit-related fees	—	0.1
Tax fees	0.4	0.1
Total fees	\$2.8	\$2.7

⁽¹⁾ Reflects fees for professional services performed by Ernst & Young for annual audits (including out-of-pocket expenses) and quarterly limited reviews of our consolidated financial statements.

Pre-Approval of Services Performed by the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Audit Committee has adopted procedures for pre-approving all audit and non-audit services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm. For both types of pre-approval, the Audit Committee considers whether the services are consistent with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") rules on auditor independence and whether the independent registered public accounting firm is able to provide the most effective service. Non-audit fees to be incurred by the independent registered public accounting firm for services permitted by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to be performed by such firm must be approved in advance by the Audit Committee Chairman (for individual projects in amounts up to \$100,000) or the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee periodically monitors the services rendered and actual fees paid to the independent registered public accounting firm to ensure the services are within the parameters approved by the Audit Committee.

Table of Contents

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Committee Composition and Skills

The Audit Committee is comprised of three independent directors meeting the requirements of applicable SEC and NYSE rules. The Board has determined all Audit Committee members are “financially literate” for purposes of the NYSE Listed Company Manual (the “NYSE Manual”) and qualify as audit committee “financial experts” within the meaning of the rules and regulations of the SEC. See “Matters to be Voted On — Proposal One” for a description of the business background of each member. No member of the Audit Committee serves on the audit committee of more than three public companies.

Meetings

The Audit Committee met 13 times during fiscal 2017, including eight times by teleconference. Meetings include periodic executive sessions with the independent registered public accounting firm, our internal auditors and our management.

Responsibilities of the Audit Committee, Management and the Independent Auditor

The Audit Committee’s key responsibilities are set forth in its charter, which was approved by the Board and is available on our website. See “Corporate Governance — Board Operations — Board Committee Information” for more information concerning the Audit Committee and its responsibilities. For the audit of our consolidated financial statements for fiscal 2017 and our internal control over financial reporting:

Management was primarily responsible for preparing our financial statements and establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. The Audit Committee was responsible for monitoring and overseeing our financial reporting and audit functions, as well as our internal control over financial reporting and disclosure.

Ernst & Young, our independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2017, was responsible for performing an independent audit of our consolidated financial statements and expressing an opinion on the conformity of those financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and was also responsible for performing an independent audit of, and expressing an opinion on, our internal control over financial reporting.

The Audit Committee reviewed and discussed with management and Ernst & Young the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2017, our quarterly consolidated financial statements and operating results for each quarter in the fiscal year and the related significant accounting and disclosure issues, and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting.

The Audit Committee reviewed management’s report contained in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2017 (“Annual Report”), as well as Ernst & Young’s Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm included in the Annual Report related to its audits of the consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting.

The Audit Committee discussed with Ernst & Young matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 16, as amended, “Communication with Audit Committees.” In addition, Ernst & Young provided the Audit Committee with the written disclosures and the letter required by the applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant’s communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence and the Audit Committee has discussed with Ernst & Young the firm’s independence.

Audited Consolidated Financial Statements

Based on the foregoing discussions with and reports of management and our independent registered public accounting firm and the Audit Committee’s review of the representations of management, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board the inclusion of our consolidated financial statements in the Annual Report.

Audit Committee

Jerry W. Kolb, Chair

Thomas J. Hansen

Bernard G. Rethore

Table of Contents

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Overview

Our Board is committed to establishing and maintaining strong corporate governance practices that reflect high standards of ethics and integrity and promote long-term stockholder value.

To that end, we recently amended our Bylaws regarding director elections and, beginning with this year’s Annual Meeting, we are requiring our directors to be elected by the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting. In connection with this change, we have also amended our Corporate Governance Guidelines (the “Guidelines”) to provide that an incumbent director who fails to receive a majority of the votes cast must tender an irrevocable offer of resignation to the Board. The Board will then consider a number of factors in determining whether to accept or reject the resignation, including the director’s contributions to the Company and the reasons he or she did not obtain the requisite stockholder vote.

Our corporate governance structure and processes are set forth in our key governance documents, including the Guidelines. The Guidelines govern the operation of the Board and its committees and guide the Board and its committees in the execution of their respective responsibilities. The Governance Committee reviews the Guidelines at least annually and the Board updates the Guidelines periodically in response to changing regulatory requirements, evolving practices and otherwise as circumstances warrant.

In July 2016, a group of leading executives and institutional investors published a statement of “Commonsense Principles of Corporate Governance.” These Commonsense Principles set forth a number of recommendations and guidelines about the roles and responsibilities of boards, public companies and stockholders, and are intended to provide guidance on corporate governance that “works in the real world.”

Because we believe an important aspect of achieving a strong and effective corporate governance structure is to encourage an open dialog with our stockholders, we have reviewed our policies and procedures in light of the suggestions set forth in the Commonsense Principles. Accordingly, highlighted below are the key areas of our corporate governance practices that we believe align with the Commonsense Principles.

Board Composition and Leadership:

Our Board is led by a Chairman who is not our CEO

Each of our director nominees, other than our CEO, is independent

Our directors have complementary and diverse skills sets, backgrounds and experiences and are continually educated on our industry

Our Board size promotes an open dialogue among directors

Majority Voting

We use a majority voting standard in uncontested director elections, and require incumbent directors who fail to receive a majority of the votes cast to tender their resignation

Board Committee Structure:

We have a well-developed committee structure with clearly understood responsibilities

Director Effectiveness:

Our Board and committees conduct regular self-assessments, led by our Governance Committee, to assess effectiveness and areas for improvement

Director Responsibilities:

Each of our directors has input into the setting of the Board agenda

Each of our directors has unfettered access to management, and committees have the authority to retain independent advisors

Our Board frequently meets in executive session without the CEO or other members of management

Our Board focuses on significant risks and seeks the proper calibration of risk and reward while focusing on the longer-term interests of our stockholders

Director Compensation: We pay a substantial portion of non-employee director compensation in equity awards

Table of Contents

Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the “Ethics Code”) applies to all of our employees and directors. We also make available an ethics hotline that employees and others may use to anonymously report suspected violations of the Ethics Code. We will disclose promptly any amendments to, or waivers from, provisions of the Ethics Code on our website at www.muellerwaterproducts.com, as may be required under applicable rules.

The table below lists some of the Board policies and other materials relating to our corporate governance that are available on our website. We will also provide copies of any of these policies and materials without charge upon written request to our Corporate Secretary at Mueller Water Products, Inc., 1200 Abernathy Road, N.E., Suite 1200, Atlanta, Georgia 30328. The information on our website is not a part of this Proxy Statement.

Corporate Governance Policies and Materials

- Corporate Governance Guidelines
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Code of Business Conduct and Ethics
- Bylaws
- Board Committee Charters
- Stock Ownership Guidelines

Board Composition

Board Size

The Board is currently composed of nine directors and, following Mr. Hyland’s retirement as discussed above, will be composed of eight directors. Each director is independent, except Mr. Hyland, our Executive Chairman, and Mr. Hall, our President and CEO. The Board held 10 meetings in fiscal 2017 and each director attended over 96% of the total number of meetings of the Board and committees of which he or she was a member.

Director Independence

The Governance Committee and the Board annually assess the outside affiliations of each director to determine if these affiliations could cause a potential conflict of interest or interfere with the director’s independence. The Guidelines set forth the categorical standards of independence for the Board. To be considered “independent” for purposes of the director qualification standards:

• The director must meet bright-line independence standards under the NYSE Manual; and

• The Board must affirmatively determine the director otherwise has no material relationship with us directly or as an officer, stockholder or partner of an organization that has a relationship with us. See the Guidelines on our website for more detail.

Each of our directors, other than our Executive Chairman and our CEO, is independent pursuant to our director qualification standards and each member of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee and the Governance Committee is independent in accordance with the NYSE Manual and our director independence standards.

• No member of those committees receives compensation from us other than directors’ fees and no member is an affiliated person of ours (other than by virtue of his or her directorship).

• All members of the Audit Committee meet the additional standards for audit committee members of publicly traded companies required by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

• All members of the Compensation Committee qualify as “non-employee directors” as defined in Rule 16b-3 under the Exchange Act and meet the independence requirements of the NYSE Manual and additional standards applicable to “outside directors” under Section 162(m) of the Code.

Director Nomination Process

In discharging its responsibility related to director nominations, the Governance Committee receives input from other directors and, if applicable, an independent professional search firm. It also considers and evaluates candidates recommended by stockholders, as described below. The Governance Committee utilizes the same criteria to evaluate all candidates, regardless of who recommends the candidate.

Table of Contents

The Governance Committee's evaluation includes a reference check, interaction, interviews and discussions about the candidate's qualifications, availability and commitment. The Chair of the Governance Committee interviews each qualified candidate and selects candidates to be interviewed by other members of the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee reviews the results of all interviews and makes a recommendation to the full Board with respect to nominating a candidate for election to the Board. The Board expects all candidates recommended to the full Board to have received the approval of all members of the Governance Committee.

In evaluating candidates, the Governance Committee considers a variety of qualifications, experience, attributes and skills, and recognizes that a diversity of knowledge, viewpoints and experience can enhance the Board's effectiveness. Accordingly, as part of its candidate evaluation, the Governance Committee considers how the candidate's background, qualifications, experience, attributes and skills may enhance the quality of the Board's deliberations and decisions.

Table of Contents

Set forth below is a summary of the key skills and experience that is necessary for the Board as a whole. See “Matters to be Voted On — Proposal One” for information concerning each nominee’s relevant skills and experience.

CEO/Executive Leadership experience. Experience serving in top management positions is important since these

- directors bring perspective in analyzing, shaping and overseeing the execution of important operational and policy issues at a senior level.

Financial/Capital Allocation expertise. Knowledge of financial markets, financing and funding operations, accounting and financial reporting processes is important

- since it assists our directors in understanding, advising and overseeing our capital structure, financing and investing activities, financial reporting and internal control of these activities.

International business experience. Since we manufacture and sell certain of our products outside the United States,

- directors with global expertise can provide a useful business and cultural perspective regarding significant aspects of our businesses.

Mergers and acquisitions experience. Since we have a strategy of selectively pursuing potential acquisitions,

- directors who have a background in M&A transactions can provide useful insight into developing and implementing strategies for growing our businesses through combination with other organizations.

Offshore sourcing expertise. Directors with knowledge of trends and developments in offshore sourcing are important to us since we periodically evaluate offshore sourcing of certain of our products.

Compliance/Risk Management. Directors with compliance and risk management experience is increasingly important in light of the potential financial and reputational damage that can occur when companies fail to oversee compliance and properly manage risk.

- Technology/Systems experience. Directors with backgrounds in the engineering disciplines, computer

- Corporate governance expertise. Directors who have corporate governance experience can assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities related to the oversight of our legal and regulatory compliance.

- Government and regulatory affairs expertise. Directors who have served in government positions or who have worked extensively with governments or regulatory bodies can provide oversight of compliance with rules and regulations and insight into working constructively with governments or regulatory bodies.

- Marketing expertise. Since we believe many of our products benefit from strong brand recognition, directors who have marketing experience can provide expertise and guidance as we seek to maintain and expand brand and product awareness and a positive reputation.

- Multiple-part manufacturing and operations experience. Experience in manufacturing is useful in understanding our research and development efforts, product engineering, design and manufacturing, operations, products and the market segments in which we compete.

- Strategic planning expertise. We operate in competitive markets and our businesses are subject to a wide variety of risks. Directors who have strategic planning experience can assist the Board in adopting policies and procedures that respond to the risks we face.

- Environment, Health and Safety. We are committed to responsible environmental stewardship and rigorous health and safety programs. We believe directors with EHS experience can help drive strong environment, health and safety performance not only at the most strategic level but also throughout the entire organization.

- Diversity. We are committed to seeking director candidates who offer diverse backgrounds and varied

science, software development or cyber security are increasingly important in light of our strategies around manufacturing and product technologies.

perspectives along with the other requisite skills, experience and character necessary to serve on our Board.

Director Candidate Recommendations

A stockholder who wishes to submit a director candidate for consideration by the Governance Committee must do so by writing our Corporate Secretary and including the candidate's biographical data. See "Stockholder Information — Procedures for Business Matters and Director Nominations for Consideration at Next Year's Annual Meeting of Stockholders".

Table of Contents

Board Operations

Board Leadership Structure

Our governance documents provide the Board with the flexibility to select the appropriate leadership structure for us. The Board does not have a formal policy as to whether the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer should be separate or whether the Chairman should be an employee or a non-employee director.

Under our Bylaws, the Chairman presides over meetings of the Board and of stockholders, while the Chief Executive Officer has general and active management of our property, business and affairs, subject to the supervision and oversight of the Board. Mr. Hyland currently serves as our Executive Chairman and Mr. Hall serves as our President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. O'Brien serves as our Lead Director.

The Board currently intends to appoint an independent, non-employee director as Chairman of the Board in conjunction with the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The Board believes this structure facilitates decisive and effective leadership and, when combined with our other governance policies and procedures, provides appropriate opportunities for oversight, discussion and evaluation of decisions and direction by the Board.

Board Committee Information

The Board has four standing committees: the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Governance Committee and the Environment, Health and Safety Committee ("EHS Committee"). An additional committee, the Executive Committee, meets only as needed. Each standing committee member satisfies both the NYSE's and our definitions of an independent director, and the Board has determined all Audit Committee members are "financially literate" under the NYSE Manual and qualify as "audit committee financial experts" within the meaning of the rules and regulations of the SEC.

Each standing committee meets periodically throughout the year, reports its actions and recommendations to the Board, receives reports from management and annually evaluates its performance. Additional information about the committees is provided below. See the committee charters on our website for more detail.

Audit Committee

- | | |
|---|---|
| Current Members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversees the integrity of our financial statements, financial reporting activities and accounting policies and procedures. |
| Kolb (Chair)
Hansen
Rethore
13 meetings
in fiscal
2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects and oversees the independent registered public accounting firm, approves its services (including both audit and non-audit services) and fees, and evaluates its performance. In its evaluation, the Audit Committee considers the firm's reputation for independence and integrity, the qualifications and performance of the firm's personnel and the effectiveness of the firm's communications, the appropriateness of fees and Public Company Accounting Oversight Board reports on the firm and its peers. • Reviews the scope and results of the independent registered public accounting firm's audits. • Reviews the scope of the internal audit function, internal audit plans, internal audit reports and corrective actions taken in response to internal audit findings. Evaluates the performance of the internal audit function. • Oversees our internal accounting systems and related internal control over financial reporting, as well as our financial risk management profile. • Oversees our legal compliance and ethics programs and the Ethics Code. |

Table of Contents

Compensation and Human Resources Committee

Current Members

- Tokarz (Chair) • Oversees executive compensation and equity-based plans.
Franklin • Reviews and recommends the compensation of non-employee directors.
Kolb • Oversees an annual risk assessment process related to compensation programs.
7 meetings in fiscal 2017 • Manages succession planning across senior positions.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Current Members

- Rethore (Chair) • Establishes criteria for and qualifications of persons suitable for nomination as directors and reports recommendations to Board.
Kolb • Develops and annually reviews the Guidelines.
Thomas • Oversees the annual Board and committee self-assessment process.
Tokarz • Makes recommendations to the Board related to committee structure and membership.
9 meetings in fiscal 2017

Environment, Health and Safety Committee

Current Members

- Thomas (Chair) • Reviews policies and procedures related to compliance with laws, regulations and rules pertaining to the environment, health and safety.
Franklin • Encourages activities and initiatives that demonstrate sound environmental stewardship.
Hansen
4 meetings in fiscal 2017

Executive Committee

Current Members

- Hyland (Chair) • Exercises interim powers delegated to it when a matter requires expeditious Board action or when it would not be practical for the full Board to meet.
Hall
O'Brien
Rethore
Tokarz
2 meetings in fiscal 2017

Director Attendance

As discussed above, the Board held 10 meetings in fiscal 2017 and each director attended over 96% of the total number of meetings of the Board and its committees of which he or she was a member in fiscal 2017. Each current director also attended the 2017 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Executive Sessions

Our non-employee directors meet at least quarterly in executive sessions at which only non-employee directors are present. Our Lead Director presides at these sessions.

Board and Committee Evaluations

Each year, the Guidelines require the Board to conduct an evaluation of its own performance. Additionally, our committee charters require each of our committees to conduct an annual performance evaluation. The Governance Committee is responsible for overseeing the annual self-assessment process on behalf of the Board and its committees. Throughout the self-assessment process, the Governance Committee solicits comments from directors to ensure that the Board and its committees are functioning effectively. The Governance Committee reviews comments from each director to assess directors' contributions to the Board, evaluate the Board's

Table of Contents

contributions to the Company and identify areas for improvement in the Board’s performance. The Governance Committee submits its findings to the Board in an annual report discussing ways in which the Board and its committees can improve their key functions.

Board Risk Oversight

The Board maintains oversight responsibility for our management of risk and charges management with assessing and managing risk. Our internal control environment is designed to identify and manage risks and to facilitate communication with the Board. Our internal audit department, which reports to the Audit Committee, facilitates our enterprise risk assessment and ongoing enterprise risk management processes, in coordination with our legal and compliance functions, and regularly reports on risk-related issues to the Board and its committees to complement our strategic planning process. The Board and Audit Committee receive regular reports and updates from our legal and compliance functions. The Board also considers specific risk topics and receives regular reports from the heads of our principal businesses and corporate functions that include discussions of the risks and exposures involved in their respective areas of responsibility.

The Board executes its risk oversight function both as a whole and through delegation to committees. In particular:

Audit Committee

- Oversees risk management related to accounting and financial reporting, the audit process, internal control over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures
- Oversees the internal audit function
- Monitors legal and compliance issues and active matters

Compensation Committee

- Oversees risk management related to the risks and rewards associated with our compensation policies and practices
- Oversees management development and succession planning across senior positions

EHS Committee

- Oversees risk management related to risks directly related to the environment, health and safety areas

Governance Committee

- Oversees risk management related to governance structure and processes and risks arising from related person transactions

Related Person Transactions

The Governance Committee administers a written Related Person Transaction Policy that applies to any transaction or series of transactions in which we are a participant, the amount involved exceeds or may be expected to exceed \$120,000 and a related person has a direct or indirect material interest. Under the policy, our General Counsel determines whether a transaction meets the requirements of a related person transaction requiring review by the Governance Committee. Transactions that fall within this definition will be referred to the Governance Committee for approval, ratification or other action. Based on its consideration of all of the relevant facts and circumstances, the Governance Committee will decide whether or not to approve the transaction and will approve only those transactions that are in our best interests. In addition, the Board has delegated to the Chair of the Governance Committee the authority to pre-approve or ratify any transaction with a related person in which the aggregate amount involved is expected to be less than \$500,000. We did not engage in any transaction during fiscal 2017, and have no currently proposed transaction, in which the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and a related person had or will have a direct or indirect material interest.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

During fiscal 2017, none of the members of the Compensation Committee was a former or current officer or employee of Mueller Water Products, Inc. or any of its subsidiaries or had any relationships requiring disclosure as a related

person transaction. None of our executive officers serves or has served on the board of directors or compensation committee of any other entity that has or has had one or more executive officers who served as a member of the Board or its Compensation Committee during fiscal 2017.

Table of Contents

Communicating with the Board

Stockholders and other interested parties may communicate with any of our directors, including our Lead Director and the Chairs of our committees, or our independent directors as a group, on Board-related issues by writing in care of our Corporate Secretary at our principal executive office address: 1200 Abernathy Road, N.E., Suite 1200, Atlanta, Georgia 30328. Stockholders and other interested persons may also communicate with directors by sending an email message to boardofdirectors@muellerwp.com, or with the Audit Committee by sending an email message to auditcommittee@muellerwp.com. These procedures may change from time to time. Please visit our website at www.muellerwaterproducts.com for the most current means of contacting our directors.

Table of Contents

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

The Compensation Committee is responsible for reviewing and considering any revisions to director compensation. With the assistance of its independent compensation consultant, the Compensation Committee reviews director compensation and compares it to director compensation paid by other companies in the peer group described under “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Executive Compensation Program Overview — Peer Group Benchmarking and Total Compensation.”

The Board reviews the Compensation Committee’s recommendations and determines the final structure and amounts of director compensation. The Board has determined compensation for non-employee directors should comprise a mix of cash and equity-based awards. The Board believes the interests of directors are aligned with the interests of other stockholders by linking a significant portion of director compensation to Common Stock performance. Under our stock ownership guidelines, directors are required to hold at least 50% of the Common Stock acquired through equity-based awards until they own Common Stock equal in market value to at least five times their annual retainer. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Other Compensation Practices and Policies — Stock Ownership Guidelines” for more information.

Annual Retainer

Each non-employee director received an annual retainer of \$55,000 for fiscal 2017. Annual retainers are paid quarterly. In addition, the Chairs of the Audit Committee and Compensation Committee each received \$15,000, while the Chairs of the Governance Committee and EHS Committee each received \$7,500. Our Lead Director received \$50,000 for serving in this capacity.

Meeting Fees

Each non-employee director received \$1,500 for each Board or committee meeting attended during fiscal 2017, except that our Lead Director, who is an ex officio member of each standing committee of the Board, receives no meeting fees. Meeting fees are paid monthly.

Equity-Based Awards

Our Amended and Restated 2006 Stock Incentive Plan (the “2006 Stock Plan”) provides that, on the date of each annual meeting of stockholders, we will grant equity-based awards with an economic value determined by the Compensation Committee to each non-employee director who is re-elected to the Board and has served as a director for at least six months. In addition, the 2006 Stock Plan provides that each director will receive an initial equity-based grant on the date on which he or she commences service as a director, the economic value and terms of which will be as determined by the Compensation Committee. The number of units equivalent to the economic value of those awards is calculated by the Compensation Committee’s compensation consultant. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Other Compensation Practices and Policies — Role of Compensation Consultant in Compensation Decisions”.

On January 25, 2017, each non-employee director received equity-based awards in the form of 6,612 restricted stock units (“RSUs”). The outstanding RSUs vest in equal installments on the first, second and third anniversaries of the grant date.

Under our 2006 Stock Plan, once a participant becomes “retirement-eligible,” all outstanding and unvested equity-based awards automatically vest upon retirement. Each of our non-employee directors is “retirement eligible”. Commencing in fiscal 2014, all equity-based awards participants must remain in continuous service from the grant date through at least the first anniversary thereof to receive accelerated vesting upon retirement from the Board, although the Compensation Committee may waive this minimum service requirement.

Mr. Leonard retired from the Board at the 2017 Annual Meeting. At a January 2017 Board meeting, the Board awarded to Mr. Leonard an equity-based grant equal to 6,612 shares of Common Stock in recognition of his many years of service to the Board and waived the minimum service requirement in connection with the award.

Travel Expenses

We reimburse directors for their travel and related expenses in connection with attending Board and committee meetings and related activities.

Table of Contents

Director Compensation Summary

The following table shows fiscal 2017 compensation for our non-employee directors.

Fiscal 2017 Director Compensation Table

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash (\$)			Stock Awards (\$) ⁽²⁾	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
	Annual Retainer (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Meeting Fees (\$)	Total (\$)			
Shirley C. Franklin	55,000	31,500	86,500	89,989	—	176,489
Thomas J. Hansen	55,000	39,000	94,000	89,989	—	183,989
Jerry W. Kolb	70,000	54,000	124,000	89,989	—	213,989
Joseph B. Leonard ⁽³⁾	13,750	21,000	34,750	89,989	—	124,739
Mark J. O'Brien	105,000	18,000	123,000	89,989	—	212,989
Bernard G. Rethore	62,500	51,000	113,500	89,989	—	203,489
Lydia W. Thomas	62,500	34,500	97,000	89,989	—	186,989
Michael T. Tokarz ⁽⁴⁾	70,000	42,000	112,000	89,989	20,674	222,663

(1) Includes fees earned as chair of a committee or as Lead Director.

(2) Reflects the grant date fair value of the RSUs granted during fiscal 2017 computed in accordance with the stock-based compensation accounting rules described in Note 11 of our fiscal 2017 consolidated financial statements, which are included in the 2017 Annual Report. Since all non-employee directors were retirement-eligible at the grant date, expense is recognized over one year from the date of grant.

(3) Mr. Leonard retired from the Board at the 2017 Annual Meeting. In connection with Mr. Leonard's retirement, all of his outstanding stock awards vested and became immediately exercisable.

(4) Mr. Tokarz deferred the receipt of all director compensation fees earned in fiscal 2017 into 8,992 stock equivalent shares of Common Stock. "All Other Compensation" represents amounts accrued on identical terms to dividends paid on Common Stock equal to the accumulated stock equivalent share balance. See "— Deferred Compensation" for more information.

The following table shows information related to option awards and stock awards made to our non-employee directors that were outstanding at September 30, 2017.

Name ⁽¹⁾	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Exercisable	Unexercisable	Have Not Vested	Have Not Vested
	Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)		Number of Shares or Units of Stock That	
Franklin	65,796	—	6,612	—
Hansen	58,999	—	6,612	—
Thomas	79,724	—	6,612	—
Kolb	55,084	—	6,612	—
O'Brien	89,425	—	6,612	—
Rethore	33,025	—	6,612	—
Tokarz	89,425	—	6,612	—

(1) Each director is "retirement-eligible" under the 2006 Stock Plan. Commencing in fiscal 2014, all equity-based awards require a grantee who is or becomes "retirement-eligible" prior to an initial vesting date to remain in

continuous service from the grant date through at least the first anniversary thereof to receive accelerated vesting upon retirement. For purposes of this table, all stock options and RSUs outstanding are deemed vested.

Deferred Compensation

The Board adopted the Mueller Water Products, Inc. Directors' Deferred Fee Plan, as amended, under which non-employee directors may elect to defer all or a portion of their directors' fees. We make deferred payments in January of the year determined by the non-employee director pursuant to an election filed with our Corporate Secretary. The payments may be made in any calendar year not earlier than the year in which the participant has his or her 72nd birthday or the year of the participant's termination of his or her services as a director, with the payment made in cash in one, five, ten or fifteen annual installments as determined by the participating director in his or her election form. During fiscal 2017, Mr. Tokarz was the only non-employee director who participated in this plan. Mr. Tokarz's deferred payments are maintained in a stock equivalent account.

Table of Contents

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis is intended to provide our stockholders with information about our fiscal 2017 compensation program for the following executive officers (collectively, “named executive officers” or “NEOs”):

Gregory E. Hyland, Executive Chairman and former President and Chief Executive Officer

Scott Hall, President and Chief Executive Officer

Evan L. Hart, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Keith L. Belknap, Executive Vice President, Business Development, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer

Gregory E. Rogowski, Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing

Marietta Edmunds Zakas, Executive Vice President, Strategy, Corporate Development and Communications

Fiscal 2017 Events

On January 6, 2017, we sold our former Anvil business. Neither the divestiture of Anvil nor its results of operations had any impact on the compensation of our NEOs for fiscal 2017. Accordingly, Anvil’s results of operations and metrics have been excluded from all financial and performance information related to compensation contained in this proxy statement.

Effective January 23, 2017, our Board appointed Scott Hall as our President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Hall joined us from Textron, Inc. where he most recently served as President and Chief Executive Officer of its Industrial segment. Mr. Hall succeeded Mr. Hyland, who assumed the role of Executive Chairman.

On February 15, 2017, we acquired Singer Valve, a manufacturer of automatic control valves. Neither the acquisition of Singer Valve nor its results of operations had any impact on the compensation of our NEOs for fiscal 2017.

Accordingly, Singer Valve’s results of operations and metrics have been excluded from all financial and performance information related to compensation contained in this proxy statement.

On September 7, 2017, we announced a strategic reorganization and restructuring plan designed to accelerate our new product innovation and revenue growth. As a result of the reorganization, we will continue to report our financial performance based on two reportable segments. However, the names of these two segments have changed: Our Infrastructure segment was previously reported as “Mueller Co.” and our Technologies segment was previously reported as “Mueller Technologies”. The components of these two segments did not change.

Highlights of 2017 Performance

In fiscal 2017, we improved our operating performance and executed initiatives to return value to our stockholders.

Strong Operating Results

We increased net sales 3.2% over the prior year to \$826.0 million. Our operating income and net income in fiscal 2017 were \$100.7 million and \$123.3 million, respectively. Adjusted operating income from continuing operations improved 4.5% to \$121.9 million, from \$116.7 million in fiscal 2016. Adjusted income from continuing operations improved 17.1% to \$71.2, million from \$60.8 million in the prior year.

Increased dividend

We increased our quarterly dividend per share to \$0.04 from \$0.03. We paid \$24.0 million of dividends in fiscal 2017.

Repurchased Shares

We repurchased \$55.0 million of our outstanding Common Stock during fiscal 2017.

Table of Contents

Highlights of 2017 Performance Related to Executive Compensation

On January 6, 2017, we sold our former Anvil business. On February 15, 2017, we acquired Singer Valve. The results of operations of Anvil and Singer Valve had no impact on the compensation of our named executive officers for fiscal 2017. Accordingly, Anvil's and Singer Valve's results of operations and metrics have been excluded from all financial or performance information related to compensation contained in this proxy statement.

The Compensation Committee used several financial and performance elements (including those set forth below) to assess and determine incentive plan compensation earned during fiscal 2017. See Exhibit A for a reconciliation of non-GAAP financial results to GAAP financial results.

Adjusted Net Sales	Adjusted Operating Income from Continuing Operations ⁽¹⁾	Adjusted Income from Continuing Operations ⁽²⁾	Return on Net Assets ⁽³⁾
(\$ in millions)	(\$ in millions)	(\$ in millions)	(%)
2017 815.7	121.3	68.5	34.4
2016 800.6	116.7	57.3	34.0

(1) Defined for this purpose as operating income adjusted to exclude pension settlement expenses, expenses related to exploring potential acquisitions and divestitures and other charges.

(2) Defined for this purpose as income from continuing operations calculated using our actual effective income tax rate in 2017 and a predetermined income tax rate in 2016 and to exclude other charges, expenses related to exploring potential acquisitions and divestitures, results of operations of new or divested businesses and pension settlement expenses.

(3) Defined for this purpose as the quotient obtained by dividing income tax-effected adjusted operating income from continuing operations plus amortization by the quarterly average of working capital and fixed assets, excluding balances related to acquired or divested businesses. Working capital excludes cash and debt. Fixed assets is property, plant and equipment.

Highlights of 2017 Executive Compensation

We design our executive officer compensation programs to target total compensation at or about the 50th percentile for comparable executive positions at our customized peer group. The principal elements of our compensation program for executives are base salary, annual performance-based cash bonus, long-term incentive equity compensation and broad-based benefit programs.

We consider stockholder feedback on executive compensation. At our 2016 and 2017 annual meetings of stockholders, approximately 98% of the votes cast supported the advisory vote on executive compensation. We carefully consider feedback from our stockholders regarding executive compensation.

Based on strong stockholder support expressed for our executive compensation programs, the Compensation Committee applied a consistent pay-for-performance philosophy in structuring executive compensation for fiscal 2017.

Stockholders are invited to express their views or concerns on executive compensation directly to the Chair of the Compensation Committee in the manner described under "Corporate Governance — Communicating with the Board." We structure performance-based compensation to pay for performance. We set clear and measurable financial goals for Company and segment performance. In evaluating individual performance, we assess progress toward strategic priorities.

Performance-based compensation earned by our named executive officers. For fiscal 2017, 42% of our CEO's total target compensation, and an average of 45% of the total target compensation of our other NEOs (excluding Mr. Hyland), could only be earned by meeting performance goals.

Our NEOs' compensation was both positively and negatively affected by Company and segment performance in relation to targets set for fiscal 2017.

Annual cash bonuses earned by our continuing NEOs ranged from 74% to 121% of target (compared with 101% to 129% of target last year).

Table of Contents

Long-term, performance-based compensation was paid or credited at 100% of target for fiscal 2017 because Company performance on the “return on net assets” financial measure was at the target level.

We continue to maintain best practices for executive compensation.

24

Table of Contents

Executive Compensation Program Overview

Guiding Principles

The Compensation Committee has identified the following guiding principles in overseeing the compensation program for our executives:

Competitiveness

Compensation programs should be designed to target at the 50th percentile, plus or minus 15%, of total compensation for comparable executive positions at a customized peer group.

Pay for Performance

Where compensation for an executive is tied to the achievement of financial and strategic goals, actual results that exceed target levels should provide above-target payouts, and results that do not exceed threshold levels should not provide payouts.

Responsibility

A significant portion of an executive’s overall compensation should be tied to the achievement of financial performance goals. The portion of an executive’s target total compensation that is incentive based should increase as an executive’s responsibilities increase.

Stockholder Alignment

Executives’ interests are more directly aligned with stockholders’ interests when compensation programs:

- Emphasize both short- and long-term financial performance
- Are significantly impacted by the value of Common Stock
- Require meaningful Common Stock ownership.

Peer Group Benchmarking and Total Compensation

Each year, the compensation consultant collects peer group compensation data and prepares an executive benchmarking study using a market regression analysis to size-adjust the market data for our net sales size as a whole and for each separate business unit. The Compensation Committee, with input from its independent compensation consultant, reviews the prior year peer group. This review focuses on companies that have a primary manufacturing component to their businesses, have similar organizational structures and are publicly traded or otherwise file financial statements with the SEC. The 20-company peer group approved by the Compensation Committee for fiscal 2017 (the “Peer Group”) is listed below and is unchanged from the fiscal 2016 peer group.

Fiscal 2017 Peer Group

Ametek, Inc.	IDEX Corporation
Armstrong World Industries, Inc.	Lennox International Inc.
Badger Meter, Inc.	Mueller Industries, Inc.
Briggs & Stratton Corporation	Otter Tail Corporation
Circor International Inc.	Quanex Building Products Corporation
Crane Co.	Roper Technologies, Inc.
Curtiss-Wright Corporation	Tennant Co.
Donaldson Company, Inc.	Valmont Industries, Inc.
EnPro Industries, Inc.	Watts Water Technologies, Inc.
Graco Inc.	Worthington Industries, Inc.

The Compensation Committee regularly reviews the target total compensation of each executive and compares it to the total compensation for comparable executive positions in the Peer Group. The Compensation Committee targets total compensation at the regressed 50th percentile of the Peer Group, plus or minus 15% (“targeted 50th percentile range”), subject to individual adjustments based on experience, length of service, individual performance and other factors deemed appropriate by the Compensation Committee.

Table of Contents

Compensation Elements

The following table lists our primary elements of compensation. Each element is targeted at or about the 50th percentile for comparable positions in the Peer Group.

Pay Element	Salary	Bonus	RSUs	PRSUs
Who Receives	All NEOs			
When Granted	Generally reviewed every 12 months	Annually	Annually	Annually
Form of Delivery	Cash		Equity	
Type of Performance	Short-term emphasis		Long-term emphasis	
Performance Period	Ongoing	1 year	Generally vest annually over 3 years	Vests at the end of 3-year award cycles
How Payout Determined	Predominantly tied to Peer Group data, with an element of Compensation Committee discretion	Predominantly formulaic (based on performance against goals), with an element of Compensation Committee discretion	Completion of required service period through each vesting date	Formulaic (based on performance against goals); Compensation Committee verifies results
Most Recent Performance Measures	—	Mix of 90% financial results / 10% EHS-related operational goals	Value of delivered shares based on stock price on vesting dates	Improvement in return on net assets

Salary

The Compensation Committee regularly compares the salary of each executive to the regressed 50th percentile of comparable executives in the Peer Group and uses that benchmark as a guide. Salaries for the NEOs are adjusted, as appropriate, annually on February 1. In February 2017, Mr. Hart received an annual salary increase of 3.1%; Mr. Belknap received a salary increase of 3.0%; Mr. Rogowski received a salary increase of 3.0%; and Ms. Zakas received a salary increase of 4.4%. Ms. Zakas also received payments of \$5,000 per month for assuming interim human resources responsibilities.

Name	Annual Salary Rate at September 30, 2017 (\$)	Annual Salary Rate at September 30, 2016 (\$)
Gregory E. Hyland	1,000,000	900,000
Scott Hall	750,000	N/A
Evan L. Hart	418,000	405,300
Keith L. Belknap	443,500	430,500

Gregory E. Rogowski	446,000	433,000
Marietta Edmunds Zakas	357,000	341,900

Annual Cash Incentive Awards

The Compensation Committee targets annual cash incentive compensation for each executive at the regressed 50th percentile of comparable executives in the Peer Group. For fiscal 2017, the total target opportunity for each NEO was within the targeted 50th percentile range of the Peer Group. Based on actual achieved performance against performance goals, each NEO may earn between 0% and 200% of his or her annual cash target opportunity. For fiscal 2017, each NEO could earn an annual cash incentive award based on achievement against financial performance goals (weighted 90%) and EHS-related operational goals (weighted 10%). For financial performance goals, the Compensation Committee determined numeric goals targeting percentage improvements over the prior year's results. All financial performance and EHS-related operational goals were set with minimum (or threshold), target and maximum objectives for each goal.

Table of Contents

Fiscal 2017 Financial and Operational Goals and Results

The Compensation Committee selected financial performance goals for corporate executives based on adjusted income from continuing operations. The Compensation Committee selected this metric to encourage focus on delivering income from continuing operations.

The Compensation Committee selected financial performance goals for Mr. Rogowski based on the Infrastructure segment's adjusted operating income (defined as operating income, adjusted to exclude certain effects of results of operation's of newly acquired businesses, pension settlement expenses and other charges), the Infrastructure segment's adjusted net sales (adjusted to exclude Singer Valve) and adjusted income from continuing operations. The Compensation Committee selected a segment-specific financial performance goal for Mr. Belknap of improvement in adjusted operating income of Technologies and adjusted income from continuing operations. The Compensation Committee selected these performance goals primarily to encourage focus on increasing adjusted operating income. The Compensation Committee established operational safety and environmental ("EHS") objectives applicable to each NEO that were tied to reductions in total recordable incidence rates and key performance indicators for sustainability and specific activities identified as leading indicators. The EHS objectives for Messrs. Hyland, Hall and Hart and Ms. Zakas were based on company-wide performance. The EHS objectives for Messrs. Rogowski and Belknap were based on Infrastructure and Technologies performance, respectively. The Compensation Committee used adjusted income from continuing operations to determine the availability of a pool from which to pay the operational EHS objectives portion of the incentive award to Messrs. Hyland, Hall, Rogowski and Belknap.

Table of Contents

The following table shows the fiscal 2017 performance targets and actual results applicable to each NEO.

Performance Targets and Results

Name	Metric	Weight (% of Target Bonus)	Results Required to Achieve Bonus (\$ in millions, except for percentages)			2017 Actual Results (\$ in millions)	Actual 2017 Payout Factor (% of Target Bonus) unweighted
			Threshold (0%)	Target (100%)	Maximum (200%)		
Gregory E. Hyland	Adjusted Income from Continuing Operations	90	52.7	65.8	79.0	68.5	120.4
	EHS	10	—	—	—	—	128.3
Scott Hall	Adjusted Income from Continuing Operations	90	52.7	65.8	79.0	68.5	120.4
	EHS	10	—	—	—	—	128.3
Evan L. Hart	Adjusted Income from Continuing Operations	90	52.7	65.8	79.0	68.5	120.4
	EHS	10	—	—	—	—	128.3
Keith L. Belknap	Adjusted Income from Continuing Operations	55	52.7	65.8	79.0	68.5	120.4
	Technologies Adjusted Operating Income (Loss)	35	(5.0)	0	5.0	(9.7)	0
	EHS	10	—	—	—	—	75.0
	Infrastructure Adjusted Operating Income	40	138.4	173.0	207.6	166.2	80.2
Gregory S. Rogowski	Infrastructure Adjusted Net Sales	25	715.7	753.0	790.6	729.6	37.1
	Adjusted Income from Continuing Operations	25	52.7	65.8	79.0	68.5	120.4
	EHS	10	—	—	—	—	137.0
Marietta Edmunds Zakas	Adjusted Income from Continuing Operations	90	52.7	65.8	79.0	68.5	120.4
	EHS	10	—	—	—	—	128.3

Table of Contents

Fiscal 2017 Annual Cash Incentive Awards

Fiscal 2017 target and actual annual cash bonuses paid to each NEO are set forth in the following table:

Name	At Target Performance		At Actual Performance	
	% of Salary	Amount (\$)	% of Target	Amount (\$)
Gregory E. Hyland ⁽¹⁾	100	301,736	121.2	365,674
Scott Hall ⁽¹⁾	100	750,000	121.2	908,925
Evan L. Hart	75	310,325	121.2	376,083
Keith L. Belknap	70	307,417	73.7	226,627
Gregory E. Rogowski	75	331,250	85.2	282,075
Marietta Edmunds Zakas	60	211,180	121.2	255,929

Mr. Hyland's 2017 bonus was based on his salary in effect, and performance achieved, during the period in which (1) he served as President and Chief Executive Officer (from October 2016 through January 2017). Mr. Hall's annual bonus for fiscal 2017 was not pro rated.

Long-Term Equity-Based Compensation

For fiscal 2017, our long-term incentive program included grants of performance-based restricted stock units ("PRsUs") and time-vested RSUs. The Compensation Committee targets long-term compensation value for each NEO at the regressed 50th percentile of comparable executives in the Peer Group. For fiscal 2017, target long-term compensation value for each NEO was within the 50th percentile target range of the Peer Group.

Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units

For fiscal 2017, 50% of target long-term incentive compensation value was awarded in the form of PRsUs. The key terms of the PRsUs are as follows:

Each PRSU award reflects a target number of shares (based on the fair market value of Common Stock on the award date) that may be issued to the award recipient at the end of a three-year award cycle based on the achievement of performance targets.

PRsUs are divided into three equal tranches and each tranche is earned based on the level of achievement against the applicable annual performance target.

Each performance period target is established by the Compensation Committee on an annual basis coinciding with our fiscal year.

At the end of each fiscal year, the Compensation Committee confirms performance against the applicable performance target, and PRsUs representing the level of achievement during that performance period are "banked" for potential payout following the end of the three-year award cycle.

Earned PRsUs are settled in shares of Common Stock. The actual number of shares a participant may receive ranges from zero to two times the target number of shares, depending solely on the level of achievement during each performance period within the award cycle.

PRsUs do not convey voting rights or earn dividends.

Timeline for PRSU Grants

Grant	Fiscal 2015	Fiscal 2016	Fiscal 2017	Fiscal 2018	Fiscal 2019
Fiscal 2015	Performance Period	Performance Period	Performance Period		
Fiscal 2016		Performance Period	Performance Period	Performance Period	
Fiscal 2017			Performance Period	Performance Period	Performance Period

Table of Contents

Performance Measure and Result for Fiscal 2017

The applicable performance target for the fiscal 2017 performance period for PRSU awards made in fiscal 2015, fiscal 2016 and fiscal 2017 was based on the percentage year-over-year improvement in return on net assets, or “RONA.” For these purposes, the term “RONA” has the meaning described under “— Highlights of 2017 Performance Related to Executive Compensation”. The performance necessary to earn a target payout required a 1.16% year-over-year improvement in RONA, and the performance necessary to earn a maximum payout required at least an 8.00% year-over-year improvement in RONA. Actual RONA performance for fiscal 2017 was 34.41%, compared to RONA of 34.01% for fiscal 2016, a 1.16% improvement. Accordingly, the recipients of PRSU awards were each credited with 100.0% of the awards attributable to the fiscal 2017 performance period. See “Executive Compensation — Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table”.

PRSU Awards Issued

Common Stock to be issued related to PRSUs awarded in fiscal 2016 (for the three-year award cycle from fiscal 2016 through fiscal 2018) and fiscal 2017 (for the three-year award cycle from fiscal 2017 through fiscal 2019) will not be issued until the Compensation Committee certifies performance results for the fiscal 2018 and fiscal 2019 performance periods. Shares issued to NEOs for the PRSUs awarded in fiscal 2015 (for the three-year award cycle from fiscal 2015 through fiscal 2017) are set forth in the following table:

PRSU Settlements

Name	Shares Earned			Total Shares Issued (#)
	Fiscal 2015 ⁽¹⁾ (#)	Fiscal 2016 ⁽¹⁾ (#)	Fiscal 2017 (#)	
Gregory E. Hyland	0	34,798	34,083	68,881
Evan L. Hart	0	9,795	9,594	19,389
Keith L. Belknap	0	6,959	6,816	13,775
Gregory E. Rogowski	0	9,395	9,202	18,597
Marietta Edmunds Zakas	0	4,697	4,601	9,298

See the definitive proxy statements we filed with the SEC on January 15, 2016 and December 15, 2016, (1) respectively, for information concerning target RONA performance and actual RONA performance for the 2015 and 2016 performance periods.

Time-Based Restricted Stock Units

As described above, a portion of an executive’s long-term incentive award value has historically been awarded in the form of time-based RSUs. For fiscal 2017, 50% of target long-term incentive compensation value was awarded in RSUs. The Compensation Committee approves a dollar value for these awards and its compensation consultant calculates the number of RSUs that equals that value, based on the grant date stock price. Typically, one-third of the RSUs granted vest on each anniversary of the grant date. See “Executive Compensation — Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table”.

Timing of Equity Awards

While the Compensation Committee may grant equity-based awards at any of its scheduled meetings or by unanimous written consent, it generally grants awards for executives at its November or December meeting each year, except for awards related to promotions or new hires. Grants approved during scheduled meetings become effective and are priced as of the date of approval or as of a pre-determined future date based on a date of hire. Grants approved by unanimous written consent become effective and are priced as of a pre-determined future date. All stock options have a per-share exercise price equal to the closing stock price on the NYSE on the effective date of the grant.

Other Cash and Equity Awards

Mr. Hall’s employment agreement provides for an initial long-term incentive opportunity valued at \$1.5 million on the date of grant, comprised of (i) 50% in RSUs that vest ratably over three years and (ii) 50% in PRSUs vesting, to the

extent earned, at the end of fiscal 2019. The awards for the fiscal 2017 performance period are not pro rated.

30

Table of Contents

As an offset for forfeited performance and equity awards under Textron's incentive plans, Mr. Hall was granted 56,069 RSUs, as determined in accordance with his employment agreement. These RSUs vest in full on the first anniversary of the commencement of Mr. Hall's employment.

In May 2017, we entered into an agreement with Mr. Rogowski that will provide him with a lump sum payment of \$550,000 in cash, provided he remains employed with the Company through February 16, 2020. The award is forfeited if, prior to such date, Mr. Rogowski's employment is terminated by the Company with cause (as such term is defined in his employment agreement) or by Mr. Rogowski for any reason. If Mr. Rogowski's employment is involuntarily terminated prior to such date by reason of death or disability, a pro rata portion of the cash award would be payable.

Retirement Benefits

We offer retirement benefits to our NEOs and other employees to provide a competitive source of retirement income. These retirement benefits are provided through the vehicles described below.

Retirement Savings Plan Applicable to Employees Generally

The Mueller Water Products, Inc. Retirement Savings Plan is a 401(k) plan that provides retirement benefits for our non-union employees and those of our participating subsidiaries. Each of our NEOs participated in the plan in fiscal 2017 on the same basis as our other eligible employees.

Deferred Compensation Plan

Mr. Hyland is the only NEO who participates in a deferred compensation plan. He participates in an unfunded deferred compensation plan (the "Retirement Plan"), pursuant to which we credited a bookkeeping account for him, commencing April 16, 2007 and each calendar month thereafter through September 16, 2010, with an amount equal to 10% of his then current monthly base salary. The amounts credited to the plan bear interest at 120% of the long-term Applicable Federal Rate (as defined in the Code) until payment. At September 30, 2017, \$663,814 had been accrued and credited to Mr. Hyland's deferral account. No further accruals will occur to the account, except for interest. Our fiscal 2017 interest accruals to the plan for Mr. Hyland were \$19,754.

Upon termination of his employment with us, other than for cause, all deferred compensation under the Retirement Plan will be paid as a lump sum to Mr. Hyland.

Other Benefits

Perquisites

We provide certain perquisites to the NEOs that the Compensation Committee believes are reasonable and consistent with its overall compensation program. In fiscal 2017, the Compensation Committee offered the NEOs limited perquisites, including a car allowance, life insurance, supplemental long-term disability insurance, and reimbursement for certain financial planning and annual physical examination expenses. See "Executive Compensation — Summary Compensation Table - All Other Compensation".

Severance Benefits

Each NEO is entitled to severance benefits. See "Executive Compensation — Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control".

Change-in-Control Agreements

Change-in-control agreements are used to create incentives for executives to build stockholder value and to seek the highest value possible for stockholders should we be acquired, despite the risk of losing employment. Our change-in-control agreements for executives provide for vesting of outstanding equity-based awards upon a change-in-control and operate with a "double trigger" for severance payments, meaning severance payments do not occur unless the executive's employment is involuntarily terminated (other than for cause or for termination for good reason) within 24 months following a change-in-control. The Compensation Committee believes this structure strikes an appropriate balance of incenting executives without providing benefits to executives who continue to enjoy employment with an acquiring company. The Compensation Committee also believes this structure is more attractive to potential acquiring companies that may place significant value on retaining members of our executive team and may perceive this objective to be undermined if executives receive significant severance payments solely

Table of Contents

upon the closing of such a transaction. The agreements for Messrs. Rogowski and Hart and Ms. Zakas provide for an additional payment sufficient to eliminate the effect of any applicable excise tax on severance payments in excess of any amount determined under 280G of the Code. We would not be able to deduct payments subject to the excise tax for federal and state income tax purposes. The agreements for Messrs. Hall and Belknap contain a “best-of-net” provision, so that, in the event excise taxes would be imposed on payments under the agreements, the NEO will either (1) pay the excise tax without assistance from the Company or (2) have the payments reduced to an amount at which an excise tax would no longer be payable, based on which result is more favorable to the NEO on an after-tax basis.

Employee Stock Purchase Plan

Our Employee Stock Purchase Plan (“ESPP”) provides all of our employees an opportunity to purchase Common Stock, subject to certain restrictions, through regular payroll deductions. During fiscal 2017, Messrs. Hart and Belknap were the only NEOs to participate in the ESPP.

Health and Welfare Benefits

We generally offer group medical, dental, vision, life and long-term disability insurance in a flexible benefits package to all active U.S. employees, except as otherwise required by collective bargaining agreements. Employees are provided life insurance up to one times their base salaries at no charge, other than related income taxes, to the employee. For an additional charge, employees may obtain coverage of up to four times their base salary up to a maximum life insurance benefit of \$1,250,000. NEOs participate on the same basis as other eligible employees.

Other Factors Considered by the Compensation Committee

Risk and Incentive Compensation

The Compensation Committee has conducted an assessment of our compensation policies and practices and does not believe these policies and practices are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us. This assessment included a review of the risk profile of our compensation policies and practices for all employees. To facilitate its review, the Compensation Committee engaged its compensation consultant to review our compensation structure to identify design elements that might encourage excessive risk taking. The compensation consultant discussed its review and conclusions with the Compensation Committee. In conducting its review, the Compensation Committee noted several policies and practices that mitigate risk, including:

- Using multiple performance measures in annual incentive awards and capping payout levels;
- Maintaining the ability to reduce annual incentive awards, based on its independent judgment;
- Using multiple long-term incentive vehicles;
- Using overlapping multi-year award cycles in connection with performance shares and capping payout levels; and
- Maintaining stock ownership guidelines, an anti-hedging policy and a clawback policy.

Tally Sheets

The Compensation Committee regularly reviews “tally sheets” for each executive. The tally sheets contain information concerning prior years’ compensation, proposed compensation for the current year, outstanding equity-based awards (both vested and unvested) and various termination-of-employment scenarios. The tally sheets enable the Compensation Committee to view and evaluate many facets of executive compensation, understand the magnitude of potential payouts as a result of termination-of-employment scenarios and consider changes to our compensation programs, arrangements and plans in light of emerging trends.

Wealth Accumulation Review

The Compensation Committee reviews “wealth accumulation” calculations, such as projections of how much stock an executive is projected to earn or accrue over time through cash and equity-based compensation or through certain benefits.

Table of Contents

Other Compensation Practices and Policies

Role of Compensation Consultant in Compensation Decisions

The Compensation Committee has sole authority to select and retain a compensation consultant, including authority to approve fees and retention terms. For fiscal 2017, the Compensation Committee retained Meridian Compensation Partners, LLC as its compensation consultant. The Compensation Committee reviews the performance of its compensation consultant annually.

In fiscal 2017, the compensation consultant's responsibilities included, but were not limited to:

• Providing recommendations regarding the composition of our Peer Group;

• Preparing and analyzing Peer Group compensation and plan design data;

• Reviewing and advising on the performance measures to be used in incentive awards;

• Valuing equity-based awards; and

• Reviewing and advising on principal aspects of executive and non-employee director compensation, including base salaries, bonuses and equity-based awards for executives, and cash compensation and equity-based awards for non-employee directors.

The Compensation Committee considered the independence of its compensation consultant in light of standards under the NYSE Manual. The Compensation Committee requested and received a letter from the compensation consultant addressing its independence, including the factors described below:

• Other services provided to us by the consultant;

• Fees paid by us as a percentage of the consultant's total revenue;

• Policies or procedures maintained by the consultant that are designed to prevent a conflict of interest;

• Any business or personal relationships between the individual consultants involved in the engagement and a member of the Compensation Committee;

• Any Common Stock owned by the individual consultants involved in the engagement; and

• Any business or personal relationships between our executives and the consultant or the individual consultants involved in the engagement.

The Compensation Committee took into account these considerations, along with other factors relevant to the compensation consultant's independence from management, and concluded the compensation consultant is independent and the engagement of the compensation consultant and the services rendered by the compensation consultant did not raise any conflict of interest.

Role of Management in Compensation Decisions

The Compensation Committee reviews information provided by its compensation consultant and uses that information as a reference point for the components of compensation. The Compensation Committee and the Chief Executive Officer discuss the financial metrics and operational goals intended to closely align performance targets of the business units and the Company as a whole with our strategic goals. The Chief Executive Officer makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee for executives other than himself with respect to annual salary adjustments, annual incentive adjustments and grants of equity-based awards under our incentive plans. The Compensation Committee makes the final decision with respect to the compensation of these executives, taking into consideration the Chief Executive Officer's recommendations.

The Compensation Committee annually receives input from the entire Board with respect to the Chief Executive Officer's performance and recommends his compensation level to the Board. The Board discusses and approves the annual salary of the Chief Executive Officer. The Chair of the Compensation Committee and another Compensation Committee member designated by the Chair meet with the Chief Executive Officer to discuss the Chief Executive Officer's performance and compensation based on evaluations received from the Board. These discussions are considered by the Compensation Committee in setting all elements of compensation for the Chief Executive Officer.

Table of Contents

In fiscal 2017, the Chief Executive Officer was present at all of the Compensation Committee meetings, but was excused from the executive sessions of the Compensation Committee and did not participate in meetings or deliberations during which his compensation was discussed.

Income Tax Consequences of Executive Compensation

Section 162(m) of the Code generally denies a corporate tax deduction for annual compensation exceeding \$1 million paid to NEOs (other than the CFO). The limitation does not apply to compensation based on achievement of pre-established performance goals if certain requirements are met. The 2006 Stock Plan, and the PRSUs granted thereunder, as well as the annual cash incentive award, are intended to permit such awards to qualify as performance-based compensation to maximize the tax deductibility of these awards. These awards may not be fully deductible under all circumstances, as a number of additional requirements must be met for the awards to qualify as performance-based compensation. In addition, the Compensation Committee believes stockholder interests are best served by not restricting its discretion and flexibility in structuring compensation programs, even though such programs may result in certain non-deductible compensation expenses, and therefore, it reserves the discretion to award compensation that is not exempt from the deduction limits of Section 162(m).

Compensation Recovery (Clawback) Policy

Our employment agreements contain a provision requiring the employee, to the extent required by law, to reimburse us following the publication of a restatement of our financial statements due to material noncompliance with any financial reporting requirement under the securities laws as a result of misconduct for (a) incentive-based or equity-based compensation received and (b) any profits realized from the sale of our securities, in each case during the 12 months prior to discovery of the noncompliance. The Compensation Committee has exclusive authority to interpret and enforce this provision.

The Compensation Committee has adopted a “Clawback Policy” to recover pay that is determined to have been wrongfully earned by managerial or executive employees, including our NEOs. As a result, all RSUs granted after November 30, 2009 include a clause that reduces the number of equity-based awards upon the occurrence of certain events. The Compensation Committee has the exclusive authority to interpret the Clawback Policy, and may offset compensation as necessary to recover amounts due under the Clawback Policy.

Prohibition on Hedging and Pledging

We do not allow directors or employees to hedge the value of our equity securities held directly or indirectly by them. Our policy prohibits the purchase or sale of puts, calls, options or other derivative securities based on our securities, as well as hedging or monetization transactions, purchases of our equity securities on margin and borrowing against any account in which our securities are held. We prohibit pledging of Common Stock by executives or directors.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

The Compensation Committee has adopted stock ownership guidelines to promote a high level of stock retention among executives and non-employee directors. The guidelines require that the total value of the executive’s or non-employee director’s holdings of Common Stock must equal or exceed the specified target value shown below.

Position/Title	Target Ownership
Chief Executive Officer and President	6 x base salary
Executive Vice Presidents	3 x base salary
Senior Vice Presidents	2 x base salary
Non-Employee Directors	5 x annual retainer

All NEOs and directors are in compliance with our stock ownership requirements. Our stock ownership guidelines are available on our website. See the Guidelines for more detail.

Table of Contents

REPORT OF THE COMPENSATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Compensation Committee participated in the preparation of the Compensation Discussion and Analysis. Based on its review and discussions with management, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement.

See “Corporate Governance — Board Operations — Board Committee Information” for information concerning the Compensation Committee and its responsibilities.

Compensation and Human Resources Committee

Michael T. Tokarz, Chairman

Shirley C. Franklin

Jerry W. Kolb

35

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Summary Compensation Table

The amounts reported in the following table, including base salary, annual and long-term incentive amounts, benefits and perquisites, are described more fully under “Compensation Discussion and Analysis”.

Name and Principal Position ⁽¹⁾	Fiscal Year	Salary ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Bonus ⁽³⁾ (\$)	Stock Awards ⁽⁴⁾ (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Compensation ⁽⁵⁾ (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation ⁽⁶⁾ (\$)	All Other Compensation ⁽⁷⁾ (\$)	Total ⁽⁸⁾ (\$)
Gregory E. Hyland	2017	968,403	—	2,256,468	365,674	19,754	49,624	3,659,923
Executive Chairman, Former	2016	900,000	27,000	2,020,011	1,160,658	17,669	53,791	4,179,129
President and Chief Executive Officer	2015	900,000	27,000	2,248,099	280,485	19,044	51,122	3,525,750
Scott Hall	2017	518,229	—	1,657,694	908,925	—	108,195	3,193,043
President and Chief Executive Officer								
Evan L. Hart	2017	413,767	—	641,505	376,083	—	32,035	1,463,390
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2016	401,367	—	573,278	388,208	—	31,801	1,394,654
	2015	389,673	—	652,443	96,560	—	31,769	1,170,445
Keith L. Belknap	2017	439,167	—	541,499	226,627	—	40,295	1,247,588
Executive Vice President, Business Development, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer	2016	427,000	—	470,670	302,454	—	37,198	1,237,322
	2015	385,760	—	703,181	89,218	—	38,787	1,216,946
Gregory S. Rogowski	2017	441,667	—	632,914	282,075	—	37,372	1,394,028
Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing	2016	429,500	—	552,069	389,614	—	37,226	1,408,409
	2015	418,382	—	631,719	196,283	—	34,005	1,280,389
Marietta Edmunds Zakas	2017	351,967	60,000	393,623	255,929	—	36,883	1,098,402
Executive Vice President, Strategy, Corporate Development and Communications	2016	338,567	145,000	271,111	261,973	—	36,612	1,053,263

(1) Effective January 23, 2017, Scott Hall was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Hall succeeded Gregory Hyland, Executive Chairman.

(2) Mr. Hyland served as our President and Chief Executive Officer until January 23, 2017. Mr. Hyland's annualized salary was \$900,000 during the period of October 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017, and \$1,000,000 during the period of February 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.

(3) Payments made to Ms. Zakas were in recognition of assuming interim Human Resources responsibilities. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Compensation Elements — Salary”.

(4) The dollar amounts shown for RSU and PRSU awards represent the aggregate grant date fair values calculated in accordance with ASC 718, Stock Compensation, excluding the effect of forfeitures. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Compensation Elements — Long-Term Equity-Based Compensation” for more information. The dollar amounts shown for fiscal 2017 include the aggregate grant date fair values of PRSUs awarded in fiscal 2015, 2016 and 2017 for the fiscal 2017 performance period assuming target performance. Assuming maximum performance, the aggregate values of PRSUs awarded for the fiscal 2017 performance period would have been: \$500,016 for Mr.

Hall; \$2,512,956 for Mr. Hyland; \$713,017 for Mr. Hart; \$583,016 for Mr. Belknap; \$387,272 for Ms. Zakas; and \$693,842 for Mr. Rogowski. Estimated amounts that may be earned over the entire three-year award cycle of outstanding PRSUs are reflected in “Outstanding Equity Awards Table” below. The dollar amount shown for Mr. Hall includes stock awards made to Mr. Hall as an offset for forfeited performance and equity awards under his prior employer’s incentive plans. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Compensation Elements — Other Cash and Equity Awards” for more information.

(5) Amounts reflect annual non-equity incentive plan compensation awards earned by our NEOs based on Company and segment financial performance and EHS-related objectives. The amounts earned for fiscal 2017 were paid in December 2017. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Compensation Elements — Annual Cash Incentive Awards” for more information.

(6) Amounts reflect accruals for deferred compensation for Mr. Hyland under a plan we established for his benefit. See “— Nonqualified Deferred Compensation During Fiscal Year 2017” below.

(7) Amounts reflect the combined value of each NEO’s perquisites and compensation that is not otherwise reflected in the Summary Compensation Table. Amounts for fiscal 2017 are described in “— All Other Compensation” below.

Table of Contents

Summary Compensation Table - All Other Compensation

The following table provides additional detail regarding the amounts presented in the “All Other Compensation” column in the Summary Compensation Table for fiscal 2017.

Name	Vehicle Allowance or Use of Leased Vehicle (\$)	Financial Contributions Planning to 401(k) (1) (\$)	401(k) Plans (\$)	Life and Long-Term Disability Insurance (\$)	Other ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Total (\$)
Gregory E. Hyland	14,000	2,825	10,800	18,999	3,000	49,624
Scott Hall	17,000	—	10,800	3,739	76,656	108,195
Evan L. Hart	18,000	—	10,800	3,235	—	32,035
Keith L. Belknap	18,000	2,100	10,800	6,395	3,000	40,295
Gregory S. Rogowski	18,000	—	10,800	5,524	3,048	37,372
Marietta Edmunds Zakas	14,400	7,500	10,800	4,183	—	36,883

(1) NEOs are entitled to reimbursement of up to \$7,500 of annual financial planning (\$10,000 for the CEO).

For Messrs. Hyland and Belknap, represents reimbursement of annual physical exam expenses. For Mr. Hall,

(2) represents relocation reimbursements and expenses. For Mr. Rogowski, represents the incremental cost to us of his spouse accompanying him on a sales incentive trip.

Table of Contents

Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table

The following table summarizes the equity awards made to our NEOs during fiscal 2017 on a grant-by-grant basis. Each of the equity-based awards granted during fiscal 2017 and reported in the following table was granted under, and is subject to the terms of, the 2006 Stock Plan.

Fiscal 2017 Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards ⁽¹⁾			Estimated Future Issuance of Shares Under Equity Incentive Plans ⁽²⁾			All Other Stock-Based Awards ⁽³⁾	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock-Based Awards ⁽⁴⁾
		Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)	Threshold (#)	Target (#)	Maximum (#)		
Gregory E. Hyland		—	301,736	603,472					
	11/29/2016							75,414	999,990
	11/29/2016 ⁽⁵⁾				12,569	25,138	50,276		333,330
	12/1/2015 ⁽⁵⁾				17,768	35,536	71,072		471,207
Scott Hall	12/2/2014 ⁽⁵⁾				17,041	34,083	68,166		451,941
		—	750,000	1,500,000					
	3/29/2017							56,069	657,689
	1/23/2017							57,034	749,997
Evan L. Hart	1/23/2017 ⁽⁵⁾				9,506	19,012	38,024		250,008
		—	310,325	620,650					
	11/29/2016							21,493	284,997
	11/29/2016 ⁽⁵⁾				3,582	7,164	14,328		94,995
Keith L. Belknap	12/1/2015 ⁽⁵⁾				5,064	10,128	20,256		134,297
	12/2/2014 ⁽⁵⁾				4,797	9,594	19,188		127,216
		—	307,417	614,834					
	11/29/2016							18,853	249,991
Gregory S. Rogowski	11/29/2016 ⁽⁵⁾				3,142	6,284	12,568		83,326
	12/1/2015 ⁽⁵⁾				4,442	8,884	17,768		117,802
	12/2/2014 ⁽⁵⁾				3,408	6,816	13,632		90,380
		—	331,250	662,500					
Marietta Edmunds Zakas	11/29/2016							21,568	285,992
	11/29/2016 ⁽⁵⁾				3,594	7,189	14,378		95,326
	12/1/2015 ⁽⁵⁾				4,886	9,772	19,544		129,577
	12/2/2014 ⁽⁵⁾				4,601	9,202	18,404		122,019
Marietta Edmunds Zakas		—	211,180	422,360					
	11/29/2016							15,082	199,987
	11/29/2016 ⁽⁵⁾				2,513	5,027	10,054		66,658
	12/1/2015 ⁽⁵⁾				2,487	4,975	9,950		65,969
12/2/2014 ⁽⁵⁾				2,300	4,601	9,202		61,009	

Amounts represent the range of possible cash payouts for fiscal 2017 awards under the annual cash incentive plan as described in “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Compensation Elements — Annual Cash Incentive Awards”.

(1) The awards that were earned based on actual performance for fiscal 2017 were paid in December 2017 and are shown in the “Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation” column of the Summary Compensation Table.

(2) Represents PRSU awards that may be earned based on the achievement of performance goals in the 2017 performance period. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Compensation Elements — Long-Term

Equity-Based Compensation — Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units”. Estimated amounts that may be earned over the three-year award cycle of PRSUs granted for fiscal 2015, 2016 and 2017 are reflected in “Outstanding Equity Awards Table” below.

Represents time-vesting RSUs. Each RSU entitles the grantee to receive one share of Common Stock upon vesting. The RSUs generally vest in equal installments on the first, second and third anniversaries of the grant date. See

(3) “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Compensation Elements — Long-Term Equity-Based Compensation — Time-Based Restricted Stock Units”. The RSUs granted to Mr. Hall on March 29, 2017 vest in full on January 23, 2018. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Other Cash and Equity Awards” for more information.

(4) See footnote 4 to the “Summary Compensation Table” for a description of the methods used to determine grant date fair value of equity-based awards.

Represents the range of shares of Common Stock that may vest after the end of the three-year award cycle

(5) applicable to a PRSU award solely with respect to the fiscal 2017 performance period, assuming achievement of threshold, target and maximum performance.

Table of Contents

Outstanding Equity Awards Table

The following table sets forth information detailing the outstanding unexercised options and unvested RSUs and PRSUs held by each of our NEOs at September 30, 2017.

Name	Grant Date	Option Awards		Option Price (\$) ⁽¹⁾	Option Expiration Date	Stock Awards			Market Value of Performance Shares That Have Not Vested (\$) ⁽³⁾
		Number of Securities Underlying Options (#)	Exercisable/Unexercisable			Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) ⁽²⁾	Market Value of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) ⁽³⁾	Number of Performance Shares That Have Not Vested (#)	
Gregory E. Hyland (6)	11/29/07	226,757	—	10.66	11/29/17	—	—	—	—
	12/02/08	343,155	—	5.49	12/02/18	—	—	—	—
	12/01/09	154,427	—	5.05	12/01/19	—	—	—	—
	12/01/15 ⁽⁴⁾					—	—	35,536	454,861
	11/29/16 ⁽⁵⁾					75,414	965,299	50,276	643,533
Scott Hall	01/23/17 ⁽⁵⁾					57,034	730,035	57,034	730,035
	03/29/17					56,069	717,683		
Evan L. Hart	11/29/07	10,459	—	10.66	11/29/17	—	—	—	—
	07/31/08	24,752	—	9.10	07/31/18	—	—	—	—
	12/02/08	66,539	—	5.49	12/02/18	—	—	—	—
	12/01/09	84,615	—	5.05	12/01/19	—	—	—	—
	11/30/10	84,615	—	3.52	11/30/20	—	—	—	—
	11/29/11	71,942	—	2.03	11/29/21	—	—	—	—
	12/02/14					9,594	122,803	—	—
Keith L. Belknap	12/01/15 ⁽⁴⁾					20,255	259,264	30,595	391,616
	11/29/16 ⁽⁵⁾					21,493	275,110	21,493	275,110
	04/02/12	22,335	—	3.54	04/02/22	—	—	—	—
	12/02/14					6,816	87,245	—	—
	07/27/15					9,502	121,626	—	—
Gregory S. Rogowski	12/01/15 ⁽⁴⁾					17,768	227,430	26,838	343,526
	11/29/16 ⁽⁵⁾					18,853	241,318	18,853	241,318
	12/01/09	85,839	—	5.05	12/01/19	—	—	—	—
Gregory S. Rogowski	11/30/10	85,839	—	3.52	11/30/20	—	—	—	—
	11/29/11	70,684	—	2.03	11/29/21	—	—	—	—
	12/02/14					9,202	117,786	—	—
	12/01/15 ⁽⁴⁾					19,544	250,163	29,522	377,882
	11/29/16 ⁽⁵⁾					21,568	276,070	21,568	276,070
Marietta Edmunds Zakas	11/29/07	22,676	—	10.66	11/29/17	—	—	—	—
	12/02/08	38,022	—	5.49	12/02/18	—	—	—	—
	12/01/09	34,965	—	5.05	12/01/19	—	—	—	—
	11/30/10	34,965	—	3.52	11/30/20	—	—	—	—
	11/29/11	25,260	—	2.03	11/29/21	—	—	—	—

Edgar Filing: Mueller Water Products, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

12/02/14	4,601	58,893	—	—
12/01/15 ⁽⁴⁾	9,950	127,360	15,029	192,371
11/29/16 ⁽⁵⁾	15,082	193,050	15,082	193,050

(1) Option exercise prices are equal to the closing price of Common Stock on the NYSE on the respective grant dates.

(2) RSUs granted on 12/02/14, 7/27/15, 12/01/15, 11/29/16 and 1/23/17 each vest in equal installments on the first, second and third anniversaries of the respective grant dates. RSUs granted on 03/29/17 vest in full on 1/23/18.

(3) “Market value” is calculated by multiplying the number of RSUs or PRSUs that have not vested by the closing price of Common Stock on the NYSE on September 30, 2017 of \$12.80 per share.

Includes PRSUs awarded in fiscal 2016 for a three-year award cycle (fiscal 2016 through fiscal 2018). The PRSUs shown are based on actual performance for fiscal 2016 and 2017 and assume target performance for fiscal 2018.

(4) Actual performances for fiscal 2016 and 2017 were 102.1% and 100% of target, respectively. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Compensation Elements — Long-Term Equity-Based Compensation — Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units”.

Includes PRSUs awarded in fiscal 2017 for a three-year award cycle (fiscal 2017 through fiscal 2019). The PRSUs shown are based on actual performance for fiscal 2017 and assume target performance for fiscal 2018 and 2019.

(5) Actual performance for fiscal 2017 was 100% of target. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis — Compensation Elements — Long-Term Equity-Based Compensation — Performance-Based Restricted Stock Units”.

(6) Mr. Hyland is “retirement-eligible” under the terms and for purposes of the 2006 Stock Plan. Accordingly, for purposes of this table, all of his outstanding equity-based awards (other than unearned and outstanding PRSUs) are deemed vested.

Table of Contents

Option Exercises and Stock Vested Table

The following table shows stock options exercised and RSUs vested during fiscal 2017.

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise	Value Realized on Exercise ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting	Value Realized on Vesting ⁽²⁾ (\$)
Gregory E. Hyland	500,000	4,685,686	108,743	1,437,163
Scott Hall	—	—	—	—
Evan L. Hart	—	—	30,735	406,205
Keith L. Belknap	—	—	33,027	420,183
Gregory S. Rogowski	—	—	29,538	390,388
Marietta Edmunds Zakas	—	—	13,977	184,755

(1) Calculated by subtracting the exercise price of the option from the closing price of Common Stock on the NYSE on the exercise date, multiplied by the number of options exercised.

(2) Calculated as the closing price of Common Stock on the NYSE on the vesting date multiplied by the number of RSUs that vested.

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation During Fiscal 2017

Mr. Hyland participates in a deferred compensation plan pursuant to the terms of his employment agreement. None of our other NEOs participate in any executive deferred compensation plan. Mr. Hyland accumulated aggregate earnings from interest in fiscal 2017 of \$19,754 and held an aggregate balance on September 30, 2017 of \$663,814. These contributions and aggregate earnings are reflected in the “Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings” column of the Summary Compensation Table.

Pension Plan

None of our NEOs participate in a defined benefit pension plan. Each NEO participates in our 401(k) plan, under which we make matching contributions in accordance with the terms of that plan.

Employment, Severance and Change-in-Control Arrangements

At September 30, 2017, we maintained employment agreements with each NEO. Each agreement (other than Mr. Hyland’s agreement) provides for an annual equity opportunity, which is subject to the discretion of the Compensation Committee, and commensurate with their executive-level position. Each agreement also entitles the employee to receive reimbursement for financial planning services and the cost of an annual physical exam. The following table sets forth certain information with respect to these agreements.

Name	Base Salary Rate ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Annual Target Bonus as Percent of Base Salary ⁽²⁾ (%)	Monthly Car Allowance (\$)	Annual Vacation	Severance Benefits as Percent of Salary ⁽³⁾ (%)
Gregory E. Hyland ⁽⁴⁾	1,000,000	N/A	—	4 weeks	N/A
Scott Hall	750,000	100	2,000	4 weeks	300.0
Evan L. Hart	418,000	75	1,500	4 weeks	262.5
Keith L. Belknap	443,500	70	1,500	4 weeks	240.0
Gregory S. Rogowski	446,000	75	1,500	4 weeks	262.5
Marietta Edmunds Zakas	357,000	60	1,200	4 weeks	225.0

(1) Salaries are reviewed annually. Amounts shown represent annual salary rates as of September 30, 2017.

(2) Payout can range from zero to up to twice the amount of the target based on the satisfaction of predetermined financial, operational and individual performance objectives. Mr. Hyland’s 2017 bonus was based on his salary in

effect, and performance achieved, during the period in which he served as President and Chief Executive Officer (from October 2016 through January 2017).

Severance benefits under Mr. Hyland's agreement are equal to the amount of salary unpaid from the date of termination through January 2018. Cash severance to Mr. Hyland would also include payout under the Retirement (3) Plan. See "— Nonqualified Deferred Compensation During Fiscal 2017". Other severance benefits are paid in monthly installments over 24 months, in the case of Mr. Hall, and over 18 months in the case of each other NEO, together with a lump sum payment of unpaid salary and other benefits.

Table of Contents

(4) Mr. Hyland participates in an unfunded deferred compensation plan. See “— Nonqualified Deferred Compensation During Fiscal 2017”.

Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control

At September 30, 2017, we maintained change-in-control agreements with each NEO (other than Mr. Hyland). The following table sets forth certain information with respect to these agreements.

Under these agreements, upon a change-in-control (as defined in the agreement) of Mueller Water Products, Inc., all outstanding options and RSUs would immediately vest. The value of PRSUs reflects the pro rata portion of shares earned during the performance period and payout at target for future performance periods within the award cycle. In addition, if the executive’s employment is terminated other than for Cause or for Good Reason (each as defined in the agreement) within 24 months following a change-in-control, the executive would be entitled to a lump-sum severance payment equivalent to base salary and annual incentive bonus (generally calculated as the average of actual annual incentive bonuses over the preceding three years) and continuation of certain benefits, such as group life and medical insurance coverage for a period of 24 months. The agreements for Messrs. Rogowski and Hart and Ms. Zakas provide for an additional payment sufficient to eliminate the effect of any applicable excise tax on severance payments in excess of any amount determined under 280G of the Code. We would not be able to deduct payments subject to the excise tax for federal and state income tax purposes. The agreements for Messrs. Hall and Belknap contain a “best-of-net” provision, so that, in the event excise taxes would be imposed on payments under the agreements, Messrs. Hall and Belknap will either (1) pay the excise tax without assistance from the Company or (2) have the payments reduced to an amount at which an excise tax would no longer be payable, based on which result is more favorable to him on an after-tax basis.

The following table sets forth the potential benefits each NEO would be entitled to receive upon termination of employment in the situations outlined below. The NEO would not be entitled to the severance benefits described below if he or she terminates employment without Good Reason or is terminated for Cause. The amounts shown are estimates and do not necessarily reflect the actual amounts that would be paid to the NEOs, which would only be known at the time they become eligible for payment. The amounts shown are the amounts that could be payable under existing plans and arrangements if the NEO’s employment had terminated on September 30, 2017, including (other than for Messrs. Hall and Belknap), an estimated gross-up for excise taxes in the event that any payments made in connection with a change-in-control were subject to such taxes.

Table of Contents

The termination events pursuant to which the NEOs are entitled to potential payments are as follows:

A - Severance arrangement for termination without cause or for good reason

B - Termination without cause after a change-in-control or, if applicable, sale of segment

C - Death, disability or retirement

Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change-in-Control Table

Name	Cash Severance (\$)	Bonus Earned as of Event Date ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Vesting of Unvested Long-Term Awards ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Health, Welfare and Other Benefits Continuation ⁽³⁾ (\$)	Outplacement ⁽⁴⁾ (\$)	Sec 280G Excise Tax and Related Gross-Up ⁽⁵⁾ (\$)	Total (\$)
Scott Hall	A 2,307,692 ⁽⁶⁾	908,925	—	27,276	25,000	0	3,268,893
	B 3,057,692 ⁽⁷⁾	908,925	2,177,753	36,368	262,500	0	6,443,238
	C —	—	1,691,059	—	—	0	1,691,059
Evan L. Hart	A 1,129,404 ⁽⁶⁾	376,083	—	12,867	25,000	0	1,543,354
	B 1,404,457 ⁽⁷⁾	376,083	1,323,927	17,156	146,300	0	3,267,923
	C —	—	1,010,881	—	—	0	1,010,881
Keith L. Belknap	A 1,098,515 ⁽⁶⁾	226,627	—	30,798	25,000	0	1,380,940
	B 1,238,441 ⁽⁷⁾	226,627	1,262,474	41,064	155,225	0	2,923,831
	C —	—	987,881	—	—	0	987,881
Gregory S. Rogowski	A 1,205,058 ⁽⁶⁾	282,075	—	7,803	25,000	0	1,519,936
	B 1,526,060 ⁽⁷⁾	282,075	1,297,971	10,405	156,100	0	3,272,611
	C —	—	988,842	—	—	0	988,842
Marietta Edmunds Zakas	A 830,712 ⁽⁶⁾	255,929	—	26,093	25,000	0	1,137,734
	B 1,082,756 ⁽⁷⁾	255,929	764,724	34,791	124,950	0	2,263,150
	C —	—	572,344	—	—	0	572,344

Each is entitled to a pro rata share of the current fiscal year bonus in the event of termination without Cause or after (1) a change-in-control. Amounts in this table assume a termination date of September 30, 2017 and represent the actual bonus paid for fiscal 2017 since this amount would not have otherwise been paid at that date.

The value of stock options is calculated as the difference between the closing price of Common Stock on September 30, 2017 and the option exercise prices per share multiplied by the number of in-the-money options.

(2) The value of RSUs is the closing price of Common Stock on September 30, 2017 multiplied by the number of RSUs. The value of PRSUs reflects the pro rata portion of shares earned during the performance period and payout at target for future performance periods within the award cycle. The closing price of our common stock on September 30, 2017 on the NYSE was \$12.80.

(3) Welfare benefits are continued for up to 24 months for Mr. Hall and 18 months for other NEOs from the separation date based on the current elections and plan premiums.

(4) Services in Case A will be reasonable in our sole discretion. Services in Case B will be provided for up to two years, but will not exceed 35% of the NEO's base salary at the time of termination.

(5) The change-in-control agreements for Messrs. Hart and Rogowski and Ms. Zakas contain a tax gross-up provision, which require the Company to pay any excise taxes imposed on payments received under their agreements. For purposes of this calculation, the gross-up would have been calculated by determining whether the total amount payable to the executive contingent upon a change-in-control exceeded 2.99 times the average of the annual eligible compensation payable to the executive during the preceding five years. If the total amount payable exceeded the average annual compensation amount, a gross up amount would have been added to the amounts otherwise payable to the executive in order to put the executive in the same after-tax position as if he or she had not been subject to the excise tax. The change-in-control agreements for Messrs. Hall and Belknap contain a

“best-of-net” provision, so that, in the event excise taxes would be imposed on payments under the agreements, the executive will either (1) pay the excise tax without assistance from the Company or (2) have the payments reduced to an amount at which an excise tax would no longer be payable, based on which result is more favorable to the executive on an after-tax basis.

Cash severance is equal to a percentage of current annual base salary plus accrued vacation. The percentage applicable to Mr. Hall is 300%. The percentage applicable to Messrs. Hart and Rogowski is 262.5%. The (6) percentage applicable to Mr. Belknap is 240%. The percentage applicable to Ms. Zakas is 225%. Other severance benefits are paid in monthly installments over 24 months in the case of Mr. Hall and over 18 months in the case of each other NEO, together with a lump sum payment of unpaid salary and other benefits.

Cash severance for Messrs. Hall, Hart and Rogowski and Ms. Zakas is equal to two times annual base salary plus two times the average bonus over the last three years, plus accrued vacation. Cash severance for Mr. Belknap is (7) equal to two times annual base salary plus one and one-half times the average bonus over the last three years, plus accrued vacation. Accrued vacation assumes no vacation has been taken.

Table of Contents**BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF COMMON STOCK**

The following table lists information as of December 7, 2017 about the number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by each incumbent director, each NEO, all of our directors and current executive officers as a group, and each person or group known by us to own more than 5% of our Common Stock. Unless otherwise noted, voting power and investment power in Common Stock are exercisable solely by the named person.

At December 7, 2017, there were 158,540,171 shares of Common Stock outstanding.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner ⁽¹⁾	Aggregate Number of Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned ⁽²⁾	Percent of Outstanding Common Stock
Shirley C. Franklin, Director	119,965	(3) *
Scott Hall, President and Chief Executive Officer	75,081	(4) *
Thomas J. Hansen, Director	106,972	(3) *
Gregory E. Hyland, Executive Chairman	1,600,501	(5) 1.0 %
Jerry W. Kolb, Director	159,777	(3) *
Mark J. O'Brien, Director	176,566	(3) *
Bernard G. Rethore, Director	146,470	(3) *
Lydia W. Thomas, Director	161,227	(3) *
Michael T. Tokarz, Director	520,276	(3) *
Evan L. Hart, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	271,436	*
Keith L. Belknap, Executive Vice President, Business Development, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer	207,920	*
Gregory S. Rogowski, Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing	538,195	*
Marietta Edmunds Zakas Executive Vice President, Strategy, Corporate Development and Communications	380,876	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (16 individuals)	4,827,957	3.0 %
Vanguard Group Inc. PO Box 2600, V26, Valley Forge, PA 19482-2600	11,632,394 ⁽⁶⁾	7.3 %
BlackRock, Inc. 55 East 52nd Street, New York, NY 10055	10,465,831 ⁽⁷⁾	6.6 %
EARNEST Partners, LLC 1180 Peachtree Street, NE, Suite 2300, Atlanta, GA 30309	8,136,500 ⁽⁸⁾	5.1 %

* Less than 1% of outstanding common stock

(1) The address of each of our directors and executive officers is c/o Mueller Water Products, Inc., 1200 Abernathy Road, N.E., Suite 1200, Atlanta, Georgia 30328.

(2) Beneficial ownership as reported in the table has been determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC. Under those rules, a person is deemed to be a "beneficial owner" of a security if that person has or shares "voting power," which includes the power to vote or to direct the voting of such security, or "investment power," which includes the power to dispose of, or to direct the disposition of, such security. The person is also deemed to be a beneficial owner of any security of which that person has a right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days. Under such rules, more than one person may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of the same securities, and a person may be deemed to be a beneficial owner of securities as to which he or she may disclaim any beneficial interest. Except as indicated in other notes to this table, directors and executive officers possessed sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of Common Stock referred to in the table. See "Executive Compensation — Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End Table" for more information concerning outstanding equity awards to our NEOs

and “Director Compensation — Director Compensation Summary” for more information concerning outstanding equity awards to our directors.

Each non-employee director is “retirement-eligible” under and for purposes of the 2006 Stock Plan. Accordingly, for purposes of this table, all outstanding equity-based awards are deemed vested. Beginning with the equity-based awards granted to directors in January 2014, all such awards to directors require a grantee who is or becomes

(3) retirement-eligible prior to an initial vesting date to remain in continuous service from the grant date through at least the first anniversary thereof to receive accelerated vesting upon retirement. The beneficial ownership reported in the table assumes each grantee of an award on January 25, 2017 will remain in continuous service through January 25, 2018.

(4) Includes 75,081 RSUs that will vest within 60 days.

(5) Includes 85,812 RSUs that are subject to accelerated vesting upon retirement.

(6) As reported on Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on February 10, 2017, Vanguard Group, Inc. has sole investment discretion with respect to 11,632,394 shares and sole voting power with respect to 310,655 shares.

(7) As reported on Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on January 25, 2017, Blackrock, Inc. has sole investment discretion of 10,465,831 shares and sole voting power with respect to 9,926,566 shares.

(8) As reported on Schedule 13G/A filed with the SEC on July 7, 2017, EARNEST Partners, LLC has sole investment discretion with respect to 8,136,500 shares and sole voting power with respect to 2,188,924.

Table of Contents

QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING AND THE ANNUAL MEETING

When and where is the Annual Meeting?

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 10:00 A.M., Eastern Time, in the Peachtree Dunwoody Room on the 3rd Floor of Building 500 at Northpark Town Center, located at 1100 Abernathy Road, N.E., in Atlanta, Georgia.

What is the purpose of the Annual Meeting?

At the Annual Meeting, stockholders will vote on matters summarized in this Proxy Statement. This Proxy Statement contains important information for you to consider when deciding how to vote.

Who is entitled to vote?

You may vote at the Annual Meeting, and any adjournment or postponement thereof, if you were a holder of record of our Common Stock at the close of business on December 7, 2017, the record date. On the record date, there were 158,540,171 shares of Common Stock outstanding. Each share of Common Stock represented at the Annual Meeting is entitled to one vote.

Who is soliciting my vote?

The Board is soliciting your proxy to vote your shares at the Annual Meeting. We made our proxy solicitation materials available to you on the Internet or, upon your request, we have delivered printed versions of these materials to you by mail, in connection with our solicitation of proxies.

What is included in the proxy materials?

The proxy materials for the Annual Meeting include the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, this Proxy Statement and the Annual Report. If you requested printed versions by mail, these proxy materials also include the proxy card or voting instruction form for the Annual Meeting. These materials were first sent or made available to stockholders on or about December 14, 2017.

What proposals require my vote, what vote is required to approve each proposal, how will abstentions and broker non-votes be treated and how does the Board recommend I vote?

Voting Item	Voting Standard	Treatment of Abstentions & Broker Non-Votes	Board Recommendation
Elect Directors	Majority of votes cast	Not counted as votes cast and, therefore, no effect	FOR each director
Approve executive compensation	Majority of votes cast	Not counted as votes cast and, therefore, no effect	FOR
Ratify Auditor	Majority of votes cast	N/A	FOR

Will any other business be conducted at the Annual Meeting?

Management is not aware of any items, other than those referred to in this Proxy Statement, that may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

Table of Contents

How are proxies voted?

Shares represented by all valid proxies received on time will be voted as specified. If a valid proxy form is received and does not indicate specific choices, the shares will be voted in accordance with the Board's recommendations. The Board has designated each of Scott Hall, Keith L. Belknap and Kristi O. Crawford as proxies for the Annual Meeting.

How may I vote?

If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, you are a "registered stockholder." Registered stockholders may vote by:

• Internet at the web address noted in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, proxy materials email or proxy card that you received (we encourage you to vote in this manner);

• Telephone through the number noted in the proxy card that you received (if you received a proxy card);

• Signing and dating your proxy card (if you received a proxy card) and mailing it to the indicated address; or

• Attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person.

If your shares are held in a bank or brokerage account, you are a "beneficial stockholder" and you should refer to the instructions provided by your bank, brokerage or other nominee regarding how to vote your shares.

If you plan to vote other than by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person, your vote must be received by 11:59 P.M., Eastern Time on January 23, 2018.

How can I change my vote?

You can revoke a proxy prior to the completion of voting at the Annual Meeting by:

• Voting again using the Internet or by telephone prior to the Annual Meeting;

• Delivering a later-dated proxy card; or

• Voting in person at the meeting (if you are a beneficial stockholder).

What constitutes a quorum for the Annual Meeting?

The holders of a majority of the voting power of the outstanding shares of Common Stock at the close of business on the record date must be present, either in person or represented by proxy, to constitute a quorum necessary to conduct the Annual Meeting. Shares represented by proxies received but marked as abstentions or as withholding voting authority for any or all director nominees, and shares represented by proxies received but reflecting broker non-votes, will be counted as present at the Annual Meeting for purposes of establishing a quorum.

Why did I receive a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials in the mail instead of a printed set of proxy materials?

We are permitted by SEC rules to furnish proxy materials to stockholders by providing access to those documents on the Internet. Stockholders will not receive printed copies of the proxy materials unless they request them. The Notice provides instructions on how to access and review the Proxy Statement and the Annual Report over the Internet at www.proxyvote.com (for beneficial stockholders) and www.edocumentview.com/mwa (for registered stockholders), and how to submit a proxy over the Internet. If you would like to receive a paper or email copy of the proxy materials, please follow the instructions in the Notice.

What does it mean if I receive more than one Notice, proxy materials email or proxy card?

It means you have multiple accounts holding Common Stock with brokers and/or our transfer agent. You will need to vote separately with respect to each Notice, proxy materials email or proxy card you receive.

Table of Contents

What do I need to do if I want to attend the Annual Meeting?

Attendance at the Annual Meeting is limited to our stockholders, members of their immediate families or their representatives. To gain admittance to the Annual Meeting, you may be required to show evidence that you were a holder of Common Stock on the record date. We reserve the right to limit the number of representatives who may attend the Annual Meeting.

How are proxies solicited and what is the cost?

We bear all expenses incurred in connection with the solicitation of proxies. We have engaged Alliance Advisors LLC to assist with the solicitation of proxies for an estimated fee of \$10,000, plus expenses. We will reimburse brokers, fiduciaries and custodians for their costs in forwarding proxy materials to beneficial holders of Common Stock. Our directors, officers and employees also may solicit proxies in return for no additional compensation.

Table of Contents

GENERAL INFORMATION

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires executive officers and directors and persons who beneficially own more than 10% of a company's common stock (together, "Reporting Persons") to file initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership with the SEC. Reporting Persons are required by SEC rules to furnish companies with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely on a review of copies of such forms furnished to us and written representations from the executive officers and directors, we believe our Reporting Persons complied with all Section 16 filing requirements during fiscal 2017.

Other Business for Presentation at the Annual Meeting

The Board and management do not intend to bring before the Annual Meeting any matters other than those disclosed in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders, nor do they know of any business that other persons intend to present at the Annual Meeting. Should any other matter or business requiring a vote of stockholders arise, the persons named in the enclosed proxy intend to exercise the authority conferred by the proxy and vote the shares represented thereby in respect of any such other matter or business in accordance with their best judgment in the interest of Mueller Water Products, Inc.

Other Information

Consolidated financial statements for Mueller Water Products, Inc. are included in the 2017 Annual Report filed with the SEC, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549, and the New York Stock Exchange. A copy of the 2017 Annual Report (excluding exhibits) will be furnished, without charge, by writing to the Corporate Secretary, Mueller Water Products, Inc., 1200 Abernathy Road, N.E., Suite 1200, Atlanta, Georgia 30328. The 2017 Annual Report is also available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov or on our website at www.muellerwaterproducts.com.

Table of Contents

STOCKHOLDER INFORMATION

Stockholder Proposals for Inclusion in Next Year's Proxy Statement

SEC rules permit stockholders to submit proposals for inclusion in our proxy statement if the stockholder and the proposal meet the requirements specified in Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act.

• When to submit? Any stockholder proposals submitted in accordance with Rule 14a-8 must be received at our principal executive offices no later than August 16, 2018.

• Where to submit? Proposals should be addressed to Corporate Secretary, Mueller Water Products, Inc., 1200 Abernathy Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30328.

• What to submit? Proposals must conform to and include the information required by Rule 14a-8.

We encourage stockholders to contact our Corporate Secretary prior to submitting a stockholder proposal or any time they have concerns about us.

Procedures for Business Matters and Director Nominations for Consideration at Next Year's Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Our Bylaws provide that any stockholder proposal, including director nominations, that is not submitted for inclusion in next year's proxy statement under Rule 14a-8, but is instead sought to be presented directly at next year's annual meeting of stockholders must be delivered to our principal executive offices not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to the first anniversary of the date we commenced mailing these proxy materials.

• When to submit? Stockholder proposals submitted under these Bylaw provisions must be received no earlier than August 16, 2018 and no later than September 15, 2018.

• Where to submit? Proposals should be addressed to Corporate Secretary, Mueller Water Products, Inc., 1200 Abernathy Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30328.

What to submit? Proposals must include the information required by our Bylaws, which are available on our website.

If the notice delivered to our Corporate Secretary does not contain all of the information specified in our Bylaws, the proposed business will not be transacted at the annual meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

Keith L. Belknap

Corporate Secretary

Atlanta, Georgia

December 14, 2017

Table of Contents

Exhibit A

Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Performance Measures to GAAP Performance Measures

2017

	GAAP	Reporting Adjustments	Adjusted Non-GAAP As Reported	Singer Valve and Other	Performance Evaluation Basis - Adjusted
(in millions)					
Net sales	\$826.0	\$ —	\$ 826.0	\$ (10.3)	\$ 815.7
Cost of goods sold	558.5	(10.8)	547.7	(5.7)	542.0
Gross profit	267.5	10.8	278.3	(4.6)	273.7
Selling, general and administrative expenses	156.4	—	156.4	(4.0)	152.4
Other charges	10.4	(10.4)	—	—	—
Operating income from continuing operations	100.7	21.2	121.9	(0.6)	121.3
Interest expense, net	22.2	—	22.2	—	22.2
Income tax expense	24.2	4.3	28.5	2.1	30.6
Income from continuing operations	\$54.3	\$ 16.9	\$ 71.2	\$ (2.7)	\$ 68.5

2016

	GAAP	Reporting Adjustments	Adjusted Non-GAAP As Reported	Adjust to Performance Plan Tax Rate	Performance Evaluation Basis - Adjusted
(in millions)					
Net sales	\$800.6	\$ —	\$ 800.6	\$ —	\$ 800.6
Cost of goods sold	532.7	—	532.7	—	532.7
Gross profit	267.9	—	267.9	—	267.9
Selling, general and administrative expenses	151.2	—	151.2	—	151.2
Pension settlement	16.6	(16.6)	—	—	—
Other charges	7.2	(7.2)	—	—	—
Operating income from continuing operations	92.9	23.8	116.7	—	116.7
Interest expense, net	23.6	—	23.6	—	23.6
Income tax expense	24.2	8.1	32.3	3.5	35.8
Income from continuing operations	\$45.1	\$ 15.7	\$ 60.8	\$ (3.5)	\$ 57.3

A-1

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Table of Contents