

MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP INC

Form 10-Q

August 11, 2008

Table of Contents

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington D.C. 20549**

**Form 10-Q**

- QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**  
**For the quarter ended June 30, 2008**
- or**
- TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**Commission File Number 1-14094**

**Meadowbrook Insurance Group, Inc.**

*(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Michigan**  
*(State of Incorporation)*

**38-2626206**  
*(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)*

**26255 American Drive,  
Southfield, Michigan 48034**  
*(Address, zip code of principal executive offices)*

**(248) 358-1100**  
*(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)*

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

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

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

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

The aggregate number of shares of the Registrant's Common Stock, \$.01 par value, outstanding on July 31, 2008, was 37,021,032.

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**Table of Contents**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
<b><u>PART I FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u></b>	
<b><u>ITEM 1</u></b>	<b><u>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u></b>
	2
	4
	5
	6
	7-26
<b><u>ITEM 2</u></b>	<b><u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</u></b>
<b><u>ITEM 3</u></b>	<b><u>QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK</u></b>
<b><u>ITEM 4</u></b>	<b><u>CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES</u></b>
	26-51
	51-52
	52
<b><u>PART II OTHER INFORMATION</u></b>	
<b><u>ITEM 1</u></b>	<b><u>LEGAL PROCEEDINGS</u></b>
<b><u>ITEM 1A</u></b>	<b><u>RISK FACTORS</u></b>
<b><u>ITEM 2</u></b>	<b><u>UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS</u></b>
<b><u>ITEM 4</u></b>	<b><u>SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS</u></b>
<b><u>ITEM 6</u></b>	<b><u>EXHIBITS</u></b>
<b><u>SIGNATURES</u></b>	
<b><u>EX-31.1</u></b>	53
<b><u>EX-31.2</u></b>	53
<b><u>EX-32.1</u></b>	53
<b><u>EX-32.2</u></b>	53
	54
	55

Table of Contents**PART 1 FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1***FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME****For the Six Months Ended June 30,**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>	
	<b>(In thousands, except share data)</b>	
<b>Revenues</b>		
Premiums earned		
Gross	\$ 179,515	\$ 166,814
Ceded	(36,462)	(34,419)
Net earned premiums	143,053	132,395
Net commissions and fees	21,663	22,294
Net investment income	14,065	12,385
Net realized (losses) gains	(177)	14
Total revenues	178,604	167,088
<b>Expenses</b>		
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	108,158	101,382
Reinsurance recoveries	(26,955)	(25,029)
Net losses and loss adjustment expenses	81,203	76,353
Salaries and employee benefits	26,898	26,432
Policy acquisition and other underwriting expenses	25,863	26,812
Other administrative expenses	16,793	14,992
Amortization expense	3,114	687
Interest expense	2,565	3,154
Total expenses	156,436	148,430
Income before taxes and equity earnings	22,168	18,658
Federal and state income tax expense	6,790	5,610
Equity earnings of affiliates	117	61

Net income	\$	15,495	\$	13,109
Earnings Per Share				
Basic	\$	0.42	\$	0.44
Diluted	\$	0.42	\$	0.44
Weighted average number of common shares				
Basic		37,016,568		29,822,086
Diluted		37,126,782		29,876,480
Dividends paid per common share	\$	0.04	\$	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Table of Contents****MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME****For the Three Months Ended June 30,**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>	
	<b>(In thousands, except share data)</b>	
<b>Revenues</b>		
Premiums earned		
Gross	\$ 95,544	\$ 85,263
Ceded	(18,513)	(18,072)
Net earned premiums	77,031	67,191
Net commissions and fees	9,632	10,743
Net investment income	6,917	6,229
Net realized (losses) gains	(146)	20
Total revenues	93,434	84,183
<b>Expenses</b>		
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	59,419	51,380
Reinsurance recoveries	(15,877)	(11,673)
Net losses and loss adjustment expenses	43,542	39,707
Salaries and employee benefits	14,143	12,900
Policy acquisition and other underwriting expenses	12,716	13,169
Other administrative expenses	7,961	7,598
Amortization expense	1,563	543
Interest expense	1,254	1,667
Total expenses	81,179	75,584
Income before taxes and equity earnings	12,255	8,599
Federal and state income tax expense	3,879	2,461
Equity earnings of affiliates	61	48
Net income	\$ 8,437	\$ 6,186
<b>Earnings Per Share</b>		
Basic	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.20
Diluted	\$ 0.23	\$ 0.20
Weighted average number of common shares		

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Basic	37,021,032	30,294,628
Diluted	37,126,911	30,350,553
Dividends paid per common share	\$ 0.02	\$

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.



Table of Contents**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME****For the Six Months Ended June 30,**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>	
	<b>(In thousands)</b>	
Net income	\$ 15,495	\$ 13,109
Other comprehensive income, net of tax:		
Unrealized losses on securities	(4,446)	(4,176)
Net deferred derivative (losses) gains    hedging activity	(115)	113
Less: reclassification adjustment for gains included in net income	174	21
Other comprehensive losses, net of tax	(4,387)	(4,042)
Comprehensive income	\$ 11,108	\$ 9,067

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME****For the Three Months Ended June 30,**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>	
	<b>(In thousands)</b>	
Net income	\$ 8,437	\$ 6,186
Other comprehensive income, net of tax:		
Unrealized losses on securities	(6,235)	(4,556)
Net deferred derivative gains    hedging activity	334	189
Less: reclassification adjustment for gains included in net income	109	3
Other comprehensive losses, net of tax	(5,792)	(4,364)
Comprehensive income	\$ 2,645	\$ 1,822

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Table of Contents****MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

	<b>June 30, 2008 (Unaudited)</b>	<b>December 31, 2007</b>
	<b>(In thousands, except share data)</b>	
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Investments		
Debt securities available for sale, at fair value (amortized cost of \$564,740 and \$604,829)	\$ 563,741	\$ 610,756
Cash and cash equivalents	80,038	40,845
Accrued investment income	6,331	6,473
Premiums and agent balances receivable, net	94,242	87,341
Reinsurance recoverable on:		
Paid losses	121	1,053
Unpaid losses	200,783	198,461
Prepaid reinsurance premiums	18,669	17,763
Deferred policy acquisition costs	28,997	26,926
Deferred federal income taxes	17,023	14,936
Goodwill	60,371	43,497
Other assets	67,890	65,915
Total assets	\$ 1,138,206	\$ 1,113,966
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</b>		
Liabilities		
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	\$ 558,864	\$ 540,002
Unearned premiums	159,250	153,927
Debentures	55,930	55,930
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	21,073	22,604
Reinsurance funds held and balances payable	16,043	16,416
Payable to insurance companies	3,572	6,231
Other liabilities	11,454	16,962
Total liabilities	826,186	812,072
Shareholders Equity		
Common stock, \$0.01 stated value; authorized 75,000,000 shares; 37,021,032 and 36,996,287 shares issued and outstanding	370	370
Additional paid-in capital	195,110	194,621
Retained earnings	118,288	104,274
Note receivable from officer	(860)	(870)
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income	(888)	3,499

Total shareholders' equity	312,020	301,894
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 1,138,206	\$ 1,113,966

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Table of Contents****MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****For the Six Months Ended June 30,**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>	
	<b>(In thousands)</b>	
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>		
Net income	\$ 15,495	\$ 13,109
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Amortization of other intangible assets	3,114	687
Amortization of deferred debenture issuance costs	236	118
Depreciation of furniture, equipment, and building	1,505	1,525
Net accretion of discount and premiums on bonds	1,400	1,389
Loss on sale of investments, net	268	32
Gain on sale of fixed assets	(44)	(44)
Stock-based employee compensation		2
Incremental tax benefits from stock options exercised	(80)	(623)
Long-term incentive plan expense	405	119
Deferred income tax expense (benefit)	275	(595)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Decrease (increase) in:		
Premiums and agent balances receivable	(6,901)	(7,740)
Reinsurance recoverable on paid and unpaid losses	(1,390)	(4,306)
Prepaid reinsurance premiums	(906)	4,556
Deferred policy acquisition costs	(2,071)	232
Other assets	(623)	1,740
Increase (decrease) in:		
Losses and loss adjustment expenses	18,862	22,181
Unearned premiums	5,323	690
Payable to insurance companies	(2,659)	(528)
Reinsurance funds held and balances payable	(373)	(5,379)
Other liabilities	(5,689)	(4,928)
Total adjustments	10,652	9,128
Net cash provided by operating activities	26,147	22,237
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities</b>		
Purchase of debt securities available for sale	(51,741)	(125,019)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of debt securities available for sale	90,136	87,244
Capital expenditures	(1,112)	(1,710)
Purchase of books of business	(228)	(75)
Acquisition of U.S. Specialty Underwriters, Inc.(1)	(20,971)	(12,644)
Other investing activities	(424)	(214)

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Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	15,660	(52,418)
<b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities</b>		
Proceeds from lines of credit		19,025
Payment of lines of credit		(4,000)
Book overdrafts	(1,167)	361
Dividend paid on common stock	(1,481)	
Stock options exercised	4	(340)
Cash payment for payroll taxes associated with long-term incentive plan net stock issuance		(1,841)
Incremental tax benefits from stock options exercised	80	623
Other financing activities	(50)	(146)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(2,614)	13,682
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	39,193	(16,499)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	40,845	42,876
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 80,038	\$ 26,377

**Supplemental Disclosure of Non-Cash Investing and Financing Activities:**

Common stock portion of purchase price for acquisition of U.S. Specialty Underwriters, Inc.	\$	\$ 10,000
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- (1) Effective January 31, 2008, the Company exercised its option to purchase the remainder of the economics related to the acquisition of the USSU business.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)**

**NOTE 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

***Basis of Presentation and Management Representation***

The consolidated financial statements include accounts, after elimination of intercompany accounts and transactions, of Meadowbrook Insurance Group, Inc. (the Company), its wholly owned subsidiary Star Insurance Company (Star), and Star's wholly owned subsidiaries, Savers Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Williamsburg National Insurance Company, and Ameritrust Insurance Corporation (which are collectively referred to as the Insurance Company Subsidiaries), and Preferred Insurance Company, Ltd. (PICL). The consolidated financial statements also include Meadowbrook, Inc. (Meadowbrook), Crest Financial Corporation, and their subsidiaries. As of December 31, 2007, PICL was deregulated under Bermuda law and merged into Meadowbrook's subsidiary, Meadowbrook Risk Management, Ltd. On January 31, 2008, PICL was legally dissolved.

Pursuant to Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretation Number (FIN) 46(R), the Company does not consolidate its subsidiaries, Meadowbrook Capital Trust I and II (the Trusts), as they are not variable interest entities and the Company is not the primary beneficiary of the Trusts. The consolidated financial statements, however, include the equity earnings of the Trusts. In addition and in accordance with FIN 46(R), the Company does not consolidate its subsidiary American Indemnity Insurance Company, Ltd. (American Indemnity). While the Company and its subsidiary Star are the common shareholders, they are not the primary beneficiaries of American Indemnity. The consolidated financial statements, however, include the equity earnings of American Indemnity.

In the opinion of management, the consolidated financial statements reflect all normal recurring adjustments necessary to present a fair statement of the results for the interim period. Preparation of financial statements under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) requires management to make estimates. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The results of operations for the three months and six months ended June 30, 2008 are not necessarily indicative of the results expected for the full year.

These financial statements and the notes thereto should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited financial statements and accompanying notes included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K, as filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, for the year ended December 31, 2007.

The Company's Note 9 *Segment Information* of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for the three months and six months ended June 30, 2007, as previously reported, had a change in allocation. The agency operations of the Company's segment information include an allocation of corporate overhead, which includes expenses associated with accounting, information services, legal, and other corporate services. The allocation for Insurance & Benefits Consultants, a division of the Company's insurance agency, was previously included in specialty risk management operations. The effect of this reclassification was a reduction in agency operations pre-tax income and an increase in specialty risk management operations pre-tax income for the three months and six months ended June 30, 2007 of \$80,000 and \$147,000, respectively. The Company's Note 9 *Segment Information* for the three months and six months ended June 30, 2007 has been restated to reflect this reclassification.

***Revenue Recognition***

Premiums written, which include direct, assumed, and ceded are recognized as earned on a pro rata basis over the life of the policy term. Unearned premiums represent the portion of premiums written that are applicable to the unexpired terms of policies in force. Provisions for unearned premiums on reinsurance assumed from others are made on the basis of ceding reports when received and actuarial estimates.

For the six months ended June 30, 2008, total assumed written premiums were \$3.4 million, of which \$1.3 million relate to assumed business the Company manages directly. The remaining \$2.1 million of assumed written premiums relate to residual markets and mandatory assumed pool business. For the six months ended

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

June 30, 2007, total assumed written premiums were \$33.1 million, of which \$29.2 million related to assumed business the Company managed directly.

For the three months ended June 30, 2008, total assumed written premiums were \$1.8 million, of which \$477,000 relate to assumed business the Company manages directly. The remaining \$1.3 million of assumed written premiums relate to residual markets and mandatory assumed pool business. For the three months ended June 30, 2007, total assumed written premiums were \$9.7 million, of which \$7.5 million related to assumed business the Company managed directly.

Assumed premium estimates are specifically related to the mandatory assumed pool business from the National Council on Compensation Insurance ( NCCI ), or residual market business. The pool cedes workers' compensation business to participating companies based upon the individual company's market share by state. The activity is reported from the NCCI to participating companies on a two quarter lag. To accommodate this lag, the Company estimates premium and loss activity based on historical and market based results. Historically, the Company has not experienced any material difficulties or disputes in collecting balances from NCCI; and therefore, no provision for doubtful accounts is recorded related to the assumed premium estimate.

In addition, certain premiums are subject to retrospective premium adjustments. Premium is recognized over the term of the insurance contract. For the three months ended March 31, 2008, the Company recorded a \$1.8 million adjustment to reduce a premium accrual associated with a discontinued retrospectively rated policy with one of its risk sharing partners.

Fee income, which includes risk management consulting, loss control, and claims services, is recognized during the period the services are provided. Depending on the terms of the contract, claims processing fees are recognized as revenue over the estimated life of the claims, or the estimated life of the contract. For those contracts that provide services beyond the expiration or termination of the contract, fees are deferred in an amount equal to management's estimate of the Company's obligation to continue to provide services.

Commission income, which includes reinsurance placement, is recorded on the later of the effective date or the billing date of the policies on which they were earned. Commission income is reported net of any sub-producer commission expense. Any commission adjustments that occur subsequent to the earnings process are recognized upon notification from the insurance companies. Profit sharing commissions from insurance companies are recognized when determinable, which is when such commissions are received.

The Company reviews, on an ongoing basis, the collectibility of its receivables and establishes an allowance for estimated uncollectible accounts.

Realized gains or losses on sale of investments are determined on the basis of specific costs of the investments. Dividend income is recognized when declared and interest income is recognized when earned. Discount or premium on debt securities purchased at other than par value is amortized using the effective yield method. Investments with other than temporary declines in fair value are written down to their estimated net fair value and the related realized losses are recognized in income.

***Earnings Per Share***



Basic earnings per share are based on the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period, while diluted earnings per share includes the weighted average number of common shares and potential dilution from shares issuable pursuant to stock options using the treasury stock method.

Outstanding options of 63,250 and 98,807 for the six months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively, have been excluded from the diluted earnings per share, as they were anti-dilutive. Shares issuable pursuant to stock options included in diluted earnings per share were 172 and 39,510 for the six months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Shares related to the Company's Long Term Incentive Plan ( LTIP ) included in diluted earnings per share were 110,042 and 14,884 for the six months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Outstanding options of 63,250 and 93,807 for the three months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively, have been excluded from the diluted earnings per share, as they were anti-dilutive. Shares issuable pursuant to stock options included in diluted earnings per share were 96 and 39,941 for the three months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Shares related to the Company's LTIP included in diluted earnings per share were 105,783 and 15,983 for the three months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

***Recent Accounting Pronouncements***

In September 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements* ( SFAS No. 157 ). SFAS No. 157 defines fair value and establishes a framework for measuring fair value in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. SFAS No. 157 also requires expanded disclosures about (1) the extent to which companies measure assets and liabilities at fair value, (2) the methods and assumptions used to measure fair value and (3) the effect of fair value measures on earnings. SFAS No. 157 was effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The Company adopted SFAS 157 in the first quarter of 2008 and appropriate disclosures are provided in Note 5.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115* ( SFAS No. 159 ). SFAS No. 159 permits entities the option to measure many financial instruments and certain other assets and liabilities at fair value on an instrument-by-instrument basis as of specified election dates. This election is irrevocable as to specific assets and liabilities. The objective of SFAS No. 159 is to improve financial reporting and reduce the volatility in reported earnings caused by measuring related assets and liabilities differently. SFAS No. 159 was effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The Company did not elect the fair value option for existing eligible items under SFAS No. 159; therefore it did not impact its consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R), *Business Combinations* ( SFAS No. 141(R) ). SFAS No. 141(R) provides revised guidance on how an acquirer recognizes and measures in its financial statements, the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree. In addition, it provides revised guidance on the recognition and measurement of goodwill acquired in the business combination. SFAS No. 141(R) also establishes disclosure requirements to enable the evaluation of the nature and financial effects of the business combination. SFAS No. 141(R) is effective for business combinations completed on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after December 15, 2008. The Company does not expect the provisions of SFAS No. 141(R) to have a material impact on its consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements an amendment of Accounting Research Bulletin No. 51* ( SFAS No. 160 ). SFAS No. 160 establishes accounting and reporting standards for the noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary and for the deconsolidation of a subsidiary. SFAS No. 160 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008. The Company is in the process of evaluating the impact of SFAS No. 160, but believes the adoption of SFAS No. 160 will not impact its consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities* ( SFAS No. 161 ). SFAS No. 161 amends and expands the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for*

*Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities.* SFAS No. 161 requires qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts of gains and losses on derivative instruments and disclosures about credit-risk-related contingent features in derivative agreements. This statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008. The Company is in the process of evaluating the impact of SFAS No. 161, but believes the adoption of SFAS No. 161 will not materially impact its consolidated financial condition or results of operations, but may require additional disclosures related to any derivative or hedging activities of the Company.

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

In April 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position ( FSP ) FAS 142-3, *Determination of the Useful Life of Intangible Assets*. FSP FAS 142-3 amends the factors that should be considered in developing renewal or extension assumptions used to determine the useful life of a recognized intangible asset under SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*. This FSP is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008. The Company is in the process of evaluating the impact of this FSP, but believes it will not materially impact its consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

In May 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 162, *The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. SFAS No. 162 identifies the sources of accounting principles and provides entities with a framework for selecting the principles used in preparation of financial statements that are presented in conformity with GAAP. The current GAAP hierarchy has been criticized because it is directed to the auditor rather than the entity, it is complex, and it ranks FASB Statements of Financial Accounting Concepts, which are subject to the same level of due process as FASB Statements of Financial Accounting Standards, below industry practices that are widely recognized as generally accepted but that are not subject to due process. The Financial Accounting Standards Board believes the GAAP hierarchy should be directed to entities because it is the entity that is responsible for selecting accounting principles for financial statements that are presented in conformity with GAAP, not its auditors. SFAS No. 162 is effective sixty days following the Securities and Exchange Commission's approval of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board amendments to AU Section 411 *The Meaning of Present Fairly in Conformity With Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. The adoption of SFAS No. 162 is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial position and results of operations.

In May 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 163, *Accounting for Financial Guarantee Insurance Contracts-an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 60*. Diversity exists in practice in accounting for financial guarantee insurance contracts by insurance enterprises under SFAS No. 60 *Accounting and Reporting by Insurance Enterprises*. This results in inconsistencies in the recognition and measurement of claim liabilities due to differing views about when a loss has been incurred under SFAS No. 5 *Accounting for Contingencies*. This Statement requires that an insurance enterprise recognize a claim liability prior to an event of default when there is evidence that credit deterioration has occurred in an insured financial obligation. This Statement requires expanded disclosures about financial guarantee insurance contracts. The accounting and disclosure required under SFAS No. 163 will improve the quality of information provided to users of financial statements. This statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008, and all interim periods within those fiscal years, except for some disclosures about the insurance enterprise's risk-management activities. The Company is in the process of evaluating the impact of SFAS No. 163, but believes the adoption of SFAS No. 163 will not impact its consolidated financial condition or results of operations, but may require additional disclosures.

**NOTE 2 Stock Options, Long Term Incentive Plan, and Deferred Compensation Plan**

***Stock Options***

The Company has two plans under which it has issued stock options, its 1995 and 2002 Amended and Restated Stock Option Plans (the Plans). Currently, the Plans have either five or ten-year option terms and are exercisable and vest in equal increments over the option term. Since 2003, the Company has not issued any new stock options to employees.



Table of Contents**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The following is a summary of the Company's stock option activity and related information for the six months ended June 30, 2008:

	<b>Options</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Exercise Price</b>
Outstanding as of December 31, 2007	132,052	\$ 14.51
Exercised	(31,745)	\$ 2.17
Expired and/or forfeited	(35,557)	\$ 22.75
Outstanding as of June 30, 2008	64,750	\$ 16.03
Exercisable as of June 30, 2008	64,250	\$ 16.11

The following table summarizes information about stock options outstanding at June 30, 2008:

<b>Range of Exercise Prices</b>	<b>Options Outstanding</b>			<b>Options Exercisable</b>	
	<b>Options</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Remaining Life (Years)</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Exercise Price</b>	<b>Options</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Exercise Price</b>
\$6.48	1,500	1.4	\$ 6.48	1,000	\$ 6.48
\$10.91 to \$24.6875	63,250	0.5	\$ 16.26	63,250	\$ 16.26
	64,750	0.6	\$ 16.03	64,250	\$ 16.11

Compensation expense of \$0 and \$2,000 has been recorded in the six months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007 under SFAS No. 123(R), respectively. As of March 31, 2007, the Company had fully expensed all of its current outstanding stock options.

***Long Term Incentive Plan***

In 2004, the Company adopted a Long Term Incentive Plan (the "LTIP"). The LTIP provides participants with the opportunity to earn cash and stock awards based upon the achievement of specified financial goals over a three-year performance period with the first performance period commencing January 1, 2004. At the end of a three-year performance period, and if the performance targets for that period are achieved, the Compensation Committee of the

Board of Directors shall determine the amount of LTIP awards that are payable to participants in the LTIP for the current performance period. One-half of any LTIP award will be payable in cash and one-half of the award will be payable in the form of a stock award. If the Company achieves the performance targets for the three-year performance period, payment of the cash portion of the award would be made in three annual installments, with the first payment being paid as of the end of the that performance period and the remaining two payments to be paid in the subsequent two years. Any unpaid portion of a cash award is subject to forfeiture if the participant voluntarily leaves the Company or is discharged for cause. The portion of the award to be paid in the form of stock will be issued as of the end of that performance period. The number of shares of the Company's common stock subject to the stock award shall equal the dollar amount of one-half of the LTIP award divided by the fair market value of Company's common stock on the first date of the beginning of the performance period. The stock awards shall be made subject to the terms and conditions of the LTIP and Plans. The Company accrues awards based upon the criteria set-forth and approved by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors, as included in the LTIP.

At June 30, 2008, the Company had \$1.3 million and \$1.2 million accrued for the cash and stock award, respectively, for all plan years under the LTIP. Of the \$2.5 million accrued for the LTIP, \$590,000 relates to the cash portion accrued for the 2004-2006 plan years and the remainder relates to the 2007-2009 plan years. The stock portion for the 2004-2006 plan years was fully expensed as of December 31, 2006 and the cash portion of the award is being expensed over a five-year period. At December 31, 2007, the Company had \$1.6 million and \$772,000

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

accrued for the cash and stock award, respectively, for all plan years under the LTIP. Shares related to the Company's LTIP included in diluted earnings per share were 110,042 and 14,884 for the six months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. For the three months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, shares included in diluted earnings per share were 105,783 and 15,983, respectively.

***Deferred Compensation Plan***

The Company maintains an Executive Nonqualified Excess Plan (the Excess Plan). The Excess Plan is intended to be a nonqualified deferred compensation plan that will comply with the provisions of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code. The Company maintains the Excess Plan to provide a means by which certain key management employees may elect to defer receipt of current compensation from the Company in order to provide retirement and other benefits, as provided for in the Excess Plan. The Excess Plan is intended to be an unfunded plan and maintained primarily for the purpose of providing deferred compensation benefits for eligible employees. At June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, the Company had \$876,000 and \$644,000 accrued for the Excess Plan, respectively.

**NOTE 3 Reinsurance**

Star, as the lead insurance company under the Pooling Agreement, cedes insurance to reinsurers under pro-rata and excess-of-loss contracts. These reinsurance arrangements diversify the Company's business and minimize its exposure to large losses or hazards of an unusual nature. The ceding of insurance does not discharge the original insurer from its primary liability to its policyholder. In the event that all or any of the reinsuring companies are unable to meet their obligations, Star would be liable for such defaulted amounts. Therefore, the Company is subject to credit risk with respect to the obligations of its reinsurers. In order to minimize its exposure to significant losses from reinsurer insolvencies, the Company evaluates the financial condition of its reinsurers and monitors the economic characteristics of the reinsurers on an ongoing basis. The Company also assumes insurance from other domestic insurers and reinsurers. Based upon management's evaluation, they have concluded the reinsurance agreements entered into by the Company transfer both significant timing and underwriting risk to the reinsurer and, accordingly, are accounted for as reinsurance under the provisions of SFAS No. 113 *Accounting and Reporting for Reinsurance for Short-Duration and Long-Duration Contracts*.

Intercompany pooling or reinsurance agreements are commonly entered into between affiliated insurance companies, so as to allow the companies to utilize the capital and surplus of all of the companies, rather than each individual company. Under pooling arrangements, companies share in the insurance business that is underwritten and allocate the combined premium, losses and related expenses between the companies within the pooling arrangement. The Insurance Company Subsidiaries utilize an Inter-Company Reinsurance Agreement (the Pooling Agreement). This Pooling Agreement includes Star, Ameritrust Insurance Corporation (Ameritrust), Savers Property and Casualty Insurance Company (Savers) and Williamsburg National Insurance Company (Williamsburg). Pursuant to the Pooling Agreement, Savers, Ameritrust and Williamsburg have agreed to cede to Star and Star has agreed to reinsure 100% of the liabilities and expenses of Savers, Ameritrust and Williamsburg, relating to all insurance and reinsurance policies issued by them. In return, Star agreed to cede and Savers, Ameritrust and Williamsburg have agreed to reinsure Star for their respective percentages of the liabilities and expenses of Star. Annually, the Company examines the Pooling Agreement for any changes to the ceded percentage for the liabilities and expenses. Any changes to the Pooling Agreement must be submitted to the applicable regulatory authorities for approval.



At June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, the Company had reinsurance recoverables for paid and unpaid losses of \$200.9 million and \$199.5 million, respectively.

In regard to the Company's excess-of-loss reinsurance, the Company manages its credit risk on reinsurance recoverables by reviewing the financial stability, A.M. Best rating, capitalization, and credit worthiness of prospective and existing risk-sharing partners. The Company generally does not seek collateral where the reinsurer

**Table of Contents****MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

is rated A- or better by A.M. Best, has \$500 million or more in surplus, and is admitted in the state of Michigan. As of June 30, 2008, the largest unsecured reinsurance recoverable is due from an admitted reinsurer with an A+ A.M. Best rating and accounts for 39.0% of the total recoverable for paid and unpaid losses.

In regard to the Company's risk-sharing partners (client captive or rent-a-captive quota-share non-admitted reinsurers), the Company manages credit risk on reinsurance recoverables by reviewing the financial stability, capitalization, and credit worthiness of prospective or existing reinsurers or partners. The Company customarily collateralizes reinsurance balances due from non-admitted reinsurers through funds withheld trusts or stand-by letters of credit issued by highly rated banks.

To date, the Company has not, in the aggregate, experienced material difficulties in collecting reinsurance recoverables.

The Company has historically maintained an allowance for the potential exposure to the uncollectibility of certain reinsurance balances. At the end of each quarter, an analysis of these exposures is conducted to determine the potential exposure to uncollectibility. The following table sets forth the Company's exposure to uncollectible reinsurance and related allowances as of June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007 (in thousands):

	June 30, 2008			December 31, 2007		
	Non Risk Sharing(1)	Risk Sharing(2)	Total	Non Risk Sharing(1)	Risk Sharing(2)	Total
Gross exposure	\$ 815	\$ 6,948	\$ 7,763	\$ 4,959	\$ 7,150	\$ 12,109
Collateral or other security		(2,803)	(2,803)	(1)	(3,114)	(3,115)
Allowance	(815)	(3,229)	(4,044)	(4,873)	(3,268)	(8,141)
Net exposure	\$	\$ 916	\$ 916	\$ 85	\$ 768	\$ 853

- (1) Balances related to one unaffiliated insurance company, which is under regulatory liquidation or control, for which allowances have been established; all other admitted reinsurers have an A.M. Best rating of A- or better.
- (2) Balances related to risk-sharing partners, which have either captive or rent-a-captive quota-share reinsurance contracts with the Company.

While management believes the above allowances to be adequate, no assurance can be given, however, regarding the future ability of any of the Company's risk-sharing partners to meet their financial obligations.

The Company maintains an excess-of-loss reinsurance treaty designed to protect against large or unusual loss and loss adjustment expense activity. The Company determines the appropriate amount of reinsurance primarily based on the Company's evaluation of the risks accepted, but also considers analysis prepared by consultants and reinsurers and on

market conditions including the availability and pricing of reinsurance. To date, there have been no material disputes with the Company's excess-of-loss reinsurers. No assurance can be given, however, regarding the future ability of any of the Company's excess-of-loss reinsurers to meet their obligations.

Under the workers' compensation reinsurance treaty, reinsurers are responsible for 100% of each loss in excess of \$350,000, up to \$5.0 million for each claimant, on losses occurring prior to April 1, 2005. The Company increased its retention from \$350,000 to \$750,000, for losses occurring on or after April 1, 2005 and to \$1.0 million for losses occurring on or after April 1, 2006. In addition, there is coverage for loss events involving more than one claimant up to \$75.0 million per occurrence in excess of retentions of \$1.0 million. In a loss event involving more than one claimant, the per claimant coverage is \$9.0 million in excess of retentions of \$1.0 million.

Under the core liability reinsurance treaty, the reinsurers are responsible for 100% of each loss in excess of \$350,000, up to \$2.0 million per occurrence on policies effective prior to June 1, 2005. The Company increased its retention from \$350,000 to \$500,000, for losses occurring on policies effective on or after June 1, 2005. Effective

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

June 1, 2008, the Company expanded its clash protection to cover all casualty lines other than workers' compensation. The Company maintained \$3.0 million of reinsurance clash coverage in excess of \$2.0 million to cover amounts that may be in excess of the policy limit, such as expenses associated with the settlement of claims or a loss where two or more policies are involved in a common occurrence. In addition, the Company purchased an awards made cover for judgments in excess of policy limits or extra contractual obligations arising under all casualty lines other than workers' compensation. Reinsurers are responsible for 100% of each award in excess of \$500,000 up to \$10.0 million. Historically, the Company had separate clash provisions for various casualty treaties, but now will be protected by one common treaty.

Effective June 1, 2006, the Company purchased a \$5.0 million excess cover to support its umbrella business, which is renewed on an annual basis. This business had previously been reinsured through various semi-automatic agreements and will now be protected by one common treaty. The Company has no retention when the umbrella limit is in excess of the primary limit, but does warrant it will maintain a minimum liability of \$1.0 million if the primary limit does not respond or is exhausted.

The Company has a separate treaty to cover liability specifically related to commercial trucking, where reinsurers are responsible for 100% of each loss in excess of \$350,000, up to \$1.0 million for losses occurring prior to December 1, 2005. The Company increased its retention from \$350,000 to \$500,000 for losses occurring on or after December 1, 2005. Effective December 1, 2007, the Company entered into a new \$1.0 million in excess of \$1.0 million per occurrence layer for additional capacity for its commercial trucking business, which is reinsured 100%. In addition, the Company purchased an additional \$1.0 million of reinsurance clash coverage. The Company established a separate treaty to cover liability related to chemical distributors and repackagers, whereby reinsurers are responsible for 100% of each loss in excess of \$500,000, up to \$1.0 million, applied separately to general liability and auto liability. This treaty was terminated on a run-off basis on August 1, 2006. The exposures are covered under the core casualty treaty for policies effective August 1, 2006 and after. Additionally, the Company has a separate treaty structure to cover liability related to agricultural business. The reinsurer is responsible for 100% of each loss in excess of \$500,000, up to \$1.0 million for casualty losses and up to \$5.0 million, for property losses occurring on or after May 1, 2006. This treaty also provides an additional \$1.0 million of reinsurance clash coverage for the casualty lines. The clash coverage expired May 31, 2008 and is now protected by the awards and clash coverage treaty described above.

Under the property reinsurance treaty, reinsurers are responsible for 100% of the amount of each loss in excess of \$500,000, up to \$5.0 million per location. In addition, there is coverage for loss events involving multiple locations up to \$25.0 million after the Company has incurred \$750,000 in loss.

On May 1, 2008, the Company renewed its existing reinsurance agreement that provides reinsurance coverage for policies written in the Company's public entity excess liability program. The agreement provides reinsurance coverage of \$4.0 million in excess of \$1.0 million for each occurrence in excess of the policyholders' self-insured retentions.

In addition, the Company maintains a reinsurance agreement that provides \$10.0 million in excess of \$5.0 million for each occurrence, which is above the underlying \$5.0 million of coverage for the Company's public entity excess liability program. Under this agreement, reinsurers are responsible for 100% of each loss in excess of \$5.0 million for all lines, except workers' compensation, which is covered by the Company's core catastrophic workers' compensation treaty structure up to \$75.0 million per occurrence.

On December 1, 2007, the Company entered into a reinsurance agreement that provides reinsurance coverage for excess workers compensation business. Reinsurers are responsible for 80% of the difference between \$2.0 million and the policyholder's self-insured retention for each occurrence. Reinsurers are then responsible for 100% of \$8.0 million in excess of \$2.0 million for each occurrence. Coverage in excess of \$10.0 million up to \$50.0 million per occurrence is covered by the Company's core catastrophic workers compensation treaty.

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

Additionally, certain small programs have separate reinsurance treaties in place, which limit the Company's exposure to \$350,000 or less.

Facultative reinsurance is purchased for property values in excess of \$5.0 million, casualty limits in excess of \$2.0 million, or for coverage not covered by a treaty.

**NOTE 4 Debt**

***Lines of Credit***

In April 2007, the Company executed an amendment to its revolving credit agreement with its bank. The amendments included an extension of the term to September 30, 2010, an increase to the available borrowings of up to \$35.0 million, and a reduction of the variable interest rate basis to a range between 75 to 175 basis points above LIBOR. The Company uses the revolving line of credit to meet short-term working capital needs. Under the revolving line of credit, the Company and certain of its non-regulated subsidiaries pledged security interests in certain property and assets of the Company and named subsidiaries.

At June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, the Company did not have an outstanding balance on the revolving line of credit.

The revolving line of credit provides for interest at a variable rate based, at the Company's option, upon either a prime-based rate or LIBOR-based rate. In addition, the revolving line of credit also provides for an unused facility fee of 15 basis points on any unused balance. On prime-based borrowings, the applicable margin ranges from 75 to 25 basis points below prime. On LIBOR-based borrowings, the applicable margin ranges from 75 to 175 basis points above LIBOR. The margin for all loans is dependent on the sum of non-regulated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, and non-cash impairment charges related to intangible assets for the preceding four quarters, plus dividends paid or payable to the Company from subsidiaries during such period ( Adjusted EBITDA ). At June 30, 2008, the Company did not have any LIBOR-based borrowings outstanding.

Debt covenants consist of: (1) maintenance of the ratio of Adjusted EBITDA to interest expense of 2.0 to 1.0, (2) minimum net worth of \$130.0 million and increasing annually commencing June 30, 2005, by fifty percent of the prior year's positive net income, (3) minimum A.M. Best rating of B+, and (4) minimum Risk Based Capital Ratio for Star of 1.75 to 1.00. As of June 30, 2008, the Company was in compliance with these covenants.

***Senior Debentures***

In April 2004, the Company issued senior debentures in the amount of \$13.0 million. The senior debentures mature in thirty years and provide for interest at the three-month LIBOR, plus 4.0%, which is non-deferrable. At June 30, 2008, the interest rate was 6.68%. The senior debentures are callable by the Company at par after five years from the date of issuance. Associated with this transaction, the Company incurred \$390,000 of commissions paid to the placement agents.

In May 2004, the Company issued senior debentures in the amount of \$12.0 million. The senior debentures mature in thirty years and provide for interest at the three-month LIBOR, plus 4.2%, which is non-deferrable. At June 30, 2008,

the interest rate was 6.84%. The senior debentures are callable by the Company at par after five years from the date of issuance. Associated with this transaction, the Company incurred \$360,000 of commissions paid to the placement agents.

The Company contributed \$9.9 million of the proceeds to its Insurance Company Subsidiaries and the remaining proceeds were used for general corporate purposes.

The issuance costs associated with these debentures have been capitalized and are included in other assets on the accompanying balance sheets. From the time of issuance through June 30, 2007, these issuance costs were being amortized over a seven year period as a component of interest expense. The seven year amortization period

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

represented management's best estimate of the estimated useful life of the bonds related to the senior debentures at that time. Beginning July 1, 2007, the Company reevaluated its best estimate and determined a five year amortization period to be a more accurate representation of the estimated useful life. Therefore, this change in amortization period from seven years to five years has been applied prospectively commencing July 1, 2007.

***Junior Subordinated Debentures***

In September 2005, Meadowbrook Capital Trust II (the Trust II), an unconsolidated subsidiary trust of the Company, issued \$20.0 million of mandatorily redeemable trust preferred securities (TPS) to a trust formed by an institutional investor. Contemporaneously, the Company issued \$20.6 million in junior subordinated debentures, which includes the Company's investment in the trust of \$620,000. These debentures have financial terms similar to those of the TPS, which includes the deferral of interest payments at any time, or from time-to-time, for a period not exceeding five years, provided there is no event of default. These debentures mature in thirty years and provide for interest at the three-month LIBOR, plus 3.58%. At June 30, 2008, the interest rate was 6.36%. These debentures are callable by the Company at par beginning in October 2010.

The Company received \$19.4 million in net proceeds, after the deduction of approximately \$600,000 of commissions paid to the placement agents in the transaction.

The Company contributed \$10.0 million of the proceeds from the issuance of these debentures to its Insurance Company Subsidiaries and the remaining proceeds were used for general corporate purposes.

In September 2003, Meadowbrook Capital Trust (the Trust), an unconsolidated subsidiary trust of the Company, issued \$10.0 million of mandatorily redeemable TPS to a trust formed by an institutional investor. Contemporaneously, the Company issued \$10.3 million in junior subordinated debentures, which includes the Company's investment in the trust of \$310,000. These debentures have financial terms similar to those of the TPS, which includes the deferral of interest payments at any time, or from time-to-time, for a period not exceeding five years, provided there is no event of default. These debentures mature in thirty years and provide for interest at the three-month LIBOR, plus 4.05%. At June 30, 2008, the interest rate was 6.85%. These debentures are callable by the Company at par beginning in October 2008.

The Company received \$9.7 million in net proceeds, after the deduction of approximately \$300,000 of commissions paid to the placement agents in the transaction.

The Company contributed \$6.3 million of the proceeds from the issuance of these debentures to its Insurance Company Subsidiaries and the remaining proceeds were used for general corporate purposes.

The junior subordinated debentures are unsecured obligations of the Company and are junior to the right of payment to all senior indebtedness of the Company. The Company has guaranteed that the payments made to both Trusts will be distributed by the Trusts to the holders of the TPS.

The Company estimates that the fair value of the above mentioned junior subordinated debentures and senior debentures issued approximate the gross proceeds of cash received at the time of issuance.



The issuance costs associated with the junior subordinated debentures have been capitalized and are included in other assets on the balance sheet. From the time of issuance through June 30, 2007, these issuance costs were being amortized over a seven year period as a component of interest expense. The seven year amortization period represented management's best estimate of the estimated useful life of the bonds related to the junior subordinated debentures at that time. Beginning July 1, 2007, the Company reevaluated its best estimate and determined a five year amortization period to be a more accurate representation of the estimated useful life. Therefore, this change in amortization period from seven years to five years has been applied prospectively commencing July 1, 2007.

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**NOTE 5 Fair Value Measurements**

The Company's available-for-sale investment portfolio consists of debt securities, which are recorded in accordance with SFAS No. 115, *Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities*. The change in fair value of these investments is recorded as a component of other comprehensive income. In addition, the Company has five interest rate swaps that are designated as cash flow hedges, in accordance with SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*. The Company records these interest rate swap transactions at fair value on the balance sheet and the effective portion of the changes in fair value are accounted for within other comprehensive income.

The Company adopted SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities*, effective January 1, 2008. Under this standard, the Company is permitted to elect to measure financial instruments and certain other items at fair value, with the change in fair value recorded in earnings. The Company elected not to measure any eligible items using the fair value option in accordance with SFAS No. 159. Therefore, the adoption of SFAS No. 159 did not have any impact on its consolidated financial condition or results of operations. The Company does not plan to, but could at a future date acquire assets or liabilities that are reported using the fair value option provided under SFAS No. 159.

The Company adopted SFAS No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*, effective January 1, 2008. SFAS No. 157 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. In addition, SFAS 157 establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about the use of fair value to allow users of financial statements to assess the relative reliability of fair value measurements. The Company determined that its fair value measurements are in accordance with the requirements of SFAS No. 157 and that the adoption of SFAS 157 did not have any impact on its consolidated financial condition or results of operations. However, the implementation of SFAS No. 157 resulted in expanded disclosures about securities measured at fair value, as discussed below.

SFAS No. 157 establishes a three-level hierarchy for fair value measurements that distinguishes between market participant assumptions based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity ( observable inputs ) and the reporting entity's own assumptions about market participants' assumptions ( unobservable inputs ). The hierarchy level assigned to each security in the Company's available-for-sale portfolio is based upon its assessment of the transparency and reliability of the inputs used in the valuation as of the measurement date. The three hierarchy levels are defined as follows:

Level 1 Observable unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.

The Company did not have any reportable securities, which were classified as a Level 1 input.

Level 2 Observable inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical securities, including: quoted prices in active markets for similar securities; quoted prices for identical or similar securities in markets that are not active; inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the security, e.g., interest rates, yield curves observable at commonly quoted intervals, volatilities, prepayment speeds, credit risks, default rates; inputs derived from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

The fair values of substantially all of the Company's fixed income securities were based on Level 2 inputs.

The fair values of the Company's interest rate swaps were based on Level 2 inputs.

Level 3 Unobservable inputs, including the reporting entity's own data, e.g., cash flow estimates, as long as there are no contrary data indicating market participants would use different assumptions.

The hierarchy level of fair value measurement for one of the Company's securities based on a broker-quote was determined to be within Level 3 due to the limited availability of corroborating market data.

Table of Contents**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The fair values of debt securities were based on market values obtained from an independent pricing service that were evaluated using pricing models that vary by asset class and incorporate available trade, bid, and other market information and price quotes from well established independent broker-dealers. The independent pricing service monitors market indicators, industry and economic events, and for broker-quoted only securities, obtains quotes from market makers or broker-dealers that it recognizes to be market participants.

The following table presents the Company's assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis, classified by the SFAS No. 157 valuation hierarchy as of June 30, 2008 (in thousands):

	Total	Fair Value Measurements Using		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Available-for-Sale Securities	\$ 563,741	\$	\$ 562,120	\$ 1,621
Derivative interest rate swaps	\$ (367)	\$	\$ (367)	\$

The following table presents changes in Level 3 available-for-sale investments measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of June 30, 2008 (in thousands):

	Fair Value Measurement Using Significant Unobservable Inputs - Level 3
Balance as of March 31, 2008	\$ 1,645
Total gains or losses (realized/unrealized):	
Included in earnings	
Included in other comprehensive income	(24)
Purchases, issuances and settlements	
Transfers in and out of Level 3	
Balance as of June 30, 2008	\$ 1,621
The amount of total gains or losses for the period included in earnings (or changes in net assets) attributable to the change in unrealized gains or losses relating to assets still held at the	\$ (24)

reporting date

	<b>Fair Value Measurement Using Significant Unobservable Inputs - Level 3</b>
Balance as of December 31, 2007	\$
Total gains or losses (realized/unrealized):	
Included in earnings	
Included in other comprehensive income	(52)
Purchases, issuances and settlements	1,673
Transfers in and out of Level 3	
Balance as of June 30, 2008	\$ 1,621
The amount of total gains or losses for the period included in earnings (or changes in net assets) attributable to the change in unrealized gains or losses relating to assets still held at the reporting date	\$ (52)

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**NOTE 6 Derivative Instruments**

In October 2005, the Company entered into two interest rate swap transactions to mitigate its interest rate risk on \$5.0 million and \$20.0 million of the Company's senior debentures and trust preferred securities, respectively. On April 21, 2008, the Company entered into three interest rate swap transactions to mitigate its interest rate risk on its remaining \$30.0 million of the Company's senior debentures and trust preferred securities. The Company accrues for these transactions in accordance with SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, as subsequently amended (SFAS No. 133). These interest rate swap transactions have been designated as cash flow hedges and are deemed highly effective hedges under SFAS No. 133. In accordance with SFAS No. 133, these interest rate swap transactions are recorded at fair value on the balance sheet and the effective portion of the changes in fair value are accounted for within other comprehensive income. The interest differential to be paid or received is being accrued and is being recognized as an adjustment to interest expense.

The first interest rate swap transaction, which relates to \$5.0 million of the Company's \$12.0 million issuance of senior debentures, has an effective date of October 6, 2005 and ending date of May 24, 2009. The Company is required to make certain quarterly fixed rate payments calculated on a notional amount of \$5.0 million, non-amortizing, based on a fixed annual interest rate of 8.925%. The counterparty is obligated to make quarterly floating rate payments to the Company, referencing the same notional amount, based on the three-month LIBOR, plus 4.20%.

The second interest rate swap transaction, which relates to \$20.0 million of the Company's \$20.0 million issuance of trust preferred securities, has an effective date of October 6, 2005 and ending date of September 16, 2010. The Company is required to make quarterly fixed rate payments calculated on a notional amount of \$20.0 million, non-amortizing, based on a fixed annual interest rate of 8.34%. The counterparty is obligated to make quarterly floating rate payments to the Company, referencing the same notional amount, based on the three-month LIBOR, plus 3.58%.

The third interest rate swap transaction, which relates to \$7.0 million of the Company's \$12.0 million issuance of senior debentures, has an effective date of April 23, 2008 and ending date of May 24, 2011. The Company is required to make certain quarterly fixed rate payments calculated on a notional amount of \$7.0 million, non-amortizing, based on a fixed annual interest rate of 7.72%. The counterparty is obligated to make quarterly floating rate payments to the Company referencing the same notional amount, based on the three-month LIBOR, plus 4.20%.

The fourth interest rate swap transaction, which relates to \$10.0 million of the Company's \$10.0 million issuance of trust preferred securities, has an effective date of April 23, 2008 and ending date of June 30, 2013. The Company is required to make quarterly fixed rate payments calculated on a notional amount of \$10.0 million, non-amortizing, based on a fixed annual interest rate of 8.02%. The counterparty is obligated to make quarterly floating rate payments to the Company referencing the same notional amount, based on the three-month LIBOR, plus 4.05%.

The fifth interest rate swap transaction, which relates to \$13.0 million of the Company's \$13.0 million issuance of senior debentures, has an effective date of April 29, 2008 and ending date of April 29, 2013. The Company is required to make quarterly fixed rate payments calculated on a notional amount of \$13.0 million, non-amortizing, based on a fixed annual interest rate of 7.94%. The counterparty is obligated to make quarterly floating rate payments to the Company referencing the same notional amount, based on the three-month LIBOR, plus 4.00%.

In relation to the above interest rate swaps, the net interest expense paid for the six months ended June 30, 2008, was approximately \$135,000. The net interest income received for the six months ended June 30, 2007, was approximately \$76,000. For the three months ended June 30, 2008, the net interest expense paid was approximately \$150,000. For the three months ended June 30, 2007, the net interest income received was approximately \$38,000.

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

The total fair value of the interest rate swaps as of June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, was approximately (\$367,000) and (\$545,000), respectively. Accumulated other comprehensive income at June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, included the accumulated loss on the cash flow hedge, net of taxes, of (\$115,000) and (\$484,000), respectively.

In December 2005, the Company entered into a \$6.0 million convertible note receivable with an unaffiliated insurance agency. The effective interest rate of the convertible note is equal to the three-month LIBOR, plus 5.2% and is due December 20, 2010. This agency has been a producer for the Company for over ten years. As security for the loan, the borrower granted the Company a security interest in its accounts, cash, general intangibles, and other intangible property. Also, the shareholder then pledged 100% of the common shares of three insurance agencies, the common shares owned by the shareholder in another agency, and has executed a personal guaranty. This note is convertible at the option of the Company based upon a pre-determined formula, beginning in 2007. The conversion feature of this note is considered an embedded derivative pursuant to SFAS No. 133, and therefore is accounted for separately from the note. At June 30, 2008, the estimated fair value of the derivative was not material to the financial statements.

**NOTE 7 Shareholders Equity**

At June 30, 2008, shareholders equity was \$312.0 million, or a book value of \$8.43 per common share, compared to \$301.9 million, or a book value of \$8.16 per common share, at December 31, 2007.

In October 2007, the Company's Board of Directors authorized management to purchase up to 1,000,000 shares, or approximately 3%, of its common stock in market transactions for a period not to exceed twenty-four months. For the three months and six months ended June 30, 2008 and for the year ended December 31, 2007, the Company did not repurchase any common stock. As of June 30, 2008, the Company had available up to 1,000,000 shares to be purchased.

At the Company's regularly scheduled board meeting on July 25, 2008, the Company's Board of Directors authorized management to purchase up to 3,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock in market transactions for a period not to exceed twenty-four months. This share repurchase plan replaces the existing share repurchase plan authorized in October 2007.

On April 25, 2008, the Company's Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.02 per common share. The dividend was payable on June 2, 2008, to shareholders of record as of May 16, 2008. On July 25, 2008, the Company's Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.02 per common share. This dividend is payable on September 2, 2008, to shareholders of record as of August 15, 2008. The Company's Board of Directors did not declare any dividends in 2007.

When evaluating the declaration of a dividend, the Company's Board of Directors considers a variety of factors, including but not limited to, cash flow, liquidity needs, results of operations, industry conditions, and its overall financial condition. As a holding company, the ability to pay cash dividends is partially dependent on dividends and other permitted payments from its Insurance Company Subsidiaries. The Company did not receive any dividends from its Insurance Company Subsidiaries during the six months ended June 30, 2008 or in 2007. Refer to Note 8 *Regulatory Matters and Rating Issues* for additional information regarding dividend restrictions.



**NOTE 8 Regulatory Matters and Rating Issues**

A significant portion of the Company's consolidated assets represent assets of its Insurance Company Subsidiaries. The State of Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation (OFIR) restricts the amount of funds that may be transferred to the holding company in the form of dividends, loans or advances. These restrictions in general, are as follows: the maximum discretionary dividend that may be declared, based on data from the preceding calendar year, is the greater of each insurance company's net income (excluding realized capital gains) or ten percent of the insurance company's surplus (excluding unrealized gains). These dividends are further

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

limited by a clause in the Michigan law that prohibits an insurer from declaring dividends, except out of surplus earnings of the company. Earned surplus balances are calculated on a quarterly basis. Since Star is the parent insurance company, its maximum dividend capability is based on the combined Insurance Company Subsidiaries surplus. At June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, Star's earned surplus position was positive \$56.0 million and \$33.7 million, respectively. Based upon Star's statutory financial statements as of December 31, 2007, Star would have the potential to pay a dividend of up to \$18.8 million without the prior approval of OFIR. No statutory dividends were paid in 2007 or during the six months ended June 30, 2008.

Insurance operations are subject to various leverage tests (e.g., premium to statutory surplus ratios), which are evaluated by regulators and rating agencies. The Company's targets for gross and net written premium to statutory surplus are 2.8 to 1.0 and 2.25 to 1.0, respectively. As of June 30, 2008, on a statutory combined basis, the gross and net premium leverage ratios were 1.8 to 1.0 and 1.4 to 1.0, respectively.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) has adopted a risk-based capital (RBC) formula to be applied to all property and casualty insurance companies. The formula measures required capital and surplus based on an insurance company's products and investment portfolio and is used as a tool to evaluate the capital of regulated companies. The RBC formula is used by state insurance regulators to monitor trends in statutory capital and surplus for the purpose of initiating regulatory action. In general, an insurance company must submit a calculation of its RBC formula to the insurance department of its state of domicile as of the end of the previous calendar year. These laws require increasing degrees of regulatory oversight and intervention as an insurance company's RBC declines. The level of regulatory oversight ranges from requiring the insurance company to inform and obtain approval from the domiciliary insurance commissioner of a comprehensive financial plan for increasing its RBC to mandatory regulatory intervention requiring an insurance company to be placed under regulatory control in a rehabilitation or liquidation proceeding.

At December 31, 2007, each of the Company's Insurance Company Subsidiaries was in excess of any minimum threshold at which corrective action would be required. At June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, Star's statutory surplus was \$205.5 million and \$188.4 million, respectively.

**NOTE 9 Segment Information**

The Company defines its operations as specialty risk management operations and agency operations based upon differences in products and services. The separate financial information of these segments is consistent with the way results are regularly evaluated by management in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. Intersegment revenue is eliminated upon consolidation. It would be impracticable for the Company to determine the allocation of assets between the two segments.

***Specialty Risk Management Operations***

The specialty risk management operations segment, which includes insurance company specialty programs and fee-for-service specialty programs, focuses on specialty or niche insurance business. Specialty risk management operations provide services and coverages tailored to meet specific requirements of defined client groups and their members. These services include risk management consulting, claims administration and handling, loss control and prevention, and reinsurance placement, along with various types of property and casualty insurance coverage,

including workers' compensation, commercial multiple peril, general liability, commercial auto liability, and inland marine. Insurance coverage is provided primarily to associations or similar groups of members and to specified classes of business of the Company's agent-partners. The Company recognizes revenue related to the services and coverages the specialty risk management operations provides within seven categories: net earned premiums, management fees, claims fees, loss control fees, reinsurance placement, investment income, and net realized gains (losses).

Table of Contents**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)***Agency Operations*

The Company earns commissions through the operation of its retail property and casualty insurance agencies located in Michigan, California, and Florida. The agency operations produce commercial, personal lines, life, and accident and health insurance, for more than fifty unaffiliated insurance carriers. The agency produces an immaterial amount of business for its affiliated Insurance Company Subsidiaries.

The following table sets forth the segment results (in thousands):

	<b>For the Six Months Ended June 30,</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Revenues		
Net earned premiums	\$ 143,053	\$ 132,395
Management fees	10,206	10,287
Claims fees	4,485	4,451
Loss control fees	1,135	1,143
Reinsurance placement	394	418
Investment income	13,722	11,921
Net realized (losses) gains	(177)	14
Specialty risk management	172,818	160,629
Agency operations	6,009	6,745
Miscellaneous income	343	464
Intersegment revenue	(566)	(750)
Consolidated revenue	\$ 178,604	\$ 167,088
Pre-tax income:		
Specialty risk management	\$ 28,529	\$ 22,167
Agency operations(1)	937	1,721
Non-allocated expenses	(7,298)	(5,230)
Consolidated pre-tax income	\$ 22,168	\$ 18,658

**For the Three Months  
Ended June 30,  
2008                      2007**

Revenues

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Net earned premiums	\$ 77,031	\$ 67,191
Management fees	4,174	5,412
Claims fees	2,305	2,247
Loss control fees	625	544
Reinsurance placement	98	85
Investment income	6,752	5,991
Net realized (losses) gains	(146)	20
Specialty risk management	90,839	81,490
Agency operations	2,681	2,860
Miscellaneous income	165	238
Intersegment revenue	(251)	(405)
Consolidated revenue	\$ 93,434	\$ 84,183
Pre-tax income:		
Specialty risk management	\$ 15,617	\$ 10,848
Agency operations(1)	174	494
Non-allocated expenses	(3,536)	(2,743)
Consolidated pre-tax income	\$ 12,255	\$ 8,599

Table of Contents**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

- (1) The Company's agency operations include an allocation of corporate overhead, which includes expenses associated with accounting, information services, legal, and other corporate services. The corporate overhead allocation excludes those expenses specific to the holding company. For the six months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, the allocation of corporate overhead to the agency operations segment was \$1.7 million and \$1.4 million, respectively. For the three months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, the allocation of corporate overhead to the agency operations segment was \$900,000 and \$608,000, respectively. These balances include an allocation to our Insurance & Benefit Consultants agency business that was previously allocated to specialty risk management operations. For the six months ended June 30, 2007, pre-tax income for agency operations was overstated and specialty risk management was understated by \$147,000, respectively. For the three months ended June 30, 2007, pre-tax income for agency operations was overstated and specialty risk management was understated by \$80,000, respectively.

The following table sets forth the non-allocated expenses included in pre-tax income (in thousands):

	<b>For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2008                  2007</b>	
Holding company expenses	\$ (1,619)	\$ (1,389)
Amortization	(3,114)	(687)
Interest expense	(2,565)	(3,154)
	<b>\$ (7,298)</b>	<b>\$ (5,230)</b>

	<b>For the Three Months Ended June 30, 2008                  2007</b>	
Holding company expenses	\$ (719)	\$ (533)
Amortization	(1,563)	(543)
Interest expense	(1,254)	(1,667)
	<b>\$ (3,536)</b>	<b>\$ (2,743)</b>

**NOTE 10 Income Taxes**

In June 2006, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 48, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes* an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109 (FIN 48). FIN 48 clarifies the accounting and reporting for uncertain tax positions. This interpretation prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement

recognition, measurement, and presentation of uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken in an income tax return. The Company adopted the provisions of FIN 48 as of January 1, 2007.

As a result of the adoption of FIN 48, the Company identified, evaluated and measured the amount of income tax benefits to be recognized for all income tax positions. The net tax assets recognized under FIN 48 did not differ from the net tax assets recognized prior to adoption, and, therefore, the Company did not record an adjustment.

Interest costs and penalties related to income taxes are classified as interest expense and other administrative expenses, respectively. As of June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, the Company had no accrued interest or penalties related to uncertain tax positions.

The Company and its subsidiaries are subject to U.S. federal income tax as well as to income tax of multiple state jurisdictions. Tax returns for all years after 2003 are subject to future examination by tax authorities.

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

**NOTE 11 Commitments and Contingencies**

The Company, and its subsidiaries, are subject at times to various claims, lawsuits and proceedings relating principally to alleged errors or omissions in the placement of insurance, claims administration, consulting services and other business transactions arising in the ordinary course of business. Where appropriate, the Company vigorously defends such claims, lawsuits and proceedings. Some of these claims, lawsuits and proceedings seek damages, including consequential, exemplary or punitive damages, in amounts that could, if awarded, be significant. Most of the claims, lawsuits and proceedings arising in the ordinary course of business are covered by errors and omissions insurance or other appropriate insurance. In terms of deductibles associated with such insurance, the Company has established provisions against these items, which are believed to be adequate in light of current information and legal advice. In accordance with SFAS No. 5, *Accounting for Contingencies*, if it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability has been incurred as of the date of the financial statements and the amount of loss is estimable; an accrual for the costs to resolve these claims is recorded by the Company in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. Period expenses related to the defense of such claims are included in other operating expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of income. Management, with the assistance of outside counsel, adjusts such provisions according to new developments or changes in the strategy in dealing with such matters. On the basis of current information, the Company does not expect the outcome of the claims, lawsuits and proceedings to which the Company is subject to, either individually, or in the aggregate, will have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition. However, it is possible that future results of operations or cash flows for any particular quarter or annual period could be materially affected by an unfavorable resolution of any such matters.

**NOTE 12 Acquisitions**

In April 2007, the Company acquired the business of U.S. Specialty Underwriters, Inc. (USSU) for a purchase price of \$23.0 million. Goodwill associated with this acquisition was approximately \$12.0 million. In addition, the Company recorded an increase to other intangible assets of approximately \$9.5 million. These other intangible assets related to customer relationships acquired with the acquisition.

In addition, the Company had entered into a Management Agreement with the former owners of USSU. Under the terms of the Management Agreement, the former owners were responsible for certain aspects of the daily administration and management of the USSU business. Their consideration for the performance of these duties was in the form of a management fee payable by the Company based on a share of net income before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization. The Company retained the option to terminate the Management Agreement, at its discretion, based on a multiple of the management fee calculated for the trailing twelve months.

Effective January 31, 2008, the Company exercised its option to purchase the remainder of the economics related to the acquisition of the USSU business, by terminating the Management Agreement with the former owners for a payment of \$21.5 million. As a result of this purchase, the Company recorded an increase to other intangible assets of approximately \$11.4 million and an increase to goodwill of approximately \$10.1 million.

As of June 30, 2008, the Company recorded a reclassification of other intangible assets and goodwill. This reclassification was the result of a refinement to the original valuation analysis completed at the time of purchase of the remaining economics related to the termination of the Management Agreement. This adjustment to the valuation analysis resulted in a decrease in other intangible assets and a corresponding increase to goodwill of \$7.3 million.



**NOTE 13** **Subsequent Events**

***ProCentury Merger***

Effective after the close of business on July 31, 2008, the Company completed its merger transaction with ProCentury Corporation ( ProCentury ). The results of ProCentury are not included in the financial statements of

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

the Company as of and for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008, nor has any pro forma information been included in this Form 10-Q filing.

For each ProCentury common share, ProCentury shareholders were entitled to receive, either \$20.00 in cash or the Company's common stock based on a 2.500 exchange ratio, subject to proration so that the maximum total cash consideration would not exceed 45% of the total consideration paid, as described within the merger agreement. The combined entity will continue to operate under the Meadowbrook Insurance Group name and will continue to trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol MIG.

The total purchase price, as determined under GAAP, was approximately \$220.5 million, of which \$99.2 million consisted of cash and \$121.3 million in common stock. The total number of common shares issued for the stock portion of the purchase price was approximately 21.2 million shares. The purchase price was calculated based upon the volume-weighted average sales price of a share of the Company's common stock for the 30-day trading period ending the sixth trading day prior to completing the merger, or \$5.7326.

The Company is in the process of obtaining third-party valuations of certain fixed and intangible assets, which will be used to determine the allocation of the purchase price.

***Credit Facilities***

On July 31, 2008, the Company successfully executed its \$100 million senior credit facilities (the Credit Facilities), which were arranged by Banc of America Securities, LLC. The Credit Facilities included a \$65.0 million term loan facility, which was fully funded upon the closing of the merger with ProCentury and a \$35.0 million revolving credit facility, which was partially funded upon closing of the merger with ProCentury. As of August 4, 2008, the outstanding balance on the Company's term loan facility and its revolving credit facility was \$65.0 million and \$8.0 million, respectively. The undrawn portion of the revolving credit facility is available to finance working capital and for general corporate purposes, including but not limited to, surplus contributions to the Company's Insurance Company Subsidiaries to support premium growth or strategic acquisitions by the Company.

The Credit Facilities replace the Company's prior revolving credit agreement, which was terminated upon the execution of the Credit Facilities.

The principal amount outstanding under the new Credit Facilities provides for interest at LIBOR, plus the applicable margin, or at the Company's option, the base rate. The base rate is defined as the higher of the Bank of America prime rate or the Federal Funds rate, plus 0.50%, plus the applicable margin. The applicable margin is determined by the consolidated indebtedness to consolidated total capital ratio. In addition, the Credit Facilities provide for an unused facility fee ranging between twenty basis points and forty basis points, based on the Company's consolidated leverage ratio as defined by the Credit Facilities.

The debt covenants applicable to the new Credit Facilities consist of: (1) minimum consolidated net worth starting at eighty percent of pro forma consolidated net worth after giving effect to the acquisition of ProCentury, with quarterly increases thereafter, (2) minimum Risk Based Capital Ratio for Star of 1.75 to 1.00, (3) maximum permitted consolidated leverage ratio of 0.35 to 1.00, (4) minimum consolidated debt service coverage ratio of 1.25 to 1.00, and (5) minimum A.M. Best rating of B++.

***Insurance Company Subsidiary Dividend Payment***

On July 24, 2008, Star, the Company's parent insurance company subsidiary, paid a dividend to the Company of \$18.8 million. This dividend payment was the maximum potential dividend permitted without prior regulatory approval from OFIR. The entire dividend payment was used to partially fund the cash consideration portion of the merger with ProCentury. Star funded the dividend from existing cash reserves and cash equivalent investments.

**Table of Contents**

**MEADOWBROOK INSURANCE GROUP, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

***Interest Rate Swaps***

On July 31, 2008, the Company entered into an interest rate swap transaction to mitigate its interest rate risk on the \$65.0 million term loan balance of the Company's credit facility. The Company will recognize this transaction in accordance with SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, as subsequently amended. This interest rate swap transaction has been designated as a cash flow hedge and is deemed a highly effective transaction under SFAS No. 133. In accordance with SFAS No. 133, beginning July 31, 2008, this interest rate swap transaction will be recorded at fair value on the balance sheet and any changes in its fair value will be accounted for within other comprehensive income. The interest differential to be paid or received will be accrued and recognized as an adjustment to interest expense.

The interest rate swap transaction, which relates to \$65.0 million of the Company's \$65.0 million term loan, has an effective date of July 31, 2008 and ending July 31, 2013. The Company is required to make certain quarterly fixed rate payments calculated on a notional amount of \$65.0 million, amortizing in accordance with the term loan amortization schedule, based on a fixed annual interest rate of 3.95%. The counterparties are obligated to make quarterly floating rate payments to the Company referencing the same notional amount, based on the three-month LIBOR.

**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 2 MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

**For the Periods ended June 30, 2008 and 2007**

***Forward-Looking Statements***

*This quarterly report may provide information including certain statements which constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These include statements regarding the intent, belief, or current expectations of management, including, but not limited to, those statements that use the words believes, expects, anticipates, estimates, or similar expressions. You are cautioned that any such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve a number of risks and uncertainties, and results could differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements. Among the important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements are: the frequency and severity of claims; uncertainties inherent in reserve estimates; catastrophic events; a change in the demand for, pricing of, availability or collectibility of reinsurance; increased rate pressure on premiums; ability to obtain rate increases in current market conditions; investment rate of return; changes in and adherence to insurance regulation; actions taken by regulators, rating agencies or lenders; attainment of certain processing efficiencies; changing rates of inflation; general economic conditions and other risks identified in our reports and registration statements filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We are not under any obligation to (and expressly disclaim any such obligation to) update or alter our forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.*

***Description of Business***

We are a publicly traded specialty risk management organization offering a full range of insurance products and services, focused on niche and specialty program business, which we believe is under served by the standard insurance market. Program business refers to an aggregation of individually underwritten risks that have some unique characteristic and are distributed through a select group of focused general agencies, retail agencies and program administrators. We perform the majority of underwriting and claims services associated with these programs. We also provide property and casualty insurance coverage and services through programs and specialty risk management solutions for agents, professional and trade associations, public entities and small to medium-sized insureds. In addition, we also operate as an insurance agency representing unaffiliated insurance companies in placing insurance coverages for policyholders. We define our business segments as specialty risk management operations and agency operations.

***Critical Accounting Policies***

In certain circumstances, we are required to make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in our consolidated financial statements and related footnotes. We evaluate these estimates and assumptions on an on-going basis based on a variety of factors. There can be no assurance, however, that actual results will not be materially different than our estimates and assumptions, and that reported results of operation will not be affected by accounting adjustments needed to reflect changes in these estimates and assumptions. The accounting estimates and related risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K as filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission on March 17, 2008, are those that we consider to be our critical accounting estimates. For the three months and six months ended June 30, 2008, there have been no material changes in regard to any of our critical accounting estimates.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2008 AND 2007**

***Executive Overview***

Our results for the first half of 2008 reflected favorable underwriting results in comparison to 2007. This improvement reflects our continued selective growth, as well as our adherence to strict corporate underwriting guidelines, recognition of the anticipated expense savings from the elimination of the fronting fees paid prior to

**Table of Contents**

achievement of our A.M. Best upgrade to A- (Excellent), as well as a focus on current accident year price adequacy. The improvement in our underwriting results was also due to the further leveraging of our fixed costs, which helped to reduce our expense ratio. Our generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) combined ratio improved 4.7 percentage points to 92.1% for the six months ended June 30, 2008, from 96.8% in 2007. Net operating income, excluding amortization, increased \$4.9 million, or 35.8%, to \$18.7 million, compared to \$13.8 million in 2007.

Unconsolidated pre-tax income, excluding amortization, relating to our fee-for-service business, which includes management fees paid by our Insurance Company Subsidiaries, was \$4.2 million, or a 9.2% margin for the six months ended June 30, 2008, compared to \$7.2 million, or a 15.3% margin in 2007. This reduction in the margin was primarily the result of a planned \$2.2 million reduction in intercompany commissions and fees. This change in intercompany commissions and fees is driven by greater efficiency and productivity from our leveraging of fixed costs in our management company. The reduction in intercompany fees has the effect of reducing the unconsolidated GAAP expense ratio and narrowing the margin on the unconsolidated fee-for-service income. It does not impact our consolidated net income. In addition, the overall decrease was the result of lower agency commissions earned in Michigan and California.

Gross written premium increased \$17.3 million, or 10.3%, in the first half of 2008 to \$184.8 million, from \$167.5 million in 2007. This increase was primarily the result of growth in the second quarter from new business related to programs implemented in late 2007 and early 2008. During the first half of the year, new business was up \$16.8 million and we anticipate this growth to continue throughout the year as the annualized premiums of these programs are realized. In addition, we continue to experience selective growth within existing programs consistent with our corporate underwriting guidelines and our controls over price adequacy. Offsetting this growth was the loss of one program in which our pricing and financial targets were higher than our competition.

On January 31, 2008, we exercised our option to purchase the remainder of the economics related to the acquisition of the USSU business in April 2007, by terminating the Management Agreement with the former owners for a payment of \$21.5 million. As a result of this purchase, we recorded an increase to other intangible assets of approximately \$11.4 million and an increase to goodwill of approximately \$10.1 million.

As of June 30, 2008, we recorded a reclassification of other intangible assets and goodwill. This reclassification was the result of a refinement to the original valuation analysis completed at the time of purchase of the remaining economics related to the termination of the Management Agreement with USSU. This adjustment to the valuation analysis resulted in a decrease in other intangible assets and a corresponding increase to goodwill of \$7.3 million.

On June 4, 2008, we announced the affirmation of A.M. Best Company's financial strength rating of A- (Excellent) for our Insurance Company Subsidiaries.

On July 31, 2008, we completed our merger with ProCentury Corporation (ProCentury). The results of which have not been included in the financial statements as of and for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008, nor has any pro forma information been included in this Form 10-Q filing.

The total purchase price, as determined under GAAP, was approximately \$220.5 million, of which \$99.2 million consisted of cash and \$121.3 million in common stock. The total number of common shares issued for the stock portion of the purchase price was approximately 21.2 million shares. The purchase price was calculated based upon the volume-weighted average sales price of a share of our common stock for the 30-day trading period ending the sixth trading day prior to completing the merger, or \$5.7326. We financed the cash portion of the merger consideration with a combination of an \$18.8 million dividend from our insurance company subsidiary, Star Insurance Company, available cash of \$12.6 million, and loan proceeds of approximately \$67.8 million.

We are in the process of obtaining third-party valuations of certain fixed and intangible assets, which will be used to determine the allocation of the purchase price.



**Table of Contents*****Results of Operations***

Net income for the six months ended June 30, 2008, increased 18.2% to \$15.5 million, or \$0.42 per dilutive share, compared to net income of \$13.1 million, or \$0.44 per dilutive share, for the comparable period of 2007, with lower weighted average shares outstanding. Net income for the six months ended June 30, 2008 included amortization expense of \$3.1 million, compared to \$687,000 in 2007. This increase of \$2.4 million was offset by improvements in our expense ratio as we begin to see the impact of the elimination of the fronting fees associated with our prior use of an unaffiliated insurance carrier's A-rated policy forms. Our expense ratio also benefited by our ability to further leverage our fixed costs in the management company and decrease the intercompany expenses charged to our Insurance Company Subsidiaries. In addition, net investment income increased 13.6% to \$14.1 million, primarily as a result of positive operating cash flows and the net proceeds from our successful equity offering in July 2007. Somewhat offsetting these positive variables was a substantial increase in amortization expense related to the acquisition of the USSU business in 2007 and 2008 and an increase in other administrative expenses related to the management fee paid to the former owners of USSU, which was eliminated effective January 31, 2008. We continue to see favorable prior accident reserve development, as well as selective growth consistent with our corporate underwriting guidelines and our controls over price adequacy.

Revenues for the six months ended June 30, 2008, increased \$11.5 million, or 6.9%, to \$178.6 million, from \$167.1 million for the comparable period in 2007. This increase reflects a \$10.7 million increase in net earned premiums. The increase in net earned premiums was primarily the result of overall growth within our existing programs and new business we began writing in 2007 and 2008. Our overall net commission and fees were down 2.8%, or \$631,000. In 2008, we converted a portion of the policies produced by USSU to our Insurance Company Subsidiaries. The intercompany management fees associated with that portion of the underwritten policies of the USSU business that we brought in house were \$1.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2008. These fees are now eliminated upon consolidation, thereby lowering net commissions and fees, but not impacting overall consolidated results. Excluding the full year impact of this change, net commission and fees would have increased \$726,000. This increase reflects an increase in USSU management fees, partially offset by a decrease in fees on a New England-based program and by lower agency commission revenue, which resulted from more competitive pricing in certain jurisdictions. In addition, the revenues reflect a \$1.7 million increase in investment income, primarily the result of overall positive cash flow and the net proceeds received from our equity offering in July 2007.

During the second quarter, in accordance with Emerging Issues Task Force (EITF) 99-20, *Recognition of Interest Income and Impairment on Purchased and Retained Beneficial Interests in Securitized Financial Assets*, we recognized a capital loss of \$168,000 related to a single asset-backed security. This asset-backed security had some indirect subprime exposure that is wrapped by insurance from a monoline insurer. The security is collateralized by fixed rate loans originated in 2005. The security is current on all interest payments, is adequately collateralized, and we have the ability and intent to hold the security to maturity notwithstanding credit issues. However, the present value of expected cash flows was below the amortized cost of the security, therefore under EITF 99-20 we are required to recognize any unrealized loss as a capital loss in the current income statement. Accordingly, the amortized cost was reduced to fair value at June 30, 2008.

Mortgage-backed securities (both commercial and residential) were 19.0% of the portfolio at June 30, 2008, compared to 19.5% at June 30, 2007. Asset-backed securities were 3.2% of the portfolio at June 30, 2008, compared to 4.6% at June 30, 2007. Within the asset-backed sector, we have indirect exposure to subprime loans on four securities totalling \$2.6 million. Two securities are AAA rated and have current credit enhancement in excess of the initial credit enhancement. The other two securities are insured by a monoline insurer, which has been downgraded. As a result, these two securities have been downgraded to BBB- and BB. Since these securities no longer bear a rating of high credit quality, and are in an unrealized loss position, accounting pronouncement EITF 99-20 required that the securities be evaluated for other than temporary impairment charges. As noted above, as a result of the analysis, an

impairment loss of \$168,000 was recognized on one of the securities. No impairment was required to be recognized on the other security. We do not expect any principal loss to be realized on either security.

**Table of Contents***Specialty Risk Management Operations*

The following table sets forth the revenues and results from operations for our specialty risk management operations (in thousands):

	<b>For the Six Months Ended June 30,</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Revenue:		
Net earned premiums	\$ 143,053	\$ 132,395
Management fees	10,206	10,287
Claims fees	4,485	4,451
Loss control fees	1,135	1,143
Reinsurance placement	394	418
Investment income	13,722	11,921
Net realized (losses) gains	(177)	14
 Total revenue	 \$ 172,818	 \$ 160,629
 Pre-tax income:		
Specialty risk management operations	\$ 28,529	\$ 22,167

Revenues from specialty risk management operations increased \$12.2 million, or 7.6%, to \$172.8 million for the six months ended June 30, 2008, from \$160.6 million for the comparable period in 2007.

Net earned premiums increased \$10.7 million, or 8.1%, to \$143.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2008, from \$132.4 million in the comparable period in 2007. This increase was primarily the result of overall growth within our existing programs and the new business we began writing in 2007 and 2008, as well as additional selective growth consistent with our corporate underwriting guidelines and our controls over price adequacy.

Management fees remained relatively flat for the six months ended June 30, 2008, compared to the comparable period in 2007. As previously indicated, in 2008 we converted a portion of the policies produced by USSU to our Insurance Company Subsidiaries. The intercompany management fees associated with the USSU policies that we brought in house were \$1.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2008. These fees are now eliminated upon consolidation, but do not impact overall consolidated results. In addition, the revenue related to the USSU business has a seasonality associated with its book of business whereby approximately twenty-five percent is recognized in the first quarter and approximately sixty percent is recognized in the third quarter. Partially offsetting this increase was a decrease in fees related to a New England-based program, primarily related to a decrease in premium volume due to reduced rates in the self-insured markets on which the fees are based, because of mandatory rate reductions and an increase in competition.

Claim fees remained relatively flat for the six months ended June 30, 2008, compared to the comparable period in 2007.

Net investment income increased \$1.8 million, or 15.1%, to \$13.7 million in 2008, from \$11.9 million in 2007. Average invested assets increased \$112.9 million, or 21.1%, to \$647.7 million in 2008, from \$534.8 million in 2007.

The increase in average invested assets primarily relates to the positive cash flows from operations, resulting from favorable underwriting results, increased fee revenue, and the lengthening of the duration of our reserves. The increase in the duration of our reserves reflects the impact of growth in our excess liability business, which was implemented at the end of 2003. This type of business has a longer duration than the average reserves on our other programs and is now a larger proportion of reserves. In addition, the increase in average invested assets reflects cash flows from our equity offering in July 2007. The average investment yield for June 30, 2008 was 4.34%, compared to 4.63% in 2007. The decrease in the investment yield in comparison to 2007 primarily was the result of achieving lower yields due to the accumulation of cash in short-term investments in anticipation of closing on the ProCentury merger. Therefore, we are holding a higher than usual amount of high quality, highly liquid short-term investments. The combination of a greater allocation to short-term investments, lower short-term yields, and the turmoil in

**Table of Contents**

sectors of the short-term market that prompted us to restrict investments to more conservative instruments, resulted in lower yields. The current pre-tax book yield was 4.28%. The current after-tax book yield for the six months ended June 30, 2008 was 3.24%, compared to 3.40% in 2007. The duration of the investment portfolio is 3.9 years at June 30, 2008, compared to 4.2 years at June 30, 2007.

Specialty risk management operations generated pre-tax income of \$28.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2008, compared to pre-tax income of \$22.2 million for the comparable period in 2007. This increase in pre-tax income demonstrates a continued improvement in underwriting results including favorable reserve development on prior accident years, selective growth in premium, adherence to our strict underwriting guidelines, and our overall leveraging of fixed costs. In addition, this improvement was also attributable to an increase in net investment income. The GAAP combined ratio was 92.1% for the six months ended June 30, 2008, compared to 96.8% for the same period in 2007.

Net loss and loss adjustment expenses ( LAE ) increased \$4.8 million, or 6.4%, to \$81.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2008, from \$76.4 million for the same period in 2007. Our loss and LAE ratio improved 1.2 percentage points to 61.5% for the six months ended June 30, 2008, from 62.7% for the same period in 2007. This ratio is the unconsolidated net loss and LAE in relation to net earned premiums. The loss and LAE ratio of 61.5% includes favorable development of \$5.6 million, or 3.9 percentage points, compared to favorable development of \$2.1 million, or 1.6 percentage points in 2007. The increase in our favorable development in comparison to 2007 was primarily the result of a reduction in adverse development on an excess lines program due to the implementation of a new claim handling unit for this program in 2008. Additional discussion of our reserve activity is described below within the *Other Items ~ Reserves* section.

Our expense ratio decreased 3.5 percentage points to 30.6% for the six months ended June 30, 2008, from 34.1% for the same period in 2007. This ratio is the unconsolidated policy acquisition and other underwriting expenses in relation to net earned premiums. The decrease in our expense ratio reflects the anticipated decrease due to the elimination of the fronting fees paid in 2007 to an unaffiliated insurance carrier to use their A rated policy forms. In addition, we continue to leverage fixed costs as we are able to grow without adding to our staffing levels. This is reflected in the reduction in intercompany fees paid by our Insurance Company Subsidiaries to our management company. Those fees are eliminated upon consolidation, but do reduce the expense ratio of the Insurance Company Subsidiaries.

**Agency Operations**

The following table sets forth the revenues and results from operations from our agency operations (in thousands):

	<b>For the Six Months Ended June 30,</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Net commission	\$ 6,009	\$ 6,745
Pre-tax income(1)	\$ 937	\$ 1,721

- (1) Our agency operations include an allocation of corporate overhead, which includes expenses associated with accounting, information services, legal, and other corporate services. The corporate overhead allocation excludes those expenses specific to the holding company. For the six months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, the allocation

of corporate overhead to the agency operations segment was \$1.7 million and \$1.4 million, respectively. These balances include an allocation to our Insurance & Benefit Consultants agency business that was previously allocated to specialty risk management operations. For the six months ended June 30, 2007, pre-tax income for agency operations was overstated and specialty risk management was understated by \$147,000, respectively.

Revenue from agency operations, which consists primarily of agency commission revenue, decreased \$736,000, or 10.9%, to \$6.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2008, from \$6.7 million for the comparable period in 2007. This decrease primarily reflects regional competition and a softer insurance market within our mid to larger Michigan accounts and isolated competitive pricing pressure in the California automobile market.

**Table of Contents**

Agency operations generated pre-tax income, after the allocation of corporate overhead, of \$937,000 for the six months ended June 30, 2008, compared to \$1.7 million for the comparable period in 2007. The decrease in the pre-tax income is primarily attributable to the decrease in agency commission revenue mentioned above.

**Other Items****Reserves**

At June 30, 2008, our best estimate for the ultimate liability for loss and LAE reserves, net of reinsurance recoverables, was \$358.1 million. We established a reasonable range of reserves of approximately \$330.3 million to \$380.2 million. This range was established primarily by considering the various indications derived from standard actuarial techniques and other appropriate reserve considerations. The following table sets forth this range by line of business (in thousands):

<b>Line of Business</b>	<b>Minimum Reserve Range</b>	<b>Maximum Reserve Range</b>	<b>Selected Reserves</b>
Workers Compensation(1)	\$ 157,580	\$ 174,439	\$ 168,579
Commercial Multiple Peril/General Liability	87,114	110,090	97,549
Commercial Automobile	68,834	76,193	73,623
Other	16,768	19,485	18,329
Total Net Reserves	\$ 330,296	\$ 380,207	\$ 358,080

(1) Includes Residual Markets

Reserves are reviewed by our internal actuaries for adequacy on a quarterly basis. When reviewing reserves, we analyze historical data and estimate the impact of numerous factors such as (1) per claim information; (2) industry and our historical loss experience; (3) legislative enactments, judicial decisions, legal developments in the imposition of damages, and changes in political attitudes; and (4) trends in general economic conditions, including the effects of inflation. This process assumes that past experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, is an appropriate basis for predicting future events. There is no precise method for subsequently evaluating the impact of any specific factor on the adequacy of reserves, because the eventual deficiency or redundancy is affected by multiple factors.

The key assumptions used in our selection of ultimate reserves included the underlying actuarial methodologies, a review of current pricing and underwriting initiatives, an evaluation of reinsurance costs and retention levels, and a detailed claims analysis with an emphasis on how aggressive claims handling may be impacting the paid and incurred loss data trends embedded in the traditional actuarial methods. With respect to the ultimate estimates for losses and LAE, the key assumptions remained consistent for the six months ended June 30, 2008 and the year ended December 31, 2007.

**Table of Contents**

For the six months ended June 30, 2008, we reported a decrease in net ultimate loss estimates for accident years 2007 and prior of \$5.6 million, or 1.6% of \$341.5 million of net loss and LAE reserves at December 31, 2007. The decrease in net ultimate loss estimates reflected revisions in the estimated reserves as a result of actual claims activity in calendar year 2008 that differed from the projected activity. There were no significant changes in the key assumptions utilized in the analysis and calculations of our reserves during 2007 and for the six months ended June 30, 2008. The major components of this change in ultimate loss estimates are as follows (in thousands):

Line of Business	Reserves	Incurred Losses			Paid Losses			Reserves
	at December 31, 2007	Current Year	Prior Years	Total Incurred	Current Year	Prior Years	Total Paid	at June 30, 2008
Workers Compensation	\$ 141,359	\$ 31,074	\$ (4,188)	\$ 26,886	\$ 946	\$ 23,143	\$ 24,089	\$ 144,156
Residual Markets	25,428	3,959	(1,683)	2,276	1,152	2,128	3,280	24,424
Commercial Multiple Peril/General Liability	87,812	18,082	3,517	21,599	441	11,421	11,862	97,549
Commercial Automobile	69,426	24,349	(1,404)	22,945	3,841	14,907	18,748	73,623
Other	17,516	9,313	(1,816)	7,497	3,186	3,498	6,684	18,329
Net Reserves	341,541	\$ 86,777	\$ (5,574)	\$ 81,203	\$ 9,566	\$ 55,097	\$ 64,663	358,081
Reinsurance Recoverable	198,461							200,783
Consolidated	\$ 540,002							\$ 558,864

Line of Business	Reserves at December 31, 2007	Re-estimated Reserves at June 30, 2008 on Prior Years	Development as a Percentage of Prior Year Reserves
	Workers Compensation	\$ 141,359	\$ 137,171
Commercial Multiple Peril/General Liability	87,812	91,329	4.0%
Commercial Automobile	69,426	68,022	-2.0%
Other	17,516	15,700	-10.4%
Sub-total	316,113	312,222	-1.2%
Residual Markets	25,428	23,745	-6.6%
Total Net Reserves	\$ 341,541	\$ 335,967	-1.6%

*Workers Compensation Excluding Residual Markets* The projected net ultimate loss estimate for the workers compensation line of business excluding residual markets decreased \$4.2 million, or 3.0% of net workers compensation reserves. This net overall decrease reflects decreases of \$1.7 million, \$1.9 million, and \$915,000 in



accident years 2006, 2005, and 2004, respectively. The decreases reflect better than expected experience for many of our workers' compensation programs, including a Nevada, Florida, and a countrywide association program. Actual losses reported during the quarter were less than expected given the prior actuarial assumptions. These decreases were offset by an increase of \$920,000 in accident year 2007. This increase reflects greater than expected claim development on a Tennessee, Florida, Northeast, and a discontinued program. The change in ultimate loss estimates for all other accident years was insignificant.

*Commercial Multiple Peril and General Liability* The commercial multiple peril line and general liability line of business had an increase in net ultimate loss estimate of \$3.5 million, or 4.0% of net commercial multiple peril and general liability reserves. The net increase reflects increases of \$1.2 million, \$852,000, \$985,000, and \$327,000 in the ultimate loss estimates for accident years 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2001, respectively. These increases were due to greater than expected claim emergence in two discontinued programs and an excess liability program. The change in ultimate loss estimates for all other accident years was insignificant.

*Commercial Automobile* The projected net ultimate loss estimate for the commercial automobile line of business decreased \$1.4 million, or 2.0% of net commercial automobile reserves. This net overall decrease reflects

## **Table of Contents**

decreases of \$1.2 million and \$330,000 in accident years 2006 and 2004, respectively. These decreases primarily reflect better than expected case reserve development on two California-based programs. The change in ultimate loss estimates for all other accident years was insignificant.

*Other* The projected net ultimate loss estimate for the other lines of business decreased \$1.8 million, or 10.4% of net reserves. This net decrease reflects reductions of \$361,000, \$1.3 million, and \$355,000 in the net ultimate loss estimate for accident years 2007, 2006, and 2005, respectively. These decreases are due to better than expected case reserve development during the calendar year in a medical malpractice program and a Missouri program. The change in ultimate loss estimates for all other accident years was insignificant.

*Residual Markets* The workers' compensation residual market line of business had a decrease in net ultimate loss estimate of \$1.7 million, or 6.6% of net reserves. This decrease reflects reductions of \$1.1 million and \$322,000 in accident years 2007 and 2006, respectively. We record loss reserves as reported by the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI), plus a provision for the reserves incurred but not yet analyzed and reported to us due to a two quarter lag in reporting. These changes reflect a difference between our estimate of the lag incurred but not reported and the amounts reported by the NCCI in the year. The change in ultimate loss estimates for all other accident years was insignificant.

## **Salaries and Employee Benefits and Other Administrative Expenses**

Salaries and employee benefits for the six months ended June 30, 2008, increased \$466,000, or 1.8%, to \$26.9 million, from \$26.4 million for the comparable period in 2007. This increase primarily reflects an increase in variable compensation, driven by our favorable results and its relation to our targeted variable compensation thresholds, in comparison to 2007. In addition, this increase was also the result of an increase in health benefit costs. Slightly offsetting these unfavorable variances was a decrease in profit sharing commissions. The decrease in profit sharing commissions was the result of our purchase of an excess liability book of business. As a result of us owning the book of business, we no longer pay the profit sharing commissions.

Other administrative expenses increased \$1.8 million, or 12.0%, to \$16.8 million, from \$15.0 million for the comparable period in 2007. This increase was primarily due to the management fee associated with the USSU business acquisition. In addition, this increase was the result of small increases in various general operating expenses, primarily due to travel related expenses due to the merger with ProCentury that closed on July 31, 2008.

Salary and employee benefits and other administrative expenses include both corporate overhead and the holding company expenses included in the non-allocated expenses of our segment information.

## **Amortization Expense**

Amortization expense for the six months ended June 30, 2008, increased \$2.4 million, to \$3.1 million, from \$687,000 for the comparable period in 2007. This increase in amortization expense primarily relates to the customer relationships acquired with the USSU business and an excess liability book of business acquired in late 2007.

## **Interest Expense**

Interest expense for the six months ended June 30, 2008, decreased \$589,000, or 18.7%, to \$2.6 million, from \$3.2 million for the comparable period in 2007. Interest expense is primarily attributable to our debentures, which are described within the *Liquidity and Capital Resources* section of Management's Discussion and Analysis, as well as our line of credit. The average outstanding balance on our line of credit during the six months ending June 30, 2008, was zero, compared to \$15.0 million for the same period in 2007. The average interest rate, excluding the debentures, was

0.0% in 2008, compared to 6.7% in 2007.

On April 21, 2008, we entered into three interest rate swap transactions to mitigate our interest rate risk on our remaining \$30.0 million in debt not previously fixed with our prior interest rate swaps entered into in 2005. The decision was made to enter into these swaps as a result of our overall capital structure, recent interest rate reductions and the fact that the 3-month LIBOR rate was at its lowest point since we entered into our prior interest rate swap transactions. As a result, all of our senior debentures and trust preferred securities now have fixed interest rates

**Table of Contents**

associated with them. The average fixed interest rate associated with the interest rate swaps was 8.2%, compared to an annualized interest rate of 9.6% in 2007.

**Income Taxes**

Income tax expense, which includes both federal and state taxes, for the six months ended June 30, 2008, was \$6.8 million, or 30.6% of income before taxes. For the same period last year, we reflected an income tax expense of \$5.6 million, or 30.0% of income before taxes. The increase in the effective tax rate reflects a lower contribution of investment income, including tax-exempt investment income, to pre-tax income. Investment income represented 63.4% of pre-tax income for the six months ended June 30, 2008, compared to 66.4% in 2007. This decrease reflects the improved underwriting results in 2008, compared to 2007, slightly offset by growth in invested assets from operations and the cash proceeds from the equity raise in July 2007. Tax exempt securities as a percentage of total invested assets were 41.0% and 45.3% at June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**Other Than Temporary Impairments**

Our policy for the valuation of temporarily impaired securities is to determine impairment based on analysis of the following factors: (1) rating downgrade or other credit event (e.g., failure to pay interest when due); (2) financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer, including any specific events which may influence the operations of the issuer such as changes in technology or discontinuance of a business segment; (3) prospects for the issuer's industry segment; and (4) our intent and ability to retain the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for anticipated recovery in fair value. We evaluate our investments in securities to determine other than temporary impairment, no less than quarterly. Investments that are deemed other than temporarily impaired are written down to their estimated net fair value and the related losses recognized in operations.

At June 30, 2008, we had 183 securities that were in an unrealized loss position. These investments all had unrealized losses of less than ten percent. At June 30, 2008, seven of those investments, with an aggregate \$4.1 million fair value and (\$207,000) unrealized loss, have been in an unrealized loss position for more than eighteen months. Positive evidence considered in reaching our conclusion that the investments in an unrealized loss position are not other than temporarily impaired consisted of: 1) there were no specific events which caused concerns; 2) there were no past due interest payments; 3) there has been an increase in market prices; 4) our ability and intent to retain the investment for a sufficient amount of time to allow an anticipated recovery in value; and 5) changes in fair value were considered normal in relation to overall fluctuations in interest rates.

The fair value and amount of unrealized losses segregated by the time period the investment has been in an unrealized loss position is as follows (in thousands):

		June 30, 2008			
		Less Than 12 months	Greater Than 12 months		
Fair Value of Investments with Unrealized Losses	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value of Investments with Unrealized Losses	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value of Investments with Unrealized Losses	Gross Unrealized Losses

**Debt Securities:**

Debt securities issued by U.S. government and agencies	\$	51	\$		\$		\$	51	\$
Obligations of states and political subdivisions		131,007		(1,569)				131,007	(1,569)
Corporate securities		39,865		(1,148)		1,664		(361)	41,529
Mortgage and asset-backed securities		64,703		(2,026)		3,104		(100)	67,807
Totals	\$	235,626	\$	(4,743)	\$	4,768	\$	(461)	\$ 240,394
									\$ (5,204)

**Table of Contents**

	Less Than 12 months		December 31, 2007 Greater Than 12 months		Total	
	Fair Value of Investments with Unrealized Losses	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value of Investments with Unrealized Losses	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value of Investments with Unrealized Losses	Gross Unrealized Losses
<b>Debt Securities:</b>						
Debt securities issued by U.S. government and agencies	\$	\$	\$ 5,963	\$ (29)	\$ 5,963	\$ (29)
Obligations of states and political subdivisions	19,400	(68)	45,177	(255)	64,577	(323)
Corporate securities	15,564	(415)	30,601	(513)	46,165	(928)
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	9,116	(95)	47,963	(520)	57,079	(615)
Totals	\$ 44,080	\$ (578)	\$ 129,704	\$ (1,317)	\$ 173,784	\$ (1,895)

As of June 30, 2008, gross unrealized gains and (losses) on securities were \$4.0 million and (\$5.2 million), respectively. As of December 31, 2007, gross unrealized gains and (losses) on securities were \$7.8 million and (\$1.9 million), respectively.

As previously described, during the second quarter and in accordance with EITF 99-20, *Recognition of Interest Income and Impairment on Purchased and Retained Beneficial Interests in Securitized Financial Assets*, we recognized a capital loss of \$168,000 related to a single asset-backed security. This asset-backed security had some indirect subprime exposure that is wrapped by insurance from a monoline insurer. The security is collateralized by fixed rate loans originated in 2005. The security is current on all interest payments, is adequately collateralized, and we have the ability and intent to hold the security to maturity notwithstanding credit issues. However, the present value of expected cash flows was below the amortized cost of the security, therefore under EITF 99-20 we are required to recognize any unrealized loss as a capital loss in the current income statement. Accordingly, the amortized cost was reduced to fair value at June 30, 2008.

Mortgage-backed securities (both commercial and residential) were 19.0% of the portfolio at June 30, 2008, compared to 19.5% at June 30, 2007. Asset-backed securities were 3.2% of the portfolio at June 30, 2008, compared to 4.6% at June 30, 2007. Within the asset-backed sector, we have indirect exposure to subprime loans on four securities totalling \$2.6 million. Two securities are AAA rated and have current credit enhancement in excess of the initial credit enhancement. The other two securities are insured by a monoline insurer, which has been downgraded. As a result, these two securities have been downgraded to BBB- and BB. Since these securities no longer bear a rating of high credit quality, and are in an unrealized loss position, accounting pronouncement EITF 99-20 required that the securities be evaluated for other than temporary impairment charges. As noted above, as a result of the analysis, an impairment loss of \$168,000 was recognized on one of the securities. No impairment was required to be recognized on the other security. We do not expect any principal loss to be realized on either security.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2008 AND 2007**

## Results of Operations

Net income for the three months ended June 30, 2008, was \$8.4 million, or \$0.23 per dilutive share, on weighted average shares of 37,126,911, compared to net income of \$6.2 million, or \$0.20 per dilutive share, on weighted average shares of 30,350,553, for the comparable period of 2007. Net income for the three months ended June 30, 2008 included amortization expense of \$1.6 million, compared to \$543,000 in 2007. This increase of \$1.0 million was offset by improvements in our expense ratio as we begin to see the impact of the elimination of the fronting fees associated with our prior use of an unaffiliated insurance carrier's A-rated policy forms, as well as our ability to further leverage our fixed costs. This improvement also reflects an increase in earned premiums as a result of overall growth due to new business we began writing in 2007 and 2008. In addition, net investment income increased primarily as a result of positive operating cash flows and the net proceeds from our successful equity offering in July 2007. Offsetting these positive impacts was a substantial increase in amortization expense related to

**Table of Contents**

the acquisition of the USSU business in 2007 and 2008. We continue to see favorable prior accident year reserve development, as well as remain selective in our premium growth consistent with our corporate underwriting guidelines and controls over price adequacy.

Revenues for the three months ended June 30, 2008, increased \$9.3 million, or 11.0%, to \$93.4 million, from \$84.2 million for the comparable period in 2007. This increase primarily reflects a \$9.8 million, or 14.6%, increase in net earned premiums. The increase in net earned premiums was primarily the result of overall growth within our existing programs due to new business we began writing in 2007 and 2008, as well as selective growth consistent with our corporate underwriting guidelines and controls over price adequacy. Our overall net commission and fees were down 10.3%, or \$1.1 million. In 2008, we converted a portion of the policies produced by USSU to our Insurance Company Subsidiaries. The intercompany management fees associated with that portion of the USSU business that we brought in house were \$1.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2008. These fees are now eliminated upon consolidation, but do not impact overall consolidated results. Excluding the full year impact of this change, net commission and fees would have been relatively flat in comparison to the second quarter of 2007. Net commission and fees were partially impacted by a decrease in fees on a New England-based program and by lower agency commission revenue, as a result of greater competitive pricing in certain jurisdictions. In addition, the increase in revenue reflects a \$688,000 increase in investment income, primarily the result of overall positive cash flow and the net proceeds received from our equity offering in July 2007.

During the quarter, in accordance with EITF 99-20, we recognized a capital loss of \$168,000 related to a single asset-backed security. This asset-backed security had some indirect subprime exposure that is wrapped by insurance from a monoline insurer. The security is collateralized by fixed rate loans originated in 2005. The security is current on all interest payments, is adequately collateralized, and we have the ability and intent to hold the security to maturity not withstanding credit issues. However, the present value of expected cash flows was below the amortized cost of the security, therefore under EITF 99-20 we are required to recognize any unrealized loss as a capital loss in the current income statement. Accordingly, the amortized cost was reduced to fair value at June 30, 2008.

Mortgage-backed securities (both commercial and residential) were 19.0% of the portfolio at June 30, 2008, compared to 19.5% at June 30, 2007. Asset-backed securities were 3.2% of the portfolio at June 30, 2008, compared to 4.6% at June 30, 2007. Within the asset-backed sector, we have indirect exposure to subprime loans on four securities totalling \$2.6 million. Two securities are AAA rated and have current credit enhancement in excess of the initial credit enhancement. The other two securities are insured by a monoline insurer, which has been downgraded. As a result, these two securities have been downgraded to BBB- and BB. Since these securities no longer bear a rating of high credit quality, and are in an unrealized loss position, accounting pronouncement EITF 99-20 required that the securities be evaluated for other than temporary impairment charges. As noted above, as a result of the analysis, an impairment loss of \$168,000 was recognized on one of the securities. No impairment was required to be recognized on the other security. We do not expect any principal loss to be realized on either security.



**Table of Contents*****Specialty Risk Management Operations***

The following table sets forth the revenues and results from operations for our specialty risk management operations (in thousands):

	<b>For the Three Months Ended June 30,</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Revenue:		
Net earned premiums	\$ 77,031	\$ 67,191
Management fees	4,174	5,412
Claims fees	2,305	2,247
Loss control fees	625	544
Reinsurance placement	98	85
Investment income	6,752	5,991
Net realized (losses) gains	(146)	20
 Total revenue	 \$ 90,839	 \$ 81,490
 Pre-tax income:		
Specialty risk management operations	\$ 15,617	\$ 10,848

Revenues from specialty risk management operations increased \$9.3 million, or 11.5%, to \$90.8 million for the three months ended June 30, 2008, from \$81.5 million for the comparable period in 2007.

Net earned premiums increased \$9.8 million, or 14.6%, to \$77.0 million in the three months ended June 30, 2008, from \$67.2 million in the comparable period in 2007. As previously indicated, this increase was primarily the result of overall growth within our existing programs and new business we began writing in 2007 and 2008, as well as selective growth consistent with our corporate underwriting guidelines and controls over price adequacy.

Management fees decreased \$1.2 million, or 22.9%, to \$4.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2008, from \$5.4 million for the comparable period in 2007. As previously indicated, in 2008 we converted a portion of the policies produced by USSU to our Insurance Company Subsidiaries. The intercompany management fees associated with the USSU policies that we brought in house were \$1.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2008. These fees are now eliminated upon consolidation, but do not impact overall consolidated results.

Claim fees remained relatively flat for the three months ended June 30, 2008, compared to the comparable period in 2007.

Net investment income increased \$761,000, or 12.7%, to \$6.8 million in 2008, from \$6.0 million in 2007. Average invested assets increased \$94.4 million, or 17.2%, to \$641.9 million in 2008, from \$547.5 million in 2007. The increase in average invested assets primarily relates to the positive cash flows from operations, resulting from favorable underwriting results, increased fee revenue, and the lengthening of the duration of our reserves. The increase in the duration of our reserves reflects the impact of growth in our excess liability business, which was implemented at the end of 2003. This type of business has a longer duration than the average reserves on our other programs and is now a larger proportion of reserves. In addition, the increase in average invested assets reflects cash flows from our equity offering in July 2007. The average investment yield for June 30, 2008 was 4.31%, compared to 4.55% in 2007.

The decrease in the investment yield in comparison to 2007 primarily was the result of achieving lower yields due to the accumulation of cash in short-term investments in anticipation of closing on the ProCentury merger. Therefore, we are holding a higher than usual amount of high quality, highly liquid short-term investments. The combination of a greater allocation to short-term investments, lower short-term yields, and the turmoil in sectors of the short-term market that prompted us to restrict investments to more conservative instruments, resulted in lower yields. The current pre-tax book yield was 4.28%. The current after-tax book yield for the three months ended June 30, 2008 was 3.24%, compared to 3.40% in 2007. The duration of the investment portfolio is 3.9 years at June 30, 2008, compared to 4.2 years at June 30, 2007.

**Table of Contents**

Specialty risk management operations generated pre-tax income of \$15.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2008, compared to pre-tax income of \$10.8 million for the comparable period in 2007. This increase in pre-tax income demonstrates a continued improvement in underwriting results due to favorable development on prior accident year reserves, our selective growth in premium, adherence to our strict underwriting guidelines, and our overall leveraging of fixed costs. In addition, this improvement was also attributable to an increase in net investment income. The GAAP combined ratio was 90.5% for the three months ended June 30, 2008, compared to 97.4% for the same period in 2007.

Net loss and loss adjustment expenses increased \$3.8 million, or 9.7%, to \$43.5 million for the three months ended June 30, 2008, from \$39.7 million for the same period in 2007. Our loss and LAE ratio decreased 2.9 percentage points to 61.2% for the three months ended June 30, 2008, from 64.1% for the same period in 2007. This ratio is the unconsolidated net loss and LAE in relation to net earned premiums. The loss and LAE ratio of 61.2% includes favorable development of \$2.7 million, or 3.5 percentage points, compared to adverse development of \$83,000, or 0.1 percentage points in 2007. The increase in our favorable development in comparison to 2007 is primarily the result of a reduction in adverse development on an excess lines program due to the implementation of a new claim handling unit for this program in 2008.

Our expense ratio decreased 4.0 percentage points to 29.3% for the three months ended June 30, 2008, from 33.3% for the same period in 2007. This ratio is the unconsolidated policy acquisition and other underwriting expenses in relation to net earned premiums. The decrease in our expense ratio reflects the anticipated decrease due to the elimination of the fronting fees paid in 2007 to an unaffiliated insurance carrier to use their A rated policy forms. In addition, we continue to leverage fixed costs as we are able to grow without adding to our staffing levels. This is reflected in the reduction in intercompany fees paid by our Insurance Company Subsidiaries to our management company. Those fees are eliminated upon consolidation, but do reduce the expense ratio of the Insurance Company Subsidiaries.

**Agency Operations**

The following table sets forth the revenues and results from operations for our agency operations (in thousands):

	<b>For the Three Months Ended June 30,</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Net commission	\$ 2,681	\$ 2,860
Pre-tax income(1)	\$ 174	\$ 494

- (1) Our agency operations include an allocation of corporate overhead, which includes expenses associated with accounting, information services, legal, and other corporate services. The corporate overhead allocation excludes those expenses specific to the holding company. For the three months ended June 30, 2008 and 2007, the allocation of corporate overhead to the agency operations segment was \$900,000 and \$608,000, respectively. These balances include an allocation to our Insurance & Benefit Consultants agency business that was previously allocated to specialty risk management operations. For the three months ended June 30, 2007, pre-tax income for agency operations was overstated and specialty risk management was understated by \$80,000, respectively.

Revenue from agency operations, which consists primarily of agency commission revenue, decreased \$179,000, or 6.3%, to \$2.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2008, from \$2.9 million for the comparable period in 2007.

This decrease primarily reflects regional competition and a softer insurance market, as well as isolated competitive pricing pressure in the California automobile market.

Agency operations generated pre-tax income, after the allocation of corporate overhead, of \$174,000 for the three months ended June 30, 2008, compared to \$494,000 for the comparable period in 2007. The decrease in the pre-tax income is primarily attributable to the decrease in agency commission revenue mentioned above.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Other Items**

#### **Reserves**

For the three months ended June 30, 2008, we reported a decrease in net ultimate loss estimates for accident years 2007 and prior of \$2.7 million, or 0.8% of \$341.5 million of net loss and LAE reserves at December 31, 2007. There were no significant changes in the key assumptions utilized in the analysis and calculations of our reserves during 2008 and 2007.

#### **Salary and Employee Benefits and Other Administrative Expenses**

Salary and employee benefits for the three months ended June 30, 2008, increased \$1.2 million, or 9.6%, to \$14.1 million, from \$12.9 million for the comparable period in 2007. This increase primarily reflects an increase in variable compensation, driven by our favorable results and its relation to our targeted variable compensation thresholds, in comparison to 2007. In addition, this increase was also the result of an increase in health benefit costs. Slightly offsetting these unfavorable variances was a decrease in profit sharing commissions. The decrease in profit sharing commissions was the result of our purchase of an excess liability book of business. As a result of us owning the book of business, we no longer pay the profit sharing commissions.

Other administrative expenses increased \$363,000, or less than 5.0%, to \$8.0 million, from \$7.6 million for the comparable period in 2007. This increase was primarily due to increases in various general operating expenses, primarily due to travel related expenses due to the merger with ProCentury that closed on July 31, 2008. These increases were slightly offset by a reduction in the management fee previously associated with our acquisition of USSU. In January 2008, we exercised our option to purchase the remainder of the economics related to the acquisition of the USSU business, by terminating the Management Agreement with the former owners, thereby eliminating the management fee associated with the Management Agreement.

Salary and employee benefits and other administrative expenses include both corporate overhead and the holding company expenses included in the non-allocated expenses of our segment information.

#### **Amortization Expense**

Amortization expense for the three months ended June 30, 2008, increased \$1.0 million, to \$1.6 million, from \$543,000 for the comparable period in 2007. This increase in amortization expense primarily relates to the customer relationships acquired with the USSU business and an excess liability book of business acquired in late 2007.

#### **Interest Expense**

Interest expense for the three months ended June 30, 2008, decreased \$413,000, or 24.8%, to \$1.3 million, from \$1.7 million for the comparable period in 2007. Interest expense is primarily attributable to our debentures, which are described within the *Liquidity and Capital Resources* section of Management's Discussion and Analysis, as well as our line of credit. The average outstanding balance on our line of credit during the three months ending June 30, 2008, was zero, compared to \$20.4 million for the same period in 2007. The average interest rate, excluding the debentures, was 0.0% in 2008, compared to 6.4% in 2007.

On April 21, 2008, we entered into three interest rate swap transactions to mitigate our interest rate risk on our remaining \$30.0 million in debt not previously fixed with our prior interest rate swaps entered into in 2005. The decision was made to enter into these swaps as a result of our overall capital structure, recent interest rate reductions and the fact that the 3-month LIBOR rate was at its lowest point since we entered into our prior interest rate swap

transactions. As a result, all of our senior debentures and trust preferred securities now have fixed interest rates associated with them. The average fixed interest rate associated with the interest rate swaps was 8.2%, compared to an annualized interest rate of 9.6% in 2007.

### **Income Taxes**

Income tax expense, which includes both federal and state taxes, for the three months ended June 30, 2008, was \$3.9 million, or 31.7% of income before taxes. For the same period last year, we reflected an income tax expense of \$2.5 million, or 28.6% of income before taxes. The increase in the effective tax rate reflects a lower contribution of investment income, including tax-exempt investment income, to pre-tax income. Investment income represented 56.4% of pre-tax income for the three months ended June 30, 2008, compared to 72.4% in 2007. This decrease

**Table of Contents**

reflects the improved underwriting results in 2008, compared to 2007, slightly offset by growth in invested assets from operations and the cash proceeds from the equity raise in July 2007. Tax exempt securities as a percentage of total invested assets were 41.0% and 45.3% at June 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

Our principal sources of funds, which include both regulated and non-regulated cash flows, are insurance premiums, investment income, proceeds from the maturity and sale of invested assets, risk management fees, and agency commissions. Funds are primarily used for the payment of claims, commissions, salaries and employee benefits, other operating expenses, shareholders' dividends, share repurchases, and debt service. Our regulated sources of funds are insurance premiums, investment income, and proceeds from the maturity and sale of invested assets. These regulated funds are used for the payment of claims, policy acquisition and other underwriting expenses, and taxes relating to the regulated portion of net income. Our non-regulated sources of funds are in the form of commission revenue, outside management fees, and intercompany management fees. Our capital resources include both non-regulated cash flow and excess capital in our Insurance Company Subsidiaries, which is defined as the dividend Star may issue without prior approval from regulatory authorities. We review the excess capital in aggregate to determine the use of such capital. The general uses are as follows, contributions to our Insurance Company Subsidiaries to support premium growth, make select acquisitions, service debt, pay shareholders' dividends, repurchase shares, investments in technology, or other expenses of the holding company. The following table illustrates net income, excluding interest, depreciation, and amortization, between our regulated and non-regulated subsidiaries, which reconciles to our consolidated statement of income and statement of cash flows (in thousands):

	<b>For the Six Months Ended June 30,</b>		<b>For the Three Months Ended June 30,</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Net income	\$ 15,495	\$ 13,109	\$ 8,437	\$ 6,186
Insurance Company Subsidiaries:				
Net income	\$ 16,931	\$ 11,071	\$ 9,643	\$ 5,455
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities	2,877	158	2,480	(283)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities	7,121	9,732	5,848	(1,551)
Total adjustments	9,998	9,890	8,328	(1,834)
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 26,929	\$ 20,961	\$ 17,971	\$ 3,621
Fee-based Subsidiaries:				
Net income	\$ (1,436)	\$ 2,038	\$ (1,206)	\$ 731
Depreciation	1,505	1,525	760	788
Amortization	3,114	687	1,563	543
Interest	2,565	3,154	1,254	1,667
Net income, excluding interest, depreciation, and amortization	5,748	7,404	2,371	3,729

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Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities	4,202	2,452	2,371	879
Changes in operating assets and liabilities	(3,548)	(3,214)	(1,832)	(146)
Total adjustments	654	(762)	539	733
Depreciation	(1,505)	(1,525)	(760)	(788)
Amortization	(3,114)	(687)	(1,563)	(543)
Interest	(2,565)	(3,154)	(1,254)	(1,667)
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	\$ (782)	\$ 1,276	\$ (667)	\$ 1,464
Consolidated total adjustments	10,652	9,128	8,867	(1,101)
Consolidated net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 26,147	\$ 22,237	\$ 17,304	\$ 5,085



**Table of Contents**

Consolidated cash flow provided by operations for the six months ended June 30, 2008, was \$26.1 million, compared to consolidated cash flow provided by operations of \$22.2 million for the comparable period in 2007.

Regulated subsidiaries cash flow provided by operations for the six months ended June 30, 2008, was \$26.9 million, compared to \$21.0 million for the comparable period in 2007. This increase is primarily the result of growth in our underwritten business, as well as an increase in investment income due to growth in our investment portfolio. Partially offsetting these improvements was a decrease in cash which reflects the timing of closed and paid claim activity.

Non-regulated subsidiaries cash flow used in operations for the six months ended June 30, 2008, was \$782,000, compared to cash flow provided by operations of \$1.3 million for the comparable period in 2007. The decrease in cash flows is primarily related to a decrease in fee-based revenue and the timing of other administrative expenses.

We continue to anticipate a temporary increase in cash outflows related to our investments in technology as we enhance our operating systems and controls. We believe these temporary increases will not affect our liquidity, debt covenants, or other key financial measures.

**Other Items*****Long-term Debt***

The following table summarizes the principal amounts and variables associated with our long-term debt (in thousands):

Description	Year Callable	Year Due	Interest Rate Terms	Interest Rate at 06/30/08(1)	Principal Amount
Junior subordinated debentures	2008	2033	Three-month LIBOR, plus 4.05%	6.85%	\$ 10,310
Senior debentures	2009	2034	Three-month LIBOR, plus 4.00%	6.68%	13,000
Senior debentures	2009	2034	Three-month LIBOR, plus 4.20%	6.84%	12,000
Junior subordinated debentures	2010	2035	Three-month LIBOR, plus 3.58%	6.36%	20,620
				Total	\$ 55,930

- (1) The underlying three-month LIBOR rate varies as a result of the interest rate reset dates used in determining the three-month LIBOR rate, which varies for each long-term debt item each quarter.

We received a total of \$53.3 million in net proceeds from the issuances of the above long-term debt, of which \$26.2 million was contributed to the surplus of our Insurance Company Subsidiaries and the remaining balance was used for general corporate purposes. Associated with the issuance of the above long-term debt we incurred approximately \$1.7 million in issuance costs for commissions paid to the placement agents in the transactions.

The issuance costs associated with these debentures have been capitalized and are included in other assets on the balance sheet. As of June 30, 2007, these issuance costs were being amortized over a seven year period as a component of interest expense. The seven year amortization period represented management's best estimate of the estimated useful life of the bonds related to both the senior debentures and junior subordinated debentures. Beginning July 1, 2007, we reevaluated our best estimate and determined a five year amortization period to be a more accurate representation of the estimated useful life. Therefore, this change in amortization period from seven years to five years has been applied prospectively beginning July 1, 2007.

The junior subordinated debentures issued in 2003 and 2005, were issued in conjunction with the issuance of \$10.0 million and \$20.0 million in mandatory redeemable trust preferred securities to a trust formed by an institutional investor from our unconsolidated subsidiary trusts, respectively.

Since the junior subordinated debentures issued in 2003 are callable in September 2008, we will be reviewing the capital strategy associated with refinancing at lower costs through debentures or equity.

**Table of Contents**

***Interest Rate Swaps***

In October 2005, we entered into two interest rate swap transactions to mitigate our interest rate risk on \$5.0 million and \$20.0 million of our senior debentures and trust preferred securities, respectively. On April 21, 2008, we entered into three interest rate swap transactions to mitigate our interest rate risk on our remaining \$30.0 million of our senior debentures and trust preferred securities. We accrue for these transactions in accordance with SFAS No. 133,

*Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, as subsequently amended. These interest rate swap transactions have been designated as cash flow hedges and are deemed highly effective hedges under SFAS No. 133. In accordance with SFAS No. 133, these interest rate swap transactions are recorded at fair value on the balance sheet and the effective portion of the changes in fair value are accounted for within other comprehensive income. The interest differential to be paid or received is being accrued and is being recognized as an adjustment to interest expense.

The first interest rate swap transaction, which relates to \$5.0 million of our \$12.0 million issuance of senior debentures, has an effective date of October 6, 2005 and ending date of May 24, 2009. We are required to make certain quarterly fixed rate payments calculated on a notional amount of \$5.0 million, non-amortizing, based on a fixed annual interest rate of 8.925%. The counterparty is obligated to make quarterly floating rate payments to us referencing the same notional amount, based on the three-month LIBOR, plus 4.20%.

The second interest rate swap transaction, which relates to \$20.0 million of our \$20.0 million issuance of trust preferred securities, has an effective date of October 6, 2005 and ending date of September 16, 2010. We are required to make quarterly fixed rate payments calculated on a notional amount of \$20.0 million, non-amortizing, based on a fixed annual interest rate of 8.34%. The counterparty is obligated to make quarterly floating rate payments to us referencing the same notional amount, based on the three-month LIBOR, plus 3.58%.

The third interest rate swap transaction, which relates to \$7.0 million of our \$12.0 million issuance of senior debentures, has an effective date of April 23, 2008 and ending date of May 24, 2011. We are required to make certain quarterly fixed rate payments calculated on a notional amount of \$7.0 million, non-amortizing, based on a fixed annual interest rate of 7.72%. The counterparty is obligated to make quarterly floating rate payments to us referencing the same notional amount, based on the three-month LIBOR, plus 4.20%.

The fourth interest rate swap transaction, which relates to \$10.0 million of our \$10.0 million issuance of trust preferred securities, has an effective date of April 23, 2008 and ending date of June 30, 2013. We are required to make quarterly fixed rate payments calculated on a notional amount of \$10.0 million, non-amortizing, based on a fixed annual interest rate of 8.02%. The counterparty is obligated to make quarterly floating rate payments to us referencing the same notional amount, based on the three-month LIBOR, plus 4.05%.

The fifth interest rate swap transaction, which relates to \$13.0 million of our \$13.0 million issuance of senior debentures, has an effective date of April 29, 2008 and ending date of April 29, 2013. We are required to make quarterly fixed rate payments calculated on a notional amount of \$13.0 million, non-amortizing, based on a fixed annual interest rate of 7.94%. The counterparty is obligated to make quarterly floating rate payments to us referencing the same notional amount, based on the three-month LIBOR, plus 4.00%.

In relation to the above interest rate swaps, the net interest expense paid for the six months ended June 30, 2008, was approximately \$135,000. The net interest income received for the six months ended June 30, 2007, was approximately \$76,000. For the three months ended June 30, 2008, the net interest expense paid was approximately \$150,000. For the three months ended June 30, 2007, the net interest income received was approximately \$38,000.

The total fair value of the interest rate swaps as of June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, was approximately (\$367,000) and (\$545,000), respectively. Accumulated other comprehensive income at June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, included the accumulated loss on the cash flow hedge, net of taxes, of (\$115,000) and (\$484,000), respectively.

***Revolving Line of Credit***

In April 2007, we executed an amendment to our revolving credit agreement with our bank. The amendments included an extension of the term to September 30, 2010, an increase to the available borrowings of up to

## **Table of Contents**

\$35.0 million, and a reduction of the variable interest rate basis to a range between 75 to 175 basis points above LIBOR. We use the revolving line of credit to meet short-term working capital needs. Under the revolving line of credit, we and certain of our non-regulated subsidiaries pledged security interests in certain property and assets of named subsidiaries.

At June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, we did not have an outstanding balance on our revolving line of credit.

The revolving line of credit provides for interest at a variable rate based, at our option, upon either a prime-based rate or LIBOR-based rate. In addition, the revolving line of credit also provides for an unused facility fee. On prime-based borrowings, the applicable margin ranges from 75 to 25 basis points below prime. On LIBOR-based borrowings, the applicable margin ranges from 125 to 175 basis points above LIBOR. The margin for all loans is dependent on the sum of non-regulated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization, and non-cash impairment charges related to intangible assets for the preceding four quarters, plus dividends paid or payable to us from subsidiaries during such period ( Adjusted EBITDA ). At June 30, 2008, we did not have any LIBOR-based borrowings outstanding.

Debt covenants consist of: (1) maintenance of the ratio of Adjusted EBITDA to interest expense of 2.0 to 1.0, (2) minimum net worth of \$130.0 million and increasing annually commencing June 30, 2005, by fifty percent of the prior year's positive net income, (3) minimum A.M. Best rating of B, and (4) minimum Risk Based Capital Ratio for Star of 1.75 to 1.00. As of June 30, 2008, we were in compliance with these covenants.

## ***Investment Portfolio***

As of June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, the recorded values of our investment portfolio, including cash and cash equivalents, were \$643.8 million and \$651.6 million, respectively. The debt securities in the investment portfolio, at June 30, 2008, were 98.0% investment grade A- or above bonds as defined by Standard and Poor's.

While our investment portfolio includes investments in mortgage-backed and agency-backed securities, we do not have any direct exposure to any subprime risks. Mortgage-backed securities (both commercial and residential) were 19.0% of the portfolio at June 30, 2008, compared to 19.5% at June 30, 2007. Asset-backed securities were 3.2% of the portfolio at June 30, 2008, compared to 4.6% at June 30, 2007. Within the asset-backed sector, we have indirect exposure to subprime loans on four securities totalling \$2.6 million. Two securities are AAA rated and have current credit enhancement in excess of the initial credit enhancement. The other two securities are insured by a monoline insurer, which has been downgraded. As a result, these two securities have been downgraded to BBB- and BB. Since these securities no longer bear a rating of high credit quality, and are in an unrealized loss position, accounting pronouncement EITF 99-20 required that the securities be evaluated for other than temporary impairment charges. As previously noted, as a result of the analysis, an impairment loss of \$168,000 was recognized on one of the securities. No impairment was required to be recognized on the other security. We do not expect any principal loss to be realized on either security.

During the second quarter, in accordance with EITF 99-20, we recognized a capital loss of \$168,000 related to a single asset-backed security. This asset-backed security had some indirect subprime exposure that is wrapped by insurance from a monoline insurer. The security is collateralized by fixed rate loans originated in 2005. The security is current on all interest payments, is adequately collateralized, and we have the ability and intent to hold the security to maturity notwithstanding credit issues. However, the present value of expected cash flows was below the amortized cost of the security, therefore under EITF 99-20 we are required to recognize any unrealized loss as a capital loss in the current income statement. Accordingly, the amortized cost was reduced to fair value at June 30, 2008.

## ***Shareholders' Equity***

At June 30, 2008, shareholders' equity was \$312.0 million, or a book value of \$8.43 per common share, compared to \$301.9 million, or a book value of \$8.16 per common share, at December 31, 2007.

In October 2007, our Board of Directors authorized management to purchase up to 1,000,000 shares, or approximately 3%, of our common stock in market transactions for a period not to exceed twenty-four months. For

**Table of Contents**

the three months and six months ended June 30, 2008 and for the year ended December 31, 2007, we did not repurchase any common stock. As of June 30, 2008, we had available up to 1,000,000 shares to be purchased.

At our regularly scheduled board meeting on July 25, 2008, our Board of Directors authorized management to purchase up to 3,000,000 shares of our common stock in market transactions for a period not to exceed twenty-four months. This share repurchase plan replaces the existing share repurchase plan authorized in October 2007.

On April 25, 2008, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.02 per common share. The dividend was payable on June 2, 2008, to shareholders of record as of May 16, 2008. On July 25, 2008, our Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.02 per common share. This dividend is payable on September 2, 2008, to shareholders of record as of August 15, 2008. Our Board of Directors did not declare any dividends in 2007.

When evaluating the declaration of a dividend, our Board of Directors considers a variety of factors, including but not limited to, our cash flow, liquidity needs, results of operations, industry conditions, and our overall financial condition. As a holding company, the ability to pay cash dividends is partially dependent on dividends and other permitted payments from our subsidiaries. We did not receive any dividends from our Insurance Company Subsidiaries during the six months ended June 30, 2008 or in 2007.

***USSU Acquisition***

Effective January 31, 2008, we exercised our option to purchase the remainder of the economics related to the acquisition of the USSU business in April 2007, by terminating the Management Agreement for a payment of \$21.5 million. As a result, we recorded an increase to other intangible assets of approximately \$11.4 million and an increase to goodwill of approximately \$10.1 million.

As of June 30, 2008, we recorded a reclassification of other intangible assets and goodwill. This reclassification was the result of a refinement to the original valuation analysis completed at the time of purchase of the remaining economics related to the termination of the Management Agreement with USSU. This adjustment to the valuation analysis resulted in a decrease in other intangible assets and a corresponding increase to goodwill of \$7.3 million.

**Table of Contents****Adjusted Expense Ratio**

Included in our GAAP expense ratio is the impact of the margin associated with our fee-based operations. If the profit margin from our fee-for-service business is recognized as an offset to our underwriting expense, a more realistic picture of our operating efficiency emerges. The following table illustrates our adjusted expense ratio, which reflects the GAAP expense ratio of our insurance company subsidiaries, net of the pre-tax profit, excluding investment income, of our fee-for-service and agency subsidiaries (in thousands):

	<b>For the Six Months Ended June 30,</b>		<b>For the Three Months Ended June 30,</b>	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Net earned premiums	\$ 143,053	\$ 132,395	\$ 77,031	\$ 67,191
Less: Consolidated net loss and LAE	81,203	76,353	43,542	39,707
Intercompany claim fees	6,735	6,648	3,629	3,353
Unconsolidated net loss and LAE	87,938	83,001	47,171	43,060
Consolidated policy acquisition and other underwriting expenses	25,863	26,812	12,716	13,169
Intercompany administrative and other underwriting fees	17,920	18,330	9,832	9,178
Unconsolidated policy acquisition and other underwriting expenses	43,783	45,142	22,548	22,347
Underwriting income	\$ 11,332	\$ 4,252	\$ 7,312	\$ 1,784
GAAP combined ratio as reported	92.1%	96.8%	90.5%	97.4%
Specialty risk management operations pre-tax income	\$ 28,529	\$ 22,167	\$ 15,617	\$ 10,848
Less: Underwriting income	11,332	4,252	7,312	1,784
Net investment income and capital gains	13,888	12,399	6,771	6,249
Fee-based operations pre-tax income	3,309	5,516	1,534	2,815
Agency operations pre-tax income	937	1,721	174	494
Total fee-for-service pre-tax income	\$ 4,246	\$ 7,237	\$ 1,708	\$ 3,309
GAAP expense ratio as reported	30.6%	34.1%	29.3%	33.3%
Adjustment to include pre-tax income from total fee-for-service income(1)	3.0%	5.5%	2.2%	4.9%
<b>GAAP expense ratio as adjusted</b>	<b>27.6%</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>28.3%</b>
GAAP loss and LAE ratio as reported	61.5%	62.7%	61.2%	64.1%
GAAP combined ratio as adjusted	89.1%	91.3%	88.3%	92.4%



**Reconciliation of consolidated pre-tax income:**

Specialty risk management operations pre-tax income:

Fee-based operations pre-tax income	\$ 3,309	\$ 5,516	\$ 1,534	\$ 2,815
Underwriting income	11,332	4,252	7,312	1,784
Net investment income and capital gains	13,888	12,399	6,771	6,249
Total specialty risk management operations pre-tax income	28,529	22,167	15,617	10,848
Agency operations pre-tax income	937	1,721	174	494
Less: Holding company expenses	1,619	1,389	719	533
Interest expense	2,565	3,154	1,254	1,667
Amortization expense	3,114	687	1,563	543
Consolidated pre-tax income	\$ 22,168	\$ 18,658	\$ 12,255	\$ 8,599

(1) Adjustment to include pre-tax income from total fee-for-service income is calculated by dividing total fee-for-service income by net earned premiums.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Regulatory***

A significant portion of our consolidated assets represent assets of our Insurance Company Subsidiaries. The State of Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation ( OFIR ) restricts the amount of funds that may be transferred to the holding company in the form of dividends, loans or advances. These restrictions in general, are as follows: the maximum discretionary dividend that may be declared, based on data from the preceding calendar year, is the greater of each insurance company's net income (excluding realized capital gains) or ten percent of the insurance company's surplus (excluding unrealized gains). These dividends are further limited by a clause in the Michigan law that prohibits an insurer from declaring dividends, except out of surplus earnings of the company. Earned surplus balances are calculated on a quarterly basis. Since Star is the parent insurance company, its maximum dividend capability is based on the combined Insurance Company Subsidiaries' surplus. At June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, Star's earned surplus position was positive \$56.0 million and \$33.7 million, respectively. Based upon Star's statutory financial statements as of December 31, 2007, Star would have the potential to pay a dividend of up to \$18.8 million without the prior approval of OFIR. No statutory dividends were paid in 2007 or during the six months ended June 30, 2008.

### **Contractual Obligations and Commitments**

There were no material changes outside the ordinary course of our business in relation to our contractual obligations and commitments for the three months ended June 30, 2008.

On July 31, 2008, we successfully executed our \$100 million senior credit facilities (the Credit Facilities ). The Credit Facilities consisted of a \$65.0 million term loan facility and a \$35.0 million revolving credit facility. The Credit Facilities were used to partially fund the cash consideration portion of the ProCentury merger. As of August 4, 2008, the outstanding balance on the term loan facility and the revolving credit facility was \$65.0 million and \$8.0 million, respectively.

### **Regulatory and Rating Issues**

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners ( NAIC ) has adopted a risk-based capital ( RBC ) formula to be applied to all property and casualty insurance companies. The formula measures required capital and surplus based on an insurance company's products and investment portfolio and is used as a tool to evaluate the capital of regulated companies. The RBC formula is used by state insurance regulators to monitor trends in statutory capital and surplus for the purpose of initiating regulatory action. In general, an insurance company must submit a calculation of its RBC formula to the insurance department of its state of domicile as of the end of the previous calendar year. These laws require increasing degrees of regulatory oversight and intervention as an insurance company's RBC declines. The level of regulatory oversight ranges from requiring the insurance company to inform and obtain approval from the domiciliary insurance commissioner of a comprehensive financial plan for increasing its RBC to mandatory regulatory intervention requiring an insurance company to be placed under regulatory control in a rehabilitation or liquidation proceeding.

At December 31, 2007, each of our Insurance Company Subsidiaries was in excess of any minimum threshold at which corrective action would be required. At June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, Star's statutory surplus was \$205.5 million and \$188.4 million, respectively.

Insurance operations are subject to various leverage tests (e.g., premium to statutory surplus ratios), which are evaluated by regulators and rating agencies. Our targets for gross and net written premium to statutory surplus are 2.8 to 1.0 and 2.25 to 1.0, respectively. As of June 30, 2008, on a statutory combined basis, the gross and net premium

leverage ratios were 1.8 to 1.0 and 1.4 to 1.0, respectively.

### **Reinsurance**

Intercompany pooling or reinsurance agreements are commonly entered into between affiliated insurance companies, so as to allow the companies to utilize the capital and surplus of all of the companies, rather than each individual company. Under pooling arrangements, companies share in the insurance business that is underwritten and allocate the combined premium, losses and related expenses between the companies within the pooling

## **Table of Contents**

arrangement. The Insurance Company Subsidiaries entered into an Inter-Company Reinsurance Agreement (the Pooling Agreement ). This Pooling Agreement includes Star, Ameritrust Insurance Corporation ( Ameritrust ), Savers Property and Casualty Insurance Company ( Savers ) and Williamsburg National Insurance Company ( Williamsburg ). Pursuant to the Pooling Agreement, Savers, Ameritrust and Williamsburg have agreed to cede to Star and Star has agreed to reinsure 100% of the liabilities and expenses of Savers, Ameritrust and Williamsburg, relating to all insurance and reinsurance policies issued by them. In return, Star agreed to cede and Savers, Ameritrust and Williamsburg have agreed to reinsure Star for their respective percentages of the liabilities and expenses of Star. Annually, we examine the Pooling Agreement for any changes to the ceded percentage for the liabilities and expenses. Any changes to the Pooling Agreement must be submitted to the applicable regulatory authorities for approval.

## **Convertible Note**

In December 2005, we entered into a \$6.0 million convertible note receivable with an unaffiliated insurance agency. The effective interest rate of the convertible note is equal to the three-month LIBOR, plus 5.2% and is due December 20, 2010. This agency has been a producer for us for over ten years. As security for the loan, the borrower granted us a security interest in its accounts, cash, general intangibles, and other intangible property. Also, the shareholder then pledged 100% of the common shares of three insurance agencies, the common shares owned by the shareholder in another agency, and has executed a personal guaranty. This note is convertible upon our option based upon a pre-determined formula, beginning in 2008. The conversion feature of this note is considered an embedded derivative pursuant to SFAS No. 133, and therefore is accounted for separately from the note. At June 30, 2008, the estimated fair value of the derivative is not material to the financial statements.

## **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

In September 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ( SFAS ) No. 157, *Fair Value Measurements*. SFAS No. 157 defines fair value and establishes a framework for measuring fair value in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. SFAS No. 157 also requires expanded disclosures about (1) the extent to which companies measure assets and liabilities at fair value, (2) the methods and assumptions used to measure fair value and (3) the effect of fair value measures on earnings. SFAS No. 157 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. We adopted SFAS 157 in the first quarter of 2008.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, *The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115*. SFAS No. 159 permits entities the option to measure many financial instruments and certain other assets and liabilities at fair value on an instrument-by-instrument basis as of specified election dates. This election is irrevocable as to specific assets and liabilities. The objective of SFAS No. 159 is to improve financial reporting and reduce the volatility in reported earnings caused by measuring related assets and liabilities differently. SFAS No. 159 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. We did not elect the fair value option for existing eligible items under SFAS No. 159; therefore it did not impact our consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R), *Business Combinations*. SFAS No. 141(R) provides revised guidance on how an acquirer recognizes and measures in its financial statements, the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed, and any noncontrolling interest in the acquiree. In addition, it provides revised guidance on the recognition and measurement of goodwill acquired in the business combination. SFAS No. 141(R) also establishes disclosure requirements to enable the evaluation of the nature and financial effects of the business combination. SFAS No. 141(R) is effective for business combinations completed on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after December 15, 2008, or January 1, 2009. We do not expect the provisions of SFAS No. 141(R) to have a material impact on our consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements an amendment of Accounting Research Bulletin No. 51*. SFAS No. 160 establishes accounting and reporting standards for the noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary and for the deconsolidation of a subsidiary.

**Table of Contents**

SFAS No. 160 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008. We are in the process of evaluating the impact of SFAS No. 160, but believe the adoption of SFAS No. 160 will not impact our consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*. SFAS No. 161 amends and expands the disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*. SFAS No. 161 requires qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts of gains and losses on derivative instruments and disclosures about credit-risk-related contingent features in derivative agreements. This statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2008. We are in the process of evaluating the impact of SFAS No. 161, but believe the adoption of SFAS No. 161 will not materially impact our consolidated financial condition or results of operations, but may require additional disclosures related to any derivative or hedging activities of ours.

In April 2008, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position ( FSP ) FAS 142-3, *Determination of the Useful Life of Intangible Assets*. FSP FAS 142-3 amends the factors that should be considered in developing renewal or extension assumptions used to determine the useful life of a recognized intangible asset under SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*. This FSP is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008. We are in the process of evaluating the impact of this FSP, but believe it will not materially impact our consolidated financial condition or results of operations.

In May 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 162, *The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. SFAS No. 162 identifies the sources of accounting principles and provides entities with a framework for selecting the principles used in preparation of financial statements that are presented in conformity with GAAP. The current GAAP hierarchy has been criticized because it is directed to the auditor rather than the entity, it is complex, and it ranks FASB Statements of Financial Accounting Concepts, which are subject to the same level of due process as FASB Statements of Financial Accounting Standards, below industry practices that are widely recognized as generally accepted but that are not subject to due process. The Financial Accounting Standards Board believes the GAAP hierarchy should be directed to entities because it is the entity that is responsible for selecting accounting principles for financial statements that are presented in conformity with GAAP, not its auditors. SFAS No. 162 is effective sixty days following the Securities and Exchange Commission's approval of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board amendments to AU Section 411 *The Meaning of Present Fairly in Conformity With Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. The adoption of SFAS No. 162 is not expected to have a material impact on our consolidated financial position and results of operations.

In May 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 163, *Accounting for Financial Guarantee Insurance Contracts-an interpretation of FASB Statement No. 60*. Diversity exists in practice in accounting for financial guarantee insurance contracts by insurance enterprises under SFAS No. 60 *Accounting and Reporting by Insurance Enterprises*. This results in inconsistencies in the recognition and measurement of claim liabilities due to differing views about when a loss has been incurred under SFAS No. 5 *Accounting for Contingencies*. This Statement requires that an insurance enterprise recognize a claim liability prior to an event of default when there is evidence that credit deterioration has occurred in an insured financial obligation. This Statement requires expanded disclosures about financial guarantee insurance contracts. The accounting and disclosure required under SFAS No. 163 will improve the quality of information provided to users of financial statements. This statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008, and all interim periods within those fiscal years, except for some disclosures about the insurance enterprise's risk-management activities. We are in the process of evaluating the impact of SFAS No. 163, but believe the adoption of SFAS No. 163 will not impact our consolidated financial condition or results of operations, but may require additional disclosures.

**Subsequent Events**

***ProCentury Merger***

Effective after the close of business on July 31, 2008, we completed our merger transaction with ProCentury. The results of ProCentury are not included in our financial statements as of and for the three and six months ended June 30, 2008, nor has any pro forma information been included in this Form 10-Q filing.

## **Table of Contents**

For each ProCentury common share, ProCentury shareholders were entitled to receive, either \$20.00 in cash or our common stock based on a 2.500 exchange ratio, subject to proration so that the maximum total cash consideration would not exceed 45% of the total consideration paid, as described within the merger agreement. The combined entity will continue to operate under the Meadowbrook Insurance Group name and will continue to trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol MIG.

The total purchase price, as determined under GAAP, was approximately \$220.5 million, of which \$99.2 million consisted of cash and \$121.3 million in common stock. The total number of common shares issued for the stock portion of the purchase price was approximately 21.2 million shares. The purchase price was calculated based upon the volume-weighted average sales price of a share of our common stock for the 30-day trading period ending the sixth trading day prior to completing the merger, or \$5.7326. We financed the cash portion of the merger consideration with a combination of an \$18.8 million dividend from our insurance company subsidiary, Star Insurance Company, available cash of \$12.6 million, and loan proceeds of approximately \$67.8 million.

We are in the process of obtaining third-party valuations of certain fixed and intangible assets, which will be used to determine the allocation of the purchase price.

### ***Credit Facilities***

On July 31, 2008, we successfully executed our \$100 million senior credit facilities (the Credit Facilities), which were arranged by Banc of America Securities, LLC. The Credit Facilities included a \$65.0 million term loan facility, which was fully funded upon the closing of our merger with ProCentury and a \$35.0 million revolving credit facility, which was partially funded upon closing of the merger. As of August 4, 2008, the outstanding balance on our term loan facility and our revolving credit facility was \$65.0 million and \$8.0 million, respectively. The undrawn portion of the revolving credit facility is available to finance working capital and for general corporate purposes, including but not limited to, surplus contributions to our Insurance Company Subsidiaries to support premium growth or strategic acquisitions.

The Credit Facilities replaced our prior revolving credit agreement which was terminated upon the execution of the Credit Facilities.

The principal amount outstanding under the new Credit Facilities provides for interest at LIBOR, plus the applicable margin, or at our option, the base rate. The base rate is defined as the higher of the Bank of America prime rate or the Federal Funds rate, plus 0.50%, plus the applicable margin. The applicable margin is determined by the consolidated indebtedness to consolidated total capital ratio. In addition, the Credit Facilities provide for an unused facility fee ranging between twenty basis points and forty basis points, based on our consolidated leverage ratio as defined by the Credit Facilities.

The debt covenants applicable to the new Credit Facilities consist of: (1) minimum consolidated net worth starting at eighty percent of pro forma consolidated net worth after giving effect to the acquisition of ProCentury, with quarterly increases thereafter, (2) minimum Risk Based Capital Ratio for Star of 1.75 to 1.00, (3) maximum permitted consolidated leverage ratio of 0.35 to 1.00, (4) minimum consolidated debt service coverage ratio of 1.25 to 1.00, and (5) minimum A.M. Best rating of B++.

### ***Insurance Company Subsidiary Dividend Payment***

On July 24, 2008, Star, our parent insurance company subsidiary, paid a dividend to us of \$18.8 million. This dividend payment was the maximum potential dividend permitted without prior regulatory approval from OFIR. The entire dividend payment was used to partially fund the cash consideration portion of the merger with ProCentury. Star



funded the dividend from existing cash reserves and cash equivalent investments.

***Interest Rate Swaps***

On July 31, 2008, we entered into an interest rate swap transaction to mitigate our interest rate risk on the \$65.0 million term loan balance of our credit facility. We will recognize this transaction in accordance with SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, as subsequently amended. This interest rate swap transaction has been designated as a cash flow hedge and is deemed a highly effective transaction

**Table of Contents**

under SFAS No. 133. In accordance with SFAS No. 133, beginning July 31, 2008, this interest rate swap transaction will be recorded at fair value on the balance sheet and any changes in its fair value will be accounted for within other comprehensive income. The interest differential to be paid or received will be accrued and recognized as an adjustment to interest expense.

The interest rate swap transaction, which relates to \$65.0 million of our \$65.0 million term loan, has an effective date of July 31, 2008 and ending date of July 31, 2013. We are required to make certain quarterly fixed rate payments calculated on a notional amount of \$65.0 million, amortizing in accordance with the term loan amortization schedule, based on a fixed annual interest rate of 3.95%. The counterparties are obligated to make quarterly floating rate payments to us referencing the same notional amount, based on the three-month LIBOR.

**ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

Market risk is the risk of loss arising from adverse changes in market rates and prices, such as interest rates as well as other relevant market rate or price changes. The volatility and liquidity in the markets in which the underlying assets are traded directly influence market risk. The following is a discussion of our primary risk exposures and how those exposures are currently managed as of June 30, 2008. Our market risk sensitive instruments are primarily related to fixed income securities, which are available for sale and not held for trading purposes.

Interest rate risk is managed within the context of asset and liability management strategy where the target duration for the fixed income portfolio is based on the estimate of the liability duration and takes into consideration our surplus. The investment policy guidelines provide for a fixed income portfolio duration of between three and a half and five and a half years. At June 30, 2008, our fixed income portfolio had a modified duration of 3.90, compared to 4.22 at December 31, 2007.

At June 30, 2008, the fair value of our investment portfolio was \$563.7 million. Our market risk to the investment portfolio is interest rate risk associated with debt securities. Our exposure to equity price risk is not significant. Our investment philosophy is one of maximizing after-tax earnings and has historically included significant investments in tax-exempt bonds. We continue to increase our holdings of tax-exempt securities based on our tax strategy and our desire to maximize after-tax investment income. For our investment portfolio, there were no significant changes in our primary market risk exposures or in how those exposures are managed compared to the year ended December 31, 2007. We do not anticipate significant changes in our primary market risk exposures or in how those exposures are managed in future reporting periods based upon what is known or expected to be in effect.

A sensitivity analysis is defined as the measurement of potential loss in future earnings, fair values, or cash flows of market sensitive instruments resulting from one or more selected hypothetical changes in interest rates and other market rates or prices over a selected period. In our sensitivity analysis model, a hypothetical change in market rates is selected that is expected to reflect reasonable possible near-term changes in those rates. Near term means a period of up to one year from the date of the consolidated financial statements. In our sensitivity model, we use fair values to measure our potential loss in fair value of debt securities assuming an upward parallel shift in interest rates to measure the hypothetical change in fair values. The table below presents our model's estimate of changes in fair values given a change in interest rates. Dollar values are rounded and in thousands.

	<b>Rates Down 100bps</b>	<b>Rates Unchanged</b>	<b>Rates Up 100bps</b>
Fair Value	\$ 592,593	\$ 563,670	\$ 534,240
Yield to Maturity or Call	3.45%	4.45%	5.45%

Effective Duration	4.32	4.61	4.79
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The other financial instruments, which include cash and cash equivalents, equity securities, premium receivables, reinsurance recoverables, line of credit and other assets and liabilities, when included in the sensitivity model, do not produce a material loss in fair values.

Our debentures are subject to variable interest rates. Thus, our interest expense on these debentures is directly correlated to market interest rates. At June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, we had debentures of \$55.9 million. At this level, a 100 basis point (1%) change in market rates would change annual interest expense by \$559,000.

## **Table of Contents**

In October 2005, we entered into two interest rate swap transactions to mitigate our interest rate risk on \$5.0 million and \$20.0 million of our senior debentures and trust preferred securities, respectively. On April 21, 2008, we entered into three interest rate swap transactions to mitigate our interest rate risk on our remaining \$30.0 million of our senior debentures and trust preferred securities. We accrue for these transactions in accordance with SFAS No. 133,

*Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, as subsequently amended. These interest rate swap transactions have been designated as cash flow hedges and are deemed highly effective hedges under SFAS No. 133. In accordance with SFAS No. 133, these interest rate swap transactions are recorded at fair value on the balance sheet and the effective portion of any changes in fair value are accounted for within other comprehensive income. The interest differential to be paid or received is being accrued and is being recognized as an adjustment to interest expense.

In addition, our revolving line of credit under which we can borrow up to \$35.0 million is subject to variable interest rates. Thus, our interest expense on the revolving line of credit is directly correlated to market interest rates. At June 30, 2008 and December 31, 2007, we did not have an outstanding balance on this revolving line of credit.

## **ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

### **Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures.**

Our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Exchange Act ), which we refer to as disclosure controls, are controls and procedures that are designed with the objective of ensuring that information required to be disclosed in our reports filed under the Exchange Act, such as this Form 10-Q, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms. Disclosure controls are also designed with the objective of ensuring that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. There are inherent limitations to the effectiveness of any control system. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance that its objectives are met. No evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, have been detected.

As of June 30, 2008, an evaluation was carried out under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of disclosure controls. Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the design and operation of these disclosure controls were effective in recording, processing, summarizing, and reporting, on a timely basis, material information required to be disclosed in the reports we file under the Exchange Act and is accumulated and communicated, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

### **Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There were no significant changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the three month period ended June 30, 2008, which have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**Table of Contents**

**PART II OTHER INFORMATION**

**ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

The information required by this item is included under Note 11 *Commitments and Contingencies* of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company's Form 10-Q for the six months ended June 30, 2008, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

There have been no material changes to the Risk Factors previously disclosed in Item 1A of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS**

In October 2007, the Company's Board of Directors authorized management to repurchase up to 1,000,000 shares of its common stock in market transactions for a period not to exceed twenty-four months.

For the three months ended June 30, 2008, the Company did not purchase and retire any shares of common stock. The maximum number of shares that may yet be repurchased under the Company's share repurchase plan is 1,000,000 shares, as reported in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007.

At the Company's regularly scheduled board meeting on July 25, 2008, the Company's Board of Directors authorized management to purchase up to 3,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock in market transactions for a period not to exceed twenty-four months. This share repurchase plan replaces the existing share repurchase plan authorized in October 2007.

**ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS**

On May 9, 2008, the Company held its Annual Meeting of Shareholders ( Annual Meeting ) to consider and act upon the following proposals:

- (1) The election of three members to the Board of Directors of the Company; and
- (2) Ratification of the appointment of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, Ernst & Young LLP.

The following directors stood for election at the Annual Meeting: (1) Robert H. Naftaly; (2) Robert W. Sturgis; and (3) Bruce E. Thal. The shareholders re-elected the directors at the Annual Meeting and therefore, each shall continue in office. The vote tabulation for each director was: (1) Robert H. Naftaly 32,767,977 in favor and 960,354 withheld; (2) Robert W. Sturgis 32,764,227 in favor and 964,104 withheld; and (3) Bruce E. Thal 31,932,546 in favor and 1,795,785 withheld. Other directors continuing in office after the meeting were: Merton J. Segal, Robert S. Cubbin, Joseph S. Dresner, David K. Page, Herbert Tyner, Hugh W. Greenberg, and Florine Mark.

The shareholders ratified the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP by a vote of 33,636,708 in favor, 22,729 against and 68,894 abstained.



**Table of Contents****ITEM 6. EXHIBITS**

The following documents are filed as part of this Report:

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
10.1	Credit Agreement, dated July 31, 2008, between Meadowbrook Insurance Group, Inc., as the Borrower, Bank of America, N.A., as Administrative Agent and L/C Issuer, KeyBank National Association, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. and RBS Citizens N.A., as Co-Syndication Agents, the other lenders party hereto, and Banc of America Securities LLC, as Sole Lead Arranger and Sole Book Manager (incorporated by reference from Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 31, 2008).
10.2	Revolving Credit Note, dated July 31, 2008, between Meadowbrook Insurance Group, Inc. and RBS Citizens, National Association, D/B/A Charter One (incorporated by reference from Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 31, 2008).
10.3	Term Note, dated July 31, 2008, between Meadowbrook Insurance Group, Inc. and RBS Citizens, National Association, D/B/A Charter One (incorporated by reference from Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 31, 2008).
10.4	Revolving Credit Note, dated July 31, 2008, between Meadowbrook Insurance Group, Inc. and The PrivateBank and Trust Company (incorporated by reference from Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 31, 2008).
10.5	Term Note, dated July 31, 2008, between Meadowbrook Insurance Group, Inc. and The PrivateBank and Trust Company (incorporated by reference from Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 31, 2008).
10.6	Amended and Restated Executive Employment Agreement, dated July 31, 2008, by and between ProCentury Corporation and Christopher J. Timm (incorporated by reference from Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 31, 2008, by ProCentury Corporation).
31.1	Certification of Robert S. Cubbin, Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a).
31.2	Certification of Karen M. Spaun, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation, pursuant to Securities Exchange Act Rule 13a-14(a).
32.1	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, signed by Robert S. Cubbin, Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation.
32.2	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, signed by Karen M. Spaun, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation.

**Table of Contents**

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

**Meadowbrook Insurance Group, Inc.**

By: /s/ Karen M. Spaun

Senior Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

Dated: August 11, 2008



**Table of Contents****EXHIBIT INDEX**

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