

QCR HOLDINGS INC  
Form DEF 14A  
March 20, 2013

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the**

**Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**(Amendment No.    )**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

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

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

**QCR Holdings, Inc.**

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

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(4) Date Filed:

March 20, 2013

Dear Fellow Stockholder:

On behalf of the board of directors and management of QCR Holdings, Inc., we cordially invite you to attend the annual meeting of stockholders of QCR Holdings, Inc., to be held at 10:00 a.m. on May 1, 2013, at the i wireless Center located at 1201 River Drive, Moline, Illinois.

This year we are using the Securities and Exchange Commission rule that allows us to furnish our proxy statement, 2012 Annual Report and proxy card to stockholders over the internet. This means our stockholders will receive only a notice containing instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the internet and vote online. If you receive this notice but would still like to request paper copies of the proxy materials, please follow the instructions on the notice or on the website referred to on the notice. By delivering proxy materials electronically to our stockholders, we can reduce the costs of printing and mailing our proxy materials. Please visit <http://www.proxyvote.com> for more information about the electronic delivery of proxy materials.

There are a number of proposals to be considered at this meeting. Our stockholders will be asked to: elect four persons to serve as Class II directors; ratify, on an advisory basis, one person to serve as a Class I director; approve, in a non-binding, advisory vote, the compensation of certain executive officers, which is referred to as a say-on-pay proposal; adopt the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan; approve the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement; and ratify the appointment of McGladrey LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ending December 31, 2013.

We recommend that you vote your shares for the director nominees and for all of the other proposals presented at the annual meeting.

We encourage you to attend the meeting in person. **Regardless of whether you plan to attend the meeting, you should vote by following the instructions provided on the notice as soon as possible.** This will assure that your shares are represented at the meeting.

At the meeting, we will report on our operations and the outlook for the year ahead.

We look forward to seeing you and visiting with you at the meeting.

Very truly yours,

James J. Brownson  
Chairman of the Board

Douglas M. Hultquist  
President and Chief Executive Officer

PARENT COMPANY OF: QUAD CITY BANK & TRUST CEDAR RAPIDS BANK & TRUST ROCKFORD BANK & TRUST m2 LEASE FUNDS

**NOTICE OF  
ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD MAY 1, 2013**

To the Stockholders of QCR Holdings, Inc.:

The annual meeting of stockholders of QCR Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation, will be held at the i wireless Center located at 1201 River Drive, Moline, Illinois on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., local time, for the following purposes:

1. to elect four Class II directors until the regular annual meeting of stockholders in 2016 and until their successors are elected and have qualified;
2. to ratify, on an advisory basis, the appointment of Lindsay Y. Corby to the board of directors to fill a vacancy in Class I, to hold office until the regular annual meeting of stockholders in 2015 and until her successor is elected and has qualified;
3. to approve, in a non-binding, advisory vote, the compensation of certain executive officers, which is referred to as a say-on-pay proposal;
4. to approve the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan;
5. to adopt the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, between QCR Holdings, Inc. and Quad City Bank and Trust Company;
6. to ratify the appointment of McGladrey LLP as QCR Holdings' s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013; and
7. to transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting and any adjournments or postponements of the meeting. The board of directors has fixed the close of business on March 6, 2013, as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting. In the event there is an insufficient number of votes for a quorum or to approve any of the proposals at the time of the annual meeting, the meeting may be adjourned or postponed in order to permit the further solicitation of proxies.

By order of the Board of Directors

Cathie S. Whiteside

Executive Vice President,

Corporate Strategy, Human Resources and Branding

Secretary

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Moline, Illinois

March 20, 2013

PARENT COMPANY OF: QUAD CITY BANK & TRUST CEDAR RAPIDS BANK & TRUST ROCKFORD BANK & TRUST m2 LEASE FUNDS

## PROXY STATEMENT

QCR Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation ( "QCR Holdings" ), is the holding company for Quad City Bank and Trust Company, Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust Company, and Rockford Bank and Trust Company. Quad City Bank and Trust is an Iowa banking association located in Bettendorf, Iowa, with banking locations in Bettendorf and Davenport, Iowa and in Moline, Illinois. Quad City Bank and Trust owns m2 Lease Funds, LLC, a Wisconsin limited liability company based in Milwaukee that is engaged in the business of leasing machinery and equipment to businesses under direct financing lease contracts. Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust is an Iowa banking association located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Rockford Bank and Trust is an Illinois state bank located in Rockford, Illinois. QCR Holdings also owns all of the common stock of four business trust subsidiaries that were created to issue trust preferred securities. When we refer to our banking subsidiaries in this proxy statement, we are collectively referring to Quad City Bank and Trust, Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust, and Rockford Bank and Trust. When we refer to our subsidiaries in this proxy statement, we are collectively referring to our banking subsidiaries, as well as our other subsidiaries and business trusts.

This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the board of directors of QCR Holdings of proxies to be voted at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held at the i wireless Center located at 1201 River Drive, Moline, Illinois, on May 1, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., local time, and at any adjournments or postponements of the meeting. This proxy statement and the accompanying form of proxy are first being transmitted or delivered to stockholders of QCR Holdings on or about March 20, 2013 together with our 2012 Annual Report to stockholders.

The following is information regarding the meeting and the voting process, and is presented in a question and answer format.

### **Why did I receive access to the proxy materials?**

We have made the proxy materials available to you over the internet because on March 6, 2013, the record date for the annual meeting, you owned shares of QCR Holdings common stock. This proxy statement describes the matters that will be presented for consideration by the stockholders at the annual meeting. It also gives you information concerning those matters to assist you in making an informed decision.

The board is asking you to give us your proxy. Giving us your proxy means that you authorize another person or persons to vote your shares of our common stock at the annual meeting in the manner you direct. If you vote using one of the methods described herein, you appoint the proxy holder as your representative at the meeting, who will vote your shares as you instruct, thereby assuring that your shares will be voted whether or not you attend the meeting. Even if you plan to attend the meeting, you should vote by proxy in advance of the meeting in case your plans change.

If you sign and return your proxy card or vote over the internet or by telephone and an issue comes up for a vote at the meeting that is not identified in the proxy materials, the proxy holder will vote your shares, pursuant to your proxy, in accordance with his or her judgment.

### **Why did I receive a notice regarding the internet availability of proxy materials instead of paper copies of the proxy materials?**

We are using the Securities and Exchange Commission notice and access rule that allows us to furnish our proxy materials over the internet to our stockholders instead of mailing paper copies of those materials to each stockholder. As a result, beginning on or about March 20, 2013, we sent our stockholders by mail a notice containing instructions on how to access our proxy materials over the internet and vote online. **This notice is not a proxy card and cannot be used to vote your shares.** If you received a notice this year, you will not receive paper copies of the proxy materials unless you request the materials by following the instructions on the notice or on the website referred to on the notice.

**What matters will be voted on at the meeting?**

You are being asked to vote on:

the election of four Class II directors for a term expiring in 2016;

a non-binding, advisory proposal to ratify the appointment of one Class I director for a term expiring in 2015;

a non-binding, advisory proposal to approve the compensation of certain executive officers, which is referred to as a say-on-pay proposal;

the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan;

the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement; and

the ratification of the selection of independent registered public accountants.

**If I am the record holder of my shares, how do I vote?**

You may vote by telephone, by internet, by mail by completing, signing, dating and mailing the proxy card you received in the mail, if you received paper copies of the proxy materials, or in person at the meeting. If you vote using one of the methods described above, your shares will be voted as you instruct.

If you sign and return your proxy card or vote over the internet or by telephone without giving specific voting instructions, the shares represented by your proxy card will be voted for all nominees named in this proxy statement, and for each of the other proposals described in this proxy statement.

**Although you may vote by mail, we ask that you vote instead by internet or telephone, which saves us postage and processing costs.**

You may vote by telephone by calling the toll-free number specified on your notice card or by accessing the internet website referred to on your notice card and by following the preprinted instructions on the notice card. If you submit your vote by internet, you may incur costs, such as cable, telephone and internet access charges.

Votes submitted by telephone or internet must be received by midnight CDT on Monday, April 29, 2013. The giving of a proxy by either of these means will not affect your right to vote in person if you decide to attend the meeting.

If you want to vote in person, please come to the meeting. We will distribute written ballots to anyone who wants to vote at the meeting. Please note, however, that if your shares are held in the name of a broker or other fiduciary (or in what is usually referred to as street name), you will need to arrange to obtain a legal proxy from that person or entity in order to vote in person at the meeting. Even if you plan to attend the meeting, you should complete, sign and return your proxy card in advance of the meeting just in case your plans change.

**If I hold shares in the name of a broker or fiduciary, who votes my shares?**

If you received access to these proxy materials from your broker or other fiduciary, your broker or fiduciary should have given you instructions for directing how that person or entity should vote your shares. It will then be your broker or fiduciary's responsibility to vote your shares for you in the manner you direct.

Under the rules of various national and regional securities exchanges, brokers generally may vote on routine matters, such as the ratification of the engagement of an independent public accounting firm, but may not vote on non-routine matters unless they have received voting instructions from the person for whom they are holding shares. The election and non-binding advisory ratification of directors, the approvals of the QCR



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Holdings, Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan and the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, and the non-binding advisory proposal on executive compensation are all non-routine matters, and consequently, your broker or fiduciary will not have discretionary authority to vote your shares on these matters. If your broker or fiduciary does not receive instructions from you on how to vote on these matters, your broker or fiduciary will return the proxy card to us, indicating that he or she does not have the authority to vote on these matters. This is generally referred to as a broker non-vote and may affect the outcome of the voting on those matters.

We therefore encourage you to provide directions to your broker or fiduciary as to how you want your shares voted on all matters to be brought before the 2013 annual meeting. You should do this by carefully following the instructions your broker gives you concerning its procedures. This ensures that your shares will be voted at the meeting.

A number of banks and brokerage firms participate in a program that also permits stockholders to direct their vote by telephone or internet. If your shares are held in an account at such a bank or brokerage firm, you may vote your shares by telephone or internet by following the instructions on their enclosed voting form. If you submit your vote by internet, you may incur costs, such as cable, telephone and internet access charges. Voting your shares in this manner will not affect your right to vote in person if you decide to attend the meeting, however, you must first request a legal proxy from your broker or other fiduciary. Requesting a legal proxy prior to the deadline stated above will automatically cancel any voting directions you have previously given by internet or by telephone with respect to your shares.

**What does it mean if I receive more than one notice card?**

It means that you have multiple holdings reflected in our stock transfer records and/or in accounts with brokers. To vote all of your shares by proxy, please follow the separate voting instructions that you received for your shares of common stock held in each of your different accounts.

**What if I change my mind after I vote?**

If you hold your shares in your own name, you may revoke your proxy and change your vote at any time before the polls close at the meeting. You may do this by:

signing another proxy with a later date and returning that proxy to us;

timely submitting another proxy via the telephone or internet;  
sending notice to us that you are revoking your proxy; or

voting in person at the meeting.

If you hold your shares in the name of your broker or through a fiduciary and desire to revoke your proxy, you will need to contact that person or entity to revoke your proxy.

**How many votes do we need to hold the annual meeting?**

A majority of the shares that are outstanding and entitled to vote as of the record date must be present in person or by proxy at the meeting in order to hold the meeting and conduct business.

Shares are counted as present at the meeting if the stockholder either:

is present in person at the meeting; or

has properly submitted a signed proxy card or other proxy.

On March 6, 2013, the record date, there were 4,936,316 shares of common stock outstanding. Therefore, at least 2,468,159 shares need to be present in person or by proxy at the annual meeting in order to hold the meeting and conduct business.

**What happens if a nominee is unable to stand for election?**

The board may, by resolution, provide for a lesser number of directors or designate a substitute nominee. In the latter case, shares represented by proxies may be voted for a substitute nominee. Proxies cannot be voted for more than the number of nominees presented for election at the meeting. The board has no reason to believe any nominee will be unable to stand for election.

**What options do I have in voting on each of the proposals?**

You may vote for or withhold authority to vote for each nominee for director. You may vote for, against or abstain on each of the other proposals described in this proxy statement and on any other proposal that may properly be brought before the meeting.

**How many votes may I cast?**

Generally, you are entitled to cast one vote for each share of stock you owned on the record date.

**How many votes are needed for each proposal?**

Our directors are elected by a plurality and the four individuals receiving the highest number of votes cast for their election will be elected as Class II directors of QCR Holdings. A withhold authority to vote for and broker non-votes will have no effect on the election of any director at the annual meeting.

Approval of the advisory ratification of the Class I director, say-on-pay proposal, the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan, the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, the ratification of the appointment of McGladrey LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm, and any other proposals, must receive the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present in person or by proxy at the meeting and entitled to vote. Abstentions will have the effect of voting against these proposals. Broker non-votes are not considered to be entitled to vote and will not have any effect on the voting of these matters.

Because the say-on-pay vote is advisory, the outcome of such vote will not be binding on the board of directors. Also, please remember that the election and non-binding advisory ratification of directors, the approvals of the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan and the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, and the non-binding, advisory proposal on executive compensation are each considered to be non-routine matters. As a result, if your shares are held by a broker or other fiduciary, it cannot vote your shares on these matters unless it has received voting instructions from you.

**Where do I find the voting results of the meeting?**

If available, we will announce voting results at the meeting. The voting results will also be disclosed on a Form 8-K that we will file within four business days after the annual meeting.

**Who bears the cost of soliciting proxies?**

We will bear the cost of soliciting proxies. In addition to solicitations by mail, officers, directors or employees of QCR Holdings or of our subsidiaries may solicit proxies in person or by telephone. These persons will not receive any special or additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may reimburse brokerage houses and other custodians, nominees and fiduciaries for their reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for forwarding proxy and solicitation materials to stockholders.

**What is householding?**

The Securities and Exchange Commission has issued rules regarding the delivery of proxy statements and information statements to households. These rules spell out the conditions under which annual reports, information statements, proxy statements, prospectuses and other disclosure documents of a particular company that would otherwise be mailed in separate envelopes to more than one person at a shared address may be mailed as one copy in one envelope addressed to all holders at that address (i.e., householding). To conserve resources and reduce expenses, we consolidate materials under these rules when possible. Stockholders who participate in householding will receive separate proxy cards.

Because we are using the Securities and Exchange Commission notice and access rule, we will not household our proxy materials or notices to stockholders of record sharing an address. This means that stockholders of record who share an address will each be mailed a separate notice of the proxy materials. However, certain brokerage firms, banks, or similar entities holding our common stock for their customers may household proxy materials or notices. Stockholders sharing an address whose shares of our common stock are held in street name should contact their broker if they now receive (1) multiple copies of our proxy materials or notices and wish to receive only one copy of these materials per household in the future, or (2) a single copy of our proxy materials or notice and wish to receive separate copies of these materials in the future. If at any time you would like to receive a paper copy of the annual report or proxy statement, please write to Investor Relations, QCR Holdings, Inc., 3551 Seventh Street, Moline, IL 61265, or call us at (309) 736-3584.

**PROPOSAL 1:****ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Our directors are divided into three classes having staggered terms of three years. Stockholders will be asked to elect four Class II directors for a term expiring in 2016. The board has considered and nominated current directors Patrick S. Baird, Larry J. Helling, Douglas M. Hultquist and Mark C. Kilmer to serve as Class II directors of QCR Holdings. Charles M. Peters, a Class II director since 2007, informed the board that he would not seek re-election for an additional term as a director of QCR Holdings, and accordingly, the board did not re-nominate him for election at this year's meeting. As a result, his directorship will end at the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders, and the board intends to reduce the size of the board from 13 to 12 following the annual meeting. The board expresses its thanks to Mr. Peters for his many years of dedicated service.

We have no knowledge that any of the nominees will refuse or be unable to serve, but if any of the nominees becomes unavailable for election, the holders of the proxies reserve the right to substitute another person of their choice as a nominee when voting at the meeting. Set forth below is information concerning the nominees for election and for each of the other persons whose terms of office will continue after the meeting, including age, year first elected a director and business experience during the previous five years.

Directors are elected by a plurality and the four individuals receiving the highest number of votes cast for their election will be elected as Class II directors. **Our board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote your shares FOR all of the nominees for directors.**

<b>Director</b>		
<b>Name (Age)</b>	<b>Since</b>	<b>Positions with QCR Holdings and subsidiaries</b>
<b>NOMINEES</b>		
<b>CLASS II (New Term Will Expire in 2016)</b>		
Patrick S. Baird (Age 59)	2010	Vice Chairman of the Board and Director of QCR Holdings; Vice Chairman of the Board and Director of Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust
Larry J. Helling (Age 57)	2001	Director of QCR Holdings; President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust; Director of Quad City Bank and Trust; Director of m2 Lease Funds
Douglas M. Hultquist (Age 57)	1993	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of QCR Holdings; Director of Quad City Bank and Trust; Director of Rockford Bank and Trust; Director of m2 Lease Funds
Mark C. Kilmer (Age 54)	2004	Director of QCR Holdings; Chairman of the Board and Director of Quad City Bank and Trust

**CONTINUING DIRECTORS****CLASS III (Term Expires 2014)**

John K. Lawson (Age 73)	2000	Director of QCR Holdings
Ronald G. Peterson (Age 69)	1993	Director of QCR Holdings; Director of Quad City Bank and Trust
John D. Whitcher (Age 58)	2008	Director of QCR Holdings; Chairman of the Board and Director of Rockford Bank and Trust
Marie Z. Ziegler (Age 55)	2008	Director of QCR Holdings; Director of Quad City Bank and Trust

**CLASS I (Term Expires 2015)**

James J. Brownson (Age 67)	1997	Chairman of the Board and Director of QCR Holdings; Director of Quad City Bank and Trust
Lindsay Y. Corby (Age 35)	2012	Director of QCR Holdings
Todd A. Gipple (Age 49)	2009	Director of QCR Holdings; Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Financial Officer of QCR Holdings; Director of Quad City Bank and Trust; Director of Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust; Director of Rockford Bank and Trust
Donna J. Sorensen (Age 63)	2009	Director of QCR Holdings; Chairman of the Board and Director of Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust

All of our continuing directors and nominees will hold office for the terms indicated, or until their earlier death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or ineligibility due to exceeding age eligibility requirements (a person who has reached age 72 before the date of the annual meeting is not eligible for election to the board) and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified. All of our executive officers hold office for a term of one year. There are no arrangements or understandings between any of the directors, executive officers or any other person pursuant to which any of our directors or executive officers have been selected for their respective positions. Mr. Hultquist is a director of United Fire Group, Inc. and Mr. Baird is a director of National Financial Partners Corp, both companies with securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ). No other nominee or director has been a director of another company with securities registered under the Exchange Act within the past five years.

The business experience of each of the nominees and continuing directors for the past five years, as well as their qualifications to serve on the board, are as follows:

*Patrick S. Baird* is the retired President and Chief Executive Officer of AEGON USA, LLC, the U.S. subsidiary of the AEGON Insurance Group, a leading multinational insurance organization. Mr. Baird joined the AEGON USA companies in 1976. He was appointed to that position in March 2002, having previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Tax Officer. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa, and is a Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Baird was appointed by the Governor of the State of Iowa to the Ijobs Commission as Vice Chairman and also serves as a Commissioner for the Eastern Iowa Airport. Mr. Baird is also a founding board member and Treasurer of the Zach Johnson Foundation. He currently serves as a director, audit committee member and compensation committee member for National Financial Partners, a NYSE listed firm. Mr. Baird has been a director of Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust since its formation in 2001. We consider Mr. Baird to be a qualified candidate for service on the board and on the committees he is a member of due to his experience as the President and Chief Executive Officer of a successful insurance company in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, one of our market areas, his knowledge of the business community in this area and his broad based financial acumen.

*James J. Brownson* is President of W.E. Brownson Co., a manufacturers representative agency located in Eldridge, Iowa involved in the sale of custom engineered products to OEM manufacturers in the Midwest, and has been in that position since 1978. Mr. Brownson is a graduate of St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa and the Graduate School of Banking, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. He began his career in 1967 as a member of the audit staff at Arthur Young & Co., in Chicago, Illinois. From 1969 until 1978, Mr. Brownson was employed by Davenport Bank and Trust Company, where he left as Senior Vice President and Cashier. He is a past member of the National Sales Representative Council of Crane Plastics, Columbus, Ohio, and Dayton Rogers Manufacturing Co., Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Brownson has been a featured speaker at national *Bank Director Magazine* and *SNL Financial* conferences on the role of the board of directors in executive compensation, strategic planning and the board's strategic role in successful community banking. Mr. Brownson has served on the board of directors of the United Way of the Quad Cities, Junior Achievement of the Quad Cities, St. Ambrose University Alumni Association and United Cerebral Palsy of the Quad Cities. Mr. Brownson has been a director of Quad City Bank and Trust since its formation in October 1993. We consider Mr. Brownson to be a qualified candidate for service on the board and the committees he is a member of due to his experience as the President of a successful manufacturer's representative business in Davenport, Iowa, one of our market areas, his prior experience in banking and public accounting, his educational background in banking, his participation in numerous national banking conferences, and his knowledge of the business community throughout the Midwest.

*Lindsay Y. Corby* is a Principal at BXM Holdings, Inc., based in Chicago, Illinois, a financial services company formed to facilitate recapitalization transactions in depository institutions. Ms. Corby joined BXM Holdings, Inc. in February 2011. Prior to joining BXM Holdings, Ms. Corby was a Vice President in the investment banking group of Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, holding various positions since 2001. During her years at KBW, she focused on mergers and acquisitions, capital markets transactions, complex recapitalizations and valuation activities for U.S. financial institutions. Prior to joining KBW, Ms. Corby worked at Merrill Lynch as an analyst in its Technology Investment Banking Group. Ms. Corby received a M.S. in Accounting, a B.A. in Spanish and a B.B.A. in Accounting from Southern Methodist University. Ms. Corby is a graduate of the Kellogg Executive Education, Women's Senior Leadership Program, and is a Registered Certified Public Accountant. We consider Ms. Corby to be a qualified candidate for service on the board and the committees she is a member of due to her experience in the investment banking area advising financial institutions and her education and training.

*Todd A. Gipple* is a Certified Public Accountant and began his career with KPMG Peat Marwick in 1985. In 1991, McGladrey & Pullen acquired the Quad Cities practice of KPMG. Mr. Gipple was named Tax Partner with McGladrey & Pullen in 1994 and served as the Tax Partner-in-Charge of the firm's Mississippi Valley Practice and as one of five Regional Tax Coordinators for the national firm. He specialized in Financial Institutions Taxation and Mergers and Acquisitions throughout his 14-year career in Public Accounting. He joined QCR Holdings in January of 2000, and currently serves as Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer. He also serves as a Director of Quad City Bank and Trust, Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust, and Rockford Bank and Trust. Mr. Gipple previously served on the board of directors and the Executive Committee of the Davenport Chamber of Commerce, United Way of the Quad Cities and the Scott County Beautification Foundation, and was a member of the original Governing Body for the Quad City's Success by 6 Initiative. Mr. Gipple currently serves on the Audit Committee for the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend. He is also Chairman of the board of directors of SAL Family and Community Services, and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Iowa Society of CPAs. We consider Mr. Gipple to be a qualified candidate for service on the board and the committees he is a member of due to his experience as the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer of QCR Holdings and his prior experience as a tax partner in public accounting.

*Larry J. Helling* was previously the Executive Vice President and Regional Commercial Banking Manager of Firststar Bank in Cedar Rapids with a focus on the Cedar Rapids metropolitan area and the Eastern Iowa region. Prior to his six years with Firststar, Mr. Helling spent twelve years with Omaha National Bank. Mr. Helling is a graduate of the Cedar Rapids Leadership for Five Seasons program and currently serves on the board of trustees of the United Way of East Central Iowa and the board of trustees of Junior Achievement. He is past President and a member of the Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids, on the board of the Entrepreneurial Development Center, is past Chairman and board member of the Downtown Cedar Rapids Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District and is on the board of the Human Services Campus of East Central Iowa. We consider Mr. Helling to be a qualified candidate for service on the board and the committees he is a member of due to his past experience as an executive officer of Firststar Bank, located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, one of our market areas, and his prior banking experience.

*Douglas M. Hultquist* is a certified public accountant and previously served as a tax partner with two major accounting firms. He began his career with KPMG Peat Marwick in 1977 and was named a partner in 1987. In 1991, the Quad Cities office of KPMG Peat Marwick merged with McGladrey & Pullen. Mr. Hultquist served as a tax partner in the Illinois Quad Cities office of McGladrey & Pullen from 1991 until co-founding QCR Holdings in 1993. During his public accounting career, Mr. Hultquist specialized in bank taxation, taxation of closely held businesses, and mergers and acquisitions. Mr. Hultquist served on the board of directors of the PGA TOUR John Deere Classic and was its Chairman for the July 2001 tournament. Mr. Hultquist serves on the board of United Fire Group, Inc., and is chair of its Risk Management Committee, is past chairman of the Augustana College board of trustees, a past president of the Quad City Estate Planning Council, past finance chairman of Butterworth Memorial Trust and previously served on the board of the Illinois Bankers Association. He is also a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Iowa Society of CPAs, and was recently selected as the Iowa Society of CPAs Outstanding CPA in Business and Industry for 2011. Mr. Hultquist is a member of the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce board of directors, and is Chair of its Finance Committee, is a board member of the Rock Island County Children's Advocacy Center and participates in Big Brothers/Big Sisters. He received his undergraduate degree from Augustana College in Accounting and Economics in 1977 and in 2009 received an Honorary Doctorate degree from the college. Along with QCR Holdings co-founder Mr. Michael A. Bauer, Mr. Hultquist received the 1998 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award for the Iowa and Nebraska region and was inducted into the Quad Cities Area Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame in 2003. We consider Mr. Hultquist to be a qualified candidate for service on the board and the committees he is a member of due to his experience as the President and Chief Executive Officer of QCR Holdings and his prior public accounting experience as a tax partner.

*Mark C. Kilmer* is President of The Republic Companies, a family-owned group of businesses founded in 1916 and headquartered in Davenport, Iowa involved in the wholesale equipment and supplies distribution of energy management, electrical, refrigeration, heating, air-conditioning and sign support systems. Prior to joining Republic in 1984, Mr. Kilmer worked in the Management Information Systems Department of Standard Oil of California (Chevron) in San Francisco. Mr. Kilmer currently is a board member of The Genesis Health System and serves on the board of directors of IMARK Group, Inc., a national member-owned purchasing cooperative of electric supplies and equipment distributors. He is a two-term past chairman of the PGA TOUR John Deere Classic and the past chairman of the Scott County YMCA's board of directors. Mr. Kilmer is the past chairman of the board of Genesis Medical Center, and has served on the board of directors of The Genesis Heart Institute, St. Luke's Hospital, Rejuvenate Davenport, The Vera French Foundation and Trinity Lutheran Church. He was a four-time project business consultant for Junior Achievement. Mr. Kilmer has been a director of Quad City Bank and Trust since February 1996 and named its Chairman in January 2007. Prior to joining the board of Quad City Bank and Trust, Mr. Kilmer served on the board of Citizen's Federal Savings Bank in Davenport, Iowa. We consider Mr. Kilmer to be a qualified candidate for service on the board and the committees he is a member of due to his experience as the President of a successful wholesale and supply distribution business in Davenport, Iowa, one of our market areas, prior service on a bank board and his knowledge of the business community in this area.



*John K. Lawson* began his career with Deere & Company in 1958 as an engineering co-op trainee and worked in various positions with Deere & Company until his retirement in 2002. He received his mechanical engineering degree in 1962 from Iowa State University. Mr. Lawson held a variety of positions in several manufacturing operations, including General Manager in Dubuque and Davenport. In 1985, Mr. Lawson was named Vice President, Manufacturing, Agricultural Equipment Division. In 1992, he became President of the Construction Division. In his final position with Deere & Company as Senior Vice President, Technology and Engineering for Deere & Company, Mr. Lawson was responsible for the company's engineering, business computer systems, quality, supply management and communications areas. He is a member of the board of governors of the Iowa State University Foundation, the board of directors of Junior Achievement of the Heartland Foundation, and the Moline Foundation Finance Committee. Mr. Lawson also serves as a board member for Kent Corporation, located in Muscatine, Iowa. Mr. Lawson has been director of Quad City Bank and Trust since July 1997. Prior to joining the board of Quad City Bank and Trust, Mr. Lawson served on the board of First of America in Rock Island, Illinois. We consider Mr. Lawson to be a qualified candidate for service on the board and the committees he is a member of due to his past experience as an executive officer of Deere & Company, prior service on a bank board, and his knowledge of, and prominence in, our Iowa and Illinois market areas.

*Ronald G. Peterson* is the retired President and Chief Executive Officer of the First State Bank of Illinois, located in La Harpe, Illinois. Prior to his retirement, he served in that position since 1982. Mr. Peterson serves on the board of directors of First State Bank of Illinois, and is Treasurer and Vice President of First State Bancorporation, Inc. He currently serves as a member of the board of directors and Vice President of the La Harpe Educational Foundation, and is a member of the Macomb Rotary Club. He is a past co-chairman of the McDonough District Hospital Development Council, past President of the Macomb Rotary Club, past Treasurer of the Western Illinois University Foundation and is a current member of the Foundation's Executive Committee. In 2005, Mr. Peterson was named Banker of the Year by the Illinois Bankers Association. Mr. Peterson has been a director of Quad City Bank and Trust since its formation in October 1993, and currently serves as Chair of its Loan Committee. We consider Mr. Peterson to be a qualified candidate for service on the board and the committees he is a member of due to his experience in the banking industry serving as the President and Chief Executive Officer of First State Bank of Illinois, located in La Harpe, Illinois.

*Donna J. Sorensen* is President of Sorensen Consulting, a management consulting and executive coaching firm. Ms. Sorensen earned her undergraduate degree from Marycrest College and her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Iowa College of Law. She has twenty years of prior experience in trust and investment management serving as Executive Vice President Institutional Trust for U.S. Bank (formerly Firststar Bank). Ms. Sorensen currently serves on the boards of the University of Iowa Obermann Center for Advanced Research and the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation Agency Investment Advisory Council and is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association. She has been a director of Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust since 2002, and she currently serves as Chair of its Board, as well as serving on its Loan and Wealth Management Committee. We consider Ms. Sorensen to be a qualified candidate for service on the board and the committees she is a member of due to her experience as the President of a consulting firm in Iowa City, Iowa, her prior banking experience and her education and training as an attorney.

*John D. Witcher* is Vice President and General Counsel, as well as Director and Shareholder, of Viking Chemical Company. Mr. Witcher earned his undergraduate and Juris Doctorate degrees from Southern Methodist University. He is a past director of Rockford Health System, the largest health system in the region, and previously served as chairman of the audit committee and is a past member of the finance committee, the planning committee and the executive compensation committee. He is a past chairman of the board of both the Northern Illinois Chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Crusader Clinic Health Foundation and remains active in the Rockford community. Mr. Witcher has been a director of Rockford Bank and Trust since its formation in January 2005, and was named its Chairman in May 2009. We consider Mr. Witcher to be a qualified candidate for service on the board and the committees he is a member of due to his experience as Vice President and General Counsel of a chemical company in Rockford, Illinois, one of our market areas, his knowledge of the business community in this area and his education and training as an attorney.

*Marie Z. Ziegler* is Vice President and Deputy Financial Officer of Deere & Company. Ms. Ziegler joined Deere & Company in 1978 as a consolidation accountant and has held management positions in finance, treasury operations, strategic planning and investor and banking relations. Most recently, she served as Vice President and Treasurer for the company. Ms. Ziegler is a 1978 graduate of St. Ambrose University, with a bachelor of arts in accounting. She received her CPA in 1979 and an MBA from the University of Iowa in 1985. Ms. Ziegler is on the board of trustees for the Two Rivers YMCA (Moline, Illinois) and on the fundraising committee of Playcrafters Barn Theatre (Moline, Illinois). She is a member of The University of Iowa's College of Business Board of Visitors. Ms. Ziegler is a past member of Unified Growth Strategy Committee of the Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce, and a past member of the board of the Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley, Inc., Trinity Regional Health System and Trinity Medical Center. She also served on the Deere & Company Credit Union board, and as a member of the board of the United Way of the Quad Cities, chaired its 2003 Quad Cities United Way Campaign. She also is past treasurer of fundraising for Playcrafters Barn Theatre, Moline. We consider Ms. Ziegler to be a qualified candidate for service on the board and the committees she is a member of due primarily to the knowledge and experience regarding public companies she gained in her role as Vice President and Treasurer of Deere & Company, a publicly-traded company with over \$36 billion in annual revenues. At Deere & Company, Ms. Ziegler regularly interacts with banks, institutional investors and sell side analysts as a company representative, and this experience with participants in the public marketplace makes her a valuable contributor as a director of QCR Holdings. Ms. Ziegler is also involved with a number of charitable organizations headquartered in communities served by QCR Holdings, providing her with business connections and extensive knowledge of our market areas.

Our executive officers consist of Douglas M. Hultquist, Todd A. Gipple and Larry J. Helling, each of whom is also a director of QCR Holdings. Mr. Hultquist has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of QCR Holdings since 1993; Mr. Gipple has served as the Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer since 2008, and he previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since 2000; and Mr. Helling has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust since 2001.

**PROPOSAL 2:**

**ADVISORY (NON-BINDING) VOTE TO RATIFY APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR**

According to our bylaws, vacancies on the board may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected by the board to fill a vacancy in a class, including a vacancy created by an increase in the number of directors, shall serve for the remainder of the full term of that class and until the director's successor is elected and qualified. At a regular meeting of the board on September 21, 2012, the board approved an increase in the total number of authorized directors to 13 directors and, upon the recommendation of the Nomination and Governance Committee, appointed Lindsay Y. Corby to the board, effective September 21, 2012. Based on Ms. Corby's experience in the investment banking area advising financial institutions and her strong educational background, we believe she is a valuable member of our board.

Because our bylaws require that each of the three classes of directors be as near to equal in size as possible, the board was unable to appoint Ms. Corby to the class of the directors that is up for election at our 2013 annual meeting of stockholders. Ms. Corby was appointed to fill a vacancy in Class I, to hold office until the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders, until her successor is duly elected and qualified, or, if sooner, until her death, resignation or removal. However, the Nomination and Governance Committee and the full board believe that, in keeping with our commitment to good corporate governance practices, it is appropriate for the appointment of Ms. Corby to be ratified by the stockholders in an advisory manner at the first opportunity. Therefore, based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Governance Committee, on February 7, 2013, the board adopted a resolution to include a proposal at the 2013 annual meeting for our stockholders to vote, on an advisory basis, to ratify the appointment of Ms. Corby to the board. If less than a majority of the votes cast at the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders approve the ratification of the appointment, the Nomination and Governance Committee will consider whether to ask Ms. Corby to resign from the board. If the Nomination and Governance Committee recommends that she resigns, and if the board accepts such resignation, Ms. Corby will no longer be a member of our board and the board may appoint a replacement to fill the vacancy or decrease the number of directors to eliminate the vacancy.

**The board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote to approve the ratification of Lindsay Y. Corby to the QCR Holdings board of directors by voting FOR this proposal.**

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### General

Generally, the board oversees our business and monitors the performance of our management. In accordance with our corporate governance procedures, the board does not involve itself in the day-to-day operations of QCR Holdings, which is monitored by our executive officers and management. Our directors fulfill their duties and responsibilities by attending regular meetings of the full board, which are held no less frequently than quarterly. Our directors also discuss business and other matters with Mr. Hultquist, our Chief Executive Officer, other key executives and our principal external advisors (legal counsel, auditors and other consultants). Director Corby was appointed to the Board on September 21, 2012 after the Board of Directors increased the number of directors constituting the full Board from 12 to 13, to fill the resultant vacancy. The board is currently comprised of 13 directors, but as a result of the decision of Mr. Peters to not stand for re-election at the annual meeting, the board intends to reduce the size of the board to 12 members following the annual meeting.

Directors Baird, Brownson, Corby, Kilmer, Lawson, Peterson, Sorensen, Whitcher and Ziegler are deemed to be independent as that term is defined by Nasdaq. Directors Gipple, Helling, and Hultquist are not considered to be independent because they also serve as executive officers of either QCR Holdings or one of our subsidiaries.

During 2012, the board of directors had an Audit Committee, a Risk Oversight Committee, a Nomination and Governance Committee, a Compensation Committee, a Strategic Direction Committee and an Executive Committee. The current charters of these committees (with the exception of the Strategic Direction Committee) are available on our website at [www.qcrh.com](http://www.qcrh.com). Also posted on the website is general information regarding QCR Holdings and our common stock, many of our corporate policies (including our Corporate Governance Guidelines), and links to our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In 2012, a total of five regularly scheduled and two special meetings were held by the board of directors of QCR Holdings. All directors attended at least 75 percent of the meetings of the board and the committees on which they served during 2012. Although we do not have a formal policy regarding director attendance at the annual meeting, we encourage our directors to attend. Last year, all of the directors were present at the annual meeting.

### Committees of the Board of Directors

**Audit Committee.** The Audit Committee consists of directors Brownson, Kilmer, Lawson, Peterson and Ziegler. Each of the members is considered independent according to the Nasdaq listing requirements and the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The board of directors has determined that Ms. Ziegler qualifies as an Audit Committee Financial Expert as that term is defined by the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The board based this decision on Ms. Ziegler's educational and professional experience, including her current service as Vice President and Treasurer of Deere & Company.

The functions performed by the Audit Committee include, but are not limited to, the following:

selecting our independent auditors and pre-approving all engagements and fee arrangements;

reviewing the independence of the independent auditors;

reviewing actions by management on recommendations of the independent auditors and internal auditors;

meeting with management, the internal auditors and the independent auditors to review the effectiveness of our system of internal control and internal audit procedures;

reviewing our earnings releases and reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission; and

reviewing reports of bank regulatory agencies and monitoring management's compliance with recommendations contained in those reports.

To promote independence of the audit function, the Audit Committee consults separately and jointly with the independent auditors, the internal auditors and management. The Audit Committee has adopted a written charter, which sets forth the committee's duties and responsibilities. The current charter of the Audit Committee is available on our website at [www.qcrh.com](http://www.qcrh.com). Mr. Lawson serves as Chairman of the committee, which met four times in 2012.

**Risk Oversight Committee.** In 2012, the Risk Oversight Committee consisted of directors Brownson, Corby, Gipple, Helling, Hultquist, Kilmer, Peters, Sorensen and Ziegler. Following the annual meeting, Mr. Peters will no longer serve on the committee. The Risk Oversight Committee is charged with being the primary board committee to actively monitor and oversee the risk management process. Additional information regarding risk oversight and the committee's role is found on page 16 of this proxy statement. The committee's responsibilities and functions are further described in its charter, which is available on our website at [www.qcrh.com](http://www.qcrh.com). Mr. Brownson serves as Chairman of the committee, which met four times during 2012.

**Nomination and Governance Committee.** The Nomination and Governance Committee consists of directors Brownson, Peterson, Sorensen, Whitcher and Ziegler. Each of these directors is considered to be independent according to Nasdaq listing requirements. The primary purposes of the committee are to identify and recommend individuals to be presented to our stockholders for election or re-election to the board of directors and to review and monitor our policies, procedures and structure as they relate to corporate governance. We have adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines to assist our board in the exercise of its responsibilities, which are available on our website at [www.qcrh.com](http://www.qcrh.com). Additionally, the committee's responsibilities and functions are further described in its charter, which is available on our website at [www.qcrh.com](http://www.qcrh.com). Mr. Brownson serves as Chairman of the committee, which met four times during 2012.

**Compensation Committee.** The Compensation Committee consists of directors Brownson, Lawson, Peterson, Whitcher, and Ziegler. Each of these directors is considered to be independent according to the Nasdaq listing requirements, outside as defined in Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code and a non-employee as defined in Section 16 of the Exchange Act. The purpose of the committee is to determine the salary and bonus to be paid to Mr. Hultquist, our Chief Executive Officer, and to make a recommendation regarding his compensation to the full board for approval. The committee also reviews and recommends to the board for approval the salaries and bonuses for our other named executive officers. The members of the committee have reviewed, with the senior risk officer of QCR Holdings, the senior executive officer ( CEO ) compensation plans and have made all reasonable efforts to ensure that these plans do not encourage CEOs to take unnecessary and excessive risks that threaten the value of QCR Holdings. They have also reviewed, with the senior risk officer of QCR Holdings, the employee compensation plans and have made reasonable efforts to limit any unnecessary risks these plans pose to QCR Holdings and to eliminate any features of these plans that would encourage the manipulation of reported earnings to enhance the compensation of any employee. The committee's responsibilities and functions are further described in its charter, which is available on our website at [www.qcrh.com](http://www.qcrh.com). Mr. Whitcher serves as Chairman of the committee, which met five times during 2012.

**Strategic Direction Committee.** In 2012, the Strategic Direction Committee consisted of directors Baird, Brownson, Corby, Gipple, Helling, Hultquist, Kilmer, Lawson, Peters, Sorensen and Whitcher, as well as John H. Harris, director of Quad City Bank and Trust, who serves on the committee in an advisory capacity. Following the annual meeting, Mr. Peters will no longer serve on the committee. The Strategic Direction Committee reviews policies and oversees and directs the strategic planning process, including QCR Holdings' Information Technology strategy. Mr. Baird serves as Chairman of the committee, which met three times during 2012.

**Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee consists of directors Baird, Brownson, Hultquist, Lawson and Whitcher. The Executive Committee is authorized to act with the same authority as the board of directors between meetings of the board, subject to certain limitations set forth in the committee's charter. Although this authority allows the board to act quickly on matters requiring urgency when the full board is not available to meet, it is not intended to supplant the authority of the full board. Mr. Brownson serves as Chairman of the committee, which met once during 2012.

#### **Consideration of Director Candidates**

**Director Nominations and Qualifications.** For the 2013 annual meeting, the Nomination and Governance Committee nominated for re-election to the board four of the five incumbent directors, whose terms are set to expire in 2013. These nominations were further approved by the full board. Charles M. Peters, a Class II director since 2007, informed the committee that he would not seek re-election for an additional term as a director of QCR Holdings, and accordingly, the committee did not re-nominate him for election at this year's meeting. The committee decided not to seek a new nominee for the director position being vacated, but it will reevaluate the size of the board at future meetings. We did not receive any stockholder nominations for director for the 2013 annual meeting.

In carrying out its nominating function, the Nomination and Governance Committee has developed qualification criteria for initial board membership, and all potential nominees for election, including incumbent directors, board nominees and those stockholder nominees included in the proxy statement, are reviewed for the following attributes:

integrity and high ethical standards in the nominee's professional life;

sufficient educational and professional experience, business experience or comparable service on other boards of directors to qualify the nominee for service to the specific board for which he or she is being considered;

evidence of leadership and sound judgment in the nominee's professional life;

whether the nominee is well recognized in the community and has a demonstrated record of service to the community;

a willingness to abide by any published code of ethics for QCR Holdings; and

a willingness and ability to devote sufficient time to carrying out the duties and responsibilities required of a board member. The committee also evaluates potential nominees to determine if they have any conflicts of interest that may interfere with their ability to serve as effective board members, to determine if they meet QCR Holdings' s age eligibility requirements (a person who has reached age 72 before the date of the annual meeting is not eligible for election to the board) and to determine whether they are independent in accordance with Nasdaq requirements (to ensure that at least a majority of the directors will, at all times, be independent). While we do not have a separate diversity policy, the committee does consider the diversity of its directors and nominees in terms of knowledge, experience, skills, expertise, and other demographics which may contribute to the board. The committee has not, in the past, retained any third party to assist it in identifying candidates, but it has the authority to retain a third party firm or professional for the purpose of identifying candidates.

The committee identifies nominees by first evaluating the current members of the board willing to continue in service whose term is set to expire at the upcoming annual stockholder meeting to determine if those individuals satisfy the qualification criteria for continued membership on the board of directors. Prior to nominating an existing director for re-election to the board, the committee considers and reviews the following attributes with respect to each existing director:

board and committee attendance and performance;

length of board service;

experience, skills and contributions that the existing director brings to the board;

independence and any conflicts of interest; and

any significant change in the existing director' s status, including the attributes considered for initial board membership.

Current members of the board who satisfy the qualification criteria described above and who are willing to continue in service are considered for re-nomination. If any member of the board does not wish to continue in service or if the committee or the board decides not to re-nominate a member for re-election, the committee would determine whether or not the position would be filled and, if so, would identify the desired skills and experience of a new nominee.

#### **Code of Business Conduct and Ethics**

We have a code of business conduct and ethics in place that applies to all of our directors and employees. The code sets forth the standard of ethics that we expect all of our directors and employees to follow, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. The code is posted on our website at [www.qcrh.com](http://www.qcrh.com). We have satisfied and intend to continue to satisfy the disclosure requirements under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K regarding any amendment to or waiver of the code with respect to our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, and persons performing similar functions, by posting such information on our website.

### **Board Leadership Structure**

Since January 1, 2007, we have kept the positions of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer separate. Currently, Mr. Brownson holds the position of Chairman of the Board, and Mr. Hultquist holds the position of Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Brownson is considered to be independent according to Nasdaq listing requirements.

While our bylaws do not require our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer positions to be separate, the board believes that having separate positions and having an independent outside director serve as Chairman is the appropriate leadership structure for QCR Holdings at this time and demonstrates our commitment to good corporate governance. Separating these positions allows our Chief Executive Officer to focus on our day-to-day business, while allowing the Chairman to lead the board in its fundamental role of providing advice to and independent oversight of management. We believe that having an independent Chairman eliminates the conflicts of interest that arise when the positions are held by one person. In addition, this leadership structure allows the board to more effectively monitor and evaluate the performance of our Chief Executive Officer.

To further enhance the role of the independent directors on our board and consistent with Nasdaq listing requirements, the board's independent directors regularly have the opportunity to meet without Messrs. Gipple, Helling or Hultquist in attendance. Mr. Brownson presides over these sessions.

### **The Board's Role in Risk Oversight**

While management is responsible for the day-to-day management of risks QCR Holdings faces, oversight of our risk management is central to the role of the board. The Risk Oversight Committee is charged with the primary responsibility for overseeing QCR Holdings's risk management processes, including those relating to organizational, legal and compliance risk, on behalf of the board. The members of the Risk Oversight Committee discuss our risk assessment and risk management policies, provide oversight, and inquire about significant risks and exposures, if any, and the steps taken to monitor and minimize such risks.

In addition, other board committees have been assigned oversight responsibility for specific areas of risk and risk management, and each committee consider risks within their areas of responsibility. The Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring our financial reporting process and system of internal controls, including controls related to risk management. The Compensation Committee is chiefly responsible for compensation-related risks. The members of the Compensation Committee discuss and review the key business and other risks we face and the relationship of those risks to certain compensation arrangements. This review is intended to comply with the Securities and Exchange Commission requirement to assess risk related to compensation plans and requirements of financial institution regulatory agencies (each as more fully described in the Executive Compensation section of this proxy, beginning on page 18). The subsidiary banks' Loan Committees have primary responsibility for credit risk. Each of these committees receives regular reports from management regarding our risks and reports regularly to the Risk Oversight Committee or the full board concerning risk.

### **Share Ownership Guidelines**

In order to better align the interests of our board members and management with the interests of our stockholders, our board of directors adopted share ownership guidelines in 2008. These share ownership guidelines were amended in December 2011 to revise the ownership holding requirements for non-employee directors.



Under these revised guidelines, non-employee directors of QCR Holdings are expected to achieve a share ownership level with a value equal to ten times the amount of each non-employee director's annual cash retainer (excluding compensation for committee service) or approximately 15,000 shares, within five years of initial election as a director, and maintain such ownership level so long as they serve in the position of director.

We also have share ownership guidelines for our executives, including our named executive officers. The stock ownership guidelines vary based upon position, and for our named executive officers the amount is 30,000 shares.

Currently, each QCR Holdings director and each named executive officer held the requisite number of shares, and accordingly was compliant with the share ownership guidelines.

### **Stockholder Communications with the Board, Nomination and Proposal Procedures**

***General Communications with the Board.*** Stockholders may contact our board of directors by contacting Cathie S. Whiteside, Corporate Secretary, at QCR Holdings, Inc., 3551-7<sup>th</sup> Street, Moline, Illinois 61265 or (309) 743-7754. All appropriate comments will be forwarded directly to the Chairman of the Board and lead independent director, James J. Brownson. Ms. Whiteside will not generally forward communications that are primarily commercial in nature or related to an improper or irrelevant topic.

***Nominations of Directors.*** In order for a stockholder nominee to be considered by the Nomination and Governance Committee to be its nominee and included in our proxy statement, the nominating stockholder must file a written notice of the proposed director nomination with our Corporate Secretary, at the above address, at least 120 days prior to the anniversary of the date the previous year's proxy statement was mailed to stockholders. Nominations must include the full name and address of the proposed nominee and a brief description of the proposed nominee's business experience for at least the previous five years. All submissions must be accompanied by the written consent of the proposed nominee to be named as a nominee and to serve as a director if elected. The committee may request additional information in order to make a determination as to whether to nominate the person for director.

In accordance with our bylaws, a stockholder may otherwise nominate a director for election at an annual meeting of stockholders by delivering written notice of the nomination to our Corporate Secretary, at the above address, not less than 30 days nor more than 75 days prior to the date of the annual meeting, provided, however, that if we provide less than 40 days' notice of the meeting, notice by the stockholder, to be timely, must be delivered no later than 10 days from the date on which notice of the meeting was mailed. The stockholder's notice of intention to nominate a director must include: (i) the name and address of record of the nominating stockholder; (ii) a representation that the stockholder is a record holder entitled to vote at the meeting and intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to nominate the person or persons specified in the notice; (iii) the name, age, business and residence addresses, and principal occupation or employment of each nominee; (iv) a description of all arrangements or understandings between the stockholder and each nominee and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the nomination or nominations are to be made by the stockholder; (v) any other information regarding each proposed nominee as would be required to comply with the rules and regulations set forth by the Securities and Exchange Commission; and (vi) the consent of each nominee to serve as a director of the corporation if so elected. We may request additional information after receiving the notification for the purpose of determining the proposed nominee's eligibility to serve as a director. Persons nominated for election to the board pursuant to this paragraph will not be included in our proxy statement.

**Other Stockholder Proposals.** To be considered for inclusion in our proxy statement and form of proxy for our 2014 annual meeting of stockholders, stockholder proposals must be received by our Corporate Secretary, at the above address, no later than November 20, 2013, and must otherwise comply with the notice and other provisions of our bylaws, as well as Securities and Exchange Commission rules and regulations.

For proposals to be otherwise brought by a stockholder at an annual meeting, the stockholder must file a written notice of the proposal to our Corporate Secretary not less than 30 days nor more than 75 days prior to the date of the annual meeting, provided, however, that if we provide less than 40 days' notice of the meeting, notice by the stockholder, to be timely, must be delivered no later than 10 days from the date on which notice of the meeting was mailed. The notice must set forth: (i) a brief description of the proposal and the reasons for conducting such business at the meeting; (ii) the name and address of the proposing stockholder; (iii) the number of shares of the corporation's common stock beneficially owned by the stockholder on the date of the notice; and (iv) any financial or other interest of the stockholder in the proposal. Stockholder proposals brought under this paragraph will not be included in our proxy statement.

### **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The Compensation Committee has overall responsibility for evaluating the compensation plans, policies and programs relating to the executive officers of QCR Holdings. The Compensation Committee relies upon the input of management, particularly Mr. Hultquist, when carrying out its responsibilities in establishing executive compensation. Management provides the committee with evaluations as to employee performance, guidance on establishing performance targets and objectives and recommends salary levels and equity awards. The committee also consults with management on matters that are related to executive compensation and benefit plans where board or stockholder action is expected, including the adoption of new plans or the amendment of existing plans. No executive officer participates in any recommendation or decision regarding his or her own compensation.

The Compensation Committee's charter gives it the authority to hire outside consultants to further its objectives and responsibilities. During 2012, the Compensation Committee retained Pearl Meyer & Partners, LLC to provide services to the committee in connection with a review of the compensation paid or provided to QCR Holdings's named executive officers. Pearl Meyer & Partners, LLC does not provide any services, other than those performed at the direction of the Compensation Committee, to QCR Holdings. The committee's charter also gives it the ability to delegate its authority to subcommittees and employees to facilitate the operation and administration of compensation plans.

QCR Holdings maintains a comprehensive compensation program. The compensation program is designed to attract and retain key employees, motivate the key employees to achieve, and reward key employees for superior performance. The overall design of the compensation program strives to balance short- and long-term performance goals, with the ultimate goal being the increase of stockholder value over the long term. With respect to the individuals named in the Summary Compensation Table, the compensation program includes the following: salary, annual cash incentive bonus, long-term incentive compensation (which is delivered primarily through equity awards) and other benefits and perquisites. The executive compensation program is administered by the Compensation Committee.

### Regulatory Impact on Compensation

Under its long-standing *Interagency Guidelines Establishing Standards for Safety and Soundness*, the FDIC has long held that excessive compensation is prohibited as an unsafe and unsound practice. In describing a framework within which to make a determination as to whether compensation is to be considered excessive, the FDIC has indicated that financial institutions should consider whether aggregate cash amounts paid, or noncash benefits provided, to employees are unreasonable or disproportionate to the services performed by an employee. The FDIC encourages financial institutions to review an employee's compensation history and to consider internal pay equity, and, as appropriate, to consider benchmarking compensation to peer groups. Finally, the FDIC provides that, in order to give proper context, such an assessment must be made in light of the institution's overall financial condition.

In addition to the *Safety and Soundness* standards, the Compensation Committee must also take into account the joint agency *Guidance on Sound Incentive Compensation Policies*. Various financial institution regulatory agencies worked together to issue the *Guidance*, which is intended to serve as a complement to the *Safety and Soundness* standards. The *Guidance* sets forth a framework for assessing and mitigating risk associated with incentive compensation plans, programs and arrangements maintained by financial institutions. The *Guidance* is more narrow in scope than the *Safety and Soundness* standards because it applies only to senior executive officers and those other individuals who, either alone or as a group, could pose a material risk to an institution. With respect to such individuals, the *Guidance* is intended to focus an institution's attention on balanced risk-taking incentives, compatibility of incentives with effective controls and risk management, and a focus on general principles of strong corporate governance in establishing, reviewing and maintaining incentive compensation programs.

The Compensation Committee, with the assistance of its advisors and management, continues to monitor the status of compensation-related rules and regulations expected to be finalized or issued under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"). While the committee believes its own risk assessment procedures are effective, the committee is prepared to implement any additional steps that may be deemed necessary to fully comply with such rules and regulations when finally finalized or issued. The Compensation Committee does note, however, that the proposed risk assessment rules issued under the Dodd-Frank Act nearly mirror the *Safety and Soundness* standards and the framework of the *Guidance*. As such, the committee already adheres, in many respects, with the proposed rules and regulations under the Dodd-Frank Act.

Finally, in addition to the foregoing, as a publicly-traded corporation, QCR Holdings is also subject to the Securities and Exchange Commission rules regarding risk assessment. Those rules require a publicly-traded company to determine whether any of its existing incentive compensation plans, programs or arrangements create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the company.

The Compensation Committee continues to believe in and practice a sensible approach to balancing risk-taking and rewarding reasonable, but not necessarily easily attainable, goals, and this has always been a component of its overall assessment of the compensation plans, programs and arrangements it has put in place for QCR Holdings's named executive officers. In this regard, the committee has regularly revisited the components of the frameworks set forth in the *Safety and Soundness* standards and the *Guidance* as an effective tool for conducting its own assessment of the balance between risk and reward built into QCR Holdings's compensation programs for its named executive officers. The committee believes there are adequate policies and procedures in place to balance and control any risk-taking that may be incentivized by the employee compensation plans. The Compensation Committee further believes that such policies and procedures will work to limit the risk that any employee would manipulate reporting earnings in an effort to enhance his or her compensation.

**2012 Say-On-Pay**

QCR Holdings successfully received 94.3% of votes cast in support of executive compensation during the 2012 annual stockholder s meeting. QCR Holdings, the board and the Compensation Committee pay careful attention to communications received from stockholders regarding executive compensation, including the results of these non-binding advisory votes. The committee considered the results of the advisory vote, but not for specific 2012 compensation decisions. The committee believes that the vote reflects our stockholders agreement with our compensation philosophy and the manner in which we compensate our named executive officers, as such the committee did not alter our compensation philosophy for 2012 as a result of the 2012 vote.

**Summary of Compensation Paid to Named Executive Officers**

The table below sets forth the following information for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011: (i) the dollar value of base salary earned; (ii) the aggregate grant date fair value of stock awards granted, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718; (iii) the aggregate grant date fair value of option awards granted, calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718; (iv) the dollar value of earnings for services pursuant to awards granted under non-equity incentive plans; (v) above-market earnings on nonqualified deferred compensation; (vi) all other compensation; and, finally, (vii) the dollar value of total compensation.

**Summary Compensation Table**

<b>Name and principal position (a)</b>	<b>Year (b)</b>	<b>Salary (\$) (c)</b>	<b>Stock awards (\$)<sup>(1)</sup> (e)</b>	<b>Option awards (\$)<sup>(1)</sup> (f)</b>	<b>Non-equity incentive plan compensation (\$) (g)</b>	<b>Nonqualified deferred compensation earnings (\$)<sup>(2)</sup> (h)</b>	<b>All other compensation (\$) (i)</b>	<b>Total (\$) (j)</b>
Douglas M. Hultquist, President & CEO	2012	\$ 290,000	\$ 124,872	\$ 27,476	\$ 236,594 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 8,831	\$ 70,913 <sup>(5)</sup>	\$ 758,686
Todd A. Gipple, EVP, COO & CFO	2011	\$ 275,000	\$ 107,500		\$ 68,690 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 8,057	\$ 66,392 <sup>(6)</sup>	\$ 525,639
Larry J. Helling, President & CEO of Cedar Rapids Bank	2012	\$ 240,000	\$ 95,649	\$ 14,191	\$ 123,556 <sup>(3)</sup>		\$ 53,137 <sup>(7)</sup>	\$ 526,533
	2011	\$ 230,000	\$ 103,750		\$ 39,026 <sup>(4)</sup>		\$ 45,756 <sup>(8)</sup>	\$ 418,532
	2012	\$ 240,000	\$ 46,308	\$ 46,308	\$ 141,109 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 5,632	\$ 96,851 <sup>(9)</sup>	\$ 576,208
	2011	\$ 230,000	\$ 103,750		\$ 127,347 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 4,597	\$ 45,814 <sup>(10)</sup>	\$ 511,508

- (1) In accordance with the Securities and Exchange Commission reporting requirements, we report all equity awards at full grant date fair value of each award calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. For restricted stock, the fair value per share is equal to the closing price of our stock on the date of the grant. The restricted stock was granted pursuant to the applicable exception to the bonus prohibition set forth in the TARP rules. For stock options, the fair value per share is based on certain assumptions that are explained in the footnotes to our financial statements, which are included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K. To the extent it was the subject of a written employment agreement between a named executive officer and QCR Holdings (or a subsidiary) or otherwise satisfied an exception to the TARP bonus prohibition, any such equity award granted during the TARP period was not subject to the TARP bonus prohibition.
- (2) As determined in accordance with, and for purposes of, proxy disclosure rules only, represents above market earnings (generally over 120% of the applicable federal long-term rate) under the deferred compensation arrangement.
- (3) The Compensation Committee defined specific threshold, target, and maximum award opportunities as a percentage of salary for each named executive officer. The specific percentages were based on the individual executive's position and competitive market data for similar positions. The 2012 awards were contingent primarily on performance relative to goals for net income, non performing assets and deposit growth. The performance criteria were weighted to reflect QCR Holdings's strategic objectives. In addition, certain executives also had individual performance goals that were consistent with QCR Holdings's 2012 strategic objectives and more closely aligned with their specific role with QCR Holdings.
- (4) The Compensation Committee defined specific threshold, target, and maximum award opportunities as a percentage of salary for each named executive officer. The specific percentages were based on the individual executive's position and competitive market data for similar positions. The 2011 awards were contingent primarily on performance relative to goals for net income, nonperforming assets and deposit growth. The performance criteria were weighted to reflect QCR Holdings's strategic objectives. In addition, certain executives also had individual performance goals that were consistent with QCR Holdings's 2011 strategic objectives and more closely aligned with their specific role with QCR Holdings. With respect to Messrs. Hultquist and Gipple, the awards reflected here are with respect to only that portion of 2011 that followed QCR Holdings's exit from TARP. Mr. Helling was not subject to the TARP bonus limitation during 2011.
- (5) Mr. Hultquist had contributions made to the QCR Holdings 401(k)/Profit Sharing Plan (the "401(k) Plan") for his benefit in the amount of \$13,162; reimbursement for tax preparation services in the amount of \$2,250; car allowance of \$12,000; annual physical examination of \$2,377 and dividends paid on his restricted stock of \$1,781. In addition, pursuant to the deferred compensation arrangement, QCR Holdings made a matching contribution for his benefit in the amount of \$20,000. QCR Holdings also provided a life insurance benefit to Mr. Hultquist that was valued, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code rules, at \$19,343.
- (6) Mr. Hultquist had contributions made to the 401(k) Plan for his benefit in the amount of \$12,653; reimbursement for tax preparation services in the amount of \$2,190; car allowance of \$12,000; annual physical examination of \$4,032 and dividends paid on his restricted stock of \$961. In addition, pursuant to the deferred compensation arrangement, QCR Holdings made a matching contribution for his benefit in the amount of \$20,000. QCR Holdings also provided a life insurance benefit to Mr. Hultquist that was valued, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code rules, at \$14,556.
- (7) Mr. Gipple had contributions made to the 401(k) Plan for his benefit in the amount of \$13,162; reimbursement for tax preparation services in the amount of \$2,250; car allowance of \$8,000; annual physical examination of \$2,912 and dividends paid on his restricted stock of \$1,514. In addition, pursuant to the deferred compensation arrangement, QCR Holdings made a matching contribution for his benefit in the amount of \$15,000. QCR Holdings also provided a life insurance benefit to Mr. Gipple that was valued, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code rules, at \$10,299.
- (8) Mr. Gipple had contributions made to the 401(k) Plan for his benefit in the amount of \$12,048; reimbursement for tax preparation services in the amount of \$2,190; car allowance of \$8,000; and dividends paid on his restricted stock of \$768. In addition, pursuant to the deferred compensation arrangement, QCR Holdings made a matching contribution for his benefit in the amount of \$15,000. QCR Holdings also provided a life insurance benefit to Mr. Gipple that was valued, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code rules, at \$7,750.
- (9) Mr. Helling had contributions made to the 401(k) Plan for his benefit in the amount of \$11,166; reimbursement for tax preparation services in the amount of \$925; car allowance of \$6,000; annual physical examination of \$2,750 and dividends paid on his restricted stock of \$1,309. In addition, pursuant to the deferred compensation arrangement, QCR Holdings made a matching contribution for his benefit in the amount of \$15,000 and made a contribution under the Long-Term Deferred Incentive Compensation Program in the amount of \$40,000. QCR Holdings also provided a life insurance benefit to Mr. Helling that was valued, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code rules, at \$19,701.
- (10) Mr. Helling had contributions made to the 401(k) Plan for his benefit in the amount of \$8,396; reimbursement for tax preparation services in the amount of \$895; car allowance of \$6,000; and dividends paid on his restricted stock of \$698. In addition, pursuant to the deferred compensation arrangement, QCR Holdings made a matching contribution for his benefit in the amount of \$15,000. QCR Holdings also provided a life insurance benefit to Mr. Helling that was valued, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code rules, at \$14,825.

The following table sets forth information on outstanding equity awards held by the individuals named in the Summary Compensation Table at December 31, 2012, including the number of shares underlying both exercisable and unexercisable portions of each stock option as well as the exercise price and the expiration date of each outstanding option. Other than what is footnoted below, the options expire 10 years from the date of grant and vest in five equal annual portions beginning one year from the date of grant. All stock awards are restricted stock. The market value of stock awards is based on our closing stock price on December 31, 2012, which was \$13.22.

### Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

Name (a)	Option Awards					Stock Awards	
	Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#) Exercisable (b)	Number of securities underlying unexercised options (#) Unexercisable (c)	Equity incentive plan awards: Number of securities underlying unexercised unearned options (#) (d)	Option exercise price (\$) (e)	Option expiration date (f)	Number of shares or units of stock that have not vested (#) (g)	Market value of shares or units of stock that have not vested (\$) (h)
Douglas M. Hultquist	5,000			\$ 21.00	1/28/2015		
	3,900			\$ 19.05	1/27/2016		
	2,450			\$ 16.85	1/26/2017		
	25,785			\$ 15.62	5/7/2018		
	11,282			\$ 9.30	2/2/2019		
	6,452 <sup>(1)</sup>	3,225 <sup>(1)</sup>		\$ 9.00	2/1/2020		
		9,848 <sup>(1)</sup>		\$ 9.30	2/1/2022	1,035 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 13,683
						13,454 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 177,862
						10,471 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 138,427
						2,954 <sup>(5)</sup>	\$ 39,052
Todd A. Gipple	1,125			\$ 18.67	1/5/2014		
	750			\$ 22.00	1/5/2015		
	1,500			\$ 21.00	1/28/2015		
	1,250			\$ 19.05	1/27/2016		
	375			\$ 17.60	10/26/2016		
	1,125			\$ 16.85	1/26/2017		
	5,920			\$ 15.62	5/7/2018		
	4,914			\$ 9.30	2/2/2019		
	2,332 <sup>(1)</sup>	1,166 <sup>(1)</sup>		\$ 9.00	2/1/2020		

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		5,086 <sup>(1)</sup>		\$ 9.30	2/1/2022	374 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 4,944
						12,985 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 171,662
						8,758 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 115,781
						1,525 <sup>(5)</sup>	\$ 20,161
Larry J. Helling	2,000			\$ 21.00	1/28/2015		
	2,350			\$ 19.05	1/27/2016		
	2,800			\$ 16.85	1/26/2017		
	5,021			\$ 15.62	5/7/2018		
	4,581			\$ 9.30	2/2/2019		
	2,791 <sup>(1)</sup>	1,395 <sup>(1)</sup>		\$ 9.00	2/1/2020		
		16,597 <sup>(1)</sup>		\$ 9.30	2/1/2022	448 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 5,923
						12,985 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 171,662
						4,978 <sup>(5)</sup>	\$ 65,809

- <sup>(1)</sup> Options vest in three equal annual portions beginning one year from date of grant. The stock options granted during the TARP period were the subject of a written employment agreement between a named executive officer and QCR Holdings (or a subsidiary), therefore, they were not subject to the TARP bonus prohibition.
- <sup>(2)</sup> Unvested stock awards were granted on February 2, 2010 and vest in three equal annual portions beginning one year from date of grant.
- <sup>(3)</sup> Unvested stock awards were granted on February 1, 2011 and, in accordance with applicable TARP rules, vest two years following the date of grant on February 1, 2013. Because QCR Holdings has exited TARP, these shares will be freely transferable as of the vesting date, February 1, 2013.
- <sup>(4)</sup> Unvested stock awards were granted on February 1, 2012, and, in accordance with applicable TARP rules, vest two years following the date of grant on February 1, 2014. Because QCR Holdings has exited TARP, these shares will be freely transferable as of the vesting date, February 1, 2014.
- <sup>(5)</sup> Unvested stock awards were granted on February 1, 2012 and vest in three equal annual portions beginning one year from date of grant.

The following table sets forth information for each of the individuals named in the Summary Compensation Table regarding stock option exercises and vesting of stock awards during 2012.

**Option (and SAR) Exercises and Stock Vested in 2012**

(a) Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	(b) Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	(c) Value Realized on Exercise (\$)	(d) Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	(e) Value Realized on Vesting (\$)
Douglas M. Hultquist			2,127	\$ 19,783
Todd A. Gipple	1,181	\$ 2,261	850	\$ 7,906
Larry J. Helling			603	\$ 5,608

The following table sets forth the present value of accumulated benefits payable to each of the individuals named in the Summary Compensation Table, including the number of years of service credited to each under the QCR Holdings, Inc. Non-qualified Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ) determined using interest rate and mortality rate assumptions consistent with those used in our financial statements. Information regarding the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan can be found under the heading Non-qualified Supplemental Executive Retirement Program beginning on page 26 of this proxy statement.

**Non-Qualified Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan**

(a) Name	(b) Plan name	(c) Number of years credited service (#)	(d) <sup>(1)</sup> Present value of accumulated benefit (\$)	(e) Payments during last fiscal year (\$)
Douglas M. Hultquist	Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	18	962,004	
Todd A. Gipple	Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	12	431,012	
Larry J. Helling	Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	11	467,217	

<sup>(1)</sup> Each calendar year, QCR Holdings accrues an expense with respect to the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. During 2012, the following amounts were accrued with respect to each of our named executive officers: Mr. Hultquist \$152,252; Mr. Gipple \$61,135; and Mr. Helling \$19,662.



The following table sets forth information concerning our non-qualified deferred compensation agreements with each individual named in the Summary Compensation Table. The agreements are discussed in detail on page 27 of this proxy statement.

### Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation

Name (a)	Executive contributions in	Registrant contributions in	Aggregate earnings in	Aggregate withdrawals/ distributions	Aggregate balance at
	2012 (\$) (b)	2012 (\$) (c)	2012 (\$) (d)	(\$) (e)	12/31/12 (\$) (f)
Douglas M. Hultquist	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 60,494		\$ 829,085
Todd A. Gipple	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,814		\$ 382,443
Larry J. Helling	\$ 15,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 38,097		\$ 531,165

#### Terms of Mr. Douglas M. Hultquist's Employment Agreement

On January 1, 2004, we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Hultquist. In 2008, certain provisions of the employment agreement were amended in order to bring such provisions into compliance with the applicable provisions of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (and guidance issued thereunder). The agreement has a three-year term and in the absence of notice from either party to the contrary, the employment term extends for an additional one year on the anniversary of the agreement. Pursuant to the agreement, Mr. Hultquist will receive a minimum salary of \$175,000. The agreement includes provisions for the possible increase of compensation on an annual basis, performance bonuses, membership in various local clubs, an automobile allowance and participation in our benefit plans. The agreement also provides term life insurance coverage of two times Mr. Hultquist's base salary and average annual bonus as of the date of the agreement, which may be provided through a group term carve-out plan. The agreement further provides for severance compensation equal to one year of salary plus average annual bonus and three months of outplacement services in the event Mr. Hultquist is terminated without cause; and three times the sum of salary and average annual bonus and three years of continued health insurance if he is terminated within one year following a change in control or if he voluntarily terminates employment within six months of a change in control. Under the agreement, Mr. Hultquist is subject to a two-year non-compete provision following the termination of his employment.

#### Terms of Mr. Todd A. Gipple's Employment Agreement

On January 1, 2004, we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Gipple. In 2008, certain provisions of the employment agreement were amended in order to bring such provisions into compliance with the applicable provisions of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (and guidance issued thereunder). The agreement has a three-year term and in the absence of notice from either party to the contrary, the employment term extends for an additional one year on the anniversary of the agreement. Mr. Gipple's employment agreement provides that Mr. Gipple is to receive a minimum salary of \$140,500. The agreement includes a provision for the possible increase in compensation on an annual basis, performance bonuses, membership in a country club, a monthly automobile allowance and participation in our benefit plans. Mr. Gipple's agreement also provides term life insurance coverage of two times the sum of his base salary and average annual bonus as of the date of the agreement, which may be provided through a group term carve-out plan. The agreement further provides that he is entitled to a payment equal to the sum of one-half of his then-current annual salary plus one-half of his average annual bonus and three months of outplacement services if he is terminated without cause; and two times the sum of his annual salary and average annual bonus and three years of continued health insurance if he is terminated within one year following a change in control or if he voluntarily terminates employment within six months of a change in control. Under the agreement, Mr. Gipple is subject to a two-year non-compete provision following the termination of his employment.

### **Terms of Mr. Larry J. Helling's Employment Agreement**

On January 1, 2004, we entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Helling. In 2008, certain provisions of the employment agreement were amended in order to bring such provisions into compliance with the applicable provisions of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (and guidance issued thereunder). The agreement has a two-year term and in the absence of notice from either party to the contrary, the employment term extends for an additional one year on the anniversary of the agreement. Mr. Helling's employment agreement provides that Mr. Helling is to receive a minimum salary of \$167,000. The agreement includes a provision for the possible increase in compensation on an annual basis, performance bonuses, a monthly automobile allowance, membership in various country clubs and participation in our benefit plans. Mr. Helling's agreement also provides term life insurance coverage of two times the sum of his base salary and average annual bonus as of the date of the agreement, which may be provided through a group term carve-out plan. The agreement further provides for a severance payment equal to six months of his salary in the event of a termination without cause and two times his annual salary in the event he is terminated within one year following a change in control or if he voluntarily terminates employment within six months of a change in control. Under the agreement, Mr. Helling is subject to a two-year non-compete provision following the termination of his employment. Additionally, Mr. Helling's agreement allowed him to participate in the Cedar Rapids Long-term Deferred Incentive Compensation Program (as described under the heading "Long-Term Deferred Incentive Compensation Program" found on page 27 of this proxy statement). Under the agreement, Mr. Helling was allocated a total of 40% of amounts paid pursuant to the incentive program.

Beginning in 2009, QCR Holdings no longer reimburses Messrs. Hultquist, Gipple, and Helling for country club memberships.

### **Stock Ownership and Retention Guidelines**

As indicated on pages 16 and 17, to reinforce our philosophy of equity ownership for executives and to further align the interests of our executives with our stockholders, we have share retention and ownership guidelines for our executives. The stock ownership guidelines vary based upon position, and for our named executive officers, is 30,000 shares of QCR Holdings common stock. Currently all named executive officers exceed these ownership guidelines.

### **Long-Term Incentive Plans**

**2004 Stock Incentive Plan.** In 2004, we adopted the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan for the benefit of our directors, officers and employees. The plan was approved by stockholders and authorized 150,000 shares for issuance under the plan. This plan provides for the issuance of incentive stock options, nonqualified stock options, restricted stock, tax benefit rights and stock appreciation rights. As of the approval of the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan, all of the remaining shares available for grant transferred to the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan.

**2008 Equity Incentive Plan.** In 2008, we adopted the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2008 Equity Incentive Plan for the benefit of our directors, officers and employees. The plan was approved by stockholders and authorized 250,000 shares for issuance under the plan plus unissued shares under prior plans. This plan provides for the issuance of incentive stock options, nonqualified stock options, restricted stock and stock appreciation rights. As of December 31, 2012, there were 14,922 remaining shares available for grant under this plan.

**2010 Equity Incentive Plan.** In 2010, we adopted the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2010 Equity Incentive Plan for the benefit of our directors, officers and employees. The plan was approved by stockholders and authorized 350,000 shares for issuance under the plan. This plan provides for the issuance of incentive stock options, nonqualified stock options, restricted stock and stock appreciation rights. As of December 31, 2012, there were 57,872 remaining shares available for grant under this plan.

**2013 Equity Incentive Plan.** In 2013, our board of directors, subject to stockholder approval, adopted the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan for the benefit of our directors, officers and employees. The plan is being presented to stockholders at our 2013 annual meeting and, if approved, will have 350,000 shares authorized for issuance. This plan provides for the issuance of nonqualified stock options, restricted stock, stock appreciation rights and other stock and cash-based awards. If adopted by our stockholders, this plan will replace the 2008 Equity Incentive Plan and the 2010 Equity Incentive Plan.

**Employee Stock Purchase Plan.** QCR Holdings adopted and stockholders approved the QCR Holdings Employee Stock Purchase Plan to be effective in 2003, and in May 2012, the stockholders approved the amended and restated plan. The plan is intended to qualify as an employee stock purchase plan under Section 423 of the Internal Revenue Code. The plan allows employees of QCR Holdings and our subsidiaries to purchase shares of common stock available under the plan. The purchase price is currently 90% of the lesser of the fair market value at the date of the grant or the investment date. The investment date is the date common stock is purchased after the end of each calendar quarter during an offering period. Beginning January 1, 2007, the maximum percentage that any one participant can elect to contribute is 8% of his or her compensation. During 2012, 31,554 shares were purchased under the plan.

**QCR Holdings 401(k)/Profit Sharing Plan.** QCR Holdings sponsors a tax-qualified profit sharing plan qualifying under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code). All employees are eligible to participate in the plan. Pursuant to the 401(k) Plan, QCR Holdings matches 100% of the first 3% of employee contributions and 50% of the next 3% of employee contributions, up to a maximum of 4.5% of an employee's compensation. Additionally, at its discretion, QCR Holdings may make additional contributions to the 401(k) Plan, which are allocated to the accounts of participants based on relative compensation. The total contributions under the 401(k) Plan for the benefit of our named executive officers are reflected in the Summary Compensation Table on page 20 of this proxy statement.

**Non-qualified Supplemental Executive Retirement Program (SERP).** QCR Holdings provides SERP benefits to its key executives, which will provide supplemental retirement income to the named executive officers. The SERP arrangements are an important, common component of competitive compensation packages and they include retention and non-competition provisions that protect QCR Holdings and help support the objective of maintaining a stable, committed, and qualified team of key executives.

QCR Holdings currently has SERP arrangements in place for Messrs. Hultquist, Gipple, and Helling. The SERP arrangements were approved by QCR Holdings in April 2004, and have an effective date of May 2004. Under the agreements, the executives will receive a supplemental retirement benefit in an annual pre-tax amount equal to 2.5% for each year of full-time service until the executive reaches age 65 (not to exceed 40 years), multiplied by the executive's average annual base salary plus cash bonus for the three most recently completed plan years, subject to a maximum of 70%.

The supplemental retirement benefit will be reduced by any contributions plus earnings thereon made by QCR Holdings to the credit of the executive pursuant to the 401(k) Plan or other deferred compensation plans. The supplemental retirement benefit payable under the plans will generally be made in monthly installments for a period of 180 months. If an executive retires after reaching age 55 (but before reaching age 65) and has at least 10 years of service, QCR Holdings will pay a supplemental early retirement benefit made in monthly installments for a period of 180 months to the executive. The SERP arrangements also provide for the payment of a survivor's benefit payable to a participating executive's beneficiary upon the executive's death.

Pursuant to the existing SERP arrangements and the TARP rules, assuming the participating executives retire on or after reaching age 55 and based on the participants' salary and cash bonus paid for 2012, we will owe the following projected annual amounts at age 55 or retirement age, whichever comes later: Mr. Hultquist \$78,543; Mr. Gipple \$118,493; Mr. Helling \$35,870.

**Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan Agreements.** QCR Holdings has entered into deferred compensation plan agreements with the executive officers to allow them to defer a portion of their salary or annual bonus. These plans are voluntary, non-tax qualified, deferred compensation plans that enable the executives to save for retirement by deferring a portion of their current cash compensation. QCR Holdings matches these deferrals up to certain maximums and interest is earned at the prime rate subject to certain floor and cap rates, as follows:

Executive	Deferred Compensation Plan Agreements		
	2012 Contribution	2012 Match Maximum	Interest Rate Floor and Cap
Douglas M. Hultquist	\$20,000	\$20,000	8.00% - 10.00%
Todd A. Gipple	\$15,000	\$15,000	6.00% - 12.00%
Larry J. Helling	\$15,000	\$15,000	8.00% - 12.00%

Both the SERP and the non-qualified deferred compensation plan agreements are considered unfunded general contractual obligations of QCR Holdings and are subject to the claims of our creditors. In the event that QCR Holdings becomes insolvent, the participants will be unsecured general creditors of QCR Holdings. This status with respect to these benefits should help insure that the interests of the officer participants are aligned with the long-term interests of QCR Holdings, its debt holders, and its stockholders.

**Long-Term Deferred Incentive Compensation Program.** QCR Holdings has entered into a Long-Term Deferred Incentive Compensation Program with certain key senior management members at Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust and Rockford Bank and Trust. The program is administered by the Compensation Committee and results in deferred incentive compensation contributions being made into the plan, for the benefit of the participants, if certain growth and earnings objectives are met. Mr. Helling was a participant in the plan for the years 2006 through 2011, and could earn between \$16,000 and \$120,000 annually based on the performance of Cedar Rapids Bank and Trust. Mr. Helling earned a \$40,000 contribution to his deferred compensation plan in 2011 that was paid in January 2012. He did not earn any incentive compensation in 2006 through 2010.

**Deferred Income Plans.** QCR Holdings adopted and stockholders approved the 1997 Deferred Income Plan and 2005 Deferred Income Plan to enable directors and selected key officers of QCR Holdings and its related companies, to elect to defer all or a portion of the fees and cash compensation payable to them for their service as directors or employees. The plan then purchases shares of QCR Holdings common stock at market value.

## Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

During 2012, the Compensation Committee, which sets the salaries and compensation for our executive officers, was comprised solely of independent directors Brownson, Lawson, Peterson, Whitcher and Ziegler. None of these individuals was an officer or employee of QCR Holdings in 2012, and none of these individuals is a former officer or employee of QCR Holdings. In addition, during 2012, no executive officer of QCR Holdings served on the board of directors or compensation committee of any other corporation with respect to which any member of the Compensation Committee was engaged as an executive officer.

## DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

QCR Holdings uses a combination of cash and stock-based compensation to attract and retain qualified candidates to serve on the board. In setting director compensation, we consider the significant amount of time that directors expend in fulfilling their duties as well as the skill level required of members of the board.

### Cash Compensation Paid to Board Members

In 2012, members of the board who were not employees of QCR Holdings were entitled to receive an annual cash retainer. Pursuant to the QCR Holdings, Inc. 1997 Deferred Income Plan and the 2005 Deferred Income Plan, a director may elect to defer the fees and cash compensation payable by us for the director's service until either the termination of such director's service on the board or the age specified in the director's deferral election. During 2012, all but five directors (at the subsidiary banks) deferred 100% of their director fees pursuant to the plan, and the total expense for the deferred fees with respect to all participating directors was \$441,558 for 2012. Directors who are employees of QCR Holdings receive no compensation for their service as directors. The following table shows the director fees approved for 2013 and the fees paid for 2012 for QCR Holdings and our other affiliated boards.

	2013	2012
<b>QCR Holdings, Inc.</b>		
Quarterly Retainer	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Additional Quarterly Retainers		
- Board Chairman	3,000	2,500
- Audit Committee Chairman	1,500	1,500
- Audit Committee Financial Expert	625	625
- Compensation Committee Chairman	1,250	1,000
- Nomination & Governance Committee Chairman	625	500
- Risk Oversight Committee Chairman	625	500
- Strategic Direction Committee Chairman	625	500
- Audit Committee Member	625	500
- Compensation Committee Member	625	625
- All other Committee Members	300	300
<b>Subsidiaries</b>		
Quarterly Retainer	1,950	1,950
Additional Quarterly Retainers		
- Board Chairman	1,000	1,000
- Asset/Liability Management Committee Chairman	500	500
- Loan Committee Chairman	500	500
- Wealth Management Committee Chairman	500	500
- All Committee Members	250	250
<b>m2 Lease Funds, LLC</b>		
Quarterly Retainer	1,000	1,000

**Equity Awards**

In February 2012, each current non-employee QCR Holdings director received a grant of 800 stock awards and each current non-employee subsidiary director received a grant of 300 stock awards at the fair market price of QCR Holdings' stock on the date of the grant, or \$9.30. The awards vested immediately on the date of grant.

The following table discloses the cash and equity awards earned, paid or awarded, as the case may be, to each of our directors during the fiscal year ended 2012.

**Summary Compensation Table Directors**

Name (a)	Fees earned or paid	Stock	Total
	in cash (\$) <sup>(1)</sup> (b)	awards (\$) <sup>(2)</sup> (c)	(\$) (f)
Patrick S. Baird	28,600	10,231	38,831
James J. Brownson	44,900	10,231	55,131
Lindsay Y. Corby	5,867		5,867
Mark C. Kilmer	31,200	10,231	41,431
John K. Lawson	30,200	10,231	40,431
Charles M. Peters	26,400	10,231	36,631
Ronald G. Peterson	31,000	10,231	41,231
Donna J. Sorensen	30,500	10,231	40,731
John D. Whitcher	38,375	10,231	48,606
Marie Z. Ziegler	30,900	10,231	41,131

<sup>(1)</sup> Directors may elect to defer the receipt of all or part of their fees and retainers. All of the directors listed above defer the receipt of all their fees and retainers, and the deferred compensation is used to purchase additional shares of QCR Holdings common stock at market value through the Deferred Income Plans.

<sup>(2)</sup> We report all equity awards at full grant date fair value of each award calculated in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. For restricted stock, the fair value per share is equal to the closing price of our stock on the date of the grant.

**PROPOSAL 3:**

**ADVISORY (NON-BINDING) VOTE TO APPROVE EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION**

Section 14A of the Exchange Act, as created by Section 951 of the Dodd-Frank Act, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, require publicly traded companies, such as QCR Holdings, to conduct a separate stockholder advisory vote to approve the compensation of certain executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Commission compensation disclosure rules, commonly referred to as a say-on-pay vote.

In accordance with these requirements, we are providing stockholders with an advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers. We currently hold a say-on-pay vote annually.

The overall objectives of QCR Holdings' s compensation programs have been to align executive officer compensation with the success of meeting long-term strategic operating and financial goals. Stockholders are urged to read the Executive Compensation section of this proxy statement, including the Summary Compensation Table and other related compensation tables and narrative disclosure that describe the compensation of our named executive officers in 2012. The Compensation Committee and the board of directors believe that the policies and procedures articulated in the Executive Compensation section are effective in implementing our compensation philosophy and achieving its goals, and that the compensation of our named executive officers in fiscal 2012 reflects and supports these compensation policies and procedures.

The following resolution is submitted for stockholder approval:

RESOLVED, that QCR Holdings' s stockholders approve, on an advisory basis, its executive compensation as described in the section captioned Executive Compensation contained in the QCR Holdings proxy statement dated March 20, 2013.

Approval of this resolution requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at the meeting. While this say-on-pay vote is required, as provided in Section 14A of the Exchange Act, it is not binding on our board of directors and may not be construed as overruling any decision by the board. However, the Compensation Committee will take into account the outcome of the vote when considering future compensation arrangements.

**The board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote to approve the overall compensation of our named executive officers by voting FOR this proposal.**

**PROPOSAL 4:**

**APPROVAL OF THE 2013 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN**

At the board of directors meeting on February 7, 2013, we approved the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2013 Plan ) for QCR Holdings and our subsidiaries, subject to stockholder approval. A summary of the material provisions of the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan is set forth below. A copy of the 2013 Equity Incentive Plan is set forth as Appendix A.

**Purpose**

The 2013 Plan was established by the board of directors to promote the long-term financial success of QCR Holdings, attract, retain and reward persons who can and do contribute to such success, and further align the participants' interests with those of our stockholders. The 2013 Plan will be administered by the Compensation Committee of our board of directors, which will select award recipients from the eligible participants, determine the types of awards to be granted, and determine the applicable terms, conditions, performance criteria, restrictions and other provisions of such awards, including any vesting or accelerated vesting requirements or conditions applicable to an award or awards.

We are submitting the 2013 Plan to our stockholders at this time to:

replace our current equity compensation plans, the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2010 Equity Incentive Plan and the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2008 Equity Incentive Plan;

comply with Nasdaq Global Market rules, which require stockholder approval; and

allow performance awards under the 2013 Plan to qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code. One of the requirements of performance-based compensation under Code Section 162(m) is that the material terms of the performance goals must be approved by stockholders. These material terms generally include (i) the employees eligible to receive compensation, (ii) a description of the business criteria on which the performance goal is based, and (iii) the maximum amount of compensation that could be paid to any employee if the performance goal is attained. Stockholder approval of the 2013 Plan is intended to constitute approval of the material terms of the performance goals under the 2013 Plan for purposes of Code Section 162(m).

If the 2013 Plan is not approved by our stockholders, it will not be adopted and we will continue to operate under our existing equity compensation plans until their expiration. In the event those plans expire, we believe that higher cash compensation may be required to attract and retain key employees and other individuals. The 2013 Plan submitted for approval reflects current practices in equity incentive plans that we consider best practices such as:

*Multiple Award Types.* The 2013 Plan permits the issuance of restricted stock units, options, restricted stock and other types of equity and cash incentive grants, subject to the share limits of the plan. This breadth of award types will enable the plan administrator to tailor awards in light of the accounting, tax and other standards applicable at the time of grant. Historically, these standards have changed over time.



*No Evergreen Feature.* The number of authorized shares under the 2013 Plan is fixed at 350,000 plus the shares remaining available for grant under the 2010 Equity Incentive Plan and the 2008 Equity Incentive Plan as of the date of stockholder approval of the 2013 Plan. As of the effective date of the 2013 Plan, no new grants will be made under our 2010 Equity Incentive Plan or the 2008 Equity Incentive Plan. Any shares that become available for reuse under the terms of the 2010 Equity Incentive Plan or the 2008 Equity Incentive Plan due to forfeiture, cancellation or otherwise will also be available for issuance under the 2013 Plan. The 2013 Plan does not include an evergreen feature that would cause the number of authorized shares to automatically increase in future years.

*Repricing Prohibited.* Repricing of options and SARs generally is prohibited without prior stockholder approval, with customary exceptions for stock dividends or splits, reorganizations, recapitalizations and similar events.

*Discount Stock Options and SARs Prohibited.* All options and SARs must have an exercise price equal to or greater than the fair market value of our common stock on the date the option or SAR is granted.

*Conservative Change in Control Provisions.* The 2013 Plan does not include a special change in control price payable to award holders. The change in control provisions under the 2013 Plan provide for acceleration of vesting in the event of a change in control only if the 2013 Plan does not become an obligation of the successor entity or the participant incurs a termination of service without cause or for good reason following the change in control.

*Tax-Deductible Cash Incentive Awards.* The 2013 Plan allows for payment of cash incentives, so that future awards may be made to certain officers that are eligible to be deducted under Code Section 162(m) for performance-based compensation.

*Clawback Policy Implementation.* All awards under the 2013 Plan will be subject to any applicable clawback policy in effect from time to time.

*Independent Oversight.* The 2013 Plan will be administered by a committee of independent board members.

## **General**

The 2013 Plan incorporates a broad variety of equity-based and cash-based incentive compensation elements to provide the Compensation Committee with significant flexibility to address the requirements and limitations of applicable legal, regulatory and financial accounting standards in a manner mutually consistent with the purposes of the 2013 Plan and the best interests of QCR Holdings.

The maximum number of shares of QCR Holdings' common stock that may be delivered to participants, or their beneficiaries, under the 2013 Plan is 350,000, plus the shares remaining available for grant under the 2010 Equity Incentive Plan and the 2008 Equity Incentive Plan as of the date of stockholder approval of the 2013 Plan, with adjustments for certain corporate transactions and for forfeited shares. As of the date of stockholder approval of the 2013 Plan, no additional awards will be granted under the 2010 Equity Incentive Plan or the 2008 Equity Incentive Plan. To the extent that any shares covered by an award under the 2013 Plan, or the 2010 Equity Incentive Plan or 2008 Equity Incentive Plan, are forfeited or are not delivered for any reason, including because the award is forfeited, cancelled or settled in cash, or shares are withheld to satisfy tax withholding requirements, the shares will not be deemed to have been delivered for purposes of determining the maximum number of shares available for delivery under the 2013 Plan. For stock appreciation rights (SARs) that are settled in stock, only the actual shares delivered will be counted for purposes of these limitations. If any option granted under the 2013 Plan is exercised by tendering shares, only the number of shares issued net of the shares tendered will be counted for purposes of these limitations. If the withholding tax liabilities arising from an award under the 2013 Plan are satisfied by the tendering of shares of QCR Holdings common stock to QCR Holdings or by the withholding of shares by QCR Holdings, such shares will not be deemed to have been delivered for purposes of determining the maximum number of shares available for delivery under the 2013 Plan.

The 2013 Plan's effective date would be the date of its approval by QCR Holdings' stockholders. If approved, the 2013 Plan will continue in effect until terminated by the board. However, no awards may be granted under the 2013 Plan after the 10-year anniversary of its effective date. Any awards that are outstanding after the 10th anniversary of the effective date will remain subject to the terms of the 2013 Plan.

The following additional limits apply to awards under the 2013 Plan:

The maximum number of shares that may be covered by options or SARs that are intended to be performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Code

that are granted to any one participant during any calendar year is 100,000 shares;

The maximum number of shares that may be covered by options or stock appreciation rights that are granted to any one director during any calendar year is 100,000 shares;

The maximum number of shares that may be covered by stock awards that are intended to be performance-based compensation under Code Section 162(m) that are granted to any one participant during any calendar year is 50,000 shares;

The maximum number of shares that may be covered by stock awards that are granted to any one director during any calendar year is 50,000 shares;

The maximum amount of cash incentive awards or cash-settled stock awards that are intended to be performance-based compensation under Code Section 162(m) payable to any one participant with respect to any calendar year is \$1,000,000; and

The maximum amount of cash incentive awards or cash-settled stock awards that are payable to any one director with respect to any calendar year is \$1,000,000.

The Compensation Committee may use shares available under the 2013 Plan as the form of payment for grants or rights earned or due under any compensation plans or arrangements of QCR Holdings or a subsidiary, including the plans and arrangements of QCR Holdings or a subsidiary assumed in business combinations.

In the event of a corporate transaction involving the stock of QCR Holdings (such as a stock dividend, stock split, extraordinary cash dividend, recapitalization, reorganization or merger), the foregoing share limitations and all outstanding awards will automatically be adjusted proportionally and uniformly to reflect such event to the extent that the adjustment will not affect an award's status as performance-based compensation under Code Section 162(m). However, the Compensation Committee may adjust awards, or prevent the automatic adjustment of awards, to preserve the benefits or potential benefits of awards under the 2013 Plan.

Awards granted under the 2013 Plan generally will not be transferable except as designated by the participant by will or by the laws of descent and distribution or pursuant to a domestic relations order. However, the Compensation Committee has the discretion to permit the transfer of awards under the 2013 Plan to immediate family members of participants, trusts and other entities established for the primary benefit of such family members, as long as the transfers are made without value to the participant.

### **Eligibility**

Selected employees and directors of, and eligible service providers to, QCR Holdings and its subsidiaries are eligible to become participants in the 2013 Plan. The Committee will determine the specific individuals who will be granted awards under the 2013 Plan and the type and amount of any such awards.

### **Options**

The Compensation Committee may grant nonqualified stock options to purchase stock at a specified exercise price. Each award must be pursuant to an award agreement setting forth the provisions of the individual award. Awards of options must expire no later than 10 years from the date of grant.

The exercise price for any option may not be less than the fair market value of QCR Holdings's common stock on the date the option is granted. The exercise price of an option may, however, be higher or lower than the fair market value for an option granted in replacement of an existing award held by an employee or director of, or service provider to, a third party that is acquired by QCR Holdings or one of its subsidiaries. The exercise price of an option may not be decreased after the date of grant nor may an option be surrendered to QCR Holdings as consideration for the grant of a replacement option with a lower exercise price, except as approved by QCR Holdings's stockholders, as adjusted for corporate transactions described above, or in the case of options granted in replacement of existing awards granted under a predecessor plan.

Options awarded under the 2013 Plan will be exercisable in accordance with the terms established by the Compensation Committee. The full purchase price of each share of stock purchased upon the exercise of any option must be paid at the time of exercise of an option. As determined by the Compensation Committee, the exercise price of an option may be paid in cash, in shares of QCR Holdings's common stock (valued at fair market value as of the day of exercise), by net exercise, by other property deemed acceptable by the board or by irrevocably authorizing a third party to sell shares of QCR Holdings's common stock and remit a sufficient portion of the proceeds to QCR Holdings to satisfy the exercise price (sometimes referred to as a cashless exercise) or in any combination of the foregoing methods deemed acceptable by the Compensation Committee. In a net exercise, the person exercising the option does not pay any cash and the net number of shares received is equal in value to the number of shares as to which the option is being exercised, multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the fair market value less the exercise price, and the denominator of which is fair market value.

### **Stock Appreciation Rights**

SARs entitle the participant to receive cash or stock equal in value to, or based on the value of, the amount by which the fair market value of a specified number of shares on the exercise date exceeds an exercise price established by the Compensation Committee. Except as described below, the exercise price for a SAR may not be less than the fair market value of the stock on the date the SAR is granted. However, the exercise price may be higher or lower than fair market value for a SAR granted in replacement of an existing award held by an employee, director or service provider of a third party that is acquired by QCR Holdings or one of its subsidiaries, or for SARs granted under a predecessor plan. SARs will be exercisable in accordance with the terms established by the Compensation Committee.

### **Stock Awards**

A stock award is a grant of shares of QCR Holdings' s common stock or a right to receive shares of QCR Holdings' s common stock, an equivalent amount of cash or a combination thereof in the future. Awards may include stock units, bonus shares, performance shares, performance units, restricted stock or restricted stock units or any other equity-based award as determined by the Compensation Committee. Any specific performance measures, performance objectives or period of service requirements may be set by the Compensation Committee in its discretion.

### **Cash Incentive Awards**

A cash incentive award is the grant of a right to receive a payment of cash, determined on an individual basis or as an allocation of an incentive pool (or QCR Holdings' s common stock having a value equivalent to the cash otherwise payable) that is contingent on the achievement of performance objectives established by the Compensation Committee. The Committee may grant cash incentive awards (including the right to receive payment of cash or QCR Holdings' s common stock having the value equivalent to the cash otherwise payable) that may be contingent on achievement of performance objectives over a specified period established by the Compensation Committee. The grant of cash incentive awards may also be subject to such other conditions, restrictions and contingencies, as determined by the Compensation Committee.

### **Forfeiture**

Unless specifically provided to the contrary in the applicable award agreement, if a participant' s service is terminated for cause, any outstanding award held by the participant will be forfeited immediately and the participant will have no further rights under the award.

Further, except as otherwise provided by the Compensation Committee, if a participant breaches a non-competition, non-solicitation, non-disclosure, non-disparagement or other restrictive covenant in any agreement between the participant and QCR Holdings or a subsidiary, whether during or after the participant' s termination of service, the participant will forfeit or pay the following to QCR Holdings:

All outstanding awards granted to the participant under the 2013 Plan, including awards that have become vested or exercisable;

Any shares held by the participant in connection with the 2013 Plan that were acquired after the participant' s termination of service and within the 12-month period immediately preceding the participant' s termination of service;

The profit realized by the participant from the exercise of any stock options and SARs that the participant exercised after the participant' s termination of service and within the 12-month period immediately preceding the participant' s termination of service; and

The profit realized by the participant from the sale or other disposition of any shares received by the participant in connection with the 2013 Plan after the participant's termination of service and within the 12-month period immediately preceding the participant's termination of service, where such sale or disposition occurs in such similar time period.

**One Million Dollar Limit**

**Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.** A U.S. income tax deduction for QCR Holdings generally will be unavailable for annual compensation in excess of \$1 million paid to a covered employee (our Chief Executive Officer and three other most highly compensated executive officers other than the Chief Financial Officer). However, amounts that constitute performance-based compensation under Code Section 162(m) are not counted toward the \$1 million limit. It is expected that, generally, options and SARs granted under the 2013 Plan will satisfy the requirements for performance-based compensation. The Committee may designate whether any stock awards or cash incentive awards granted to any participant are intended to be performance-based compensation. Any such awards designated as intended to be performance-based compensation will be conditioned on the achievement of one or more performance measures, to the extent required by Code Section 162(m).

**Performance Measures.** The performance measures that may be used for awards designated as intended to be performance-based compensation will be based on any one or more of the following performance measures as selected by the Compensation Committee: earnings (including earnings before interest and taxes; earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization; and earnings per share; all as may be defined by the Compensation Committee); financial return ratios (including return on investment; return on invested capital; return on equity; and return on assets); Texas Ratio; expense ratio; efficiency ratio; increase in revenue, operating or net cash flows; cash flow return on investment; total stockholder return; market share; net operating income, operating income or net income; debt load reduction; loan and lease losses; expense management; economic value added; stock price; book value; overhead; assets; asset quality level; charge offs; loan reserves; nonperforming assets; loans; deposits; growth of loans; deposits of assets; interest sensitivity gap levels; regulatory compliance; improvement of financial rating; achievement of balance sheet or income statement objectives; improvements in capital structure; profitability; profit margins; budget comparisons or strategic business objectives, consisting of one or more objectives based on meeting specific cost targets; business expansion goals and goals relating to acquisitions or divestitures. Performance measures may be based on the performance of QCR Holdings as a whole or of any one or more subsidiaries, business units or financial reporting segments of QCR Holdings or a subsidiary, or any combination thereof, and may be measured relative to a peer group, an index or a business plan. The terms of any award may provide that partial achievement of performance criteria may result in partial payment or vesting of the award. Additionally, in establishing the performance measures, the Compensation Committee may provide for the inclusion or exclusion of certain items.

**Change In Control**

Unless otherwise provided in an award agreement, upon the occurrence of a change in control, all stock options and SARs under the 2013 Plan then held by the participant will become fully exercisable immediately if, and all stock awards and cash incentive awards will become fully earned and vested immediately, if (i) the 2013 Plan is not an obligation of the successor entity following a change in control or (ii) the 2013 Plan is an obligation of the successor entity following a change in control and the participant incurs a termination of service without cause or for good reason following the change in control. Notwithstanding the immediately preceding sentence, if the vesting of an award is conditioned upon the achievement of performance measures, then such vesting will be subject to the following: if, at the time of the change in control, the performance measures are less than 50% attained (pro rata based upon the time of the period through the change in control), the award will become vested and exercisable on a fractional basis with the numerator being equal to the percentage of attainment and the denominator being 50%; and if, at the time of the change in control, the performance measures are at least 50% attained (pro rata based upon the time of the period through the change in control), the award will become fully earned and vested immediately upon the change in control.

For purposes of the 2013 Plan, a change in control generally will be deemed to occur when (i) any person acquires the beneficial ownership of 33% or more of the common stock of QCR Holdings, except that the acquisition of an interest by a benefit plan sponsored by QCR Holdings or a corporate restructuring in which another member of QCR Holdings's controlled group acquires such an interest generally will not be a change in control for purposes of the 2013 Plan, (ii) during any 12-month period, a majority of the board members serving as of the 2013 Plan's effective date, or whose election was approved by a vote of a majority of the directors then in office, no longer serves as directors, (iii) QCR Holdings combines or merges with another company and, immediately after the combination, the stockholders of QCR Holdings immediately prior to the combination hold, directly or indirectly, 50% or less of the voting stock of the resulting company or (iv) the consummation of a complete liquidation or dissolution of, or an agreement for the disposition of two-thirds or more of the consolidated assets of, QCR Holdings occurs.

In the event an award under the 2013 Plan constitutes deferred compensation for purposes of Code Section 409A, and the settlement or distribution of the award is triggered by a change in control, then such settlement or distribution will be subject to the event constituting the change in control also constituting a change in control event for purposes of Code Section 409A.

#### **Amendment and Termination**

Our board may at any time amend or terminate the 2013 Plan or any award granted under the 2013 Plan, but any amendment or termination generally may not impair the rights of any participant without the participant's written consent. The board may not amend any provision of the 2013 Plan to materially increase the original number of shares that may be issued under the 2013 Plan (other than as provided in the 2013 Plan), materially increase the benefits accruing to a participant or materially modify the requirements for participation in the 2013 Plan without approval of QCR Holdings's stockholders. However, the board may amend the 2013 Plan at any time, retroactively or otherwise, to ensure that the 2013 Plan complies with current or future law without stockholder approval, and the board may unilaterally amend the 2013 Plan and any outstanding award, without participant consent, in order to avoid the application of, or to comply with, Code Section 409A.

#### **Clawback Policy**

All awards, amounts and benefits received under the 2013 Plan will be subject to potential cancellation, recoupment, rescission, payback or other action in accordance with the terms of any applicable clawback policy or any applicable law even if adopted after the Plan becomes effective.

#### **U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations**

The following is a summary of the current U.S. federal income tax consequences that may arise in conjunction with participation in the 2013 Plan.

**Nonqualified Stock Options.** The grant of a nonqualified stock option generally will not result in taxable income to the participant. Except as described below, the participant generally will realize ordinary income at the time of exercise in an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value of the shares acquired over the exercise price for those shares; and QCR Holdings generally will be entitled to a corresponding deduction. Gains or losses realized by the participant upon disposition of such shares generally will be treated as capital gains and losses, with the basis in such shares equal to the fair market value of the shares at the time of exercise.

**Stock Appreciation Rights.** The grant of a SAR generally will not result in taxable income to the participant. Upon exercise of a SAR, the fair market value of shares received generally will be taxable to the participant as ordinary income and QCR Holdings will be entitled to a corresponding deduction. Gains and losses realized by the participant upon disposition of any such shares generally will be treated as capital gains and losses, with the basis in such shares equal to the fair market value of the shares at the time of exercise.

**Stock Awards.** A participant who has been granted a stock award generally will not realize taxable income at the time of grant, *provided* that the stock subject to the award is not delivered at the time of grant, or if the stock is delivered, it is subject to restrictions that constitute a substantial risk of forfeiture for U.S. income tax purposes. Upon the later of delivery or vesting of shares subject to an award, the holder generally will realize ordinary income in an amount equal to the then fair market value of those shares and QCR Holdings will be entitled to a corresponding deduction. Gains or losses realized by the participant upon disposition of such shares generally will be treated as capital gains and losses, with the basis in such shares equal to the fair market value of the shares at the time of delivery or vesting. Dividends paid to the holder during the restriction period, if so provided, generally will also be compensation income to the participant and QCR Holdings will be entitled to a corresponding deduction.

**Cash Incentive Awards.** A participant who has been granted a cash incentive award generally will not realize taxable income at the time of grant, *provided* that no cash is actually paid at the time of grant. Upon the payment of any cash in satisfaction of the cash incentive award, the participant generally will realize ordinary income in an amount equal to the cash award received and QCR Holdings will be entitled to a corresponding deduction.

**Withholding of Taxes.** QCR Holdings may withhold amounts from participants to satisfy withholding tax requirements. If permitted by the Compensation Committee, participants may have shares withheld from awards or may tender previously owned shares to QCR Holdings to satisfy tax withholding requirements. The shares withheld from awards may only be used to satisfy QCR Holdings' minimum statutory withholding obligation.

**Change in Control.** Any acceleration of the vesting or payment of awards under the 2013 Plan in the event of a change in control in QCR Holdings may cause part or all of the consideration involved to be treated as an excess parachute payment under the Code, which may subject the participant to a 20% excise tax and preclude deduction by QCR Holdings.

**The foregoing description of the 2013 Plan is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the 2013 Plan, a copy of which is attached to this proxy statement as Appendix A.**

#### **No Tax Advice**

The preceding discussion is based on U.S. federal tax laws and regulations presently in effect, which are subject to change, and the discussion does not purport to be a complete description of the U.S. federal income tax aspects of the 2013 Plan. A participant may also be subject to state and local taxes in connection with the grant of awards under the 2013 Plan. QCR Holdings strongly encourages participants to consult with their individual tax advisors to determine the applicability of the tax rules to the awards granted to them in their personal circumstances.

The number and types of awards to be made pursuant to the 2013 Plan is subject to the discretion of the Compensation Committee and is not determinable at this time.

**Stockholder Vote Necessary For Approval of the 2013 Plan**

Adoption of this proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the present in person or by proxy at the annual meeting and entitled to vote. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal.

**The board of directors unanimously approved the 2013 Plan and unanimously recommends that you vote to approve the 2013 Plan by voting FOR this proposal.**

**EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION**

The table below sets forth the following information as of December 31, 2012 for (i) all compensation plans previously approved by QCR Holdings' s stockholders and (ii) all compensation plans not previously approved by QCR Holdings' s stockholders:

- (a) the number of securities to be issued upon the exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights;
- (b) the weighted-average exercise price of such outstanding options, warrants and rights; and
- (c) other than securities to be issued upon the exercise of such outstanding options, warrants and rights, the number of securities remaining available for future issuance under the plans.

**EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION**

Plan category	Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a)	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b)	Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column(a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by stockholders	614,736	\$ 13.26	355,060
Equity compensation plans not approved by stockholders			
<b>Total</b>	<b>614,736</b>	<b>\$ 13.26</b>	<b>355,060</b>

(1) Includes 282,266 shares available under the QCR Holdings, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.



**PROPOSAL 5:**

**ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED AND RESTATED RIGHTS AGREEMENT**

At the board of directors meeting on February 7, 2013, we approved the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement (the Amended Rights Agreement ) dated as of March 7, 2013, between QCR Holdings and Quad City Bank and Trust Company, subject to stockholder adoption. A summary of the material provisions of the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement is set forth below. A copy is set forth as Appendix B. Although we are not required to seek stockholder approval of a rights agreement or similar arrangement, our board is submitting the Amended Rights Agreement to a vote of our stockholders as a matter of good corporate governance.

**Background**

The Amended Rights Agreement was unanimously approved by our board on February 7, 2013, but will not become effective until and unless approved by our stockholders at the annual meeting. The primary purpose of the Amended Rights Agreement is to extend the term of the Rights Agreement dated as of September 11, 2003 (the Original Rights Agreement ), for an additional three years, increase the trigger from 15% to 20%, add additional stockholder protections and amend certain provisions that limit the authority of our board. The Original Rights Agreement will continue in effect until stockholders approve the Amended Rights Agreement at the annual meeting, and, if the Amended Rights Agreement is not approved, the Original Rights Agreement will expire, by its terms, on September 11, 2013. If the Amended Rights Agreement is not approved and the Original Rights Agreement expires, our board of Directors may reconsider whether to pursue a stockholders rights plan in the future.

The board s decision to adopt the Amended Rights Agreement and to submit it to a vote of our stockholders was not made in response to any effort by any party to acquire or gain control of QCR Holdings, and our board is not currently aware of any such effort. The Amended Rights Agreement is not intended to prevent a friendly or non-coercive takeover bid or to keep the current management or directors in office.

The Amended Rights Agreement, like the Original Rights Agreement, is designed to deter the use of coercive or abusive takeover tactics by parties interested in acquiring us without offering fair value to all stockholders. It is also designed to assist our board in representing the interests of all stockholders in connection with takeover proposals. The Amended Rights Agreement will accomplish these objectives by encouraging a potential acquirer to negotiate with our board to have the Rights (as defined herein) redeemed or to have the Amended Rights Agreement amended. If the Rights are not redeemed (or the Amended Rights Agreement is not amended to permit the particular acquisition) and an acquirer exceeds the 20% ownership threshold contained in the Amended Rights Agreement, the Rights become exercisable at a discounted price, which will result in both dilution of the acquirer s ownership and an increased acquisition cost.

**Reasons for the Rights Agreement**

Our board believes that a stockholders rights plan, such as the Amended Rights Agreement, is in the best interests of our stockholders for several reasons. The Amended Rights Agreement allows the board to effectively represent the interests of stockholders in the event of an unsolicited takeover proposal or an attempt to acquire QCR Holdings through a gradual accumulation of shares. The Amended Rights Agreement further represents a sound and reasonable means of safeguarding stockholders interests in the event QCR Holdings is confronted with coercive or unfair tactics to gain control of QCR Holdings.

In addition, the Amended Rights Agreement encourages potential acquirers to negotiate directly and in good faith with our board. This gives our board an ability to negotiate on behalf of the stockholders to achieve a fair price and terms that are in the best interests of QCR Holdings and its stockholders. The Amended Rights Agreement, however, does not eliminate the fiduciary obligations of our board regarding potential acquisition proposals. Instead, it rather grants additional rights to our stockholders in the event that we do receive a qualifying acquisition proposal, and, as always, our board, however, remains committed to considering acquisition proposals in a manner consistent with its fiduciary obligations. Implementation of the Amended Rights Agreement will also allow us to better focus on the long-term value and facilitate the continued implementation of our strategic plan. Without the extension of the Original Rights Agreement through the Amended Rights Agreement, we would be susceptible to an unsolicited takeover attempt and could be deprived of the ability to fully realize the long-term value of QCR Holdings.

#### **Description of the Amended Rights Agreement**

The Amended Rights Agreement is, in most respects, identical to the Original Rights Agreement, except that it extends the term of the Rights issued under the Original Rights Agreement to May 1, 2016, expands the definition of beneficial ownership to include certain derivative security positions, adds additional stockholder protections in the event of a Qualifying Offer (as defined herein) and increases the trigger from 15% to 20%.

**The Rights.** On September 22, 2003, in connection with the Original Rights Agreement, our board declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right (a Right ) for each outstanding share of our common stock, and authorized the issuance of one Right for each share of common stock. Since that time, Rights have been automatically issued with each share of common stock we issue. The Rights under our Original Rights Agreement will expire on September 11, 2013.

Like the Original Rights Agreement, the Amended Rights Agreement will cause a Right to be issued with all shares of common stock and will cause the Rights to be extended until May 1, 2016, unless our board redeems the Rights or there is a Distribution Date causing the rights to separate and become exercisable.

Each Right entitles the holder to purchase from QCR Holdings one one-thousandth of a share of our Series B Junior Participating Preferred Stock, \$1.00 par value per share (the Preferred Stock ), at a price of \$80.00 per one one-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock, subject to adjustment. The Rights are not currently exercisable and will not become exercisable until a Distribution Date, as described below.

**Exercisability.** The Rights are represented by our common stock certificates and will not separate from the common stock, will not be represented by separate Rights certificates, and will not be exercisable until (i) the tenth day following the date of a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons (such persons, subject to the exclusions below, are referred to as acquiring persons ) has commenced an offer to acquire beneficial ownership of 20% or more of our outstanding common stock, or (ii) the tenth business day (or such later date as may be determined by the board) of the commencement by any person of a tender or exchange offer the consummation of which would result in any person becoming the beneficial owner of 20% or more of our outstanding common stock. The earlier of such dates being referred to in the Amended Rights Agreement as a Distribution Date.

We have exempted from the definition of acquiring persons (i) QCR Holdings, (ii) any subsidiary of QCR Holdings, and (iii) any employee benefit plan of QCR Holdings. In addition, persons or groups of affiliated or associated persons acquiring or having beneficial ownership of 20% or more of our common stock will not be deemed an acquiring person if the acquisition was (i) inadvertent, as determined by our board, and the person or group promptly divests itself of enough common stock so as to no longer have beneficial ownership of 20% or more of the outstanding common stock, (ii) on or before the date of the Amended Rights Agreement or prior to the first public announcement of the Amended Rights Agreement, unless such person or group acquires additional shares after the first public announcement of the Amended Rights Agreement; or (iii) because QCR Holdings purchases shares of common stock, which reduce the number of shares of our common stock that are outstanding, they will not be deemed an acquiring person.

For purposes of the Amended Rights Agreement, beneficial ownership has been defined to include not only the right to vote or dispose of shares of our common stock, but also rights related to derivative transactions or derivative securities which grant to the holder the economic equivalent of ownership of shares of our common stock.

**Effect of a Flip-In Event.** If any acquiring person completes an acquisition of 20% or more of our outstanding common stock, each Right, other than Rights beneficially owned by the acquiring person and its affiliates and associates (which will become void without any further action), becomes the right to receive, upon exercise and payment of the purchase price issuable upon exercise of a Right, the number of shares of our common stock equal to the result obtained by dividing the purchase price by 50% of the then-current per share market price of our common stock. Under some circumstances, QCR Holdings may substitute for the shares of common stock, cash, a reduction in the purchase price, shares of Preferred Stock or other equity securities, debt securities, other assets, or any combination having a value that, when added to the value of the shares of common stock issued upon exercise of such Rights, will have an aggregate value equal to the value of the shares of common stock issuable upon the exercise of such Rights (less the amount of any reduction in such Purchase Price).

**Redemption of Rights.** We may, at any time prior to a Flip-In Event, redeem all, but not less than all, of the then outstanding Rights at a redemption price of \$0.01 per Right, appropriately adjusted to reflect any stock split, stock dividend or similar transaction occurring in respect of the common stock after the date of the Amended Rights Agreement (the redemption price being hereinafter referred to as the Redemption Price ). The redemption of the Rights may be made effective at such time, on such basis and with such conditions as the board in its sole discretion may establish. The Redemption Price shall be payable, at the option of QCR Holdings, in cash, shares of Common Stock, or such other form of consideration as the board shall determine.

**Exchange Right.** At any time after any person or group becomes an acquiring person (but before any person becomes the beneficial owner of 50% or more of the outstanding shares of QCR Holdings's common stock), we may exchange the Rights (other than Rights owned by the acquiring person), in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of one share of common stock (or, at QCR Holdings's option, shares of Preferred Stock, cash, debt securities of QCR Holdings, other assets or any combination of the foregoing having an equivalent value) per Right, appropriately adjusted to reflect any stock split, stock dividend or similar transaction occurring in respect of the common stock after the date of the Amended Rights Agreement.

**Evidence and Transfer of Rights.** Until a Distribution Date (or earlier redemption, exchange or expiration of the Rights), (i) the Rights are evidenced by certificates of our common stock, (ii) the Rights are transferable only in connection with the transfer of our common stock, (iii) the transfer of any shares of common stock also constitutes the transfer of the Rights, and (iv) new common stock certificates delivered upon transfer or new issuance of shares of common stock will contain a notation incorporating the Amended Rights Agreement by reference. If a Flip-In Event occurs, separate Right certificates will be mailed to record holders of our common stock, and the separate Right certificates will evidence the Rights.

**Qualifying Offer.** If QCR Holdings receives a Qualifying Offer (as defined below) and the board has not redeemed the outstanding Rights or exempted such offer from the Amended Rights Agreement or called a special meeting of stockholders by the end of the 90 business days following the commencement (or, if later, the first existence) of a Qualifying Offer, for the purpose of voting on whether or not to exempt such Qualifying Offer from the terms of this Agreement, holders of record (or their duly authorized proxy) of at least 10% of the common stock then outstanding may submit to the board, not earlier than 90 business days nor later than 120 business days following the commencement (or, if later, the first existence) of such Qualifying Offer, a written demand directing the board to submit to a vote of stockholders at a special meeting of the stockholders of QCR Holdings a resolution exempting such Qualifying Offer from the provisions of this Agreement. A special meeting demand must be delivered to the secretary of QCR Holdings at its principal executive offices and must set forth, as to the stockholders of record making the request, (i) the names and addresses of such stockholders as they appear on QCR Holdings' s books and records, (ii) the class and number of common stock which are owned by each of such stockholders and (iii) in the case of common stock that is owned beneficially by another person, an executed certification by the holder of record that such holder has executed such special meeting demand only after obtaining instructions to do so from such beneficial owner and attaching evidence thereof. Subject to the requirements of applicable law, the board may take a position in favor of or opposed to the adoption of the Qualifying Offer or no position with respect thereto, as it determines to be appropriate in the exercise of its duties. In the event that no person has become an acquiring person prior to the redemption date for the Qualifying Offer, and the Qualifying Offer continues to be a Qualifying Offer and either (y) the special meeting of stockholders is not convened on or prior to the last day of the period for calling such meeting set forth in the Amended Rights Agreement or (z) if, at the special meeting at which a quorum is present, a majority of the holders of common stock present or represented by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote thereon as of the record date for the special meeting shall vote in favor of the Qualifying Offer, then the Qualifying Offer shall be deemed exempt from the application of the Amended Rights Agreement so long as it remains a Qualifying Offer.

For purposes of the Amended Rights Agreement, **Qualifying Offer** means an offer determined by a majority of QCR Holdings' s independent directors to have the following characteristics, among others: (i) fully financed all-cash tender offer for all of the outstanding shares of QCR Holdings' s common stock; (ii) commenced within the meaning of Rule 14d-2(a) of the Exchange Act and made by an offeror that beneficially owns no more than 50% of the outstanding shares of common stock; and (iii) irrevocable for at least 120 days and in writing.

**Amendments to the Rights Agreement.** Until a Distribution Date, the board may, in its sole and absolute discretion, supplement or amend the Amended Rights Agreement in any respect without the approval of any holders of the Rights or common stock. At any time that the Rights are no longer redeemable, QCR Holdings may supplement or amend the Rights Agreement without the approval of any holders of the Rights to cure any ambiguity in any manner that QCR Holdings may deem necessary or desirable; provided, however, that the Rights Agreement may not be supplemented or amended in any manner that would adversely affect the interests of the holders of the Rights.

**Anti-Takeover Effects.** The Original Rights Agreement would cause, and the Amended Rights Agreement will cause, substantial dilution to any person or group that attempts to acquire control of QCR Holdings without negotiating with our board to have the Original Rights Agreement or Amended Rights Agreement, as applicable, amended or the Rights redeemed. Accordingly, the Amended Rights Agreement will cause potential hostile bidders for QCR Holdings to have difficulty approaching our stockholders directly without dealing with our board, and could deter certain takeover attempts. The Rights should not interfere with any merger or other business combination that is in the best interests of QCR Holdings and its stockholders because the board may, at its option, subject to certain restrictions, redeem all, the then outstanding Rights at the Redemption Price. In addition, if the board declines a Qualifying Offer for a merger or business combination, such offer may be presented to our stockholders at a special meeting.

**The Rights are in all respects subject to and governed by the provisions of the Amended Rights Agreement. The foregoing description of the Amended Rights Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the Amended Rights Agreement, a copy of which is attached to this proxy statement as Appendix B.**

**Stockholder Vote Necessary For Adoption of the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement**

Adoption of this proposal requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the present in person or by proxy at the annual meeting and entitled to vote. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the outcome of this proposal.

**The board of directors unanimously approved the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement and unanimously recommends that you vote to approve the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement by voting FOR this proposal.**

**PROPOSAL 6:****RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

McGladrey LLP has served as our independent registered public accounting firm since June 1994, and our Audit Committee has selected McGladrey LLP to be our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

Although we are not required to do so, our board of directors recommends that the stockholders ratify the appointment. A representative of McGladrey LLP is expected to attend the meeting and will be available to respond to appropriate questions and to make a statement if he or she so desires. If the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm is not ratified, the Audit Committee of the board of directors will reconsider the matter of the appointment. **Our board of directors unanimously recommends that you vote your shares FOR ratification of this appointment.**

Following is a summary of fees for professional services by McGladrey LLP.

**Accountant Fees**

During the period covering the fiscal years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, McGladrey LLP performed the following professional services:

	2012	2011
Audit Fees <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 367,589	\$ 326,456
Audit-Related Fees <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 31,976	\$ 23,757
Tax Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0
All Other Fees <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 1,720	\$ 1,670

<sup>(1)</sup> Audit fees consist of fees for professional services rendered for the audit of QCR Holdings financial statements, the audit of QCR Holdings internal control over financial reporting, review of financial statements included in QCR Holdings quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and review and assistance with other Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

<sup>(2)</sup> Audit-related fees consist of fees for research and consultations concerning financial accounting and reporting matters.

<sup>(3)</sup> All other fees include out-of-pocket reimbursement for an electronic subscription to an accounting publication.

**Audit Committee Approval Policy**

Among other things, the Audit Committee is responsible for appointing, setting compensation for and overseeing the work of the independent auditor. The Audit Committee's policy is to pre-approve, on a case-by-case basis, all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by any audit, tax consulting or general business consulting firm. All of the fees earned by McGladrey LLP described above were attributable to services pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

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**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS**

The following table sets forth certain information regarding our common stock beneficially owned on December 31, 2012, by each director, by each executive officer named in the summary compensation table, by persons who are the beneficial owners of more than 5% of our common stock and by all directors and executive officers of QCR Holdings as a group. Beneficial ownership has been determined for this purpose in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act, under which a person is deemed to be the beneficial owner of securities if he or she has or shares voting power or investment power in respect of such securities or has the right to acquire beneficial ownership of securities within 60 days of December 31, 2012.

Name of Stockholder and Number of Persons in Group	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership <sup>(1)</sup>	Percent of Class
<b><u>Directors, Nominees and Named Executive Officers</u></b>		
Patrick S. Baird	62,281 <sup>(2)</sup>	1.3%
James J. Brownson	74,886 <sup>(3)</sup>	1.5%
Lindsay Y. Corby	129 <sup>(4)</sup>	*
Todd A. Gipple	60,033 <sup>(5)</sup>	1.2%
Larry J. Helling	95,590 <sup>(6)</sup>	1.9%
Douglas M. Hultquist	168,356 <sup>(7)</sup>	3.4%
Mark C. Kilmer	71,449 <sup>(8)</sup>	1.5%
John K. Lawson	59,321 <sup>(9)</sup>	1.2%
Charles M. Peters	33,587 <sup>(10)</sup>	*
Ronald G. Peterson	41,347 <sup>(11)</sup>	*
Donna J. Sorensen	24,484 <sup>(12)</sup>	*
John D. Whitcher	28,225 <sup>(13)</sup>	*
Marie Z. Ziegler	24,713 <sup>(14)</sup>	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (16 persons)	953,659 <sup>(15)</sup>	18.9%
<b><u>5% Stockholder</u></b>		
The Banc Funds Company, LLP**	388,601 <sup>(16)</sup>	7.9%

\* Less than 1%.

\*\* The Banc Funds Company, LLP, 20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 3300, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

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- (1) Amounts reported include shares held directly, including certain shares subject to options, as well as shares held in retirement accounts, by certain members of the named individuals families or held by trusts of which the named individual is a trustee or substantial beneficiary. Inclusion of shares shall not constitute an admission of beneficial ownership or voting or investment power over included shares. The nature of beneficial ownership for shares listed in this table is sole voting and investment power, except as set forth in the following footnotes.
- (2) Includes 3,100 shares subject to options which are presently exercisable and over which Mr. Baird has no voting or investment power. Also includes 42,831 shares held jointly by Mr. Baird and his spouse and 16,200 shares held in a trust, over which he has shared voting and investment power.
- (3) Includes 10,750 shares subject to options which are presently exercisable and over which Mr. Brownson has no voting or investment power. Also includes 7,985 shares held jointly by Mr. Brownson and his spouse, 3,000 shares held by his spouse, 32,556 shares held in a trust, and 20,595 shares held in an IRA account, over which he has shared voting and investment power.
- (4) All 129 shares are held in a trust, over which she has shared voting and investment power.
- (5) Includes 19,291 shares subject to options which are presently exercisable and over which Mr. Gipple has no voting or investment power. Also includes 1,199 shares held in an IRA account, 1,300 shares held by his children, 2,000 shares held by his spouse, 2,101 shares held in the 401(k) Plan, and 668 shares held in a trust, over which he has shared voting and investment power. Excludes 6,252 option shares not presently exercisable.
- (6) Includes 19,543 shares subject to options which are presently exercisable and over which shares Mr. Helling has no voting or investment power. Also includes 36,450 shares held in an IRA account, 4,178 shares held in a trust and 15,413 shares held in the 401(k) Plan, over which he has shared voting and investment power. Excludes 17,992 option shares not presently exercisable.
- (7) Includes 54,869 shares subject to options which are presently exercisable and over which Mr. Hultquist has no voting or investment power. Also includes 11,337 shares held by his spouse or for the benefit of his children, 4,550 shares held in an IRA account, 9,265 shares held in a trust and 17,775 shares in the 401(k) Plan, over which he has shared voting and investment power. Excludes 13,073 option shares not presently exercisable.
- (8) Includes 3,600 shares subject to options which are presently exercisable and over which Mr. Kilmer has no voting or investment power. Also includes 11,438 shares held by his spouse or children, 25,361 shares held in a trust and 3,375 shares held in an IRA account, over which he has shared voting and investment power.
- (9) Includes 3,400 shares subject to options which are presently exercisable and over which Mr. Lawson has no voting or investment power. Also includes 28,256 shares held in trust, over which shares he has shared voting and investment power.
- (10) Includes 1,850 shares subject to options which are presently exercisable and over which Mr. Peters has no voting or investment power. Also includes 11,500 shares held in an IRA account and 17,337 shares held in trust, over which he has shared voting and investment power.
- (11) Includes 3,400 shares subject to options which are presently exercisable and over which Mr. Peterson has no voting or investment power. Also includes 2,500 shares held in an IRA account and 27,630 shares held in a trust, over which he has shared voting and investment power.
- (12) Includes 1,350 shares subject to options which are presently exercisable and over which Ms. Sorensen has no voting or investment power. Also includes 6,825 shares held jointly and 13,509 shares held in a trust, over which she has shared voting and investment power.
- (13) Includes 1,200 shares subject to options which are presently exercisable and over which Mr. Witcher has no voting or investment power. Also includes 18,218 shares held in a trust, over which he has shared voting and investment power.
- (14) Includes 200 shares held by her spouse and 10,398 shares held in a trust, over which she has shared voting and investment power.
- (15) Excludes 43,167 option shares not presently exercisable.
- (16) Includes shares held Banc Fund VI L.P., an Illinois Limited Partnership, Banc Fund VII L.P., an Illinois Limited Partnership, and Banc Fund VIII L.P., an Illinois Limited Partnership, as reported in a Schedule 13G/A filed on February 11, 2013.



**SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires that the directors, executive officers and persons who own more than 10% of our common stock file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the Securities and Exchange Commission and with the exchange on which the shares of common stock are traded. These persons are also required to furnish us with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely on our review of the copies of such forms furnished to us, and, if appropriate, representations made to us by any reporting person concerning whether a Form 5 was required to be filed for 2012, we are not aware of any failures to comply with the filing requirements of Section 16(a) during 2012 with the exception of the following: in March 2012, one report covering one transaction that occurred in 2010 was filed late by Ronald G. Peterson; in October 2012, one report covering one transaction that occurred in August 2012 was filed late by John R. Oakes; and in May 2012, one report covering two transactions that occurred in May 2012 was filed late by Donna J. Sorensen.

**TRANSACTIONS WITH MANAGEMENT AND DIRECTORS**

Our directors and officers and their associates were customers of and had transactions with QCR Holdings and our subsidiaries during 2012. Additional transactions are expected to take place in the future. All outstanding loans, commitments to loan, and certificates of deposit and depository relationships, in the opinion of management, were made in the ordinary course of business, on substantially the same terms, including interest rates and collateral, as those prevailing at the time for comparable transactions with other persons and did not involve more than the normal risk of collectability or present other unfavorable features. All such loans are approved by the subsidiary banks' board of directors in accordance with applicable bank regulatory requirements. Additionally, the Audit Committee considers any other non-lending transactions between us and a director to ensure that such transactions do not affect a director's independence.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Audit Committee assists the board of directors in carrying out its oversight responsibilities for our financial reporting process, audit process and internal controls. The Audit Committee also reviews the audited financial statements and recommends to the board that they be included in our annual report on Form 10-K. The committee is comprised solely of independent directors.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed our audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2012 with our management and McGladrey LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm. The committee has also discussed with McGladrey LLP the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) 61, as amended, as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), as well as having received and discussed the written disclosures and the letter from McGladrey LLP regarding their independence as required by the PCAOB. Based on the review and discussions with management and McGladrey LLP, the committee has recommended to the board that the audited financial statements be included in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ending December 31, 2012 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Audit Committee:

James J. Brownson	Ronald G. Peterson
Mark C. Kilmer	Marie Z. Ziegler
John K. Lawson	

By order of the Board of Directors,

James J. Brownson  
Chairman of the Board  
Moline, Illinois

Douglas M. Hultquist  
President and Chief Executive Officer

March 20, 2013

**ALL STOCKHOLDERS ARE URGED TO RETURN THEIR PROXIES PROMPTLY**

QCR HOLDINGS, INC.

**2013 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN**

**Article 1**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Section 1.1 Purpose, Effective Date and Term.** The purpose of this **QCR HOLDINGS, INC. 2013 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN** is to promote the long-term financial success of **QCR HOLDINGS, INC.** and its Subsidiaries by providing a means to attract, retain and reward individuals who can and do contribute to such success, and to further align their interests with those of the Stockholders. The **Effective Date** of the Plan is May 1, 2013, the date of the approval of the Plan by the Stockholders. The Plan shall remain in effect as long as any Awards are outstanding; *provided, however*, that no Awards may be granted after the 10-year anniversary of the Effective Date.

**Section 1.2 Participation.** Each employee and director of, and service provider (with respect to which issuances of securities may be registered under Form S-8) to, the Company and each Subsidiary who is granted, and currently holds, an Award in accordance with the provisions of the Plan shall be a **Participant** in the Plan. Award recipients shall be limited to employees and directors of, and service providers (with respect to which issuances of securities may be registered under Form S-8) to, the Company and its Subsidiaries; *provided, however*, that an Award may be granted to an individual prior to the date on which he or she first performs services as an employee, director or service provider, *provided* that such Award does not become vested prior to the date such individual commences such services.

**Section 1.3 Definitions.** Capitalized terms in the Plan shall be defined as set forth in the Plan (including the definition provisions of **Article 8**).

**Article 2**

**AWARDS**

**Section 2.1 General.** Any Award may be granted singularly, in combination with another Award (or Awards), or in tandem whereby the exercise or vesting of one Award held by a Participant cancels another Award held by the Participant. Each Award shall be subject to the provisions of the Plan and such additional provisions as the Committee may provide with respect to such Award and as may be evidenced in the Award Agreement. Subject to the provisions of **Section 3.4(b)**, an Award may be granted as an alternative to or replacement of an existing award under the Plan, any other plan of the Company or a Subsidiary or as the form of payment for grants or rights earned or due under any other compensation plan or arrangement of the Company or a Subsidiary, including the plan of any entity acquired by the Company or a Subsidiary. The types of Awards that may be granted include the following:

(a) *Stock Options.* A stock option represents the right to purchase Shares at an exercise price established by the Committee. Any stock option granted under the Plan shall be a nonqualified stock option. No stock options that are intended to satisfy the requirements applicable to incentive stock options described in Code Section 422(b) shall be granted under the Plan.

**(b) Stock Appreciation Rights.** A stock appreciation right (an **SAR** ) is a right to receive, in cash, Shares or a combination of both (as shall be reflected in the respective Award Agreement), an amount equal to or based upon the excess of (i) the Fair Market Value at the time of exercise of the SAR over (ii) an exercise price established by the Committee.

**(c) Stock Awards.** A stock award is a grant of Shares or a right to receive Shares (or their cash equivalent or a combination of both, as shall be reflected in the respective Award Agreement) in the future, excluding Awards designated as stock options, SARs or cash incentive awards by the Committee. Such Awards may include bonus shares, performance shares, performance units, restricted stock, restricted stock units or any other equity-based Award as determined by the Committee.

**(d) Cash Incentive Awards.** A cash incentive award is the grant of a right to receive a payment of cash (or Stock having a value equivalent to the cash otherwise payable, excluding Awards designated as stock options, SARs or stock awards by the Committee, all as shall be reflected in the respective Award Agreement), determined on an individual basis or as an allocation of an incentive pool that is contingent on the achievement of performance objectives established by the Committee.

**Section 2.2 Exercise of Stock Options and SARs.** A stock option or SAR shall be exercisable in accordance with such provisions as may be established by the Committee; *provided, however*, that a stock option or SAR shall expire no later than 10 years after its grant date. The exercise price of each stock option and SAR shall be not less than 100% of the Fair Market Value on the grant date (or, if greater, the par value of a Share); *provided, however*, that to the extent permitted under Code Section 409A, and subject to **Section 3.4(b)**, the exercise price may be higher or lower in the case of stock options and SARs granted in replacement of existing awards held by an employee, director or service provider granted by an acquired entity. The payment of the exercise price of a stock option shall be by cash or, subject to limitations imposed by applicable law, by any of the following means unless otherwise determined by the Committee from time to time: (a) by tendering, either actually or by attestation, Shares acceptable to the Committee and valued at Fair Market Value as of the day of exercise; (b) by irrevocably authorizing a third party, acceptable to the Committee, to sell Shares acquired upon exercise of the stock option and to remit to the Company no later than the third business day following exercise of a sufficient portion of the sale proceeds to pay the entire exercise price and any tax withholding resulting from such exercise; (c) by payment through a net exercise such that, without the payment of any funds, the Participant may exercise the option and receive the net number of Shares equal in value to (i) the number of Shares as to which the option is being exercised, multiplied by (ii) a fraction, the numerator of which is the Fair Market Value (on the date of exercise) less the exercise price, and the denominator of which is such Fair Market Value (the number of net Shares to be received shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number of Shares); (d) by personal, certified or cashiers check; (e) by other property deemed acceptable by the Committee or (f) by any combination thereof.

**Section 2.3 Performance-Based Compensation.** Any Award that is intended to be Performance-Based Compensation shall be conditioned on the achievement of one or more objective performance measures, to the extent required by Code Section 162(m), as may be determined by the Committee. The grant of any Award and the establishment of performance measures that are intended to be Performance-Based Compensation shall occur during the period required under Code Section 162(m).

**(a) Performance Measures.** The performance measures described in this **Section 2.3** may be based on any one or more of the following: earnings (*e.g.*, earnings before interest and taxes; earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization; and earnings per share; each as may be defined by the Committee); financial return ratios (*e.g.*, return on investment; return on invested capital; return on equity; and return on assets; each as may be defined by the Committee); Texas ratio; expense ratio; efficiency ratio; increase in revenue, operating or net cash flows; cash flow return on investment; total stockholder return; market share; net operating income, operating income or net income; debt load reduction; loan and lease losses; expense management; economic value added; stock price; book value; overhead; assets; asset quality level; charge offs; loan loss reserves; loans; deposits; nonperforming assets; growth of loans, deposits, or assets; interest sensitivity gap levels; regulatory compliance; improvement of financial rating; achievement of balance sheet or income statement objectives; improvements in capital structure; profitability; profit margins; budget comparisons or strategic business objectives, consisting of one or more objectives based on meeting specific cost targets, business expansion goals and goals relating to acquisitions or divestitures. Performance measures may be based on the performance of the Company as a whole or of any one or more Subsidiaries, business units or financial reporting segments of the Company or a Subsidiary, or any combination thereof, and may be measured relative to a peer group, an index or a business plan.

**(b) Partial Achievement.** An Award may provide that partial achievement of the performance measures may result in payment or vesting based upon the degree of achievement. In addition, partial achievement of performance measures shall apply toward a Participant's individual limitations as set forth in **Section 3.3**.

**(c) Extraordinary Items.** In establishing any performance measures, the Committee may provide for the exclusion of the effects of the following items, to the extent identified in the audited financial statements of the Company, including footnotes, or in the Management's Discussion and Analysis section of the Company's annual report: (i) extraordinary, unusual or nonrecurring items of gain or loss, including non-cash refinancing charges; (ii) gains or losses on the disposition of a business; (iii) changes in tax or accounting principles, regulations or laws; (iv) mergers or acquisitions; and (v) such other items permitted from time to time hereafter under the regulations promulgated under Code Section 162(m). To the extent not specifically excluded, such effects shall be included in any applicable performance measure.

**(d) Adjustments.** Pursuant to this **Section 2.3**, in certain circumstances the Committee may adjust performance measures; *provided, however*, that no adjustment may be made with respect to an Award that is intended to be Performance-Based Compensation, except to the extent the Committee exercises such negative discretion as is permitted under Code Section 162(m). If the Committee determines that a change in the business, operations, corporate structure or capital structure of the Company or the manner in which the Company or a Subsidiary conducts its business or other events or circumstances render current performance measures to be unsuitable, the Committee may modify such performance measures, in whole or in part, as the Committee deems appropriate. If a Participant is promoted, demoted or transferred to a different business unit during a performance period, the Committee may determine that the selected performance measures or applicable performance period are no longer appropriate, in which case, the Committee, in its sole discretion, may (i) adjust, change or eliminate the performance measures or change the applicable performance period or (ii) cause to be made a cash payment to the Participant in an amount determined by the Committee.

**Section 2.4 Dividends and Dividend Equivalents.** Any Award may provide the Participant with the right to receive dividend payments or dividend equivalent payments with respect to Shares subject to the Award, which payments may be made currently or credited to an account for the Participant, may be settled in cash or Shares and may be subject to terms or provisions similar to the underlying Award.

**Section 2.5 Forfeiture of Awards.** Unless specifically provided to the contrary in an Award Agreement, upon notification of Termination of Service for Cause, any outstanding Award held by a Participant, whether vested or unvested, shall terminate immediately, such Award shall be forfeited and the Participant shall have no further rights thereunder.

**Section 2.6 Deferred Compensation.** The Plan is, and all Awards are, intended to be exempt from (or, in the alternative, to comply with) Code Section 409A, and each shall be construed, interpreted and administered accordingly. The Company does not guarantee that any benefits that may be provided under the Plan will satisfy all applicable provisions of Code Section 409A. If any Award would be considered deferred compensation under Code Section 409A, the Committee reserves the absolute right (including the right to delegate such right) to unilaterally amend the Plan or the applicable Award Agreement, without the consent of the Participant, to avoid the application of, or to maintain compliance with, Code Section 409A. Any amendment by the Committee to the Plan or an Award Agreement pursuant to this **Section 2.6** shall maintain, to the extent practicable, the original intent of the applicable provision without violating Code Section 409A. A Participant's acceptance of any Award shall be deemed to constitute the Participant's acknowledgment of, and consent to, the rights of the Committee under this **Section 2.6**, without further consideration or action. Any discretionary authority retained by the Committee pursuant to the terms of the Plan or pursuant to an Award Agreement shall not be applicable to an Award that is determined to constitute deferred compensation, if such discretionary authority would contravene Code Section 409A.

### Article 3

#### **SHARES SUBJECT TO PLAN**

**Section 3.1 Available Shares.** The Shares with respect to which Awards may be granted shall be Shares currently authorized but unissued, currently held or, to the extent permitted by applicable law, subsequently acquired by the Company, including Shares purchased in the open market or in private transactions.

**Section 3.2 Share Limitations.**

**(a) *Share Reserve.*** Subject to the following provisions of this Section 3.2, the maximum number of Shares that may be delivered under the Plan shall be 350,000 Shares plus that number of shares remaining available for grant under the Prior Plans as of the date of shareholder approval of the Plan as well as any Shares that are covered under a Prior Plan award that otherwise would become available for reuse under the Prior Plans, as provided in Section 3.2(b)(v), due to forfeiture, expiration, cancellation or the like. The maximum number of Shares available for delivery under the Plan and the number of Shares subject to outstanding Awards shall be subject to adjustment as provided in Section 3.4. As of the Effective Date, no further awards shall be granted under the Prior Plans.

**(b) Reuse of Shares.**

(i) To the extent any Shares covered by an Award are not delivered to a Participant or beneficiary for any reason, including because the Award is forfeited, canceled or settled in cash, such Shares shall not be deemed to have been delivered for purposes of determining the maximum number of Shares available for delivery under the Plan and shall again become eligible for delivery under the Plan.

(ii) With respect to SARs that are settled in Shares, only Shares actually delivered shall be counted for purposes of determining the maximum number of Shares available for delivery under the Plan.

(iii) If the exercise price of any stock option granted under the Plan is satisfied by tendering Shares to the Company (whether by actual delivery or by attestation and whether or not such surrendered Shares were acquired pursuant to an Award) or by the net exercise of the Award, only the number of Shares delivered net of the Shares tendered shall be deemed delivered for purposes of determining the maximum number of Shares available for delivery under the Plan.

(iv) If the withholding tax liabilities arising from an Award or, following the Effective Date, an award under the Prior Plans, are satisfied by the tendering of Shares to the Company (whether by actual delivery or by attestation and whether or not such tendered Shares were acquired pursuant to an Award) or by the withholding of or reduction of Shares by the Company, such Shares shall not be deemed to have been delivered for purposes of determining the maximum number of Shares available for delivery under the Plan and shall again become eligible for delivery under the Plan.

(v) Following the Effective Date, any Shares that are covered under a Prior Plans award that otherwise would become available for reuse under the Prior Plans due to forfeiture, expiration, cancellation or the like shall instead become available for delivery under the Plan.

**Section 3.3 Limitations on Grants to Individuals.** The following limitations shall apply with respect to Awards:

**(a) Stock Options and SARs.** The maximum number of Shares that may be subject to stock options or SARs granted to any one Participant during any calendar year that are intended to be Performance-Based Compensation, and then only to the extent that such limitation is required by Code Section 162(m), shall be 100,000. The maximum number of Shares that may be subject to stock options or SARs granted to any one Director Participant during any calendar year shall be 100,000. For purposes of this **Section 3.3(a)**, if a stock option is granted in tandem with an SAR, such that the exercise of the option or SAR with respect to a Share cancels the tandem SAR or option right, respectively, with respect to such Share, the tandem option and SAR rights with respect to each Share shall be counted as covering one Share for purposes of applying the limitations of this **Section 3.3(a)**.

**(b) Stock Awards.** The maximum number of Shares that may be subject to stock awards that are granted to any one Participant during any calendar year and are intended to be Performance-Based Compensation, and then only to the extent that such limitation is required by Code Section 162(m), shall be 50,000. The maximum number of Shares that may be subject to stock awards that are granted to any one Director Participant during any calendar year shall be 50,000.

(c) *Cash Incentive Awards and Stock Awards Settled in Cash.* The maximum dollar amount that may be payable to any one Participant pursuant to cash incentive awards and cash-settled stock awards that are granted to any one Participant during any calendar year and are intended to be Performance-Based Compensation, and then only to the extent that such limitation is required by Code Section 162(m), shall be \$1,000,000. The maximum dollar amount that may be payable to any one Director Participant pursuant to cash incentive awards and cash-settled stock awards that are granted to any one Director Participant during any calendar year shall be \$1,000,000.

(d) *Dividends, Dividend Equivalents and Earnings.* For purposes of determining whether an Award is intended to be qualified as Performance-Based Compensation under the foregoing limitations of this **Section 3.3**, (i) the right to receive dividends and dividend equivalents with respect to any Award that is not yet vested shall be treated as a separate Award, and (ii) if the delivery of any Shares or cash under an Award is deferred, any earnings, including dividends and dividend equivalents, shall be disregarded.

(e) *Partial Performance.* Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this **Section 3.3**, if in respect of any performance period or restriction period, the Committee grants to a Participant Awards having an aggregate dollar value and/or number of Shares less than the maximum dollar value and/or number of Shares that could be paid or awarded to such Participant based on the degree to which the relevant performance measures were attained, the excess of such maximum dollar value and/or number of Shares over the aggregate dollar value and/or number of Shares actually subject to Awards granted to such Participant shall be carried forward and shall increase the maximum dollar value and/or the number of Shares that may be awarded to such Participant in respect of the next performance period or restriction period in respect of which the Committee grants to such Participant an Award intended to qualify as Performance-Based Compensation, subject to adjustment pursuant to **Section 3.4**.

**Section 3.4 Corporate Transactions; No Repricing.**

(a) *Adjustments.* To the extent permitted under Code Section 409A, to the extent applicable, in the event of a corporate transaction involving the Company or the Shares (including any stock dividend, stock split, extraordinary cash dividend, recapitalization, reorganization, merger, consolidation, split-up, spin-off, combination or exchange of shares), all outstanding Awards, the number of Shares available for delivery under the Plan under **Section 3.2** and each of the specified limitations set forth in **Section 3.3** shall be adjusted automatically to proportionately and uniformly reflect such transaction (but only to the extent that such adjustment will not negatively affect the status of an Award intended to qualify as Performance-Based Compensation, if applicable); *provided, however*, that, subject to **Section 3.4(b)**, the Committee may otherwise adjust Awards (or prevent such automatic adjustment) as it deems necessary, in its sole discretion, to preserve the benefits or potential benefits of the Awards and the Plan. Action by the Committee under this **Section 3.4(a)** may include: (i) adjustment of the number and kind of shares that may be delivered under the Plan; (ii) adjustment of the number and kind of shares subject to outstanding Awards; (iii) adjustment of the exercise price of outstanding stock options and SARs; and (iv) any other adjustments that the Committee determines to be equitable (which may include (A) replacement of an Award with another award that the Committee determines has comparable value and that is based on stock of a company resulting from a corporate transaction, and (B) cancellation of an Award in return for cash payment of the current value of the Award, determined as though the Award were fully vested at the time of payment, *provided* that in the case of a stock option or SAR, the amount of such payment shall be the excess of the value of the stock subject to the option or SAR at the time of the transaction over the exercise price, and *provided, further*, that no such payment shall be required in consideration for the cancellation of the Award if the exercise price is greater than the value of the stock at the time of such corporate transaction).



**(b) No Repricing.** Notwithstanding any provision of the Plan to the contrary, no adjustment or reduction of the exercise price of any outstanding stock option or SAR in the event of a decline in Stock price shall be permitted without approval by the Stockholders or as otherwise expressly provided under **Section 3.4(a)**. The foregoing prohibition includes (i) reducing the exercise price of outstanding stock options or SARs, (ii) cancelling outstanding stock options or SARs in connection with the granting of stock options or SARs with a lower exercise price to the same individual, (iii) cancelling stock options or SARs with an exercise price in excess of the current Fair Market Value in exchange for a cash or other payment, and (iv) taking any other action that would be treated as a repricing of a stock option or SAR under the rules of the primary securities exchange or similar entity on which the Shares are listed.

**Section 3.5 Delivery of Shares.** Delivery of Shares or other amounts under the Plan shall be subject to the following:

**(a) Compliance with Applicable Laws.** Notwithstanding any provision of the Plan to the contrary, the Company shall have no obligation to deliver any Shares or make any other distribution of benefits under the Plan unless such delivery or distribution complies with all applicable laws and the applicable requirements of any securities exchange or similar entity.

**(b) No Certificates Required.** To the extent that the Plan provides for the delivery of Shares, the delivery may be effected on a non-certificated basis, to the extent not prohibited by applicable law or the applicable rules of any securities exchange or similar entity.

#### Article 4

#### CHANGE IN CONTROL

**Section 4.1 Consequence of a Change in Control.** Subject to the provisions of **Section 3.4** (relating to the adjustment of shares), and except as otherwise provided in the Plan or in any Award Agreement, at the time of a Change in Control:

**(a)** Subject to any forfeiture and expiration provisions otherwise applicable to the respective Awards, all stock options and SARs under the Plan then held by the Participant shall become fully exercisable immediately if, and all stock awards and cash incentive awards under the Plan then held by the Participant shall become fully earned and vested immediately if, (i) the Plan and the respective Award Agreements are not the obligations of the entity, whether the Company, a successor thereto or an assignee thereof, that conducts following a Change in Control substantially all of the business conducted by the Company and its Subsidiaries immediately prior to such Change in Control or (ii) the Plan and the respective Award Agreements are the obligations of the entity, whether the Company, a successor thereto or an assignee thereof, that conducts following a Change in Control substantially all of the business conducted by the Company and its Subsidiaries immediately prior to such Change in Control and the Participant incurs a Termination of Service without Cause or by the Participant for Good Reason following such Change in Control.

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this **Section 4.1**, if the vesting of an outstanding Award is conditioned upon the achievement of performance measures, then such vesting shall be subject to the following:

(i) If, at the time of the Change in Control, the established performance measures are less than 50% attained (as determined in the sole discretion of the Committee, but in any event, based pro rata in accordance with time lapsed through the date of the Change in Control in the event of any period-based performance measures), then such Award shall become vested and exercisable on a fractional basis with the numerator being equal to the percentage of attainment and the denominator being 50% upon the Change in Control.

(ii) If, at the time of the Change in Control, the established performance measures are at least 50% attained (as determined in the sole discretion of the Committee, but in any event based pro rata in accordance with time lapsed through the date of the Change in Control in the event of any period-based performance measures), then such Award shall become fully earned and vested immediately upon the Change in Control.

**Section 4.2 Definition of Change in Control.**

(a) For purposes of the Plan, **Change in Control** means the first to occur of the following:

(i) The consummation of the acquisition by any person (as such term is defined in Section 13(d) or 14(d) of the Exchange Act) of beneficial ownership (within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act) of 33% or more of the combined voting power of the then outstanding Voting Securities of the Company;

(ii) During any 12-month period, the individuals who, as of the Effective Date, are members of the Board cease for any reason to constitute a majority of the Board, unless either the election of or the nomination for election by the Stockholders of any new director was approved by a vote of a majority of the Board, in which case such new director shall for purposes of this Plan be considered as a member of the Board; or

(iii) The consummation by the Company of (i) a merger, consolidation or other similar transaction if the Stockholders immediately before such merger, consolidation or other similar transaction do not, as a result of such merger, consolidation or other similar transaction, own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of the combined voting power of the then outstanding Voting Securities of the entity resulting from such merger or consolidation in substantially the same proportion as their ownership of the combined voting power of the Voting Securities of the Company outstanding immediately before such merger or consolidation or (ii) a complete liquidation or dissolution or an agreement for the sale or other disposition of two-thirds or more of the consolidated assets of the Company.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision in the foregoing definition of Change in Control to the contrary, a Change in Control shall not be deemed to occur solely because 33% or more of the combined voting power of the then outstanding securities of the Company are acquired by (i) a trustee or other fiduciary holding securities under one or more employee benefit plans maintained for employees of the entity or (ii) any corporation that, immediately prior to such acquisition, is owned directly or indirectly by the Stockholders in the same proportion as their ownership of Stock immediately prior to such acquisition.

(c) Further notwithstanding any provision in the foregoing definition of Change in Control to the contrary, in the event that any Award constitutes deferred compensation, and the settlement of, or distribution of benefits under such Award is to be triggered by a Change in Control, then such settlement or distribution shall be subject to the event constituting the Change in Control also constituting a change in control event under Code Section 409A.

**Article 5**

**COMMITTEE**

**Section 5.1 Administration.** The authority to control and manage the operation and administration of the Plan shall be vested in the Committee in accordance with this **Article 5**. The Committee shall be selected by the Board, *provided* that the Committee shall consist of two or more members of the Board, each of whom is a non-employee director (within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act), an outside director (within the meaning of Code Section 162(m)) and an independent director (within the meaning of the rules of the securities exchange which then constitutes the principal listing for the Stock). Subject to the applicable rules of any securities exchange or similar entity, if the Committee does not exist, or for any other reason determined by the Board, the Board may take any action under the Plan that would otherwise be the responsibility of the Committee.

**Section 5.2 Powers of Committee.** The Committee's administration of the Plan shall be subject to the other provisions of the Plan and the following:

(a) The Committee shall have the authority and discretion to select from among the Company's and the Subsidiary's employees, directors and service providers those persons who shall receive Awards, to determine the time or times of receipt, to determine the types of Awards and the number of Shares covered by the Awards, to establish the terms of Awards, to cancel or suspend Awards and to reduce or eliminate any restrictions or vesting requirements applicable to an Award at any time after the grant of the Award.

(b) In the event that the Committee determines that it is advisable to grant Awards that do not qualify for the exception for Performance-Based Compensation from the tax deductibility limitations of Code Section 162(m), the Committee may grant such Awards without satisfying the requirements of Code Section 162(m).

(c) The Committee shall have the authority and discretion to interpret the Plan, to establish, amend and rescind any rules and regulations relating to the Plan and to make all other determinations that may be necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan.

(d) The Committee shall have the authority to define terms not otherwise defined in the Plan.

(e) Any interpretation of the Plan by the Committee and any decision made by it under the Plan shall be final and binding on all persons.

(f) In controlling and managing the operation and administration of the Plan, the Committee shall take action in a manner that conforms to the articles and bylaws of the Company and to all applicable law.

**Section 5.3 Delegation by Committee.** Except to the extent prohibited by applicable law, the applicable rules of any securities exchange or similar entity or the Plan or the charter of the Committee, or as necessary to comply with the exemptive provisions of Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act or of Code Section 162(m), the Committee may allocate all or any portion of its responsibilities and powers to any one or more of its members and may delegate all or any part of its responsibilities and powers under the Plan to any person or persons selected by it. The acts of such delegates shall be treated under the Plan as acts of the Committee and such delegates shall report regularly to the Committee regarding the delegated duties and responsibilities and any Awards granted. Any such allocation or delegation may be revoked by the Committee at any time.

**Section 5.4 Information to be Furnished to Committee.** As may be permitted by applicable law, the Company and each Subsidiary shall furnish the Committee with such data and information as it determines may be required for it to discharge its duties under the Plan. The records of the Company and each Subsidiary as to an employee's or Participant's employment, termination of employment, leave of absence, reemployment and compensation shall be conclusive with respect to all persons unless determined by the Committee to be manifestly incorrect. Subject to applicable law, Participants and other persons entitled to benefits under the Plan shall furnish the Committee such evidence, data or information as the Committee considers desirable to carry out the terms of the Plan.

**Section 5.5 Expenses and Liabilities.** All expenses and liabilities incurred by the Committee in the administration and interpretation of the Plan or any Award Agreement shall be borne by the Company. The Committee may employ attorneys, consultants, accountants or other persons in connection with the administration and interpretation of the Plan, and the Company, and its officers and directors, shall be entitled to rely upon the advice, opinions and valuations of any such persons.

## Article 6

### AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

**Section 6.1 General.** The Board may, as permitted by law, at any time, amend or terminate the Plan, and may amend any Award Agreement; *provided, however*, that no amendment or termination may (except as provided in **Section 2.6**, **Section 3.4** and **Section 6.2**), in the absence of written consent to the change by the affected Participant (or, if the Participant is not then living, the affected beneficiary), impair the rights of any Participant or beneficiary under any Award granted prior to the date such amendment or termination is adopted by the Board; and *provided, further*, that no amendment may (a) materially increase the benefits accruing to Participants under the Plan, (b) materially increase the aggregate number of securities that may be delivered under the Plan other than pursuant to **Section 3.4**, or (c) materially modify the requirements for participation in the Plan, unless the amendment under (a), (b) or (c) immediately above is approved by the Stockholders.

**Section 6.2 Amendment to Conform to Law.** Notwithstanding any provision of the Plan or an Award Agreement to the contrary, the Committee may amend the Plan or any Award Agreement, to take effect retroactively or otherwise, as deemed necessary or advisable for the purpose of conforming the Plan or the Award Agreement to any applicable law. By accepting an Award, the Participant shall be deemed to have acknowledged and consented to any amendment to an Award made pursuant to this **Section 6.2**, **Section 2.6** or **Section 3.4** without further consideration or action.

**Article 7**

**GENERAL TERMS**

**Section 7.1 No Implied Rights.**

(a) *No Rights to Specific Assets.* No person shall by reason of participation in the Plan acquire any right in or title to any assets, funds or property of the Company or any Subsidiary, including any specific funds, assets, or other property that the Company or a Subsidiary, in its sole discretion, may set aside in anticipation of a liability under the Plan. A Participant shall have only a contractual right to the Shares or amounts, if any, distributable in accordance with the provisions of the Plan, unsecured by any assets of the Company or any Subsidiary, and nothing contained in the Plan or an Award Agreement shall constitute a guarantee that the assets of the Company or any Subsidiary shall be sufficient to provide any benefits to any person.

(b) *No Contractual Right to Employment or Future Awards.* The Plan does not constitute a contract of employment, and selection as a Participant shall not give any person the right to be retained in the service of the Company or a Subsidiary or any right or claim to any benefit under the Plan, unless such right or claim has specifically accrued under the Plan. No individual shall have the right to be selected to receive an Award, or, having been so selected, to receive a future Award.

(c) *No Rights as a Stockholder.* Except as otherwise provided in the Plan, no Award shall confer upon the holder thereof any rights as a Stockholder prior to the date on which the individual fulfills all conditions for receipt of such rights.

**Section 7.2 Transferability.** Except as otherwise provided by the Committee, Awards are not transferable except as designated by the Participant by will or by the laws of descent and distribution or pursuant to a domestic relations order. The Committee shall have the discretion to permit the transfer of Awards; *provided, however*, that such transfers shall be limited to immediate family members of Participants, trusts, partnerships, limited liability companies and other entities that are permitted to exercise rights under Awards in accordance with Form S-8 established for the primary benefit of such family members; and *provided, further*, that such transfers shall not be made for value to the Participant.

**Section 7.3 Designation of Beneficiaries.** A Participant hereunder may file with the Company a designation of a beneficiary or beneficiaries under the Plan and may from time to time revoke or amend any such designation. Any designation of beneficiary under the Plan shall be controlling over any other disposition, testamentary or otherwise; *provided, however*, that if the Committee is in doubt as to the entitlement of any such beneficiary to any Award, the Committee may determine to recognize only the legal representative of the Participant in which case the Company, the Committee and the members thereof shall not have any further liability to anyone.

**Section 7.4 Non-Exclusivity.** Neither the adoption of the Plan by the Board nor the submission of the Plan to the Stockholders for approval shall be construed as creating any limitations on the power of the Board or the Committee to adopt such other incentive arrangements as either may deem desirable, including the granting of restricted stock, stock options or other equity awards otherwise than under the Plan or an arrangement that is or is not intended to qualify under Code Section 162(m), and such arrangements may be either generally applicable or applicable only in specific cases.

**Section 7.5 Award Agreement.** Each Award shall be evidenced by an Award Agreement. A copy of the Award Agreement, in any medium chosen by the Committee, shall be made available to the Participant, and the Committee may require that the Participant sign a copy of the Award Agreement.

**Section 7.6 Form and Time of Elections.** Unless otherwise specified in the Plan, each election required or permitted to be made by any Participant or other person entitled to benefits under the Plan, and any permitted modification, or revocation thereof, shall be filed with the Company at such times, in such form, and subject to such terms or conditions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Plan, as the Committee may require.

**Section 7.7 Evidence.** Evidence required of anyone under the Plan may be by certificate, affidavit, document or other information that the person acting on it considers pertinent and reliable, and signed, made or presented by the proper party or parties.

**Section 7.8 Tax Withholding.** All distributions under the Plan shall be subject to withholding of all applicable taxes and the Committee may condition the delivery of any Shares or other benefits under the Plan on satisfaction of the applicable withholding obligations. Except as otherwise provided by the Committee, such withholding obligations may be satisfied (a) through cash payment by the Participant; (b) through the surrender of Shares that the Participant already owns or (c) through the surrender of Shares to which the Participant is otherwise entitled under the Plan; *provided, however*, that except as otherwise specifically provided by the Committee, such Shares under clause (c) may not be used to satisfy more than the Company's minimum statutory withholding obligation.

**Section 7.9 Successors.** All obligations of the Company under the Plan shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of any successor to the Company.

**Section 7.10 Indemnification.** To the fullest extent permitted by law, each person who is or shall have been a member of the Committee or the Board, or an officer of the Company to whom authority was delegated in accordance with **Section 5.3**, or an employee of the Company shall be indemnified and held harmless by the Company against and from any loss (including amounts paid in settlement), cost, liability or expense (including reasonable attorneys' fees) that may be imposed upon or reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with or resulting from any claim, action, suit, or proceeding to which he or she may be a party or in which he or she may be involved by reason of any action taken or failure to act under the Plan and against and from any and all amounts paid by him or her in settlement thereof, with the Company's approval, or paid by him or her in satisfaction of any judgment in any such action, suit, or proceeding against him or her (*provided* that he or she shall give the Company an opportunity, at its own expense, to handle and defend the same before he or she undertakes to handle and defend it on his or her own behalf), unless such loss, cost, liability or expense is a result of his or her own willful misconduct or except as expressly provided by statute. The foregoing right of indemnification shall not be exclusive of any other rights of indemnification to which such persons may be entitled under the Company's charter or bylaws, as a matter of law, or otherwise, or any power that the Company may have to indemnify them or hold them harmless.

**Section 7.11 No Fractional Shares.** Unless otherwise permitted by the Committee, no fractional Shares shall be delivered pursuant to the Plan or any Award. The Committee shall determine whether cash, Shares or other property shall be delivered or paid in lieu of fractional Shares or whether such fractional Shares or any rights thereto shall be forfeited or otherwise eliminated.

**Section 7.12 Governing Law.** The Plan, all Awards, and all actions taken in connection herewith and therewith shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware without reference to principles of conflict of laws, except as superseded by applicable federal law.

**Section 7.13 Benefits Under Other Plans.** Except as otherwise provided by the Committee, Awards granted to a Participant (including the grant and the receipt of benefits) shall be disregarded for purposes of determining the Participant's benefits under, or contributions to, any qualified retirement plan, nonqualified plan and any other benefit plan maintained by the Participant's employer.

**Section 7.14 Validity.** If any provision of the Plan is determined to be illegal or invalid for any reason, said illegality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of the Plan, and the Plan shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provision had never been included in the Plan.

**Section 7.15 Notice.** Unless provided otherwise in an Award Agreement or policy adopted from time to time by the Committee, all communications to the Company provided for in the Plan, or any Award Agreement, shall be delivered personally or sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid (*provided* that international mail shall be sent via overnight or two-day delivery), or sent by facsimile or prepaid overnight courier to the Company at the address set forth below:

QCR Holdings, Inc.

3551 Seventh Street

Moline, Illinois

Facsimile: (309) 736-3149

Such communications shall be deemed given:

- (a) In the case of delivery by overnight service with guaranteed next day delivery, the next day or the day designated for delivery;
- (b) In the case of certified or registered U.S. mail, five days after deposit in the U.S. mail; or
- (c) In the case of facsimile, the date upon which the transmitting party receives confirmation of receipt by facsimile, telephone or otherwise;

*provided, however*, that in no event shall any communication be deemed to be given later than the date it is actually received, *provided* it is actually received. In the event a communication is not received, it shall be deemed received only upon the showing of an original of the applicable receipt, registration or confirmation from the applicable delivery service provider. Communications that are to be delivered by U.S. mail or by overnight service to the Company shall be directed to the attention of the Company's senior human resources officer and corporate secretary.

**Section 7.16 Clawback Policy.** Any Award, amount or benefit received under the Plan shall be subject to potential cancellation, recoupment, rescission, payback or other similar action in accordance with any applicable Company clawback policy (the **Policy** ) or any applicable law. A Participant's receipt of an Award shall be deemed to constitute the Participant's acknowledgment of and consent to the Company's application, implementation and enforcement of (i) the Policy and any similar policy established by the Company that may apply to the Participant, whether adopted prior to or following the making of any Award and (ii) any provision of applicable law relating to cancellation, rescission, payback or recoupment of compensation, as well as the Participant's express agreement that the Company may take such actions as are necessary to effectuate the Policy, any similar policy and applicable law, without further consideration or action.

**Section 7.17 Breach of Restrictive Covenants.** Except as otherwise provided by the Committee, notwithstanding any provision of the Plan to the contrary, if the Participant breaches a non-competition, non-solicitation, non-disclosure, non-disparagement or other restrictive covenant set forth in an Award Agreement or any other agreement between the Participant and the Company or a Subsidiary, whether during or after the Participant's Termination of Service, in addition to any other penalties or restrictions that may apply under any such agreement, state law, or otherwise, the Participant shall forfeit or pay to the Company:

- (a) Any and all outstanding Awards granted to the Participant, including Awards that have become vested or exercisable;
- (b) Any Shares held by the Participant in connection with the Plan that were acquired by the Participant after the Participant's Termination of Service and within the 12-month period immediately preceding the Participant's Termination of Service;
- (c) The profit realized by the Participant from the exercise of any stock options and SARs that the Participant exercised after the Participant's Termination of Service and within the 12-month period immediately preceding the Participant's Termination of Service, which profit is the difference between the exercise price of the stock option or SAR and the Fair Market Value of any Shares or cash acquired by the Participant upon exercise of such stock option or SAR; and
- (d) The profit realized by the Participant from the sale, or other disposition for consideration, of any Shares received by the Participant in connection with the Plan after the Participant's Termination of Service and within the 12-month period immediately preceding the Participant's Termination of Service and where such sale or disposition occurs in such similar time period.

## Article 8

### **DEFINED TERMS: CONSTRUCTION**

**Section 8.1** In addition to the other definitions contained in the Plan, unless otherwise specifically provided in an Award Agreement, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) **Award** means an award under the Plan.
- (b) **Award Agreement** means the document that evidences the terms and conditions of an Award. Such document shall be referred to as an agreement regardless of whether a Participant's signature is required.
- (c) **Board** means the Board of Directors of the Company.



(d) If the Participant is subject to an employment agreement (or other similar agreement) with the Company or a Subsidiary that provides a definition of termination for cause (or the like), then, for purposes of the Plan, the term **Cause** has the meaning set forth in such agreement; and in the absence of such a definition, **Cause** means (i) any act of (A) fraud or intentional misrepresentation or (B) embezzlement, misappropriation or conversion of assets or opportunities of the Company or a Subsidiary, (ii) willful violation of any law, rule or regulation in connection with the performance of a Participant's duties to the Company or a Subsidiary (other than traffic violations or similar offenses), (iii) with respect to any employee of the Company or a Subsidiary, commission of any act of moral turpitude or conviction of a felony or (iv) the willful or negligent failure of the Participant to perform the Participant's duties to the Company or a Subsidiary in any material respect.

Further, the Participant shall be deemed to have terminated for Cause if, after the Participant's Termination of Service, facts and circumstances arising during the course of the Participant's employment with the Company are discovered that would have constituted a termination for Cause.

Further, all rights a Participant has or may have under the Plan shall be suspended automatically during the pendency of any investigation by the Board or its designee or during any negotiations between the Board or its designee and the Participant regarding any actual or alleged act or omission by the Participant of the type described in the applicable definition of Cause.

(e) **Change in Control** has the meaning ascribed to it in **Section 4.2**.

(f) **Code** means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(g) **Committee** means the Committee acting under **Article 5**, and in the event a Committee is not currently appointed, the Board.

(h) **Company** means QCR Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation.

(i) **Director Participant** means a Participant who is a member of the Board or the board of directors of a Subsidiary.

(j) **Disability** means the Participant is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death or last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, or is, by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death or last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, receiving income replacement benefits for a period of not less than three months under an accident or health plan covering the Company's or a Subsidiary's employees.

(k) **Effective Date** has the meaning ascribed to it in **Section 1.1**.

(l) **Exchange Act** means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

(m) **Fair Market Value** means, as of any date, the officially-quoted closing selling price of the Shares on such date on the principal national securities exchange on which Shares are listed or admitted to trading or, if there have been no sales with respect to Shares on such date, or if the Shares are not so listed or admitted to trading, the Fair Market Value shall be the value established by the Committee in good faith and, to the extent required, in accordance with Code Sections 422 and 409A.

(n) If the Participant is subject to an employment agreement (or other similar agreement) with the Company or a Subsidiary that provides a definition of termination for good reason (or the like), then, for purposes of the Plan, the term **Good Reason** has the meaning set forth in such agreement; and in the absence of such a definition, **Good Reason** means the occurrence of any one of the following events, unless the Participant agrees in writing that such event shall not constitute Good Reason:

(i) A material, adverse change in the nature, scope or status of the Participant's position, authorities or duties from those in effect immediately prior to the applicable Change in Control;

(ii) A material reduction in the Participant's aggregate compensation or benefits in effect immediately prior to the applicable Change in Control; or

(iii) Relocation of the Participant's primary place of employment of more than 50 miles from the Participant's primary place of employment immediately prior to the applicable Change in Control, or a requirement that the Participant engage in travel that is materially greater than prior to the applicable Change in Control.

Notwithstanding any provision of this definition to the contrary, prior to the Participant's Termination of Service for Good Reason, the Participant must give the Company written notice of the existence of any condition set forth in clause (i)–(iii) immediately above within 90 days of its initial existence and the Company shall have 30 days from the date of such notice in which to cure the condition giving rise to Good Reason, if curable. If, during such 30-day period, the Company cures the condition giving rise to Good Reason, the condition shall not constitute Good Reason. Further notwithstanding any provision of this definition to the contrary, in order to constitute a termination for Good Reason, such termination must occur within 12 months of the initial existence of the applicable condition.

(o) **Form S-8** means a Registration Statement on Form S-8 promulgated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission or any successor form thereto.

(p) **Participant** has the meaning ascribed to it in **Section 1.2**.

(q) **Performance-Based Compensation** has the meaning ascribed to it in Code Section 162(m).

(r) **Plan** means the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2013 Equity Incentive Plan.

(s) **Policy** has the meaning ascribed to it in **Section 7.16**.

(t) **Prior Plans** means the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2010 Equity Incentive Plan and the QCR Holdings, Inc. 2008 Equity Incentive Plan.

(u) **SAR** has the meaning ascribed to it in **Section 2.1(b)**.

(v) **Securities Act** means the Securities Act of 1933.

(w) **Share** means a share of Stock.

(x) **Stockholders** means the stockholders of the Company.

(y) **Stock** means the common stock of the Company, no par value per share.

(z) **Subsidiary** means any corporation or other entity that would be a subsidiary corporation as defined in Code Section 424(f) with respect to the Company.

(aa) **Termination of Service** means the first day occurring on or after a grant date on which the Participant ceases to be an employee and director of, and service provider to, the Company and each Subsidiary, regardless of the reason for such cessation, subject to the following:

(i) The Participant's cessation as an employee or service provider shall not be deemed to occur by reason of the Participant's being on a leave of absence from the Company or a Subsidiary approved by the Company or Subsidiary otherwise receiving the Participant's services.

(ii) If, as a result of a sale or other transaction, the Subsidiary for whom the Participant is employed (or to whom the Participant is providing services) ceases to be a Subsidiary, and the Participant is not, following the transaction, an employee or director of, or service provider to, the Company or an entity that is then a Subsidiary, then the occurrence of such transaction shall be treated as the Participant's Termination of Service caused by the Participant being discharged by the entity for whom the Participant is employed or to whom the Participant is providing services.

(iii) A service provider, other than an employee or director, whose services to the Company or a Subsidiary are governed by a written agreement with such service provider shall cease to be a service provider at the time the provision of service under such written agreement ends (without renewal); and such a service provider whose services to the Company or a Subsidiary are not governed by a written agreement with the service provider shall cease to be a service provider on the date that is 90 days after the date the service provider last provides services requested by the Company or a Subsidiary.

(iv) Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that any Award constitutes deferred compensation, the term Termination of Service shall be interpreted by the Committee in a manner consistent with the definition of separation from service as defined under Code Section 409A.

(bb) **Voting Securities** means any securities that ordinarily possess the power to vote in the election of directors without the happening of any precondition or contingency.

**Section 8.2** In the Plan, unless otherwise stated, the following uses apply:

(a) Actions permitted under the Plan may be taken at any time in the actor's reasonable discretion;

(b) References to a statute shall refer to the statute and any amendments and any successor statutes, and to all regulations promulgated under or implementing the statute, as amended, or its successors, as in effect at the relevant time;

(c) In computing periods from a specified date to a later specified date, the words from and commencing on (and the like) mean from and including, and the words to, until and ending on (and the like) mean to and including ;

(d) References to a governmental or quasi-governmental agency, authority or instrumentality shall also refer to a regulatory body that succeeds to the functions of the agency, authority or instrumentality;

(e) Indications of time of day shall be based upon the time applicable to the location of the principal headquarters of the Company;

(f) The words include, includes and including mean include, without limitation, includes, without limitation and including, without limitation respectively;

(g) All references to articles and sections are to articles and sections in the Plan;

(h) All words used shall be construed to be of such gender or number as the circumstances and context require;

(i) The captions and headings of articles and sections appearing in the Plan have been inserted solely for convenience of reference and shall not be considered a part of the Plan, nor shall any of them affect the meaning or interpretation of the Plan or any of its provisions;

(j) Any reference to an agreement, plan, policy, document or set of documents, and the rights and obligations of the parties under any such agreement, plan, policy, document or set of documents, shall mean such agreement, plan, policy, document or set of documents as amended from time to time, and any and all modifications, extensions, renewals, substitutions or replacements thereof; and

(k) All accounting terms not specifically defined in the Plan shall be construed in accordance with GAAP.

QCR HOLDINGS, INC.

and

QUAD CITY BANK & TRUST COMPANY, as Rights Agent

AMENDED AND RESTATED RIGHTS AGREEMENT

Dated as of March 7, 2013

AMENDED AND RESTATED RIGHTS AGREEMENT

This Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, dated as of March 7, 2013 ( Agreement ), between QCR Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the Company ), and Quad City Bank & Trust Company, an Iowa state chartered bank headquartered in Bettendorf, Iowa, as Rights Agent (the Rights Agent ). This Agreement is an amendment and restatement of that certain Rights Agreement, between the Company and the Rights Agent, dated as of September 11, 2003 (the Original Agreement ).

WHEREAS, the Board authorized and declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right (a Right ) for each share of Common Stock (as defined herein) of the Company outstanding as of the Close of Business (as defined below) on September 22, 2003 (the Record Date ), each Right representing the right to purchase one one-thousandth (subject to adjustment) of a share of Preferred Stock (as defined herein), upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Original Agreement, and further authorized and directed the issuance of one Right (subject to adjustment as provided herein) with respect to each share of Common Stock that shall become outstanding between the Record Date and the earlier of the Distribution Date and the Expiration Date (as such terms are defined herein and in the Original Agreement); *provided, however*, that, in accordance with Section 22 hereof, Rights may be issued with respect to shares of Common Stock that shall become outstanding after the Distribution Date and prior to the Expiration Date.

WHEREAS, the Board authorized as of February 7, 2013, the amendment and restatement of the Original Agreement to, among other things, extend the Expiration Date, change certain definitions and triggers, add additional stockholder protections and amend certain provision that limit the authority of the Board after a Distribution Date, all of which the Board believes are necessary and in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. This Agreement will become effective when approved by the holders of our Common Stock at the annual meeting on May 1, 2013 (the Effective Date ).

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual agreements herein set forth, the parties hereby agree as follows:

**Section 1. Certain Definitions.** For purposes of this Agreement, the following terms have the meaning indicated:

(a) Acquiring Person shall mean any Person (as such term is defined herein) who or which shall be the Beneficial Owner (as such term is defined herein) of 20% or more of the shares of Common Stock then outstanding, but shall not include an Exempt Person (as such term is defined herein); *provided, however*, that (i) if the Board determines in good faith that a Person who would otherwise be an Acquiring Person became the Beneficial Owner of a number of shares of Common Stock such that the Person would otherwise qualify as an Acquiring Person inadvertently (including, without limitation, because (A) such Person was unaware that it beneficially owned a percentage of Common Stock that would otherwise cause such Person to be an Acquiring Person or (B) such Person was aware of the extent of its Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock but had no actual knowledge of the consequences of such Beneficial Ownership under this Agreement) and without any intention of changing or influencing control of the Company, then such Person shall not be deemed to be or to have become an Acquiring Person for any purposes of this Agreement unless and until such Person shall have failed to divest itself, as soon as practicable (as determined, in good faith, by the Board), of Beneficial Ownership of a sufficient number of shares of Common Stock so that such Person would no longer otherwise qualify as an Acquiring Person ; (ii) if, as of the date hereof or prior to the first public announcement of the adoption of this Agreement, any Person is or becomes the Beneficial Owner of 20% or more of the shares of Common Stock outstanding, such Person shall not be deemed to be or to become an Acquiring Person unless and until such time as such Person shall, after the first public announcement of the adoption of this Agreement, become the Beneficial Owner of additional shares of Common Stock (other than pursuant to a dividend or distribution paid or made by the Company on the outstanding Common Stock or pursuant to a split or subdivision of the outstanding Common Stock), unless, upon becoming the Beneficial Owner of such additional shares of Common Stock, such Person is not then the Beneficial Owner of 20% or more of the shares of Common Stock then outstanding; and (iii) no Person shall become an Acquiring Person as the result of an acquisition of shares of Common Stock by the Company which, by reducing the number of shares outstanding, increases the proportionate number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by such Person to 20% or more of the shares of Common Stock then outstanding, *provided, however*, that if a Person shall become the Beneficial Owner of 20% or more of the shares of Common Stock then outstanding by reason of such share acquisitions by the Company and shall thereafter become the Beneficial Owner of any additional shares of Common Stock (other than pursuant to a dividend or distribution paid or made by the Company on the outstanding Common Stock or pursuant to a split or subdivision of the outstanding Common Stock), then such Person shall be deemed to be an Acquiring Person unless upon becoming the Beneficial Owner of such additional shares of Common Stock such Person does not beneficially own 20% or more of the shares of Common Stock then outstanding. For all purposes of this Agreement, any calculation of the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding at any particular time, including for purposes of determining the particular percentage of such outstanding shares of Common Stock of which any Person is the Beneficial Owner, shall be made in accordance with the last sentence of Rule 13d-3(d)(1)(i) of the General Rules and Regulations under the Exchange Act.

(b) Affiliate and Associate shall have the respective meanings ascribed to such terms in Rule 12b-2 of the General Rules and Regulations under the Exchange Act, as in effect on the date hereof.

(c) Agreement shall have the meaning set forth in the preamble hereof.

(d) A Person shall be deemed the Beneficial Owner of, shall be deemed to have Beneficial Ownership of and shall be deemed to beneficially own any securities:

(i) which such Person or any of such Person's Affiliates or Associates is deemed to beneficially own, directly or indirectly, within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 of the General Rules and Regulations under the Exchange Act as in effect on the date hereof;

(ii) which such Person or any of such Person's Affiliates or Associates has (A) the right to acquire (whether such right is exercisable immediately or only after the passage of time) pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding (other than customary agreements with and between underwriters and selling group members with respect to a bona fide public offering of securities), or upon the exercise of conversion rights, exchange rights, rights (other than the Rights), warrants or options, or otherwise; *provided, however,* that a Person shall not be deemed the Beneficial Owner of, or to beneficially own, (x) securities tendered pursuant to a tender or exchange offer made by or on behalf of such Person or any of such Person's Affiliates or Associates until such tendered securities are accepted for purchase, (y) securities which such Person has a right to acquire upon the exercise of Rights at any time prior to the time that any Person becomes an Acquiring Person or (z) securities issuable upon the exercise of Rights from and after the time that any Person becomes an Acquiring Person if such Rights were acquired by such Person or any of such Person's Affiliates or Associates prior to the Distribution Date or pursuant to Section 3(a) or Section 22 hereof ( Original Rights ) or pursuant to Section 11(i) or Section 11(n) with respect to an adjustment to Original Rights; or (B) the right to vote pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding; *provided, however,* that a Person shall not be deemed the Beneficial Owner of, or to beneficially own, any security by reason of such agreement, arrangement or understanding if the agreement, arrangement or understanding to vote such security (1) arises solely from a revocable proxy or consent given to such Person in response to a public proxy or consent solicitation made pursuant to, and in accordance with, the applicable rules and regulations promulgated under the Exchange Act and (2) is not also then reportable on Schedule 13D under the Exchange Act (or any comparable or successor report); or

(iii) which are beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by any other Person and with respect to which such Person or any of such Person's Affiliates or Associates has any agreement, arrangement or understanding (other than customary agreements with and between underwriters and selling group members with respect to a bona fide public offering of securities) for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting (except to the extent contemplated by the proviso to Section 1(c)(ii)(B)) or disposing of such securities of the Company; provided, however, that nothing in this definition of Beneficial Owner shall cause a Person engaged in business as an underwriter of securities to be the Beneficial Owner of, or to beneficially own, any securities acquired through such Person's participation in good faith in a firm commitment underwriting until the expiration of 40 days after the date of such acquisition, and then only if such securities continue to be owned by such Person at the expiration of such 40-day period. Notwithstanding anything in this definition of Beneficial Ownership to the contrary, the phrase then outstanding, when used with reference to a Person's Beneficial Ownership of securities of the Company, shall mean the number of such securities then issued and outstanding together with the number of such securities not then actually issued and outstanding that such Person would be deemed to own beneficially hereunder.

For purposes of this definition of Beneficial Owner, no Person who is an officer, director or employee of an Exempt Person shall be deemed, solely by reason of such Person's status or authority as such, to be the Beneficial Owner of, to have Beneficial Ownership of or to beneficially own any securities that are beneficially owned (as defined in this Section 1(d)), including, without limitation, in a fiduciary capacity, by an Exempt Person or by any other such officer, director or employee of an Exempt Person.

(e) Board shall mean the board of directors of the Company.

(f) Business Day shall mean any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in the State of Iowa or the city in which the principal office of the Rights Agent is located are authorized or obligated by law or executive order to close.

(g) Close of Business on any given date shall mean 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on such date; provided, however, that if such date is not a Business Day it shall mean 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on the next succeeding Business Day.

(h) Common Stock when used with reference to the Company shall mean the Common Stock, presently par value \$1.00 per share, of the Company. Common Stock when used with reference to any Person other than the Company shall mean the common stock (or, in the case of an unincorporated entity, the equivalent equity interest) with the greatest voting power of such other Person or, if such other Person is a Subsidiary of another Person, the Person or Persons which ultimately control such first-mentioned Person.

(i) Common Stock Equivalents shall have the meaning set forth in Section 11(a)(iii) hereof.

(j) Company shall have the meaning set forth in the preamble hereof.

(k) Current Value shall have the meaning set forth in Section 11(a)(iii) hereof.

(l) Definitive Acquisition Agreement shall mean any agreement entered into by the Company that is conditioned on the approval of the holders of not less than a majority of the outstanding Common Stock of the Company at a special meeting called for such purpose with respect to (i) a merger, consolidation, recapitalization, reorganization, share exchange, business combination or similar transaction involving the Company, or (ii) the acquisition in any manner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the consolidated total assets (including, without limitation, equity securities of its subsidiaries) of the Company.



- (m) Distribution Date shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3 hereof.
- (n) Effective Date shall have the meaning set forth in the recitals hereof.
- (o) Equivalent Preferred Shares shall have the meaning set forth in Section 11(b) hereof.
- (p) Exchange Act shall mean the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.
- (q) Exchange Ratio shall have the meaning set forth in Section 24 hereof.
- (r) Exemption Date shall have the meaning set forth in Section 23(b) hereof.
- (s) Exempt Person shall mean the Company or any Subsidiary (as such term is defined herein) of the Company, in each case including, without limitation, in its fiduciary capacity, or any employee benefit plan of the Company or of any Subsidiary of the Company, or any entity or trustee holding Common Stock for or pursuant to the terms of any such plan or for the purpose of funding any such plan or funding other employee benefits for employees of the Company or of any Subsidiary of the Company.
- (t) Expiration Date shall have the meaning set forth in Section 7 hereof.
- (u) Final Expiration Date shall have the meaning set forth in Section 7 hereof.
- (v) Flip-In Event shall have the meaning set forth in Section 11(a)(ii) hereof.
- (w) Nasdaq shall mean The Nasdaq Stock Market.
- (x) New York Stock Exchange shall mean the New York Stock Exchange, Inc.
- (y) Original Agreement shall have the meaning set forth in the preamble hereof.
- (z) Person shall mean any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, trust or other entity, and shall include any successor (by merger or otherwise) to such entity.
- (aa) Preferred Stock shall mean the Series B Junior Participating Preferred Stock, \$1.00 par value per share, of the Company having the rights and preferences set forth in the Form of Certificate of Designation attached to the Original Agreement as Exhibit A.
- (bb) Principal Party shall have the meaning set forth in Section 13(b) hereof.
- (cc) Purchase Price shall have the meaning set forth in Section 7(b) hereof.
- (dd) Qualifying Offer shall mean an offer determined by a majority of the Company's independent directors to have, to the extent required for the type of offer specified, each of the following characteristics:
  - (i) a fully financed all-cash tender offer for any and all of the then outstanding shares of Common Stock at the same per-share consideration;

(ii) an offer that has commenced within the meaning of Rule 14d-2(a) of the Exchange Act and is made by an offeror (including Affiliates and Associates thereof) that beneficially owns no more than 5% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock as of the date of such commencement;

(iii) an offer that is subject only to the minimum tender conditions described below in item (vi) of this definition and other customary terms and conditions, which conditions shall not include any financing, funding or similar conditions or any requirements with respect to the offeror or its agents being permitted any due diligence with respect to the books, records, management, accountants or any other outside advisor of the Company;

(iv) an offer pursuant to which the Company and its stockholders have received an irrevocable written commitment of the offeror that the offer will remain open for not less than 120 Business Days and, if a Special Meeting Demand is duly delivered to the Board in accordance with Section 23(b), for at least 10 Business Days after the date of the Special Meeting or, if no Special Meeting is held within the Special Meeting Period, for at least 10 Business Days following the last day of such Special Meeting Period (the "Qualifying Offer Period");

(v) an offer pursuant to which the Company has received an irrevocable written commitment by the offeror that, in addition to the minimum time periods specified in item (iv) of this definition, the offeror, if it is otherwise to expire prior thereto, will be extended for at least 15 Business Days after (i) any increase in the price offered or (ii) any bona fide alternative offer is commenced by another Person within the meaning of Rule 14d-2(a) of the Exchange Act; *provided, however*, that such offer need not remain open as a result of clauses (iv) and (v) of this definition beyond (x) the time which any other offer satisfying the criteria for a Qualifying Offer is then required to be kept open under such clauses (iv) and (v), (y) the expiration date, as such date may be extended by public announcement (with prompt written notice to the Rights Agent) in compliance with Rule 14e-1 of this Exchange Act, of any other tender offer for the Common Stock with respect to which the Board has agreed to redeem the Rights immediately prior to acceptance for payment of the shares of Common Stock thereunder (unless such other offer is terminated prior to its expiration without any Common Stock having been purchased thereunder) or (z) 1 Business Day after the stockholder vote with respect to approval of any Definitive Acquisition Agreement has been officially determined and certified by the inspectors of elections;

(vi) an offer that is conditioned on a minimum of at least a majority of the then outstanding shares of Common Stock on a fully-diluted basis being tendered and not withdrawn as of the offeror's expiration date, which condition shall not be waivable;

(vii) an offer pursuant to which the Company and its stockholders have received an irrevocable written commitment by the offeror to consummate as promptly as practicable upon successful completion of the offer a second step transaction whereby all of the Common Stock not tendered into the offer will be acquired at the same consideration per share actually paid pursuant to the offer, subject to the stockholder's statutory appraisal rights, if any; and

(viii) an offer pursuant to which the Company and its stockholders have received an irrevocable written commitment by the offeror that no amendments will be made to the offer to reduce the offer consideration, or otherwise change the terms of the offer in a way that is materially adverse to a tendering stockholder (other than extensions of the offer consistent with the terms thereof).

For purposes of this definition, fully financed shall mean that the offeror has sufficient funds for the offer and related expenses which shall be evidenced by (i) firm, unqualified, written commitments from responsible financial institutions having the necessary financial capacity, accepted by the offeror, to provide funds for such offer subject only to customary terms and conditions, (ii) cash or cash equivalents then available to the offeror, set apart and maintained solely for the purpose of funding the offer with an irrevocable written commitment being provided by the offeror to the Board to maintain such availability until the offer is consummated or withdrawn, or (iii) a combination of the foregoing, which evidence has been provided to the Company prior to, or upon, commencement of the offer. If an offer becomes a Qualifying Offer in accordance with this definition but subsequently ceases to be a Qualifying Offer as a result of the failure at a later date to continue to satisfy any of the requirements of this definition, such offer shall cease to be a Qualifying Offer and the provisions of Section 23(b) shall no longer be applicable to such offer.

- (ee) Qualifying Offer Period shall have the meaning set forth in subsection (iv) of the definition of Qualifying Offer.
- (ff) Qualifying Offer Resolution shall have the meaning set forth in Section 23(b).
- (gg) Record Date shall have the meaning set forth in the recitals hereof.
- (hh) Redemption Date shall have the meaning set forth in Section 7 hereof.
- (ii) Redemption Price shall have the meaning set forth in Section 23 hereof.
- (jj) Right shall have the meaning set forth in the recitals hereof.
- (kk) Rights Agent shall have the meaning set forth in the preamble hereof.
- (ll) Right Certificate shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3 hereof.
- (mm) Section 11(a)(ii) Trigger Date shall have the meaning set forth in Section 11(a)(iii) hereof.
- (nn) Securities Act shall mean the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- (oo) Special Meeting shall have the meaning set forth in Section 23(b) hereof.
- (pp) Special Meeting Date shall have the meaning set forth in Section 23(b) hereof.
- (qq) Special Meeting Demand shall have the meaning set forth in Section 23(b) hereof.
- (rr) Special Meeting Period shall have the meaning set forth in Section 23(b) hereof.
- (ss) Spread shall have the meaning set forth in Section 11(a)(iii) hereof.
- (tt) Stock Acquisition Date shall mean the first date of public announcement (which, for purposes of this definition, shall include, without limitation, a report filed or amended pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Exchange Act) by the Company or an Acquiring Person that an Acquiring Person has become such, or such earlier date as a majority of the Board shall become aware of the existence of an Acquiring Person.
- (uu) Subsidiary of any Person shall mean any corporation or other entity of which securities or other ownership interests having ordinary voting power sufficient to elect a majority of the board of directors or other persons performing similar functions are beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, by such Person, and any corporation or other entity that is otherwise controlled by such Person.

(vv) Substitution Period shall have the meaning set forth in Section 11(a)(iii) hereof.

(ww) Summary of Rights shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3 hereof.

(xx) Trading Day shall have the meaning set forth in Section 11(d)(i) hereof.

**Section 2. Appointment of Rights Agent.** The Company hereby appoints the Rights Agent to act as agent for the Company and the holders of the Rights (who, in accordance with Section 3 hereof, shall prior to the Distribution Date be the holders of Common Stock) in accordance with the terms and conditions hereof, and the Rights Agent hereby accepts such appointment. The Company may from time to time appoint such co-Rights Agents as it may deem necessary or desirable, and, upon acceptance of such appointment by a co-Rights Agent, the provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed also to apply to such co-Rights Agent. The Rights Agent shall have no duty to supervise and shall in no event be liable for, the acts or omission of any such co-Rights Agents.

**Section 3. Issue of Right Certificates.**

(a) Until the Close of Business on the earlier to occur of (i) the tenth day after the Stock Acquisition Date or (ii) the tenth Business Day (or such later date as may be determined by action of the Board prior to such time as any Person becomes an Acquiring Person) after the date of the commencement by any Person (other than an Exempt Person) of (or, if earlier, of the first public announcement of the intention of such Person (other than an Exempt Person) to commence) a tender or exchange offer the consummation of which would result in any Person (other than an Exempt Person) becoming the Beneficial Owner of shares of Common Stock aggregating 20% or more of the Common Stock then outstanding (the earlier of such dates being herein referred to as the Distribution Date; *provided, however*, that if either of such dates occurs after the date of this Agreement and on or prior to the Record Date, then the Distribution Date shall be the Record Date), (x) the Rights will be evidenced (subject to the provisions of Section 3(b) hereof) by the certificates for Common Stock registered in the names of the holders thereof and not by separate Right Certificates, and (y) the Rights will be transferable only in connection with the transfer of Common Stock. As soon as practicable after the Distribution Date, the Company will prepare and execute, the Rights Agent will countersign and the Company will send or cause to be sent (and the Rights Agent will, if requested, send) by first-class, insured, postage-prepaid mail, to each record holder of Common Stock as of the Close of Business on the Distribution Date (other than any Acquiring Person or any Associate or Affiliate of an Acquiring Person), at the address of such holder shown on the records of the Company, a Right Certificate, in substantially the form of Exhibit B to the Original Agreement, as amended by Exhibit A hereto (as amended, a Right Certificate), evidencing one Right (subject to adjustment as provided herein) for each share of Common Stock so held. As of and after the Distribution Date, the Rights will be evidenced solely by such Right Certificates.

(b) On the Record Date, the Company distributed a copy of a Summary of Rights to Purchase Shares of Preferred Stock, in substantially the form of Exhibit C to the Original Agreement (the Initial Summary of Rights), to each record holder of Common Stock as of the Close of Business on the Record Date, which summary has been amended as set forth on Exhibit B hereto (the Amended Summary of Rights and together with the Initial Summary of Rights, the Summary of Rights). On the Effective Date, or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, the Company will send a copy of the Amended Summary of Rights by first class, postage prepaid mail, to each record holder of Common Stock as of the Close of Business on the Effective Date (other than any Acquiring Person or any Associate or Affiliate of any Acquiring Person), at the address of such holder shown on the records of the Company. With respect to certificates for Common Stock outstanding as of the Record Date, until the Distribution Date, the Rights will be evidenced by such certificates registered in the names of the holders thereof together with the Summary of Rights. Until the Distribution Date (or, if earlier, the Expiration Date), the surrender for transfer of any certificate for Common Stock outstanding on the Record Date, with or without a copy of the Summary of Rights, shall also constitute the transfer of the Rights associated with the Common Stock represented thereby.

(c) Rights shall be issued in respect of all shares of Common Stock issued or disposed of (including, without limitation, upon disposition of Common Stock out of treasury stock or issuance or reissuance of Common Stock out of authorized but unissued shares) after the Record Date but prior to the earlier of the Distribution Date and the Expiration Date, or in certain circumstances provided in Section 22 hereof, after the Distribution Date. Certificates issued for Common Stock (including, without limitation, upon transfer of outstanding Common Stock, disposition of Common Stock out of treasury stock or issuance or reissuance of Common Stock out of authorized but unissued shares) after the Effective Date but prior to the earlier of the Distribution Date and the Expiration Date shall have impressed on, printed on, written on or otherwise affixed to them the following legend:

This certificate also evidences and entitles the holder hereof to certain Rights as set forth in an Amended and Restated Rights Agreement between QCR Holdings, Inc. (the Company) and Quad City Bank & Trust Company, as Rights Agent, dated as of March 7, 2013 and as amended from time to time (the Rights Agreement), the terms of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference and a copy of which is on file at the principal executive offices of the Company. Under certain circumstances, as set forth in the Rights Agreement, such Rights will be evidenced by separate certificates and will no longer be evidenced by this certificate. The Company will mail to the holder of this certificate a copy of the Rights Agreement without charge after receipt of a written request therefor. Under certain circumstances, as set forth in the Rights Agreement, Rights owned by or transferred to any Person who is or becomes an Acquiring Person (as defined in the Rights Agreement) and certain transferees thereof will become null and void and will no longer be transferable.

With respect to such certificates containing the foregoing legend, until the Distribution Date the Rights associated with the Common Stock represented by such certificates shall be evidenced by such certificates alone, and the surrender for transfer of any such certificate, except as otherwise provided herein, shall also constitute the transfer of the Rights associated with the Common Stock represented by such certificates. In the event that the Company purchases or otherwise acquires any Common Stock after the Record Date but prior to the Distribution Date, any Rights associated with such Common Stock shall be deemed canceled and retired so that the Company shall not be entitled to exercise any Rights associated with the Common Stock which are no longer outstanding.

Notwithstanding this paragraph (c), the omission of a legend or the failure to provide notice thereof shall not affect the enforceability of any part of this Agreement or the rights of any holder of the Rights.

**Section 4. Form of Right Certificates.** The Right Certificates (and the forms of election to purchase shares and of assignment to be printed on the reverse thereof) shall be substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit A hereto and may have such marks of identification or designation and such legends, summaries or endorsements printed thereon as the Company may deem appropriate and as are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement, or as may be required to comply with any applicable law or with any rule or regulation made pursuant thereto or with any rule or regulation of any stock exchange or interdealer quotation system on which the Rights may from time to time be listed or quoted, or to conform to usage. Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, the Right Certificates, whenever distributed, (i) shall be dated as of the Record Date; (ii) shall entitle the holders thereof to purchase such number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock as shall be set forth therein at the Purchase Price, but the number of such one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock; and (iii) the Purchase Price shall be subject to adjustment as provided herein.

**Section 5. Countersignature and Registration.**

(a) The Right Certificates shall be executed on behalf of the Company by the President of the Company, either manually or by facsimile signature, shall have affixed thereto the Company's seal or a facsimile thereof and shall be attested by the Secretary of the Company, either manually or by facsimile signature. The Right Certificates shall be manually countersigned by the Rights Agent and shall not be valid for any purpose unless countersigned. In case any officer of the Company who shall have signed any of the Right Certificates shall cease to be such officer of the Company before countersignature by the Rights Agent and issuance and delivery by the Company, such Right Certificates, nevertheless, may be countersigned by the Rights Agent and issued and delivered by the Company with the same force and effect as though the Person who signed such Right Certificates had not ceased to be such officer of the Company; and any Right Certificate may be signed on behalf of the Company by any Person who, at the actual date of the execution of such Right Certificate, shall be a proper officer of the Company to sign such Right Certificate, although at the date of the execution of this Agreement any such Person was not such an officer.

(b) Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this Agreement or the Rights to the contrary, the Company may, at its option, issue new Right Certificates evidencing Rights in such form as may be approved by the Board to reflect any adjustment or change in the Purchase Price and the number or kind of class of shares of stock issuable upon exercise of the Rights made in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

(c) Following the Distribution Date, the Rights Agent will keep or cause to be kept, at an office or agency designated for such purpose, books for registration and transfer of the Right Certificates issued hereunder. Such books shall show the names and addresses of the respective holders of the Right Certificates, the number of Rights evidenced on its face by each of the Right Certificates and the date of each of the Right Certificates.

**Section 6. Transfer, Split Up, Combination and Exchange of Right Certificates; Mutilated, Destroyed, Lost or Stolen Right Certificates.**

(a) Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, at any time after the Distribution Date and prior to the Expiration Date, any Right Certificate or Right Certificates may be transferred, split up, combined or exchanged for another Right Certificate or Right Certificates, entitling the registered holder to purchase a like number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock as the Right Certificate or Right Certificates surrendered then entitled such holder to purchase. Any registered holder desiring to transfer, split up, combine or exchange any Right Certificate or Right Certificates shall make such request in writing delivered to the Rights Agent, and shall surrender the Right Certificate or Right Certificates to be transferred, split up, combined or exchanged at the office or agency of the Rights Agent designated for such purpose. Thereupon the Rights Agent shall countersign and deliver to the Person entitled thereto a Right Certificate or Right Certificates, as the case may be, as so requested. As a condition to such transfer, division, combination or exchange, the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or governmental charge that may be imposed in connection with any transfer, split up, combination or exchange of Right Certificates. The Rights Agent shall have no duty or obligation to take any action under any section of this Agreement that requires the payment by a Right holder of applicable taxes and/or charges unless and until it is satisfied that all such taxes and/or charges have been paid.

(b) Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, at any time after the Distribution Date and prior to the Expiration Date, upon receipt by the Company and the Rights Agent of evidence reasonably satisfactory to them of the loss, theft, destruction or mutilation of a Right Certificate, and, in case of loss, theft or destruction, of indemnity or security reasonably satisfactory to them, and, at the Company's request, reimbursement to the Company and the Rights Agent of all reasonable expenses incidental thereto, and upon surrender to the Rights Agent and cancellation of the Right Certificate if mutilated, the Company will make and deliver a new Right Certificate of like tenor to the Rights Agent for delivery to the registered holder in lieu of the Right Certificate so lost, stolen, destroyed or mutilated.

**Section 7. Exercise of Rights, Purchase Price, Expiration Date of Rights.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided herein, the Rights shall become exercisable on the Distribution Date, and thereafter the registered holder of any Right Certificate may, subject to Section 11(a)(ii) hereof and except as otherwise provided herein, exercise the Rights evidenced thereby in whole or in part upon surrender of the Right Certificate, with the form of election to purchase on the reverse side thereof duly executed, to the Rights Agent at the office or agency of the Rights Agent designated for such purpose, together with payment of the aggregate Purchase Price with respect to the total number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock (or other securities, cash or other assets, as the case may be) as to which the Rights are exercised, at any time which is both after the Distribution Date and prior to the time that is the earliest of (i) the Close of Business on May 1, 2016 (the Final Expiration Date), (ii) the time at which the Rights are redeemed as provided in Section 23 hereof (the Redemption Date) or (iii) the time at which such Rights are exchanged as provided in Section 24 hereof (the earliest of (i)-(iii) being herein referred to as the Expiration Date).

(b) The Purchase Price shall be initially \$80.00 for each one one-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock purchasable upon the exercise of a Right. The Purchase Price and the number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock or other securities or property to be acquired upon exercise of a Right shall be subject to adjustment from time to time as provided in Sections 11 and 13 hereof and shall be payable in lawful money of the United States of America in accordance with paragraph (c) of this Section 7.

(c) Except as otherwise provided herein, upon receipt of a Right Certificate representing exercisable Rights, with the form of election to purchase duly executed, accompanied by payment of the aggregate Purchase Price for the shares of Preferred Stock to be purchased and an amount equal to any applicable transfer tax required to be paid by the holder of such Right Certificate in accordance with this Agreement, in cash or by certified check, cashier's check or money order payable to the order of the Company, the Rights Agent shall thereupon promptly (i) (A) requisition from any transfer agent for the Preferred Stock, or make available if the Rights Agent is the transfer agent for the Preferred Stock, certificates for the number of shares (or fractions thereof) of Preferred Stock to be purchased, and the Company hereby irrevocably authorizes its transfer agent to comply with all such requests, or (B) requisition from a depositary agent appointed by the Company depositary receipts representing interests in such number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock as are to be purchased (in which case certificates for the Preferred Stock represented by such receipts shall be deposited by the transfer agent with the depositary agent), and the Company hereby directs any such depositary agent to comply with such request, (ii) when appropriate, requisition from the Company the amount of cash to be paid in lieu of issuance of fractional shares in accordance with Section 14 hereof, (iii) promptly after receipt of such certificates or depositary receipts, cause the same to be delivered to or upon the order of the registered holder of such Right Certificate, registered in such name or names as may be designated by such holder and (iv) when appropriate, after receipt, promptly deliver such cash to or upon the order of the registered holder of such Right Certificate.

(d) Except as otherwise provided herein, in case the registered holder of any Right Certificate shall exercise less than all of the Rights evidenced thereby, a new Right Certificate evidencing Rights equivalent to the exercisable Rights remaining unexercised shall be issued by the Rights Agent to the registered holder of such Right Certificate or to such holder's duly authorized assigns, subject to the provisions of Section 14 hereof.

(e) Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, neither the Rights Agent nor the Company shall be obligated to undertake any action with respect to a registered holder of Rights upon the occurrence of any purported transfer or exercise of Rights pursuant to Section 6 hereof or this Section 7 unless such registered holder shall have (i) duly completed and signed the certificate contained in the form of assignment or form of election to purchase set forth on the reverse side of the Right Certificate surrendered for such transfer or exercise and (ii) provided such additional evidence of the identity of the Beneficial Owner (or such former or proposed Beneficial Owner) thereof, or such Beneficial Owner's Affiliates or Associates, as the Company or the Rights Agent shall reasonably request.

**Section 8. Cancellation and Destruction of Right Certificates.** All Right Certificates surrendered for the purpose of exercise, transfer, split up, combination, redemption or exchange shall, if surrendered to the Company or to any of its agents, be delivered to the Rights Agent for cancellation or in canceled form, or, if surrendered to the Rights Agent, shall be canceled by it, and no Right Certificates shall be issued in lieu thereof except as expressly permitted by any of the provisions of this Agreement. The Company shall deliver to the Rights Agent for cancellation and retirement, and the Rights Agent shall so cancel and retire, any other Right Certificate purchased or acquired by the Company otherwise than upon the exercise thereof. The Rights Agent shall deliver all canceled Right Certificates to the Company, or shall, at the written request of the Company, destroy such canceled Right Certificates, and in such case shall deliver a certificate of destruction thereof to the Company.

**Section 9. Availability of Shares of Preferred Stock.**

(a) The Company covenants and agrees that it will cause to be reserved and kept available out of its authorized and unissued shares of Preferred Stock or any shares of Preferred Stock held in its treasury, the number of shares of Preferred Stock that will be sufficient to permit the exercise in full of all outstanding Rights in accordance with this Agreement.

(b) So long as the shares of Preferred Stock (and, following the time that a Person becomes an Acquiring Person, shares of Common Stock) issuable upon the exercise of Rights may be listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange, or quoted on Nasdaq, the Company shall use its best efforts to cause, from and after such time as the Rights become exercisable, all shares reserved for such issuance to be listed or admitted to trading on such exchange, or quoted on Nasdaq, upon official notice of issuance upon such exercise.

(c) From and after such time as the Rights become exercisable, the Company shall use its best efforts, if then necessary to permit the issuance of shares of Preferred Stock upon the exercise of Rights, to register and qualify such shares of Preferred Stock under the Securities Act and any applicable state securities or Blue Sky laws (to the extent exemptions therefrom are not available), cause such registration statement and qualifications to become effective as soon as possible after such filing and keep such registration and qualifications effective (with a prospectus at all times meeting the requirements of the Securities Act) until the earlier of the date as of which the Rights are no longer exercisable for such securities and the Expiration Date. The Company may temporarily suspend, for a period of time not to exceed 90 days, the exercisability of the Rights in order to prepare and file a registration statement under the Securities Act and permit it to become effective. Upon any such suspension, the Company shall issue a public announcement stating that the exercisability of the Rights has been temporarily suspended, as well as a public announcement at such time as the suspension is no longer in effect. Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, the Rights shall not be exercisable in any jurisdiction unless the requisite qualification in such jurisdiction shall have been obtained and until a registration statement under the Securities Act shall have been declared effective, unless an exemption therefrom is available.



(d) The Company covenants and agrees that it will take all such action as may be necessary to ensure that all shares of Preferred Stock (and following the time that a Person becomes an Acquiring Person, shares of Common Stock and/or other securities) delivered upon exercise of Rights shall, at the time of delivery of the certificates therefor (subject to payment of the Purchase Price), be duly and validly authorized and issued and fully paid and nonassessable shares.

(e) The Company further covenants and agrees that it will pay when due and payable any and all federal and state transfer taxes and charges which may be payable in respect of the issuance or delivery of the Right Certificates or of any shares of Preferred Stock upon the exercise of Rights. The Company shall not, however, be required to pay any transfer tax which may be payable in respect of any transfer or delivery of Right Certificates to a Person other than, or the issuance or delivery of certificates or depositary receipts for the Preferred Stock in a name other than that of, the registered holder of the Right Certificate evidencing Rights surrendered for exercise or to issue or deliver any certificates or depositary receipts for Preferred Stock upon the exercise of any Rights until any such tax shall have been paid (any such tax being payable by that holder of such Right Certificate at the time of surrender) or until it has been established to the Company's reasonable satisfaction that no such tax is due.

**Section 10. Preferred Stock Record Date.** Each Person in whose name any certificate for Preferred Stock is issued upon the exercise of Rights shall for all purposes be deemed to have become the holder of record of the shares of Preferred Stock represented thereby on, and such certificate shall be dated, the date upon which the Right Certificate evidencing such Rights was duly surrendered and payment of the Purchase Price (and any applicable transfer taxes) was made; *provided, however,* that if the date of such surrender and payment is a date upon which the Preferred Stock transfer books of the Company are closed, such Person shall be deemed to have become the record holder of such shares on, and such certificate shall be dated, the next succeeding Business Day on which the Preferred Stock transfer books of the Company are open. Prior to the exercise of the Rights evidenced thereby, the holder of a Right Certificate shall not be entitled to any rights of a holder of Preferred Stock for which the Rights shall be exercisable, including, without limitation, the right to vote, to receive dividends or other distributions or to exercise any preemptive rights, if applicable, and shall not be entitled to receive any notice of any proceedings of the Company, except as provided herein.

**Section 11. Adjustment of Purchase Price, Number and Kind of Shares and Number of Rights.** The Purchase Price, the number of shares of Preferred Stock or other securities or property purchasable upon exercise of each Right and the number of Rights outstanding are subject to adjustment from time to time as provided in this Section 11.

(a) (i) In the event the Company shall at any time after the date of this Agreement (A) declare and pay a dividend on the Preferred Stock payable in shares of Preferred Stock, (B) subdivide the outstanding Preferred Stock, (C) combine the outstanding Preferred Stock into a smaller number of shares of Preferred Stock or (D) issue any shares of its capital stock in a reclassification of the Preferred Stock (including any such reclassification in connection with a consolidation or merger in which the Company is the continuing or surviving corporation), except as otherwise provided in this Section 11(a), the number and kind of shares of capital stock issuable upon exercise of a Right as of the record date for such dividend or the effective date of such subdivision, combination or reclassification shall be proportionately adjusted so that the holder of any Right exercised after such time shall be entitled to receive the aggregate number and kind of shares of capital stock which, if such Right had been exercised immediately prior to such date and at a time when the Preferred Stock transfer books of the Company were open, the holder would have owned upon such exercise and been entitled to receive by virtue of such dividend, subdivision, combination or reclassification.

(ii) Subject to Section 24 of this Agreement, in the event any Person becomes an Acquiring Person (the first occurrence of such event being referred to hereinafter as the Flip-In Event ), then (A) the Purchase Price shall be adjusted to be the Purchase Price in effect immediately prior to the Flip-In Event multiplied by the number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock for which a Right was exercisable immediately prior to such Flip-In Event, whether or not such Right was then exercisable, and (B) each holder of a Right, except as otherwise provided in this Section 11(a)(ii) and Section 11(a)(iii) hereof, shall thereafter have the right to receive, upon exercise thereof at a price equal to the Purchase Price (as so adjusted), in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and in lieu of shares of Preferred Stock, such number of shares of Common Stock as shall equal the result obtained by dividing the Purchase Price (as so adjusted) by 50% of the current per share market price of the Common Stock (determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) on the date of such Flip-In Event; *provided, however*, that the Purchase Price (as so adjusted) and the number of shares of Common Stock so receivable upon exercise of a Right shall, following the Flip-In Event, be subject to further adjustment as appropriate in accordance with Section 11(f) hereof. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, however, from and after the Flip-In Event, any Rights that are beneficially owned by (x) any Acquiring Person (or any Affiliate or Associate of any Acquiring Person), (y) a transferee of any Acquiring Person (or any such Affiliate or Associate) who becomes a transferee after the Flip-In Event or (z) a transferee of any Acquiring Person (or any such Affiliate or Associate) who became a transferee prior to or concurrently with the Flip-In Event pursuant to either (I) a transfer from the Acquiring Person to holders of its equity securities or to any Person with whom it has any continuing agreement, arrangement or understanding regarding the transferred Rights or (II) a transfer which the Board has determined is part of a plan, arrangement or understanding which has the purpose or effect of avoiding the provisions of this paragraph, and subsequent transferees of such Persons, shall be void without any further action and any holder of such Rights shall thereafter have no rights whatsoever with respect to such Rights under any provision of this Agreement. The Company shall use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the provisions of this Section 11(a)(ii) are complied with, but shall have no liability to any holder of Right Certificates or other Person as a result of its failure to make any determinations with respect to an Acquiring Person or its Affiliates, Associates or transferees hereunder. From and after the Flip-In Event, no Right Certificate shall be issued pursuant to Section 3 or Section 6 hereof that represents Rights that are or have become void pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph, and any Right Certificate delivered to the Rights Agent that represents Rights that are or have become void pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph shall be canceled. From and after the occurrence of an event specified in Section 13(a) hereof, any Rights that theretofore have not been exercised pursuant to this Section 11(a)(ii) shall thereafter be exercisable only in accordance with Section 13 and not pursuant to this Section 11(a)(ii).

(iii) The Company may at its option substitute for a share of Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of Rights in accordance with the foregoing subparagraph (ii) a number of shares of Preferred Stock or fraction thereof such that the current per share market price of one share of Preferred Stock multiplied by such number or fraction is equal to the current per share market price of one share of Common Stock. In the event that there shall not be sufficient shares of Common Stock issued but not outstanding or authorized but unissued to permit the exercise in full of the Rights in accordance with the foregoing subparagraph (ii), the Board shall, with respect to such deficiency, to the extent permitted by applicable law and any material agreements then in effect to which the Company is a party, (A) determine the excess (such excess, the Spread ) of (1) the value of the shares of Common Stock issuable upon the exercise of a Right in accordance with the foregoing subparagraph (ii) (the Current Value ) over (2) the Purchase Price (as adjusted in accordance with the foregoing subparagraph (ii)), and (B) with respect to each Right (other than Rights which have become void pursuant to the foregoing subparagraph (ii)), make adequate provision to substitute for the shares of Common Stock issuable in accordance with the foregoing subparagraph (ii) upon exercise of the Right and payment of the Purchase Price (as adjusted in accordance therewith), (1) cash, (2) a reduction in such Purchase Price, (3) shares of Preferred Stock or other equity securities of the Company (including, without limitation, shares or fractions of shares of preferred stock which, by virtue of having dividend, voting and liquidation rights substantially comparable to those of the shares of Common Stock, are deemed in good faith by the Board to have substantially the same value as the shares of Common Stock (such shares of Preferred Stock and shares or fractions of shares of preferred stock are hereinafter referred to as Common Stock Equivalents )), (4) debt securities of the Company, (5) other assets, or (6) any combination of the foregoing, having a value which, when added to the value of the shares of Common Stock issued upon exercise of such Right, shall have an aggregate value equal to the Current Value (less the amount of any reduction in such Purchase Price), where such aggregate value has been determined by the Board upon the advice of a nationally recognized investment banking firm selected in good faith by the Board; *provided, however*, that if the Company shall not make adequate provision to deliver value pursuant to clause (B) above within thirty (30) days following the Flip-In Event (the date of the Flip-In Event being the Section 11(a)(ii) Trigger Date ), then the Company shall be obligated to deliver, to the extent permitted by applicable law and any material agreements then in effect to which the Company is a party, upon the surrender for exercise of a Right and without requiring payment of such Purchase Price, shares of Common Stock (to the extent available), and then, if necessary, such number or fractions of shares of Preferred Stock (to the extent available) and then, if necessary, cash, which shares and/or cash have an aggregate value equal to the Spread. If, upon the occurrence of the Flip-In Event, the Board shall determine in good faith that it is likely that sufficient additional shares of Common Stock could be authorized for issuance upon exercise in full of the Rights, then, if the Board so elects, the thirty (30) day period set forth above may be extended to the extent necessary, but not more than ninety (90) days after the Section 11(a)(ii) Trigger Date, in order that the Company may seek stockholder approval for the authorization of such additional shares (such thirty (30) day period, as it may be extended, is herein called the Substitution Period ). To the extent that the Company determines that some action need be taken pursuant to the second and/or third sentence of this Section 11(a)(iii), the Company (x) shall provide, subject to Section 11(a)(ii) hereof and the last sentence of this Section 11(a)(iii) hereof, that such action shall apply uniformly to all outstanding Rights and (y) may suspend the exercisability of the Rights until the expiration of the Substitution Period in order to seek any authorization of additional shares and/or to decide the appropriate form of distribution to be made pursuant to such second sentence and to determine the value thereof. In the event of any such suspension, the Company shall issue a public announcement stating that the exercisability of the Rights has been temporarily suspended, as well as a public announcement at such time as the suspension is no longer in effect. For purposes of this Section 11(a)(iii), the value of the shares of Common Stock shall be the current per share market price (as determined pursuant to Section 11(d)(i)) on the Section 11(a)(ii) Trigger Date and the per share or fractional value of any Common Stock Equivalent shall be deemed to equal the current per share market price of the Common Stock. The Board may, but shall not be required to, establish procedures to allocate the right to receive shares of Common Stock upon the exercise of the Rights among holders of Rights pursuant to this Section 11(a)(iii).

(b) In case the Company shall fix a record date for the issuance of rights, options or warrants to all holders of Preferred Stock entitling them (for a period expiring within 45 calendar days after such record date) to subscribe for or purchase Preferred Stock (or shares having the same rights, privileges and preferences as the Preferred Stock ( Equivalent Preferred Shares )) or securities convertible into Preferred Stock or Equivalent Preferred Shares at a price per share of Preferred Stock or Equivalent Preferred Shares (or having a conversion price per share, if a security convertible into shares of Preferred Stock or Equivalent Preferred Shares) less than the then current per share market price of the Preferred Stock (determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) on such record date, the Purchase Price to be in effect after such record date shall be determined by multiplying the Purchase Price in effect immediately prior to such record date by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the number of shares of Preferred Stock and Equivalent Preferred Shares outstanding on such record date plus the number of shares of Preferred Stock and Equivalent Preferred Shares which the aggregate offering price of the total number of shares of Preferred Stock and/or Equivalent Preferred Shares so to be offered (and/or the aggregate initial conversion price of the convertible securities so to be offered) would purchase at such current market price, and the denominator of which shall be the number of shares of Preferred Stock and Equivalent Preferred Shares outstanding on such record date plus the number of additional shares of Preferred Stock and/or Equivalent Preferred Shares to be offered for subscription or purchase (or into which the convertible securities so to be offered are initially convertible); *provided, however*, that in no event shall the consideration to be paid upon the exercise of one Right be less than the aggregate par value of the shares of capital stock of the Company issuable upon exercise of one Right. In case such subscription price may be paid in a consideration part or all of which shall be in a form other than cash, the value of such consideration shall be as determined in good faith by the Board, whose determination shall be described in a statement filed with the Rights Agent. Shares of Preferred Stock and Equivalent Preferred Shares owned by or held for the account of the Company shall not be deemed outstanding for the purpose of any such computation. Such adjustment shall be made successively whenever such a record date is fixed; and in the event that such rights, options or warrants are not so issued, the Purchase Price shall be adjusted to be the Purchase Price which would then be in effect if such record date had not been fixed.

(c) In case the Company shall fix a record date for the making of a distribution to all holders of the Preferred Stock (including any such distribution made in connection with a consolidation or merger in which the Company is the continuing or surviving corporation) of evidences of indebtedness or assets (other than a regular quarterly cash dividend or a dividend payable in Preferred Stock) or subscription rights or warrants (excluding those referred to in Section 11(b) hereof), the Purchase Price to be in effect after such record date shall be determined by multiplying the Purchase Price in effect immediately prior to such record date by a fraction, the numerator of which shall be the then current per share market price of the Preferred Stock (determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) on such record date, less the fair market value (as determined in good faith by the Board whose determination shall be described in a statement filed with the Rights Agent) of the portion of the assets or evidences of indebtedness so to be distributed or of such subscription rights or warrants applicable to one share of Preferred Stock, and the denominator of which shall be such current per share market price (determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) of the Preferred Stock; *provided, however*, that in no event shall the consideration to be paid upon the exercise of one Right be less than the aggregate par value of the shares of capital stock of the Company to be issued upon exercise of one Right. Such adjustments shall be made successively whenever such a record date is fixed; and in the event that such distribution is not so made, the Purchase Price shall again be adjusted to be the Purchase Price which would then be in effect if such record date had not been fixed.

(d) (i) Except as otherwise provided herein, for the purpose of any computation hereunder, the current per share market price of any security (a Security for the purpose of this Section 11(d)(i)) on any date shall be deemed to be the average of the daily closing prices per share of such Security for the 30 consecutive Trading Days (as such term is defined herein) immediately prior to such date; *provided, however*, that in the event that the current per share market price of the Security is determined during a period following the announcement by the issuer of such Security of (A) a dividend or distribution on such Security payable in shares of such Security or securities convertible into such shares of such Security, or (B) any subdivision, combination or reclassification of such Security, and prior to the expiration of 30 Trading Days after the ex-dividend date for such dividend or distribution, or the record date for such subdivision, combination or reclassification, then, and in each such case, the current per share market price shall be appropriately adjusted to reflect the current market price per share equivalent of such Security. The closing price for each day shall be the last sale price, regular way, or, in case no such sale takes place on such day, the average of the closing bid and ask prices, regular way, in either case as reported by the principal consolidated transaction reporting system with respect to securities listed or admitted to trading on the New York Stock Exchange or, if the Security is not listed or admitted to trading on the New York Stock Exchange, as reported in the principal consolidated transaction reporting system with respect to securities listed on the principal national securities exchange on which the Security is listed or admitted to trading or, if the Security is not listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange, the last quoted price or, if not so quoted, the average of the high bid and low ask prices in the over-the-counter market, as reported by Nasdaq or such other system then in use, or, if on any such date the Security is not quoted by any such organization, the average of the closing bid and ask prices as furnished by a professional market maker making a market in the Security selected by the Board. The term Trading Day shall mean a day on which the principal national securities exchange on which the Security is listed or admitted to trading is open for the transaction of business or, if the Security is not listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange, a Business Day.

(ii) For the purpose of any computation hereunder, if the Preferred Stock is publicly traded, the current per share market price of the Preferred Stock shall be determined in accordance with the method set forth in Section 11(d)(i). If the Preferred Stock is not publicly traded but the Common Stock is publicly traded, the current per share market price of the Preferred Stock shall be conclusively deemed to be the current per share market price of the Common Stock as determined pursuant to Section 11(d)(i) multiplied by the then applicable Adjustment Number (as defined in and determined in accordance with the Certificate of Designation for the Preferred Stock). If neither the Common Stock nor the Preferred Stock is publicly traded, current per share market price shall mean the fair value per share as determined in good faith by the Board, whose determination shall be described in a written statement filed with the Rights Agent and shall be conclusive for all purposes.

(e) No adjustment in the Purchase Price shall be required unless such adjustment would require an increase or decrease of at least 1% in the Purchase Price; *provided, however*, that any adjustments which by reason of this Section 11(e) are not required to be made shall be carried forward and taken into account in any subsequent adjustment. All calculations under this Section 11 shall be made to the nearest cent or to the nearest one hundred-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock or one-hundredth of a share of Common Stock or other share or security as the case may be. Notwithstanding the first sentence of this Section 11(e), any adjustment required by this Section 11 shall be made no later than the earlier of (i) three years from the date of the transaction which requires such adjustment or (ii) the Expiration Date.

(f) If as a result of an adjustment made pursuant to Section 11(a) hereof, the holder of any Right thereafter exercised shall become entitled to receive any shares of capital stock of the Company other than the Preferred Stock, thereafter the Purchase Price and the number of such other shares so receivable upon exercise of a Right shall be subject to adjustment from time to time in a manner and on terms as nearly equivalent as practicable to the provisions with respect to the Preferred Stock contained in Sections 11(a), 11(b), 11(c), 11(e), 11(h), 11(i) and 11(m) hereof, as applicable, and the provisions of Sections 7, 9, 10, 13 and 14 hereof with respect to the Preferred Stock shall apply on like terms to any such other shares.

(g) All Rights originally issued by the Company subsequent to any adjustment made to the Purchase Price hereunder shall evidence the right to purchase, at the adjusted Purchase Price, the number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock purchasable from time to time hereunder upon exercise of the Rights, all subject to further adjustment as provided herein.

(h) Unless the Company shall have exercised its election as provided in Section 11(i), upon each adjustment of the Purchase Price as a result of the calculations made in Sections 11(b) and 11(c), each Right outstanding immediately prior to the making of such adjustment shall thereafter evidence the right to purchase, at the adjusted Purchase Price, that number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock (calculated to the nearest one hundred-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock) obtained by (i) multiplying (x) the number of one one-thousandths of a share purchasable upon the exercise of a Right immediately prior to such adjustment by (y) the Purchase Price in effect immediately prior to such adjustment and (ii) dividing the product so obtained by the Purchase Price in effect immediately after such adjustment.

(i) The Company may elect on or after the date of any adjustment of the Purchase Price pursuant to Sections 11(b) or 11(c) hereof to adjust the number of Rights, in substitution for any adjustment in the number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock purchasable upon the exercise of a Right. Each of the Rights outstanding after such adjustment of the number of Rights shall be exercisable for the number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock for which a Right was exercisable immediately prior to such adjustment. Each Right held of record prior to such adjustment of the number of Rights shall become that number of Rights (calculated to the nearest one-hundredth) obtained by dividing the Purchase Price in effect immediately prior to adjustment of the Purchase Price by the Purchase Price in effect immediately after adjustment of the Purchase Price. The Company shall make a public announcement of its election to adjust the number of Rights, indicating the record date for the adjustment, and, if known at the time, the amount of the adjustment to be made. Such record date may be the date on which the Purchase Price is adjusted or any day thereafter, but, if the Right Certificates have been issued, shall be at least 10 days later than the date of the public announcement. If Right Certificates have been issued, upon each adjustment of the number of Rights pursuant to this Section 11(i), the Company may, as promptly as practicable, cause to be distributed to holders of record of Right Certificates on such record date Right Certificates evidencing, subject to Section 14 hereof, the additional Rights to which such holders shall be entitled as a result of such adjustment, or, at the option of the Company, shall cause to be distributed to such holders of record in substitution and replacement for the Right Certificates held by such holders prior to the date of adjustment, and upon surrender thereof, if required by the Company, new Right Certificates evidencing all the Rights to which such holders shall be entitled after such adjustment. Right Certificates so to be distributed shall be issued, executed and countersigned in the manner provided for herein and shall be registered in the names of the holders of record of Right Certificates on the record date specified in the public announcement.

(j) Irrespective of any adjustment or change in the Purchase Price or the number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock issuable upon the exercise of a Right, the Right Certificates theretofore and thereafter issued may continue to express the Purchase Price and the number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock which were expressed in the initial Right Certificates issued hereunder.

(k) Before taking any action that would cause an adjustment reducing the Purchase Price below the then par value, if any, of the fraction of Preferred Stock or other shares of capital stock issuable upon exercise of a Right, the Company shall take any corporate action which may, in the opinion of its counsel, be necessary in order that the Company may validly and legally issue fully paid and nonassessable shares of Preferred Stock or other such shares at such adjusted Purchase Price.

(l) In any case in which this Section 11 shall require that an adjustment in the Purchase Price be made effective as of a record date for a specified event, the Company may elect to defer until the occurrence of such event issuing to the holder of any Right exercised after such record date the Preferred Stock and other capital stock or securities of the Company, if any, issuable upon such exercise over and above the Preferred Stock and other capital stock or securities of the Company, if any, issuable upon such exercise on the basis of the Purchase Price in effect prior to such adjustment; *provided, however*, that the Company shall deliver to such holder a due bill or other appropriate instrument evidencing such holder's right to receive such additional shares upon the occurrence of the event requiring such adjustment.

(m) Anything in this Section 11 to the contrary notwithstanding, the Company shall be entitled to make such adjustments in the Purchase Price, in addition to those adjustments expressly required by this Section 11, as and to the extent that it in its sole discretion shall determine to be advisable in order that any consolidation or subdivision of the Preferred Stock, issuance wholly for cash of any shares of Preferred Stock at less than the current market price, issuance wholly for cash of Preferred Stock or securities which by their terms are convertible into or exchangeable for Preferred Stock, dividends on Preferred Stock payable in shares of Preferred Stock or issuance of rights, options or warrants referred to hereinabove in Section 11(b), hereafter made by the Company to holders of its Preferred Stock shall not be taxable to such stockholders.

(n) Anything in this Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, in the event that at any time after the date of this Agreement and prior to the Distribution Date, the Company shall (i) declare and pay any dividend on the Common Stock payable in Common Stock or (ii) effect a subdivision, combination or consolidation of the Common Stock (by reclassification or otherwise than by payment of a dividend payable in Common Stock) into a greater or lesser number of shares of Common Stock, then, in each such case, the number of Rights associated with each share of Common Stock then outstanding, or issued or delivered thereafter, shall be proportionately adjusted so that the number of Rights thereafter associated with each share of Common Stock following any such event shall equal the result obtained by multiplying the number of Rights associated with each share of Common Stock immediately prior to such event by a fraction the numerator of which shall be the total number of shares of Common Stock outstanding immediately prior to the occurrence of the event and the denominator of which shall be the total number of shares of Common Stock outstanding immediately following the occurrence of such event.

(o) The Company agrees that, after the earlier of the Distribution Date or the Stock Acquisition Date, it will not, except as permitted by Sections 23, 24 or 27 hereof, take (or permit any Subsidiary to take) any action if at the time such action is taken it is reasonably foreseeable that such action will diminish substantially or eliminate the benefits intended to be afforded by the Rights.

**Section 12. Certificate of Adjusted Purchase Price or Number of Shares.** Whenever an adjustment is made as provided in Section 11 or 13 hereof, the Company shall promptly (a) prepare a certificate setting forth such adjustment, and a brief statement of the facts accounting for such adjustment, (b) file with the Rights Agent and with each transfer agent for the Common Stock and the Preferred Stock a copy of such certificate and (c) mail a brief summary thereof to each holder of a Right Certificate in accordance with Section 25 hereof (if so required under Section 25 hereof). The Rights Agent shall be fully protected in relying on any such certificate and on any adjustment therein contained and shall not be deemed to have knowledge of any such adjustment unless and until it shall have received such certificate.

**Section 13. Consolidation, Merger or Sale or Transfer of Assets or Earning Power.**

(a) In the event, directly or indirectly, at any time after the Flip-In Event (i) the Company shall consolidate with or shall merge into any other Person, (ii) any Person shall merge with and into the Company and the Company shall be the continuing or surviving corporation of such merger and, in connection with such merger, all or part of the Common Stock shall be changed into or exchanged for stock or other securities of any other Person (or of the Company) or cash or any other property, or (iii) the Company shall sell or otherwise transfer (or one or more of its Subsidiaries shall sell or otherwise transfer), in one or more transactions, assets or earning power aggregating 50% or more of the assets or earning power of the Company and its Subsidiaries (taken as a whole) to any other Person (other than the Company or one or more wholly-owned Subsidiaries of the Company), then upon the first occurrence of such event, proper provision shall be made so that: (A) each holder of a Right (other than Rights which have become void pursuant to Section 11(a)(ii) hereof) shall thereafter have the right to receive, upon the exercise thereof at the Purchase Price (as theretofore adjusted in accordance with Section 11(a)(ii) hereof), in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and in lieu of shares of Preferred Stock or Common Stock of the Company, such number of validly authorized and issued, fully paid, non-assessable and freely tradeable shares of Common Stock of the Principal Party (as such term is defined herein), not subject to any liens, encumbrances, rights of first refusal or other adverse claims, as shall equal the result obtained by dividing the Purchase Price (as theretofore adjusted in accordance with Section 11(a)(ii) hereof) by 50% of the current per share market price of the Common Stock of such Principal Party (determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) on the date of consummation of such consolidation, merger, sale or transfer; provided, however, that the Purchase Price (as theretofore adjusted in accordance with Section 11(a)(ii) hereof) and the number of shares of Common Stock of such Principal Party so receivable upon exercise of a Right shall be subject to further adjustment as appropriate in accordance with Section 11(f) hereof to reflect any events occurring in respect of the Common Stock of such Principal Party after the occurrence of such consolidation, merger, sale or transfer; (B) such Principal Party shall thereafter be liable for, and shall assume, by virtue of such consolidation, merger, sale or transfer, all the obligations and duties of the Company pursuant to this Agreement; (C) the term Company shall thereafter be deemed to refer to such Principal Party; and (D) such Principal Party shall take such steps (including, but not limited to, the reservation of a sufficient number of its shares of Common Stock in accordance with Section 9 hereof) in connection with such consummation of any such transaction as may be necessary to assure that the provisions hereof shall thereafter be applicable, as nearly as reasonably may be, in relation to the shares of its Common Stock thereafter deliverable upon the exercise of the Rights; provided that, upon the subsequent occurrence of any consolidation, merger, sale or transfer of assets or other extraordinary transaction in respect of such Principal Party, each holder of a Right shall thereupon be entitled to receive, upon exercise of a Right and payment of the Purchase Price as provided in this Section 13(a), such cash, shares, rights, warrants and other property which such holder would have been entitled to receive had such holder, at the time of such transaction, owned the Common Stock of the Principal Party receivable upon the exercise of a Right pursuant to this Section 13(a), and such Principal Party shall take such steps (including, but not limited to, reservation of shares of stock) as may be necessary to permit the subsequent exercise of the Rights in accordance with the terms hereof for such cash, shares, rights, warrants and other property.

(b) Principal Party shall mean:

(i) in the case of any transaction described in (i) or (ii) of the first sentence of Section 13(a) hereof: (A) the Person that is the issuer of the securities into which the shares of Common Stock are converted in such merger or consolidation, or, if there is more than one such issuer, the issuer the shares of Common Stock of which have the greatest aggregate market value of shares outstanding, or (B) if no securities are so issued, (x) the Person that is the other party to the merger, if such Person survives said merger, or, if there is more than one such Person, the Person the shares of Common Stock of which have the greatest aggregate market value of shares outstanding or (y) if the Person that is the other party to the merger does not survive the merger, the Person that does survive the merger (including the Company if it survives) or (z) the Person resulting from the consolidation; and

(ii) in the case of any transaction described in (iii) of the first sentence of Section 13(a) hereof, the Person that is the party receiving the greatest portion of the assets or earning power transferred pursuant to such transaction or transactions, or, if each Person that is a party to such transaction or transactions receives the same portion of the assets or earning power so transferred or if the Person receiving the greatest portion of the assets or earning power cannot be determined, whichever of such Persons is the issuer of Common Stock having the greatest aggregate market value of shares outstanding;



*provided, however*, that in any such case described in the foregoing clause (b)(i) or (b)(ii), if the Common Stock of such Person is not at such time or has not been continuously over the preceding 12-month period registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, then (1) if such Person is a direct or indirect Subsidiary of another Person the Common Stock of which is and has been so registered, the term *Principal Party* shall refer to such other Person, or (2) if such Person is a Subsidiary, directly or indirectly, of more than one Person, the Common Stock of all of which is and has been so registered, the term *Principal Party* shall refer to whichever of such Persons is the issuer of Common Stock having the greatest aggregate market value of shares outstanding, or (3) if such Person is owned, directly or indirectly, by a joint venture formed by two or more Persons that are not owned, directly or indirectly, by the same Person, the rules set forth in clauses (1) and (2) above shall apply to each of the owners having an interest in the venture as if the Person owned by the joint venture was a Subsidiary of both or all of such joint venturers, and the *Principal Party* in each such case shall bear the obligations set forth in this Section 13 in the same ratio as its interest in such Person bears to the total of such interests.

(c) The Company shall not consummate any consolidation, merger, sale or transfer referred to in Section 13(a) hereof unless prior thereto the Company and the *Principal Party* involved therein shall have executed and delivered to the Rights Agent an agreement confirming that the requirements of Sections 13(a) and (b) hereof shall promptly be performed in accordance with their terms and that such consolidation, merger, sale or transfer of assets shall not result in a default by the *Principal Party* under this Agreement as the same shall have been assumed by the *Principal Party* pursuant to Sections 13(a) and (b) hereof and providing that, as soon as practicable after executing such agreement pursuant to this Section 13, the *Principal Party* will:

- (i) prepare and file a registration statement under the Securities Act, if necessary, with respect to the Rights and the securities purchasable upon exercise of the Rights on an appropriate form, use its best efforts to cause such registration statement to become effective as soon as practicable after such filing and use its best efforts to cause such registration statement to remain effective (with a prospectus at all times meeting the requirements of the Securities Act) until the Expiration Date and similarly comply with applicable state securities laws;
- (ii) use its best efforts, if the Common Stock of the *Principal Party* shall be listed or admitted to trading on the New York Stock Exchange or on another national securities exchange, to list or admit to trading (or continue the listing of) the Rights and the securities purchasable upon exercise of the Rights on the New York Stock Exchange or such securities exchange, or, if the Common Stock of the *Principal Party* shall not be listed or admitted to trading on the New York Stock Exchange or a national securities exchange, to cause the Rights and the securities receivable upon exercise of the Rights to be authorized for quotation on Nasdaq or on such other system then in use;
- (iii) deliver to holders of the Rights historical financial statements for the *Principal Party* which comply in all respects with the requirements for registration on Form 10 (or any successor form) under the Exchange Act; and
- (iv) obtain waivers of any rights of first refusal or preemptive rights in respect of the Common Stock of the *Principal Party* subject to purchase upon exercise of outstanding Rights.

(d) In case the Principal Party has a provision in any of its authorized securities or in its certificate of incorporation or by-laws or other instrument governing its affairs, which provision would have the effect of (i) causing such Principal Party to issue (other than to holders of Rights pursuant to this Section 13), in connection with, or as a consequence of, the consummation of a transaction referred to in this Section 13, shares of Common Stock or Common Stock Equivalents of such Principal Party at less than the then current market price per share thereof (determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) or securities exercisable for, or convertible into, Common Stock or Common Stock Equivalents of such Principal Party at less than such then current market price, or (ii) providing for any special payment, tax or similar provision in connection with the issuance of the Common Stock of such Principal Party pursuant to the provisions of Section 13, then, in such event, the Company hereby agrees with each holder of Rights that it shall not consummate any such transaction unless prior thereto the Company and such Principal Party shall have executed and delivered to the Rights Agent a supplemental agreement providing that the provision in question of such Principal Party shall have been canceled, waived or amended, or that the authorized securities shall be redeemed, so that the applicable provision will have no effect in connection with, or as a consequence of, the consummation of the proposed transaction.

(e) The Company covenants and agrees that it shall not, at any time after the Flip-In Event, enter into any transaction of the type described in clauses (i) through (iii) of Section 13(a) hereof if (i) at the time of or immediately after such consolidation, merger, sale, transfer or other transaction there are any rights, warrants or other instruments or securities outstanding or agreements in effect which would substantially diminish or otherwise eliminate the benefits intended to be afforded by the Rights, (ii) prior to, simultaneously with or immediately after such consolidation, merger, sale, transfer or other transaction, the stockholders of the Person who constitutes, or would constitute, the Principal Party for purposes of Section 13(b) hereof shall have received a distribution of Rights previously owned by such Person or any of its Affiliates or Associates or (iii) the form or nature of organization of the Principal Party would preclude or limit the exercisability of the Rights.

**Section 14. Fractional Rights and Fractional Shares.**

(a) The Company shall not be required to issue fractions of Rights (except prior to the Distribution Date in accordance with Section 11(n) hereof) or to distribute Right Certificates which evidence fractional Rights. In lieu of such fractional Rights, there shall be paid to the registered holders of the Right Certificates with regard to which such fractional Rights would otherwise be issuable, an amount in cash equal to the same fraction of the current market value of a whole Right. For the purposes of this Section 14(a), the current market value of a whole Right shall be the closing price of the Rights for the Trading Day immediately prior to the date on which such fractional Rights would have been otherwise issuable. The closing price for any day shall be the last sale price, regular way, or, in case no such sale takes place on such day, the average of the closing bid and ask prices, regular way, in either case as reported in the principal consolidated transaction reporting system with respect to securities listed or admitted to trading on the New York Stock Exchange or, if the Rights are not listed or admitted to trading on the New York Stock Exchange, as reported in the principal consolidated transaction reporting system with respect to securities listed on the principal national securities exchange on which the Rights are listed or admitted to trading or, if the Rights are not listed or admitted to trading on any national securities exchange, the last quoted price or, if not so quoted, the average of the high bid and low ask prices on Nasdaq or in the over-the-counter market, as reported by Nasdaq or such other system then in use or, if on any such date the Rights are not quoted by any such organization, the average of the closing bid and ask prices as furnished by a professional market maker making a market in the Rights selected by the Board. If on any such date, no such market maker is making a market in the Rights, the fair market value of the Rights on such date as determined in good faith by the Board shall be used.

(b) The Company shall not be required to issue fractions of Preferred Stock (other than fractions which are integral multiples of one one-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock) or to distribute certificates which evidence fractional shares of Preferred Stock (other than fractions which are integral multiples of one one-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock) upon the exercise or exchange of Rights. Interests in fractions of Preferred Stock in integral multiples of one one-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock may, at the election of the Company, be evidenced by depositary receipts, pursuant to an appropriate agreement between the Company and a depositary selected by it; provided, that such agreement shall provide that the holders of such depositary receipts shall have all the rights, privileges and preferences to which they are entitled as beneficial owners of the Preferred Stock represented by such depositary receipts. In lieu of fractional shares of Preferred Stock that are not integral multiples of one one-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock, the Company shall pay to the registered holders of Right Certificates at the time such Rights are exercised or exchanged as herein provided an amount in cash equal to the same fraction of the current market value of a whole share of Preferred Stock (as determined in accordance with Section 14(a) hereof) for the Trading Day immediately prior to the date of such exercise or exchange.

(c) The Company shall not be required to issue fractions of shares of Common Stock or to distribute certificates which evidence fractional shares of Common Stock upon the exercise or exchange of Rights. In lieu of such fractional shares of Common Stock, the Company shall pay to the registered holders of the Right Certificates with regard to which such fractional shares of Common Stock would otherwise be issuable an amount in cash equal to the same fraction of the current market value of a whole share of Common Stock (as determined in accordance with Section 14(a) hereof) for the Trading Day immediately prior to the date of such exercise or exchange.

(d) The holder of a Right by the acceptance of the Right expressly waives such holder's right to receive any fractional Rights or any fractional shares upon exercise or exchange of a Right (except as provided above).

**Section 15. Rights of Action.** All rights of action in respect of this Agreement, excepting the rights of action given to the Rights Agent under Section 18 hereof, are vested in the respective registered holders of the Right Certificates (and, prior to the Distribution Date, the registered holders of the Common Stock); and any registered holder of any Right Certificate (or, prior to the Distribution Date, of the Common Stock), without the consent of the Rights Agent or of the holder of any other Right Certificate (or, prior to the Distribution Date, of the Common Stock), on such holder's own behalf and benefit, may enforce, and may institute and maintain any suit, action or proceeding against the Company to enforce, or otherwise act in respect of, such holder's right to exercise the Rights evidenced by such Right Certificate (or, prior to the Distribution Date, such Common Stock) in the manner provided therein and in this Agreement. Without limiting the foregoing or any remedies available to the holders of Rights, it is specifically acknowledged that the holders of Rights would not have an adequate remedy at law for any breach of this Agreement and will be entitled to specific performance of the obligations under, and injunctive relief against actual or threatened violations of, the obligations of any Person subject to this Agreement.

**Section 16. Agreement of Right Holders.** Every holder of a Right, by accepting the same, consents and agrees with the Company and the Rights Agent and with every other holder of a Right that:

(a) prior to the Distribution Date, the Rights will be transferable only in connection with the transfer of the Common Stock;

(b) after the Distribution Date, the Right Certificates are transferable only on the registry books of the Rights Agent if surrendered at the office or agency of the Rights Agent designated for such purpose, duly endorsed or accompanied by a proper instrument of transfer; and

(c) the Company and the Rights Agent may deem and treat the Person in whose name the Right Certificate (or, prior to the Distribution Date, the associated Common Stock certificate) is registered as the absolute owner thereof and of the Rights evidenced thereby (notwithstanding any notations of ownership or writing on the Right Certificates or the associated Common Stock certificate made by anyone other than the Company or the Rights Agent) for all purposes whatsoever, and neither the Company nor the Rights Agent, subject to Section 7(e) hereof, shall be affected by any notice to the contrary.

(d) Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, neither the Company nor the Rights Agent shall have any liability to any holder of a Right or other Person as a result of the Company's or the Rights Agent's inability to perform any of their respective obligations under this Agreement by reason of any preliminary or permanent injunction or other order, judgment, decree or ruling (whether interlocutory or final) issued by a court or by a governmental, regulatory, self-regulatory or administrative agency or commission, or any statute, rule regulation or executive order promulgated or enacted by any governmental authority, prohibiting or otherwise restraining performance of such obligation.

**Section 17. Right Certificate Holder Not Deemed a Stockholder.** No holder, as such, of any Right Certificate shall be entitled to vote, receive dividends or be deemed for any purpose the holder of the Preferred Stock or any other securities of the Company which may at any time be issuable on the exercise or exchange of the Rights represented thereby, nor shall anything contained herein or in any Right Certificate be construed to confer upon the holder of any Right Certificate, as such, any of the rights of a stockholder of the Company or any right to vote for the election of directors or upon any matter submitted to stockholders at any meeting thereof, or to give or withhold consent to any corporate action, or to receive notice of meetings or other actions affecting stockholders (except as provided in this Agreement), or to receive dividends or subscription rights, or otherwise, until the Rights evidenced by such Right Certificate shall have been exercised or exchanged in accordance with the provisions hereof.

**Section 18. Concerning the Rights Agent.**

(a) The Company agrees to pay to the Rights Agent reasonable compensation for all services rendered by it hereunder and, from time to time, on demand of the Rights Agent, its reasonable expenses and counsel fees and other disbursements incurred in the administration and execution of this Agreement and the exercise and performance of its duties hereunder. The Company also agrees to indemnify the Rights Agent for, and to hold it harmless against, any loss, liability or expense, incurred without negligence, bad faith or willful misconduct on the part of the Rights Agent, for anything done or omitted by the Rights Agent in connection with the acceptance and administration of this Agreement, including the costs and expenses of defending against any claim of liability arising therefrom, directly or indirectly.

(b) The Rights Agent shall be protected and shall incur no liability for, or in respect of any action taken, suffered or omitted by it in connection with, its administration of this Agreement in reliance upon any Right Certificate or certificate for the Preferred Stock or Common Stock or for other securities of the Company, instrument of assignment or transfer, power of attorney, endorsement, affidavit, letter, notice, direction, consent, certificate, statement or other paper or document believed by it to be genuine and to be signed, executed and, where necessary, verified or acknowledged, by the proper Person or Persons, or otherwise upon the advice of counsel as set forth in Section 20 hereof.

**Section 19. Merger or Consolidation or Change of Name of Rights Agent.**

(a) Any corporation into which the Rights Agent or any successor Rights Agent may be merged or with which it may be consolidated, or any corporation resulting from any merger or consolidation to which the Rights Agent or any successor Rights Agent shall be a party, or any corporation succeeding to the stock transfer or corporate trust powers of the Rights Agent or any successor Rights Agent, shall be the successor to the Rights Agent under this Agreement without the execution or filing of any paper or any further act on the part of any of the parties hereto; provided, that such corporation would be eligible for appointment as a successor Rights Agent under the provisions of Section 21 hereof. In case at the time such successor Rights Agent shall succeed to the agency created by this Agreement, any of the Right Certificates shall have been countersigned but not delivered, any such successor Rights Agent may adopt the countersignature of the predecessor Rights Agent and deliver such Right Certificates so countersigned; and in case at that time any of the Right Certificates shall not have been countersigned, any successor Rights Agent may countersign such Right Certificates either in the name of the predecessor Rights Agent or in the name of the successor Rights Agent; and in all such cases such Right Certificates shall have the full force provided in the Right Certificates and in this Agreement.

(b) In case at any time the name of the Rights Agent shall be changed and at such time any of the Right Certificates shall have been countersigned but not delivered, the Rights Agent may adopt the countersignature under its prior name and deliver Right Certificates so countersigned; and in case at that time any of the Right Certificates shall not have been countersigned, the Rights Agent may countersign such Right Certificates either in its prior name or in its changed name and in all such cases such Right Certificates shall have the full force provided in the Right Certificates and in this Agreement.

**Section 20. Duties of Rights Agent.** The Rights Agent undertakes the duties and obligations imposed by this Agreement upon the following terms and conditions, by all of which the Company and the holders of Right Certificates, by their acceptance thereof, shall be bound:

(a) The Rights Agent may consult with legal counsel (who may be legal counsel for the Company), and the opinion of such counsel shall be full and complete authorization and protection to the Rights Agent as to any action taken or omitted by it in good faith and in accordance with such opinion.

(b) Whenever in the performance of its duties under this Agreement the Rights Agent shall deem it necessary or desirable that any fact or matter be proved or established by the Company prior to taking or suffering any action hereunder, such fact or matter (unless other evidence in respect thereof be herein specifically prescribed) may be deemed to be conclusively proved and established by a certificate signed by the President and the Secretary of the Company and delivered to the Rights Agent; and such certificate shall be full authorization to the Rights Agent for any action taken or suffered in good faith by it under the provisions of this Agreement in reliance upon such certificate.

(c) The Rights Agent shall be liable hereunder to the Company and any other Person only for its own negligence, bad faith or willful misconduct.

(d) The Rights Agent shall not be liable for or by reason of any of the statements of fact or recitals contained in this Agreement or in the Right Certificates (except its countersignature thereof) or be required to verify the same, but all such statements and recitals are and shall be deemed to have been made by the Company only.

(e) The Rights Agent shall not be under any responsibility in respect of the validity of this Agreement or the execution and delivery hereof (except the due execution hereof by the Rights Agent) or in respect of the validity or execution of any Right Certificate (except its countersignature thereof); nor shall it be responsible for any breach by the Company of any covenant or condition contained in this Agreement or in any Right Certificate; nor shall it be responsible for any change in the exercisability of the Rights (including the Rights becoming void pursuant to Section 11(a)(ii) hereof) or any adjustment in the terms of the Rights provided for in Sections 3, 11, 13, 23 and 24, or the ascertaining of the existence of facts that would require any such change or adjustment (except with respect to the exercise of Rights evidenced by Right Certificates after receipt of a certificate furnished pursuant to Section 12, describing such change or adjustment); nor shall it by any act hereunder be deemed to make any representation or warranty as to the authorization or reservation of any shares of Preferred Stock or other securities to be issued pursuant to this Agreement or any Right Certificate or as to whether any shares of Preferred Stock or other securities will, when issued, be validly authorized and issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

(f) The Company agrees that it will perform, execute, acknowledge and deliver or cause to be performed, executed, acknowledged and delivered all such further and other acts, instruments and assurances as may reasonably be required by the Rights Agent for the carrying out or performing by the Rights Agent of the provisions of this Agreement.

(g) The Rights Agent is hereby authorized and directed to accept instructions with respect to the performance of its duties hereunder from any person reasonably believed by the Rights Agent to be one of the President or the Secretary of the Company, and to apply to such officers for advice or instructions in connection with its duties, and it shall not be liable for any action taken or suffered by it in good faith in accordance with instructions of any such officer or for any delay in acting while waiting for those instructions. Any application by the Rights Agent for written instructions from the Company may, at the option of the Rights Agent, set forth in writing any action proposed to be taken or omitted by the Rights Agent under this Agreement and the date on and/or after which such action shall be taken or such omission shall be effective. The Rights Agent shall not be liable for any action taken by, or omission of, the Rights Agent in accordance with a proposal included in any such application on or after the date specified in such application (which date shall not be less than five Business Days after the date any officer of the Company actually receives such application unless any such officer shall have consented in writing to an earlier date) unless, prior to taking any such action (or the effective date in the case of an omission), the Rights Agent shall have received written instructions in response to such application specifying the action to be taken or omitted.

(h) The Rights Agent and any stockholder, director, officer or employee of the Rights Agent may buy, sell or deal in any of the Rights or other securities of the Company or become pecuniarily interested in any transaction in which the Company may be interested, or contract with or lend money to the Company or otherwise act as fully and freely as though it were not Rights Agent under this Agreement. Nothing herein shall preclude the Rights Agent from acting in any other capacity for the Company or for any other legal entity.

(i) The Rights Agent may execute and exercise any of the rights or powers hereby vested in it or perform any duty hereunder either itself or by or through its attorneys or agents, and the Rights Agent shall not be answerable or accountable for any act, default, neglect or misconduct of any such attorneys or agents or for any loss to the Company resulting from any such act, default, neglect or misconduct, provided reasonable care was exercised in the selection and continued employment thereof.

(j) If, with respect to any Right Certificate surrendered to the Rights Agent for exercise or transfer, the certificate contained in the form of assignment or the form of election to purchase set forth on the reverse thereof, as the case may be, has not been completed to certify the holder is not an Acquiring Person (or an Affiliate or Associate thereof) or a transferee thereof, the Rights Agent shall not take any further action with respect to such requested exercise or transfer without first consulting with the Company.

**Section 21. Change of Rights Agent.** The Rights Agent or any successor Rights Agent may resign and be discharged from its duties under this Agreement upon 30 days' notice in writing mailed to the Company and to each transfer agent for the Common Stock or Preferred Stock by registered or certified mail, and, following the Distribution Date, to the holders of the Right Certificates by first-class mail. The Company may remove the Rights Agent or any successor Rights Agent upon 30 days' notice in writing, mailed to the Rights Agent or successor Rights Agent, as the case may be, and to each transfer agent for the Common Stock or Preferred Stock by registered or certified mail, and, following the Distribution Date, to the holders of the Right Certificates by first-class mail. If the Rights Agent shall resign or be removed or shall otherwise become incapable of acting, the Company shall appoint a successor to the Rights Agent. If the Company shall fail to make such appointment within a period of 30 days after giving notice of such removal or after it has been notified in writing of such resignation or incapacity by the resigning or incapacitated Rights Agent or by the holder of a Right Certificate (who shall, with such notice, submit such holder's Right Certificate for inspection by the Company), then the registered holder of any Right Certificate may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a new Rights Agent. Any successor Rights Agent, whether appointed by the Company or by such a court, shall be a corporation organized and doing business under the laws of the United States or the laws of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia, in good standing, having an office in the State of Illinois or the State of New York, which is authorized under such laws to exercise corporate trust or stock transfer powers and is subject to supervision or examination by federal or state authority and which has at the time of its appointment as Rights Agent a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50 million. After appointment, the successor Rights Agent shall be vested with the same powers, rights, duties and responsibilities as if it had been originally named as Rights Agent without further act or deed; but the predecessor Rights Agent shall deliver and transfer to the successor Rights Agent any property at the time held by it hereunder, and execute and deliver any further assurance, conveyance, act or deed necessary for the purpose. Not later than the effective date of any such appointment the Company shall file notice thereof in writing with the predecessor Rights Agent and each transfer agent for the Common Stock or Preferred Stock, and, following the Distribution Date, mail a notice thereof in writing to the registered holders of the Right Certificates. Failure to give any notice provided for in this Section 21, however, or any defect therein, shall not affect the legality or validity of the resignation or removal of the Rights Agent or the appointment of the successor Rights Agent, as the case may be.

**Section 22. Issuance of New Right Certificates.** Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this Agreement or of the Rights to the contrary, the Company may, at its option, issue new Right Certificates evidencing Rights in such form as may be approved by the Board to reflect any adjustment or change in the Purchase Price and the number or kind or class of shares or other securities or property purchasable under the Right Certificates made in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. In addition, in connection with the issuance or sale of Common Stock following the Distribution Date and prior to the Expiration Date, the Company may with respect to shares of Common Stock so issued or sold pursuant to (i) the exercise of stock options, (ii) under any employee plan or arrangement, (iii) upon the exercise, conversion or exchange of securities, notes or debentures issued by the Company or (iv) a contractual obligation of the Company, in each case existing prior to the Distribution Date, issue Right Certificates representing the appropriate number of Rights in connection with such issuance or sale.

**Section 23. Redemption.**

(a) The Board may, at any time prior to the Flip-In Event, redeem all but not less than all the then outstanding Rights at a redemption price of \$0.01 per Right, appropriately adjusted to reflect any stock split, stock dividend or similar transaction occurring in respect of the Common Stock after the date hereof (the redemption price being hereinafter referred to as the "Redemption Price"). The redemption of the Rights may be made effective at such time, on such basis and with such conditions as the Board in its sole discretion may establish. The Redemption Price shall be payable, at the option of the Company, in cash, shares of Common Stock, or such other form of consideration as the Board shall determine.

(b) In the event the Company receives a Qualifying Offer and the Board has not redeemed the outstanding Rights or exempted such offer from this Agreement or called a special meeting of stockholders by the end of the 90 Business Days following the commencement (or, if later, the first existence) of a Qualifying Offer, for the purpose of voting on whether or not to exempt such Qualifying Offer from the terms of this Agreement, holders of record (or their duly authorized proxy) of at least 10% of the Common Stock then outstanding may submit to the Board, not earlier than 90 Business Days nor later than 120 Business Days following the commencement (or, if later, the first existence) of such Qualifying Offer, a written demand complying with the terms of this Section 23(b) (the Special Meeting Demand ) directing the Board to submit to a vote of stockholders at a special meeting of the stockholders of the Company (a Special Meeting ) a resolution exempting such Qualifying Offer from the provisions of this Agreement (the Qualifying Offer Resolution ). For purposes of a Special Meeting Demand, the record date for determining holders of record eligible to make a Special Meeting Demand shall be the 90th Business Day following commencement (or, if later, the first existence) of a Qualifying Offer. The Board shall take such actions as are necessary or desirable to cause the Qualifying Offer Resolution to be so submitted to a vote at the Special Meeting to be convened within 90 Business Days following the Special Meeting Demand; *provided, however,* that if the Company at any time during the Special Meeting Period and prior to a vote on the Qualifying Offer Resolution enters into a Definitive Acquisition Agreement, the Special Meeting Period may be extended (and any Special Meeting called in connection therewith may be cancelled) if the Qualifying Offer Resolution will be separately submitted to a vote at the same meeting as the Definitive Acquisition Agreement (the Special Meeting Period ). A Special Meeting Demand must be delivered to the Secretary of the Company at the principal executive offices of the Company and must set forth, as to the stockholders of record making the request, (i) the names and addresses of such stockholders as they appear on the Company's books and records, (ii) the class and number of Common Stock which are owned by each of such stockholders and (iii) in the case of Common Stock that is owned beneficially by another Person, an executed certification by the holder of record that such holder has executed such Special Meeting Demand only after obtaining instructions to do so from such beneficial owner and attaching evidence thereof. Subject to the requirements of applicable law, the Board may take a position in favor of or opposed to the adoption of the Qualifying Offer Resolution or no position with respect thereto, as it determines to be appropriate in the exercise of its duties. In the event that no Person has become an Acquiring Person prior to the redemption date referred to in this Section 23(b), and the Qualifying Offer continues to be a Qualifying Offer and either (y) the Special Meeting is not convened on or prior to the last day of the Special Meeting Period (the Outside Meeting Date ) or (z) if, at the Special Meeting at which a quorum is present, a majority of the holders of Common Stock present or represented by proxy at the Special Meeting and entitled to vote thereon as of the record date for the Special Meeting shall vote in favor of the Qualifying Offer Resolution, then the Qualifying Offer shall be deemed exempt from the application of this Agreement so long as it remains a Qualifying Offer. Such exemption shall be effective on the Close of Business on the tenth Business Day after (a) the Outside Meeting Date or (b) the date on which the results of the vote on the Qualifying Offer Resolution at the Special Meeting are certified as official by the appointed inspectors of election for the Special Meeting, as the case may be (the Exemption Date ). Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, no vote by stockholders not in compliance with the provisions of this Section 23(b) shall serve to exempt any offer from the terms of this Agreement.

(c) Immediately upon the action of the Board ordering the redemption of the Rights pursuant to paragraph (a) of this Section 23 (or at such later time as the Board may establish for the effectiveness of such redemption), and without any further action and without any notice, the right to exercise the Rights will terminate and the only right thereafter of the holders of Rights shall be to receive the Redemption Price. The Company shall promptly give public notice of any such redemption; *provided, however,* that the failure to give, or any defect in, any such notice shall not affect the validity of such redemption. Within 10 days after such action of the Board ordering the redemption of the Rights (or such later time as the Board may establish for the effectiveness of such redemption), the Company shall mail a notice of redemption to all the holders of the then outstanding Rights at their last addresses as they appear upon the registry books of the Rights Agent or, prior to the Distribution Date, on the registry books of the transfer agent for the Common Stock. Any notice which is mailed in the manner herein provided shall be deemed given, whether or not the holder receives the notice. Each such notice of redemption shall state the method by which the payment of the Redemption Price will be made.



**Section 24. Exchange.**

(a) The Board may, at its option, at any time after the Flip-In Event, exchange all or part of the then outstanding and exercisable Rights (which shall not include Rights that have become void pursuant to the provisions of Section 11(a)(ii) hereof) for Common Stock at an exchange ratio of one share of Common Stock per Right, appropriately adjusted to reflect any stock split, stock dividend or similar transaction occurring in respect of the Common Stock after the date hereof (such amount per Right being hereinafter referred to as the Exchange Ratio ). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board shall not be empowered to effect such exchange at any time after an Acquiring Person shall have become the Beneficial Owner of shares of Common Stock aggregating 50% or more of the shares of Common Stock then outstanding. From and after the occurrence of an event specified in Section 13(a) hereof, any Rights that theretofore have not been exchanged pursuant to this Section 24(a) shall thereafter be exercisable only in accordance with Section 13 and may not be exchanged pursuant to this Section 24(a). The exchange of the Rights by the Board may be made effective at such time, on such basis and with such conditions as the Board in its sole discretion may establish.

(b) Immediately upon the effectiveness of the action of the Board ordering the exchange of any Rights pursuant to paragraph (a) of this Section 24 and without any further action and without any notice, the right to exercise such Rights shall terminate and the only right thereafter of a holder of such Rights shall be to receive that number of shares of Common Stock equal to the number of such Rights held by such holder multiplied by the Exchange Ratio. The Company shall promptly give public notice of any such exchange; *provided, however,* that the failure to give, or any defect in, such notice shall not affect the validity of such exchange. The Company shall promptly mail a notice of any such exchange to all of the holders of the Rights so exchanged at their last addresses as they appear upon the registry books of the Rights Agent. Any notice which is mailed in the manner herein provided shall be deemed given, whether or not the holder receives the notice. Each such notice of exchange will state the method by which the exchange of the shares of Common Stock for Rights will be effected and, in the event of any partial exchange, the number of Rights which will be exchanged. Any partial exchange shall be effected pro rata based on the number of Rights (other than Rights which have become void pursuant to the provisions of Section 11(a)(ii) hereof) held by each holder of Rights.

(c) The Company may at its option substitute, and, in the event that there shall not be sufficient shares of Common Stock issued but not outstanding or authorized but unissued to permit an exchange of Rights for Common Stock as contemplated in accordance with this Section 24, the Company shall substitute to the extent of such insufficiency, for each share of Common Stock that would otherwise be issuable upon exchange of a Right, a number of shares of Preferred Stock or fraction thereof (or Equivalent Preferred Shares, as such term is defined in Section 11(b)) such that the current per share market price (determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) of one share of Preferred Stock (or Equivalent Preferred Share) multiplied by such number or fraction is equal to the current per share market price of one share of Common Stock (determined pursuant to Section 11(d) hereof) as of the date of such exchange.

(d) Following the action of the Board ordering the exchange of any Rights pursuant to this Section 24, the Company may implement such procedures as it deems appropriate, in its sole discretion, for the purpose of ensuring that the shares of Common Stock (or such other consideration) issuable upon an exchange pursuant to this Section 24 are not received by holders of Rights that have become void pursuant to Section 11(a)(ii). Prior to effecting an exchange pursuant to this Section 24, the Board may direct the Company to enter into a trust agreement in such form and with such terms as the Board shall then approve (the "Trust Agreement"). If the Board so directs, the Company shall enter into the Trust Agreement and shall issue to the trust created by such agreement (the "Trust") all or a portion (as designated by the Board) of the shares of Common Stock or such other securities issuable pursuant to the exchange, and all holders of Rights entitled to receive such shares of Common Stock or other securities shall be entitled to receive such shares of Common Stock or other securities (and any dividends paid or distributions made thereon after the date on which such shares are deposited in the Trust) only from the Trust and solely upon compliance with the relevant terms and provisions of the Trust Agreement. Prior to effecting an exchange and registering shares of Common Stock or other such securities in any Person's name, including any nominee or transferee of a Person, the Company may require (or cause the trustee of the Trust to require), as a condition thereof, that any holder of Rights provide evidence, including the identity of the Beneficial Owners thereof and their Affiliates and Associates (or former Beneficial Owners thereof and their Affiliates and Associates) as the Company shall reasonably request in order to determine if such Rights are void. If any Person shall fail to comply with such request, the Company shall be entitled conclusively to deem the Rights formerly held by such Person to be void pursuant to Section 11(a)(ii) and not transferable or exercisable or exchangeable in connection herewith. Any shares of Common Stock or other securities issued at the direction of the Board in connection herewith shall be validly issued, fully paid, and nonassessable shares of Common Stock or of such other securities (as the case may be), and the Company shall be deemed to have received as consideration for such issuance a benefit having a value that is at least equal to the aggregate par value of the shares so issued.

**Section 25. Notice of Certain Events.**

(a) In case the Company shall at any time after the earlier of the Distribution Date or the Stock Acquisition Date propose (i) to pay any dividend payable in stock of any class to the holders of its Preferred Stock or to make any other distribution to the holders of its Preferred Stock (other than a regular quarterly cash dividend), (ii) to offer to the holders of its Preferred Stock rights or warrants to subscribe for or to purchase any additional shares of Preferred Stock or shares of stock of any class or any other securities, rights or options, (iii) to effect any reclassification of its Preferred Stock (other than a reclassification involving only the subdivision or combination of outstanding Preferred Stock), (iv) to effect the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, or (v) to pay any dividend on the Common Stock payable in Common Stock or to effect a subdivision, combination or consolidation of the Common Stock (by reclassification or otherwise than by payment of dividends in Common Stock), then, in each such case, the Company shall give to each holder of a Right Certificate, in accordance with Section 26 hereof, a notice of such proposed action, which shall specify the record date for the purposes of such dividend or distribution or offering of rights or warrants, or the date on which such liquidation, dissolution, winding up, reclassification, subdivision, combination or consolidation is to take place and the date of participation therein by the holders of the Common Stock and/or Preferred Stock, if any such date is to be fixed, and such notice shall be so given in the case of any action covered by clause (i) or (ii) above at least 10 days prior to the record date for determining holders of the Preferred Stock for purposes of such action, and in the case of any such other action, at least 10 days prior to the date of the taking of such proposed action or the date of participation therein by the holders of the Common Stock and/or Preferred Stock, whichever shall be the earlier. The failure to give notice required by this Section or any defect therein shall not affect the legality or validity of the action taken by the Company or the vote upon any such action.

(b) In case any event described in Section 11(a)(ii) or Section 13 shall occur then the Company shall as soon as practicable thereafter give to each holder of a Right Certificate (or if occurring prior to the Distribution Date, the holders of the Common Stock) in accordance with Section 26 hereof, a notice of the occurrence of such event, which notice shall describe such event and the consequences of such event to holders of Rights under Section 11(a)(ii) and Section 13 hereof.

**Section 26. Notices.** Notices or demands authorized by this Agreement to be given or made by the Rights Agent or by the holder of any Right Certificate to or on the Company shall be sufficiently given or made if sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, addressed (until another address is filed in writing with the Rights Agent) as follows:

QCR Holdings, Inc.

3551 Seventh Street, Suite 204

Moline, Illinois 61265

Attention: Chief Executive Officer

Subject to the provisions of Section 21 hereof, any notice or demand authorized by this Agreement to be given or made by the Company or by the holder of any Right Certificate to or on the Rights Agent shall be sufficiently given or made if sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, addressed (until another address is filed in writing with the Company) as follows:

Quad City Bank & Trust Company

2118 Middle Road

Bettendorf, Iowa 52722

Attention: President

Notices or demands authorized by this Agreement to be given or made by the Company or the Rights Agent to the holder of any Right Certificate shall be sufficiently given or made if sent by first-class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to such holder at the address of such holder as shown on the registry books of the Company. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, prior to the Distribution Date, a public filing by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission shall constitute sufficient notice to the holders of securities of the Company, including the Rights, for purposes of this Agreement and no other notice need be given to such holders.

**Section 27. Supplements and Amendments.** Except as provided in the penultimate sentence of this Section 27, for so long as the Rights are then redeemable, the Company may in its sole and absolute discretion, and the Rights Agent shall if the Company so directs, supplement or amend any provision of this Agreement in any respect without the approval of any holders of the Rights. At any time when the Rights are no longer redeemable, except as provided in the penultimate sentence of this Section 27, the Company may, and the Rights Agent shall, if the Company so directs, supplement or amend this Agreement without the approval of any holders of Rights, *provided, however*, that no such supplement or amendment may (a) adversely affect the interests of the holders of Rights as such (other than an Acquiring Person or an Affiliate or Associate of an Acquiring Person), (b) cause this Agreement again to become amendable other than in accordance with this sentence or (c) cause the Rights again to become redeemable. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement to the contrary, no supplement or amendment shall be made which changes the Redemption Price. Upon the delivery of a certificate from an appropriate officer of the Company which states that the supplement or amendment is in compliance with the terms of this Section 27, the Rights Agent shall execute such supplement or amendment, *provided further* that any supplement or amendment that does not amend Sections 18, 19, 20 or 21 hereof or this Section 27 in a manner adverse to the Rights Agent shall become effective immediately upon execution by the Company, whether or not also executed by the Rights Agent.

**Section 28. Successors.** All the covenants and provisions of this Agreement by or for the benefit of the Company or the Rights Agent shall bind and inure to the benefit of their respective successors and assigns hereunder.

**Section 29. Benefits of this Agreement.** Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to give to any Person other than the Company, the Rights Agent and the registered holders of the Right Certificates (and, prior to the Distribution Date, the Common Stock) any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim under this Agreement; but this Agreement shall be for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Company, the Rights Agent and the registered holders of the Right Certificates (and, prior to the Distribution Date, the Common Stock).

**Section 30. Determinations and Actions by the Board.** The Board shall have the exclusive power and authority to administer this Agreement and to exercise the rights and powers specifically granted to the Board or to the Company, or as may be necessary or advisable in the administration of this Agreement, including, without limitation, the right and power to (i) interpret the provisions of this Agreement and (ii) make all determinations deemed necessary or advisable for the administration of this Agreement (including, without limitation, a determination to redeem or not redeem the Rights or to amend or not amend this Agreement). All such actions, calculations, interpretations and determinations (including, for purposes of clause (b) below, all omissions with respect to the foregoing) that are done or made by the Board in good faith shall (a) be final, conclusive and binding on the Company, the Rights Agent, the holders of the Rights, as such, and all other parties and (b) not subject the Board, or any of the directors serving on the Board, to any liability to the holders of the Rights or any other Person.

**Section 31. Severability.** If any term, provision, covenant or restriction of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction or other authority to be invalid, void or unenforceable, the remainder of the terms, provisions, covenants and restrictions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired or invalidated.

**Section 32. Governing Law.** This Agreement and each Right Certificate issued hereunder shall be deemed to be a contract made under the laws of the State of Delaware and for all purposes shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of such State applicable to contracts to be made and performed entirely within such State.

**Section 33. Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and each of such counterparts shall for all purposes be deemed to be an original, and all such counterparts shall together constitute but one and the same instrument.

**Section 34. Descriptive Headings.** Descriptive headings of the several Sections of this Agreement are inserted for convenience only and shall not control or affect the meaning or construction of any of the provisions hereof.

**Section 35. Force Majeure.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Rights Agent shall not be liable for any delays or failures in performance resulting from acts beyond its reasonable control including, without limitation, acts of God, terrorist acts, shortage of supply, breakdowns or malfunctions, interruptions or malfunction of computer facilities or loss of data due to power failures or mechanical difficulties with information storage or retrieval systems, labor difficulties, war or civil unrest.

*[Remainder of Page Left Intentionally Blank]*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed, all as of the day and year first above written.

QCR HOLDINGS, INC.

By: /s/ Douglas M. Hultquist  
Name: Douglas M. Hultquist  
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

QUAD CITY BANK & TRUST COMPANY,

as Rights Agent

By: /s/ John H. Anderson  
Name: John H. Anderson  
Title: President and Chief Executive Officer

## Form of Right Certificate

Certificate No. R- \_\_\_\_\_

This certificate also evidences and entitles the holder hereof to certain Rights as set forth in an Amended and Restated Rights Agreement between QCR Holdings, Inc. (the **Company**) and Quad City Bank & Trust Company, as Rights Agent, dated as of March 7, 2013 and as amended from time to time (the **Amended Rights Agreement**), the terms of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference and a copy of which is on file at the principal executive offices of the Company. Under certain circumstances, as set forth in the Amended Rights Agreement, such Rights will be evidenced by separate certificates and will no longer be evidenced by this certificate. The Company will mail to the holder of this certificate a copy of the Rights Agreement without charge after receipt of a written request therefor. Under certain circumstances, as set forth in the Amended Rights Agreement, Rights owned by or transferred to any Person who is or becomes an Acquiring Person (as defined in the Amended Rights Agreement) and certain transferees thereof will become null and void and will no longer be transferable.

## RIGHT CERTIFICATE

QCR HOLDINGS, INC.

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ or registered assigns, is the registered owner of the number of Rights set forth above, each of which entitles the owner thereof, subject to the terms, provisions and conditions of the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, dated as of March 7, 2013 as the same may be amended from time to time (the **Amended Rights Agreement**), between QCR Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the **Company**), and Quad City Bank & Trust Company, as Rights Agent (the **Rights Agent**), to purchase from the Company at any time after the Distribution Date (as such term is defined in the Amended Rights Agreement) and prior to 5:00 P.M., central time, on May 1, 2016 at the office or agency of the Rights Agent designated for such purpose, or of its successor as Rights Agent, one one-thousandth of a fully paid non-assessable share of Series B Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$1.00 per share (the **Preferred Stock**), of the Company at a purchase price of \$80.00 per one one-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock (the **Purchase Price**), upon presentation and surrender of this Right Certificate with the Form of Election to Purchase duly executed. The number of Rights evidenced by this Right Certificate (and the number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock which may be purchased upon exercise hereof) set forth above, and the Purchase Price set forth above, are the number and Purchase Price as of March 7, 2013, based on the Preferred Stock as constituted at such date. As provided in the Amended Rights Agreement, the Purchase Price, the number of one one-thousandths of a share of Preferred Stock (or other securities or property) which may be purchased upon the exercise of the Rights and the number of Rights evidenced by this Right Certificate are subject to modification and adjustment upon the happening of certain events.

This Right Certificate is subject to all of the terms, provisions and conditions of the Amended Rights Agreement, which terms, provisions and conditions are hereby incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof and to which Amended Rights Agreement reference is hereby made for a full description of the rights, limitations of rights, obligations, duties and immunities hereunder of the Rights Agent, the Company and the holders of the Right Certificates. Copies of the Amended Rights Agreement are on file at the principal executive offices of the Company and the above-mentioned office or agency of the Rights Agent. The Company will mail to the holder of this Right Certificate a copy of the Amended Rights Agreement without charge after receipt of a written request therefor.

This Right Certificate, with or without other Right Certificates, upon surrender at the office or agency of the Rights Agent designated for such purpose, may be exchanged for another Right Certificate or Right Certificates of like tenor and date evidencing Rights entitling the holder to purchase a like aggregate number of shares (or fractions of shares) of Preferred Stock as the Rights evidenced by the Right Certificate or Right Certificates surrendered shall have entitled such holder to purchase. If this Right Certificate shall be exercised in part, the holder shall be entitled to receive upon surrender hereof another Right Certificate or Right Certificates for the number of whole Rights not exercised.

Subject to the provisions of the Amended Rights Agreement, the Rights evidenced by this Certificate (i) may be redeemed by the Company at a redemption price of \$0.01 per Right or (ii) may be exchanged in whole or in part for shares of the Company's Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share, or shares of Preferred Stock.

No fractional shares of Preferred Stock or Common Stock will be issued upon the exercise or exchange of any Right or Rights evidenced hereby (other than fractions of Preferred Stock which are integral multiples of one one-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock, which may, at the election of the Company, be evidenced by depository receipts), but in lieu thereof a cash payment will be made, as provided in the Amended Rights Agreement.

No holder of this Right Certificate, as such, shall be entitled to vote or receive dividends or be deemed for any purpose the holder of the Preferred Stock or of any other securities of the Company which may at any time be issuable on the exercise or exchange hereof, nor shall anything contained in the Amended Rights Agreement or herein be construed to confer upon the holder hereof, as such, any of the rights of a stockholder of the Company or any right to vote for the election of directors or upon any matter submitted to stockholders at any meeting thereof, or to give or withhold consent to any corporate action, or to receive notice of meetings or other actions affecting stockholders (except as provided in the Amended Rights Agreement) or to receive dividends or subscription rights, or otherwise, until the Right or Rights evidenced by this Right Certificate shall have been exercised or exchanged as provided in the Amended Rights Agreement.

This Right Certificate shall not be valid or obligatory for any purpose until it shall have been countersigned by the Rights Agent.

*[Remainder of Page Intentionally Blank]*

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WITNESS the facsimile signature of the proper officers of the Company and its corporate seal. Dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_ .

QCR HOLDINGS, INC.

By:  
[Title]

ATTEST:

[Title]

Countersigned:

QUAD CITY BANK & TRUST, as Rights Agent

By  
[Title]



Form of Reverse Side of Right Certificate

FORM OF ASSIGNMENT

(To be executed by the registered holder if such  
holder desires to transfer the Right Certificate)

FOR VALUE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_ hereby sells, assigns and transfers unto

(Please print name and address of transferee)

\_\_\_\_\_ Rights represented by this Right Certificate, together with all right, title and interest therein, and does hereby irrevocably constitute and appoint \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney, to transfer said Rights on the books of the within-named Company, with full power of substitution.

Dated:

Signature

Signature Medallion Guaranteed:

Signatures must be guaranteed by an eligible guarantor institution as defined in Rule 17Ad-15 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

(To be completed)

The undersigned hereby certifies that the Rights evidenced by this Right Certificate are not beneficially owned by, were not acquired by the undersigned from, and are not being assigned to an Acquiring Person or an Affiliate or Associate thereof (as defined in the Rights Agreement).

Signature

Form of Reverse Side of Right Certificate continued

FORM OF ELECTION TO PURCHASE

(To be executed if holder desires to exercise

Rights represented by the Right Certificate)

To QCR Holdings, Inc.:

The undersigned hereby irrevocably elects to exercise \_\_\_\_\_ Rights represented by this Right Certificate to purchase the shares of Preferred Stock (or other securities or property) issuable upon the exercise of such Rights and requests that certificates for such shares of Preferred Stock (or such other securities) be issued in the name of:

(Please print name and address)

If such number of Rights shall not be all the Rights evidenced by this Right Certificate, a new Right Certificate for the balance remaining of such Rights shall be registered in the name of and delivered to:

Please insert social security

or other identifying number

(Please print name and address)

Dated:

Signature  
(Signature must conform to holder specified on Right Certificate)

Signature Medallion Guaranteed:

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Signature must be guaranteed by an eligible guarantor institution as defined in Rule 17Ad-15 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as amended.

Form of Reverse Side of Right Certificate continued

(To be completed)

The undersigned certifies that the Rights evidenced by this Right Certificate are not beneficially owned by, and were not acquired by the undersigned from, an Acquiring Person or an Affiliate or Associate thereof (as defined in the Amended Rights Agreement).

Signature

NOTICE

The signature in the Form of Assignment or Form of Election to Purchase, as the case may be, must conform to the name as written upon the face of this Right Certificate in every particular, without alteration or enlargement or any change whatsoever.

In the event the certification set forth above in the Form of Assignment or the Form of Election to Purchase, as the case may be, is not completed, such Assignment or Election to Purchase will not be honored.

**EXHIBIT B**

UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AS SET FORTH IN THE AMENDED RIGHTS AGREEMENT, RIGHTS OWNED BY OR TRANSFERRED TO ANY PERSON WHO IS OR BECOMES AN ACQUIRING PERSON (AS DEFINED IN THE AMENDED RIGHTS AGREEMENT) AND CERTAIN TRANSFEREES THEREOF WILL BECOME NULL AND VOID AND WILL NO LONGER BE TRANSFERABLE.

## SUMMARY OF RIGHTS TO PURCHASE

## SHARES OF PREFERRED STOCK OF

## QCR HOLDINGS, INC.

On September 4, 2003, the Board of Directors of QCR Holdings, Inc. (the **Company**) declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right (a **Right**) for each outstanding share of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, of the Company (the **Common Stock**). The dividend was paid on or about September 30, 2003, to the stockholders of record on September 22, 2003 (the **Record Date**). Each Right entitles the registered holder to purchase from the Company one one-thousandth of a share of Series B Junior Participating Preferred Stock, \$1.00 par value per share, of the Company (the **Preferred Stock**) at a price of \$90.00 per one one-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock (the **Purchase Price**), subject to adjustment. The description and terms of the Rights were initially set forth in the Rights Agreement (the **Rights Agreement**) dated as of September 11, 2003, between the Company and Quad City Bank & Trust Company, an Iowa state chartered bank headquartered in Bettendorf, Iowa, as Rights Agent (the **Rights Agent**). On February 7, 2013, the Company's Board of Directors approved an amendment to the Rights Agreement. On March 7, 2013, the Company executed the Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, between the Company and the Rights Agent (the **Amended Rights Agreement**). The Amended Rights Plan will be brought to a shareholder vote on May 1, 2013 (the **Effective Date**), at the Company's 2013 annual meeting and will not become effective if it is not adopted by the Company's shareholders.

The Amended Rights Agreement amends, restates and replaces the Rights Agreement, which previously governed the Rights granted thereunder. Because the Amended Rights Agreement only amends and restates the Rights Agreement, the Company has not and will not declare a new dividend in connection with the Amended Rights Agreement. The Amended Rights Agreement, among other things, (i) extend the Expiration Date, (ii) change certain definitions and triggers, (iii) add additional stockholder protections; and (iv) amend certain provision that limit the authority of the Board of Directors of the Company after a Distribution Date (as defined herein). The description and terms of the Rights are set forth in the Amended Rights Agreement, as the same may be amended from time to time.

In addition to the changes set forth above, the Rights will not be exercisable until the earlier to occur of (i) ten days following a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons (with certain exceptions, an **Acquiring Person**) has acquired beneficial ownership of 20% or more of the outstanding shares of Common Stock or (ii) ten business days (or such later date as may be determined by action of the Board of Directors of the Company prior to such time as any person or group of affiliated persons becomes an Acquiring Person) following the commencement of, or announcement of an intention to make, a tender offer or exchange offer the consummation of which would result in the beneficial ownership by a person or group of 20% or more of the outstanding shares of Common Stock (the earlier of such dates being called the **Distribution Date**), the Rights will be evidenced, with respect to any of the Common Stock certificates outstanding as of the Record Date, by such Common Stock certificate together with this Summary of Rights.

The Amended Rights Agreement provides that, until the Distribution Date (or earlier expiration of the Rights), the Rights will be transferred with and only with the Common Stock. Until the Distribution Date (or earlier expiration of the Rights), new Common Stock certificates issued after the Effective Date upon transfer or new issuances of Common Stock will contain a notation incorporating the Amended Rights Agreement by reference. Until the Distribution Date (or earlier expiration of the Rights), the surrender for transfer of any certificates for shares of Common Stock outstanding as of the Record Date, even without such notation or a copy of this Summary of Rights, will also constitute the transfer of the Rights associated with the shares of Common Stock represented by such certificate. As soon as practicable following the Distribution Date, separate certificates evidencing the amendment of the Rights pursuant to the Amended Rights Agreement (as amended, the **Right Certificates**) will be mailed to holders of record of the Common Stock as of the close of business on the Distribution Date and such separate Right Certificates alone will evidence the Rights.

The Rights are not exercisable until the Distribution Date. The Rights will expire on May 1, 2016 (the **Final Expiration Date**), unless the Final Expiration Date is advanced or extended or unless the Rights are earlier redeemed or exchanged by the Company, in each case as described below.

The Purchase Price payable, and the number of shares of Preferred Stock or other securities or property issuable, upon exercise of the Rights is subject to adjustment from time to time to prevent dilution (i) in the event of a stock dividend on, or a subdivision, combination or reclassification of, the Preferred Stock, (ii) upon the grant to holders of the Preferred Stock of certain rights or warrants to subscribe for or purchase Preferred Stock at a price, or securities convertible into Preferred Stock with a conversion price, less than the then-current market price of the Preferred Stock or (iii) upon the distribution to holders of the Preferred Stock of evidences of indebtedness or assets (excluding regular periodic cash dividends or dividends payable in Preferred Stock) or of subscription rights or warrants (other than those referred to above).

The number of outstanding Rights is subject to adjustment in the event of a stock dividend on the Common Stock payable in shares of Common Stock or subdivisions, consolidations or combinations of the Common Stock occurring, in any such case, prior to the Distribution Date.

Shares of Preferred Stock purchasable upon exercise of the Rights will not be redeemable. Each share of Preferred Stock will be entitled, when, as and if declared, to a minimum preferential quarterly dividend payment of the greater of (a) \$0.01 per share, and (b) an amount equal to 1,000 times the dividend declared per share of Common Stock. In the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company, the holders of the Preferred Stock will be entitled to a minimum preferential payment of the greater of (a) \$0.01 per share (plus any accrued but unpaid dividends), and (b) an amount equal to 1,000 times the payment made per share of Common Stock. Each share of Preferred Stock will have 1,000 votes, voting together with the Common Stock. Finally, in the event of any merger, consolidation or other transaction in which outstanding shares of Common Stock are converted or exchanged, each share of Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive 1,000 times the amount received per share of Common Stock. These rights are protected by customary antidilution provisions.

Because of the nature of the Preferred Stock's dividend, liquidation and voting rights, the value of the one one-thousandth interest in a share of Preferred Stock purchasable upon exercise of each Right should approximate the value of one share of Common Stock.

In the event that any person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an Acquiring Person, each holder of a Right, other than Rights beneficially owned by the Acquiring Person (which will thereupon become void), will thereafter have the right to receive upon exercise of a Right that number of shares of Common Stock having a market value of two times the exercise price of the Right.

In the event that, after a person or group has become an Acquiring Person, the Company is acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction or 50% or more of its consolidated assets or earning power are sold, proper provisions will be made so that each holder of a Right (other than Rights beneficially owned by an Acquiring Person which will have become void) will thereafter have the right to receive upon the exercise of a Right that number of shares of Common Stock of the person with whom the Company has engaged in the foregoing transaction (or its parent) that at the time of such transaction have a market value of two times the exercise price of the Right.

At any time after any person or group becomes an Acquiring Person and prior to the earlier of one of the events described in the previous paragraph or the acquisition by such Acquiring Person of 50% or more of the outstanding shares of Common Stock, the Board of Directors of the Company may exchange the Rights (other than Rights owned by such Acquiring Person which will have become void), in whole or in part, for shares of Common Stock or Preferred Stock (or a series of the Company's preferred stock having equivalent rights, preferences and privileges), at an exchange ratio of one share of Common Stock, or a fractional share of Preferred Stock (or other preferred stock) equivalent in value thereto, per Right.

In addition, if the Company receives a Qualifying Offer (as defined below) and the Board has not redeemed the outstanding Rights or exempted such offer from the Amended Rights Agreement or called a special meeting of shareholders by the end of the 90 business days following the commencement (or, if later, the first existence) of a Qualifying Offer, for the purpose of voting on whether or not to exempt such Qualifying Offer from the terms of this Agreement, holders of record (or their duly authorized proxy) of at least 10% of the Common Stock then outstanding may submit to the Board, not earlier than 90 business days nor later than 120 business days following the commencement (or, if later, the first existence) of such Qualifying Offer, a written demand directing the Board to submit to a vote of shareholders at a special meeting of the shareholders of the Company a resolution exempting such Qualifying Offer from the provisions of this Agreement. A special meeting demand must be delivered to the secretary of the Company at the principal executive offices of the Company and must set forth, as to the shareholders of record making the request, (i) the names and addresses of such shareholders as they appear on the Company's books and records, (ii) the class and number of Common Stock which are owned by each of such shareholders and (iii) in the case of Common Stock that is owned beneficially by another person, an executed certification by the holder of record that such holder has executed such special meeting demand only after obtaining instructions to do so from such beneficial owner and attaching evidence thereof. Subject to the requirements of applicable law, the Board of Directors of the Company may take a position in favor of or opposed to the adoption of the Qualifying Offer or no position with respect thereto, as it determines to be appropriate in the exercise of its duties. In the event that no person has become an Acquiring Person prior to the redemption date for the Qualifying Offer, and the Qualifying Offer continues to be a Qualifying Offer and either (y) the special meeting of shareholders is not convened on or prior to the last day of the period for calling such meeting set forth in the Amended Rights Agreement or (z) if, at the special meeting at which a quorum is present, a majority of the holders of Common Stock present or represented by proxy at the special meeting and entitled to vote thereon as of the record date for the special meeting shall vote in favor of the Qualifying Offer, then the Qualifying Offer shall be deemed exempt from the application of the Amended Rights Agreement so long as it remains a Qualifying Offer.

For purposes of the Amended Rights Agreement, Qualifying Offer shall mean an offer determined by a majority of the Company's independent directors to have the following characteristics, among others: (i) fully financed all-cash tender offer for all of the outstanding shares of the Common Stock; (ii) commenced within the meaning of Rule 14d-2(a) of the Exchange Act and made by an offeror that beneficially owns no more than 50% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock; and (iii) irrevocable for at least 120 days and in writing.

With certain exceptions, no adjustment in the Purchase Price will be required until cumulative adjustments require an adjustment of at least 1% in such Purchase Price. No fractional shares of Preferred Stock or Common Stock will be issued (other than fractions of Preferred Stock which are integral multiples of one one-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock, which may, at the election of the Company, be evidenced by depositary receipts), and in lieu thereof an adjustment in cash will be made based on the current market price of the Preferred Stock or the Common Stock.

At any time prior to the time an Acquiring Person becomes such, the Board of Directors of the Company may redeem the Rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$0.01 per Right (the **Redemption Price** ) payable, at the option of the Company, in cash, shares of Common Stock or such other form of consideration as the Board of Directors shall determine. The redemption of the Rights may be made effective at such time, on such basis and with such conditions as the Board of Directors in its sole discretion may establish. Immediately upon any redemption of the Rights, the right to exercise the Rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of Rights will be to receive the Redemption Price.

For so long as the Rights are then redeemable, the Company may, except with respect to the Redemption Price, amend the Amended Rights Agreement in any manner. After the Rights are no longer redeemable, the Company may, except with respect to the Redemption Price, amend the Amended Rights Agreement in any manner that does not adversely affect the interests of holders of the Rights.

Until a Right is exercised or exchanged, the holder thereof, as such, will have no rights as a stockholder of the Company, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends.

A copy of the Amended Rights Agreement has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an Exhibit to Schedule 14A dated March 7, 2013. A copy of the Amended Rights Agreement is available free of charge from the Company. This summary description of the Rights does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Amended Rights Agreement, as the same may be amended from time to time, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.



