

PURE CYCLE CORP  
Form DEF 14A  
December 07, 2011

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

Washington, D.C. 20549

**SCHEDULE 14A**

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under Rule 14a-12

**PURE CYCLE CORPORATION**

(Name of registrant as specified in its charter)

(Name of person(s) filing proxy statement, if other than the registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

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

Edgar Filing: PURE CYCLE CORP - Form DEF 14A

- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
- (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
- (5) Total fee paid:
- .. Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- .. Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
- (1) Amount Previously Paid:
- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
- (3) Filing Party:
- (4) Date Filed:



PURE CYCLE CORPORATION

1490 Lafayette Street, Suite 203

Denver, CO 80218

(303) 292-3456

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To be held on January 17, 2012

TO PURE CYCLE S SHAREHOLDERS:

You are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting of shareholders of Pure Cycle Corporation (the Company). The meeting will be held at 1550 Seventeenth Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado 80202, at the offices of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, on January 17, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Mountain Time for the following purposes:

1. To elect a board of six directors to serve until the next annual meeting of shareholders, or until their successors have been duly elected and qualified;
2. To ratify the appointment of GHP Horwath, P.C. as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the 2012 fiscal year; and
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment(s) or postponement(s) thereof.

Only shareholders of record as of 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time on November 23, 2011 will be entitled to notice of or to vote at this meeting or any adjournment(s) or postponement(s) thereof.

**Whether or not you plan to attend, please vote promptly by following the instructions on the Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials or, if you requested a printed set of proxy materials, by completing, signing and dating the enclosed proxy and returning it in the accompanying postage-paid envelope. Shareholders who attend the meeting may revoke their proxies and vote in person if they so desire.**

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

/s/ Scott E. Lehman  
Scott E. Lehman, Secretary

December 8, 2011

**PURE CYCLE CORPORATION**

**1490 Lafayette Street, Suite 203**

**Denver, CO 80218**

**(303) 292-3456**

**PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE  
ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

**To be held on January 17, 2012**

**ABOUT THE MEETING**

This proxy statement is being made available to shareholders in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the board of directors of PURE CYCLE CORPORATION (the Company) for use at the annual meeting of shareholders of the Company (the Meeting) to be held at 1550 Seventeenth Street, Suite 500, Denver, Colorado 80202, at the offices of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP on January 17, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Mountain Time or at any adjournment or postponement thereof. This proxy statement will be made available to shareholders on or about December 8, 2011. The cost of soliciting proxies is being paid by the Company. The Company's officers, directors, and other regular employees may, without additional compensation, solicit proxies personally or by other appropriate means.

***How can I get access to the proxy materials?***

Instructions on how to access the proxy materials on-line, including this proxy statement and the Company's latest Annual Report on Form 10-K, on-line may be found in the Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials (the Notice), as well as instructions to request a printed set of such materials. You may also request the proxy materials by contacting the Company's transfer agent, Broadridge Corporate Issuer Solutions, by calling 1-800-579-1639, by writing the Company's Secretary at the Company's address set forth above, or by visiting [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) and entering the control number from the Notice.

If you would like to receive the Notice via email rather than regular mail in future years, please follow the instructions in the Notice. Choosing to receive future notices by email will help the Company reduce the costs and environmental impact of the Company's shareholder meetings.

***What is the purpose of the Meeting?***

At the Meeting, shareholders are asked to act upon the matters outlined above in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders and as described in this proxy statement. The matters to be considered are (i) the election of directors, (ii) the ratification of the appointment of the Company's independent auditors for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2012, and (iii) such other matters as may properly come before the Meeting. Management will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

***Who is entitled to vote and how many votes do I have?***

If you were a shareholder of record as of 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time on November 23, 2011 (the Record Date), you will be entitled to vote at the Meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof. On the Record Date, there were 24,037,596 shares of the Company's 1/3 of \$.01 par value common stock (common stock) issued and outstanding. Each outstanding share of the Company's common stock will be entitled to one vote on each matter acted upon. There is no cumulative voting.

***How do I vote?***

If your shares are held in an account at a bank, brokerage firm, or other nominee in street name, you need to submit voting instructions to your bank, brokerage firm, or other nominee in order to cast your vote. If you wish to vote in person at the Meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from the nominee that holds your shares.

If you are the shareholder of record, you may vote your shares by following the instructions in the Notice mailed on or about December 8, 2011 or, if you have received a printed set of the proxy materials, you may vote your shares



by completing, signing and dating the enclosed proxy card and then mailing it to the Company's transfer agent in the pre-addressed envelope provided. You may also vote your shares by calling the transfer agent at the number listed on the proxy card or by attending the Meeting in person.

***Can I change or revoke my vote?***

A proxy may be revoked by a shareholder any time before it is voted at the Meeting by submission of another proxy bearing a later date, by attending the Meeting and voting in person, or if you are a shareholder of record by written notice of revocation to the Secretary of the Company.

***Is my vote confidential?***

Proxy instructions, ballots and voting tabulations that identify individual shareholders are handled in a manner that protects your voting privacy. Your vote will not be disclosed within the Company or to third parties, except: (1) as necessary to meet applicable legal requirements, (2) to allow for the tabulation of votes and certification of the vote, and (3) to facilitate a successful proxy solicitation. Occasionally shareholders provide written comments on their proxy cards, which are forwarded to management of the Company.

***Will my shares held in street name be voted if I do not provide my proxy?***

If you hold your shares through a bank, broker, or other nominee, your shares must be voted by the nominee. If you do not provide voting instructions, under the rules of the securities exchanges, the nominee's discretionary authority to vote your shares is limited to routine matters. Proposal 1 for the election of directors is not considered a routine matter for this purpose, so if you do not provide your proxy, your shares will not be voted at the Meeting with respect to the election of directors. In this case your shares will be treated as broker non-votes and will not be counted for purposes of determining the election of directors.

A broker non-vote occurs when a nominee holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because the nominee does not have discretionary voting power with respect to that item and has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner.

***What is a quorum?***

The presence, in person or by proxy, of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock constitutes a quorum at the Meeting for the election of directors and for the other proposals. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the Meeting.

***How many votes are required to approve the proposals?***

*Election of Directors* The election of directors requires the affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast by shares represented in person or by proxy and entitled to vote for the election of directors. This means that the nominees receiving the most votes from those eligible to vote will be elected. You may vote FOR all of the nominees or your vote may be WITHHELD with respect to one or more of the nominees; however, a withheld vote or a broker non-vote (defined above) will have no effect on the outcome of the election.

*Ratification of auditors and other matters* The number of votes cast in favor of the proposal at the Meeting must exceed the number of votes cast against the proposal for the approval of proposal 2 and other matters. For proposal 2 and any other business matters to be voted on, you may vote FOR, AGAINST, or you may ABSTAIN. Abstentions and broker non-votes will not be counted as votes for or against a proposal and, therefore, have no effect on the vote.

If no specification is made, then the shares will be voted FOR the directors nominated by the board of directors and FOR proposal 2 and otherwise, in accordance with the recommendations of the board of directors.

***Does the Company expect there to be any additional matters presented at the Meeting?***

Other than the items of business described in this proxy statement, the Company is not aware of any other business to be acted upon at the Meeting. If you grant a proxy, the persons named as proxy-holders, Mark W. Harding and





Harrison H. Augur, have the discretion to vote your shares on any additional matter properly presented for a vote at the Meeting. If for any unforeseen reason any of the director nominees are not available for election at the date of the Meeting, the named proxy-holders will vote your shares for such other candidates as may be nominated by the board.

***When will the results of the voting being announced?***

The Company will announce preliminary results at the Meeting and will publish final results in a current report on Form 8-K to be filed within 4 days of the date of the Meeting.

**VOTING SECURITIES AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS THEREOF**

The following table sets forth information as of November 23, 2011, as to the beneficial ownership of shares of the Company's common stock by (i) each person (or group of affiliated persons) known to the Company to own beneficially 5% or more of the common stock, (ii) each director of the Company and each nominee for director, (iii) each executive officer and (iv) all directors and executive officers as a group. All information is based on information filed by such persons with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") and other information provided by such persons to the Company. Except as otherwise indicated, the Company believes that each of the beneficial owners listed has sole investment and voting power with respect to such shares. On November 23, 2011, there were 24,037,596 common shares outstanding. Shares not outstanding but deemed beneficially owned by virtue of the right of a person to acquire shares within 60 days of November 23, 2011, are included as outstanding and beneficially owned for that person, but are not treated as outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person.

Name and address of beneficial owner	Amount and nature of beneficial ownership	Percent of class
Mark W. Harding **	727,243 <sup>1</sup>	3.0%
Harrison H. Augur **	125,781 <sup>2</sup>	*
Arthur G. Epker III One International Place, Suite 2401, Boston, MA 02110	15,000 <sup>3</sup>	*
Richard L. Guido **	22,500 <sup>4</sup>	*
Peter C. Howell **	20,500 <sup>5</sup>	*
George M. Middlemas 225 W. Washington, #1500, Chicago, IL 60606	22,500 <sup>6</sup>	*
<i>All officers and directors as a group (6 persons)</i>	<i>933,524<sup>7</sup></i>	<i>3.9%</i>
PAR Capital Management, Inc. / PAR Investment Partners, L.P. / PAR Group, L.P.		
One International Place, Suite 2401, Boston, MA 02110	5,982,970 <sup>8</sup>	24.9%
High Plains A&M, LLC 301 St. Charles Ave., 3rd Floor, New Orleans, LA 70130	3,000,000 <sup>9</sup>	12.5%
Trigran Investments, Inc. / Trigran Investments, L.P.		
630 Dundee Road, Suite 230, Northbrook, IL 60062	2,063,624 <sup>10</sup>	8.6%
Wellington Management Company, LLP 75 State Street, Boston, MA 02109	1,758,333 <sup>11</sup>	7.3%
RMB Capital Management, LLC 115 S. LaSalle Street, 34th Floor, Chicago, IL 60603	1,663,529 <sup>12</sup>	6.9%
Tealwood Asset Management, Inc. 80 South 8th Street, Suite 1225, Minneapolis, MN 55402	1,367,579 <sup>13</sup>	5.7%

\* Less than 1%

\*\* Address is the Company's address: 1490 Lafayette Street, Suite 203, Denver, CO 80218

1. Includes 210,000 shares of common stock held by SMA Investments, LLLP, a limited liability limited partnership controlled by Mr. Harding.

## Edgar Filing: PURE CYCLE CORP - Form DEF 14A

2. Includes 22,500 shares purchasable by Mr. Augur under options exercisable within 60 days. Includes 10,000 shares of common stock held by Patience Partners, L.P., a limited partnership in which a foundation controlled by Mr. Augur is a 60% limited partner and Patience Partners LLC is a 40% general partner. Patience Partners LLC is a limited liability company in which Mr. Augur owns a 50% membership interest. Includes 46,111 shares of common stock held by Auginco, a Colorado partnership, which is owned 50% by Mr. Augur and 50% by his wife.

3. Includes 15,000 shares purchasable by Mr. Epker under options exercisable within 60 days. Excludes all shares of common stock held directly by PAR Investment Partners, L.P. ( PIP ). PAR Capital Management, Inc. ( PCM ), as the general partner of PAR Group, L.P. ( PGL ), which is the general partner of PIP, has investment discretion and voting control over shares held by PIP. No shareholder, director, officer or employee of PCM has beneficial ownership (within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act )) of any shares held by PIP. The shares held by PIP are part of a portfolio managed by Mr. Epker. As an officer of PCM, Mr. Epker has the authority to trade the securities held by PIP, however, Mr. Epker disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by PIP.
4. Includes 22,500 shares purchasable by Mr. Guido under options exercisable within 60 days.
5. Includes 20,000 shares purchasable by Mr. Howell under options exercisable within 60 days.
6. Includes 22,500 shares purchasable by Mr. Middlemas under options exercisable within 60 days.
7. Includes the following shares:
  - a. 210,000 shares held by SMA Investments, LLLP as described in number 1 above,
  - b. 102,500 shares purchasable by directors and officers under options exercisable within 60 days, and
  - c. 10,000 shares of common stock held by Patience Partners, L.P., and 46,111 shares of common stock held by Auginco, as described in number 2 above.
8. This disclosure is based on the Schedule 13D/A filed by PIP, PGL and PCM on January 19, 2011. PIP owns directly 5,892,970 shares. PGL, through its control of PIP as general partner, has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to all 5,892,970 shares owned beneficially by PIP. PCM, through its control of PGL as general partner, has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to all 5,892,970 shares owned beneficially by PIP.
9. This disclosure is based on a Schedule 13G filed by High Plains A&M, LLC ( HP A&M ) on September 11, 2006. By reason of the status of each of H. Hunter White, Mark D. Campbell and M. Walker Baus as a member and manager of HP A&M, each of them is deemed a beneficial owner of these shares. Each of them disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by HP A&M except to the extent of his pecuniary interest in the limited liability company.
10. This disclosure is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed by Trigran Investments, Inc. ( TII ), Trigran Investments, L.P. ( TIL ), Douglas Granat, Lawrence A. Oberman and Steven G. Simon on February 11, 2011. It includes 1,287,702 shares of common stock owned by TIL. By reason of its role as the general partner of TIL, TII may be considered the beneficial owner of the shares owned by TIL. By reason of their role as controlling shareholders and sole directors of TII, each of Douglas Granat, Lawrence A. Oberman and Steven G. Simon may be considered the beneficial owners of shares beneficially owned by TII.
11. This disclosure is based on a Schedule 13G/A filed by Wellington Management Company, LLP ( Wellington ) on February 14, 2011. Wellington, in its capacity as investment adviser, may be deemed to beneficially own shares owned of record by clients of Wellington. Wellington shares dispositive power over 1,758,333 shares and voting power over 1,126,485 shares.

Edgar Filing: PURE CYCLE CORP - Form DEF 14A

12. This disclosure is based on a Schedule 13G filed by RMB Capital Management, LLC on February 9, 2011.
  
13. This disclosure is based on a Schedule 13G filed by Tealwood Asset Management, Inc. ( Tealwood ) on November 3, 2010. Tealwood has sole dispositive power over 1,367,579 and voting power over 1,085,318 shares.

## DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table sets forth the Company's directors, director nominees, and executive officer and their positions currently held with the Company.

Name	Age	Position
Mark W. Harding	48	Director, President, CEO and CFO *
Harrison H. Augur	69	Chairman of the Board *
Arthur G. Epker III	49	Director *
Richard L. Guido	67	Director *
Peter C. Howell	62	Director *
George M. Middlemas	65	Director *

\* Director nominee

The principal occupation and other information about each of the individuals listed above, including the period during which each has served as director or officer can be found beginning on page 16.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

### Board Leadership Structure

The Company's board of directors has chosen to separate the positions of Chief Executive Officer ( CEO ) and Chairman of the board. Keeping these positions separate allows the Company's CEO to focus on developing and implementing the Company's business plans and supervising the Company's day-to-day operations and allows the Company's Chairman to lead the board of directors in its oversight and advisory roles. Because of the many responsibilities of the board of directors and the significant time and effort required by each of the Chairman and the CEO to perform their respective duties, the Company believes that having separate persons in these roles enhances the ability of each to discharge those duties effectively and, as a corollary, enhances the Company's prospects for success. The board of directors also believes that having separate positions provides a clear delineation of responsibilities for each position and fosters greater accountability of management.

### Board Risk and Oversight

Our board of directors, as a whole and through its committees, has responsibility for the oversight of risk management. With the oversight of the Company's full board of directors, the Company's CEO is responsible for the day-to-day management of the material risks the Company faces. In its oversight role, the board of directors has the responsibility to satisfy itself that the risk management processes designed and implemented by management are adequate and functioning as designed. Annually, the board of directors holds strategic planning sessions with management to discuss strategies, key challenges, risks and opportunities for the Company. This involvement of the board of directors in setting the Company's business strategy is a key part of its oversight of risk management, its assessment of management's appetite for risk, and its determination of what constitutes an appropriate level of risk for the Company. Additionally, the board of directors regularly receives updates from management regarding certain risks the Company faces, including various operating risks. Management attends meetings of the board of directors and its committees on a regular basis, and as is otherwise needed, and are available to address any questions or concerns raised by the board on risk management and any other matters.

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing risk management of financial matters, financial reporting, the adequacy of the Company's risk-related internal controls, internal investigations, and enterprise risks, generally. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (the Nominating Committee ) oversees the Company's corporate governance guidelines and governance-related risks, such as board independence, as well as management and director succession planning. The Compensation Committee oversees risks related to compensation policies and practices, and is responsible for establishing and maintaining compensation policies and programs designed to create incentives consistent with the Company's business strategy that do not encourage excessive risk-taking.

## Board Membership and Director Independence

**Director Independence** At least a majority of the members of the board and all members of the board's Audit, Compensation, and Nominating Committees must be independent in accordance with the listing standards of The NASDAQ Stock Market. The board has determined that five of the six current members, Messrs. Augur, Epker, Guido, Howell, and Middlemas, are independent pursuant to the standards of The NASDAQ Stock Market.

**Terms of Directors and Officers** All directors are elected for one-year terms which expire at the annual meeting of shareholders or when their successors are duly elected and qualified. The Company's officers are elected annually by the board of directors and hold office until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

**Family Relationships of Directors and Officers** None of the current directors or officers, or nominees for director, is related to any other officer or director of the Company or to any nominee for director.

**Board meetings held** The board of directors and each of the standing committees described below meet throughout the fiscal year on a set schedule. They also hold special meetings and act by written consent from time to time as appropriate. The Company's non-management directors meet regularly in executive sessions without management present. The executive sessions of non-management directors are held in conjunction with each regularly scheduled board meeting.

During the fiscal year ended August 31, 2011, the board of directors held four (4) meetings. All board members attended 75% or more of the aggregate of the total number of meetings of the board of directors and the total number of meetings held by all committees of the board on which the director served except Mr. Middlemas and Mr. White who each attended 67% of the meetings. All of the Company's board members are expected to attend the annual meetings. All of the Company's board members attended the 2011 Annual Meeting except Mr. Middlemas and Mr. White.

## Committees

The Board has three standing committees: Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and the Nominating Committee. Each of the committees regularly reports on its activities and actions to the full board of directors.

Membership in the standing committees for 2011 is set forth below:

Director	<u>Fiscal 2011 Committee Membership</u>		
	September 30, Audit Committee	September 30, Compensation Committee	September 30, Nominating Committee
M. Harding			
H. Augur	X	X	X
A. Epker		X	X
R. Guido	X		Chair
P. Howell	Chair		
G. Middlemas		Chair	
H. White			

**Audit Committee** The Audit Committee consists of Mr. Howell (Chair) and Messrs. Augur and Guido. The board of directors has determined that all of the members of the Audit Committee are independent within the meaning of the listing standards of The NASDAQ Stock Market and the SEC rules governing audit committees. In addition, the board has determined that Mr. Howell meets the SEC criteria of an audit committee financial expert by reason of his understanding of Accounting Principles Generally Accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) and the application of GAAP, his education, his experiences as an auditor and chief financial officer, and his understanding of financial statements. See Mr. Howell's biography under *Election of Directors (Proposal No. 1)* for additional information.

The functions to be performed by the Audit Committee include the appointment, retention, compensation and oversight of the Company's independent auditors, including pre-approval of all audit and non-audit services to be performed by such auditors. The Audit Committee Charter is available on the Company's website at [www.purecyclewater.com](http://www.purecyclewater.com). The Audit Committee held seven (7) meetings during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2011.

**Compensation Committee** The Compensation Committee consists of Mr. Middlemas (Chairman) and Messrs. Augur and Epker. The board of directors has determined that all members of the Compensation Committee are independent with the meaning of the listing standards of The NASDAQ Stock Market. The functions to be performed by the Compensation Committee include establishing the compensation of officers, evaluating the performance of officers and key employees, and administering employee incentive compensation plans. The Compensation Committee typically meets with the CEO to obtain information about employee performance and compensation recommendations. It also has the authority to engage outside advisors to assist the committee with its functions. The Compensation Committee has the power to delegate authority to the CEO or a subcommittee to make certain determinations with respect to compensation for employees who are not executive officers. The Company's Compensation Committee Charter is available on the Company's website at [www.purecyclewater.com](http://www.purecyclewater.com). The Compensation Committee held two (2) meetings during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2011.

**Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee** The Nominating Committee consists of Messrs. Guido (Chairman), Epker and Augur. The board of directors has determined that all the members of the Nominating Committee are independent within the meaning of the listing standards of The NASDAQ Stock Market. The principal responsibilities of the Nominating Committee are to identify and nominate qualified individuals to serve as members of the board and to make recommendations to the board with respect to director compensation. In addition, the Nominating Committee is responsible for establishing the Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines and evaluating the board and its processes. In selecting nominees for the board, the Nominating Committee is seeking a board with a variety of experience and expertise, and in selecting nominees it will consider business experience in the industry in which the Company operates, financial expertise, independence from the Company, experience with publicly traded companies, experience with relevant regulatory matters in which the Company is involved, and a reputation for integrity and professionalism. The Company does not have a formal policy with respect to the consideration of diversity in identifying director nominees, but it considers diversity as part of its overall assessment of the board's functions and needs. Nominees must be at least 21 years of age and less than 70 on the date of the annual meeting, unless the Nominating Committee waives such requirements. Identification of prospective board members is done by a combination of methods, including word-of-mouth in industry circles, inquiries of outside professionals and recommendations made to the Company. The Nominating Committee Charter is available on the Company's website at [www.purecyclewater.com](http://www.purecyclewater.com). The Nominating Committee held two (2) meetings during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2011.

The Nominating Committee will consider nominations for director made by shareholders of record entitled to vote. In order to make a nomination for election at the 2013 annual meeting, a shareholder must provide notice, along with supporting information (discussed below) regarding such nominee, to the Company's Secretary by August 10, 2012, in accordance with the Company's bylaws. The Nominating Committee evaluates nominees recommended by shareholders utilizing the same criteria it uses for other nominees.

Each shareholder recommendation should be accompanied by the following:

The full name, address, and telephone number of the person making the recommendation, and a statement that the person making the recommendation is a shareholder of record (or, if the person is a beneficial owner of the Company's shares but not a record holder, a statement from the record holder of the shares verifying the number of shares beneficially owned), and a statement as to whether the person making the recommendation has a good faith intention to continue to hold those shares through the date of the Company's next annual meeting;

The full name, address, and telephone number of the candidate being recommended, information regarding the candidate's beneficial ownership of the Company's equity securities, any business or personal relationship between the candidate and the person making the recommendation, and an explanation of the value or benefit the person making the recommendation believes the candidate would provide as a director;

A statement signed by the candidate that he or she is aware of and consents to being recommended to the Nominating Committee and will provide such information as the Nominating Committee may request for its evaluation of candidates;

A description of the candidate's current principal occupation, business or professional experience, previous employment history, educational background, and any areas of particular expertise;

Information about any business or personal relationships between the candidate and any of the Company's customers, suppliers, vendors, competitors, directors or officers, or other persons with any special interest regarding any transactions between the candidate and the Company; and

Any information in addition to the above about the candidate that would be required to be included in the Company's proxy statement (including without limitation information about legal proceedings in which the candidate has been involved within the past ten years).

**Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation** No interlocking relationship exists between any member of the board of directors or the Compensation Committee and any other company's board of directors or compensation committee.

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

The Company has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for its directors, officers and employees, which is available on the Company's website at [www.purecyclewater.com](http://www.purecyclewater.com).

#### **Shareholder Communications with the Board**

The board of directors has adopted a policy for shareholders to send communications to the board. The policy is available on the Company's website. Shareholders wishing to send communications to the board may contact the Chairman of the board at the Company's principal place of business or e-mail [chairman@purecyclewater.com](mailto:chairman@purecyclewater.com). All such communications shall be shared with the members of the board, or if applicable, a specified committee or director.

#### **Director Compensation**

Directors who are employees of the Company receive no fees for board service. Currently, Mr. Harding is the only director who is also an employee. Each non-employee director receives a payment of \$10,000 for each full year in which he or she serves as a director, with an additional payment of \$1,000 for each committee on which he or she serves, and \$1,000 for serving as chairman of the board. Directors receive \$500 for attendance at each board meeting and, if committee meetings are held separate from board meetings, each director receives \$500 for attendance at such committee meetings.

The following table sets forth summary information concerning the compensation paid to the Company's non-employee directors in fiscal 2011 for services to the Company:



Edgar Filing: PURE CYCLE CORP - Form DEF 14A

	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,
			<u>Director Compensation</u>				
	Fees	Stock	Option	Non-Equity	Change in	All Other	Total
Name	Earned or	Awards	Awards	Incentive Plan	Pension Value	Compensation	
(a)	Paid in	(c)	(1)	Compensation	and Nonqualified	(g)	(h)
	Cash		(d)		Deferred		
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	Compensation	Earnings	
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(\$)	(f)	
H. Augur							
(2)	18,000		7,800				25,800
A. Epker							
(3)	15,000		7,800				22,800
R. Guido							
(4)	17,500		7,800				25,300
P. Howell							
(5)	16,500		7,800				24,300
G. Middlemas							
(6)	12,500		7,800				20,300
H. White							
(7)	11,500		15,600				27,100

- (1) In addition to cash compensation, as part of the 2004 Incentive Plan approved by shareholders at the 2004 annual meeting of shareholders, each non-employee director receives an option to purchase 5,000 shares of common stock upon initial election or appointment to the board (which vest one half at each of the first and second anniversary dates of the grant), and an option to purchase 2,500 shares for each subsequent full year in which he or she serves as a director, which options vest one year from the date of grant. The amounts in this column represent the total dollar amount that will be recognized as expense for financial reporting purposes with respect to the options granted during the Company's fiscal year ended August 31, 2011. For more information about how the Company values and accounts for share-based compensation see *Note 8 Shareholders' Equity* in the Company's August 31, 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K.
- (2) The \$18,000 earned by Mr. Augur is comprised of: \$10,000 for serving on the board, \$1,000 for being the chairman of the board, \$3,000 for serving on three committees, \$4,000 for attendance at board and committee meetings (\$500 per meeting). Mr. Augur had 22,500 options outstanding as of August 31, 2011, all of which are exercisable within 60 days of the filing of this proxy statement.
- (3) The \$15,000 earned by Mr. Epker is comprised of: \$10,000 for serving on the board, \$2,000 for serving on two committees and \$3,000 for attendance at board and committee meetings (\$500 per meeting). Mr. Epker had 15,000 options outstanding as of August 31, 2011, all of which are exercisable within 60 days of the filing of this proxy statement.
- (4) The \$17,500 earned by Mr. Guido is comprised of: \$10,000 for serving on the board, \$2,000 for serving on two committees and \$5,500 for attendance at board and committee meetings (\$500 per meeting). Mr. Guido had 22,500 options outstanding as of August 31, 2011, all of which are exercisable within 60 days of the filing of this proxy statement.
- (5) The \$16,500 earned by Mr. Howell is comprised of: \$10,000 for serving on the board, \$1,000 for serving on one committee and \$5,500 for attendance at board and committee meetings (\$500 per meeting). Mr. Howell had 20,000 options outstanding as of August 31, 2011, all of which are exercisable within 60 days of the filing of this proxy statement.
- (6) The \$12,500 earned by Mr. Middlemas is comprised of: \$10,000 for serving on the board, \$1,000 for serving on one committee and \$1,500 for attendance at board and committee meetings (\$500 per meeting). Mr. Middlemas had 22,500 options outstanding as of August 31, 2011, all of which are exercisable within 60 days of the filing of this proxy statement.

Edgar Filing: PURE CYCLE CORP - Form DEF 14A

- (7) The \$11,500 earned by Mr. White is comprised of: \$10,000 for serving on the board, and \$1,500 for attendance at board and committee meetings (\$500 per meeting). Mr. White resigned from the board effective September 12, 2011. Because his options were not vested at the time of his resignation from the board, his 5,000 options were forfeited.

---

## EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

### Compensation Discussion and Analysis

#### *Persons Covered*

This compensation discussion and analysis addresses compensation for fiscal 2011 for Mark W. Harding, the Company's CEO, CEO and Chief Financial Officer ( CFO ) and its only executive officer.

#### *Summary*

The Company's compensation plan is designed to attract, retain and motivate quality executive talent critical to the Company's growth and success. The compensation plan is structured to reward the executive officer of the Company with competitive total pay opportunities through a compensation mix that emphasizes cash and non-cash incentives and merit-based salary increases, while de-emphasizing entitlements and perquisites.

The Company's 2011 financial results continue to be negatively impacted by the significant declines in new home construction in Colorado since 2006. The Company did, however, achieve a number of strategic objectives during fiscal 2011. Highlights for fiscal 2011 include:

Completion of a public offering in September 2010 for \$5.4 million and the issuance of a convertible note for \$5.2 million, the proceeds of which were partially used to acquire the Sky Ranch property;

Completion of the acquisition of the Sky Ranch property in October 2010;

Execution of an oil and gas lease for the Sky Ranch property;

12% increase in water revenues resulting from an increase in water delivered and water usage fees;

Increase in gross margins on delivering water (excluding depletion charges) from 63% in fiscal 2010 to 67% in fiscal 2011; and

Improved liquidity resulting from the public offering and the upfront payments received on the oil and gas lease.

The Compensation Committee recommended changes to the CEO's compensation for fiscal 2011 as compared to fiscal 2010. Recognizing that there have been no salary adjustments and no equity based compensation awards for Mr. Harding since September 2007 and that Mr. Harding currently has a significant stock ownership position in the Company's common stock, the Compensation Committee determined that a cash bonus award was the best way to incentivize Mr. Harding. The Compensation Committee recommended, and the board of directors approved, a bonus award to Mr. Harding during fiscal 2011 in recognition of fiscal 2010 objectives that were achieved in early fiscal 2011. The compensation plan for Mr. Harding is described below.

#### *Compensation Philosophy*

The Company's executive compensation program is administered by the Compensation Committee of the board of directors. The Compensation Committee is composed of Messrs. Middlemas, Augur and Epker, three independent, non-employee directors. The Compensation Committee reviews the performance and compensation level for the CEO and makes recommendations to the board of directors for final approval. The Compensation Committee also determines equity grants under the 2004 Incentive Plan, if any. The CEO may provide information to the Compensation Committee regarding his compensation; however, the Compensation Committee makes the final determination on the executive compensation recommendation to the board. Final compensation determinations are generally made in August at the end of the Company's fiscal year. The following outlines the philosophy and objectives of the Company's compensation plan.

## Edgar Filing: PURE CYCLE CORP - Form DEF 14A

The objectives of the Company's compensation plan are to correlate executive compensation with the Company's objectives and overall performance and to enable the Company to attract, retain and reward executive officers who contribute to its long-term growth and success. The compensation plan is designed to create a mutuality of interest between executive and shareholders through equity ownership programs and to focus the executive's attention on overall corporate objectives, in addition to the executive's personal objectives.

The goal of the Compensation Committee is to provide a compensation package that is competitive with compensation practices of companies with which the Company competes, provides variable compensation that is linked to achievement of the Company's operational performance goals, and aligns the interests of the executive officer and employees with those of the shareholders of the Company. Additionally, the Compensation Committee's goal is to design a compensation package that falls within the mid-range of the packages provided to executives of similarly sized corporations in like industries.

Generally, the executive officer receives a base cash salary, cash bonus (if the Compensation Committee elects to recommend one), and long-term equity incentives. The mixture of these cash and non-cash compensation items is designed to provide the executive with a competitive total compensation package while not using an excessive amount of the Company's cash or overly diluting the equity positions of its shareholders. The Company's executive officer does not receive any perquisites or personal benefits. The executive officer is eligible for the same benefits available to all Company employees. Currently, this includes participation in a tax-qualified 401(k) plan, health and dental plans.

#### *Compensation of the Company's CEO*

The current compensation program for the Company's CEO consists of the following:

*Base Salary* The Compensation Committee reviewed and recommended a salary for the CEO for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2011. Mr. Harding's base salary was established by the Compensation Committee based upon competitive compensation data for similarly sized public companies, job responsibilities, level of experience, individual performance and contribution to the business throughout his career with the Company. In making the base salary decision, the committee exercised its discretion and judgment based upon these factors. No specific formula was applied to determine the weight of each factor. While the Compensation Committee reviewed competitive compensation data, it did not benchmark Mr. Harding's compensation to that of any other company. The Compensation Committee recognized that Mr. Harding's salary had not been changed since 2007, the Compensation Committee decided, however, to recommend maintaining the CEO's salary at the same level as in the prior fiscal year due to the Company's financial condition, and specifically its liquidity position, at the end of fiscal 2010 (prior to the completion by the Company of its public offering). The board approved the committee's recommendation.

*Incentive Bonus* The Compensation Committee's goal in granting incentive bonuses is to tie a portion of the CEO's compensation to the operating performance of the Company and to the CEO's individual contribution to the Company. In January 2011, the Compensation Committee recommended awarding Mr. Harding a cash bonus of \$110,000 for his accomplishments in fiscal 2010. While the Compensation Committee did not benchmark the CEO's bonus and salary to that of executive officers at other companies, the Compensation Committee did review data pulled from public documents filed with the SEC regarding the cash compensation paid to executive officers with duties and responsibilities similar to those of Mr. Harding in comparable companies in the water development industry (the Publicly Available Compensation Information) and determined that Mr. Harding's cash compensation was substantially below the average of comparable executives in the water development industry. In formulating recommendations for bonus compensation for Mr. Harding, the Compensation Committee considered a number of factors, including, among other things: (i) the Publicly Available Compensation Information; (ii) the lack of any salary adjustments for Mr. Harding since September 1, 2007; (iii) the fact that other than a restricted stock grant of 34,189 shares made in August 2007, Mr. Harding has not received any equity based compensation since April 2001; (iv) the extraordinary efforts put forth by Mr. Harding and other key employees in closing the acquisition of the Sky Ranch property in October 2010 and completing the financing of the acquisition, including the public offering in September 2010, and his continued efforts to bring Sky Ranch into development; (v) Mr. Harding's experience, talents and skills, and the importance thereof to the Company; and (vi) the potential availability of better paying positions for officers with Mr. Harding's experience and skills. The Compensation Committee and the board of directors determined that a cash bonus was appropriate in January 2011 given the Company's liquidity following the public offering in September 2010 and Mr. Harding's current level of stock ownership.

Also in January 2011, the Compensation Committee recommended and the board of directors approved establishing a performance plan for fiscal 2011. The Compensation Committee structured the performance plan to provide for a maximum bonus payout for Mr. Harding based on a potential award equal to 100% of his salary with the following targets:

Less than	Substantial		Meet Plan	Exceed Plan
Substantial Progress Discretionary	Progress on Plan		100%	Up to 150%
	75%	99%		

The 2011 performance plan was comprised of six corporate, nonfinancial goals, strategic in nature, including the following five goals: (i) the execution of an oil and gas lease for the Sky Ranch property; (ii) identification of the infrastructure costs to develop Sky Ranch; (iii) the execution of an export water service agreement with a municipality on favorable terms to the Company; (iv) the execution of an agreement regarding the Paradise Water Supply with an oil and gas exploration and development company or other party; (v) the development of a business plan for the Company's deep water well enhancement tool. The sixth goal was a corporate operating objective the disclosure of which the Company believes would cause competitive harm. The Compensation Committee believed that the achievement of each performance objective, including the undisclosed sixth goal, would be difficult and that it was unlikely that the Company would achieve each of them. The Compensation Committee designed the performance plan to award performance without encouraging inappropriate risk taking.

In August 2011, the Compensation Committee reviewed the Company's operating results for fiscal 2011, evaluated the Company's success in achieving the six nonfinancial goals, and determined that one of the six goals, the execution of an oil and gas lease on Sky Ranch, had been completed. (This oil and gas lease is described in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K under *Business Our Water Assets Sky Ranch Oil and Gas Lease*.) The Compensation Committee determined that partial progress had been made toward completing the others. The Compensation Committee determined that 20% progress had been made toward the performance plan and recommended awarding, and the board authorized awarding, Mr. Harding a discretionary bonus of 10% of his salary or \$25,000, in fiscal 2012.

*Long-Term Stock Incentives* The Compensation Committee has previously provided the Company's CEO with long-term equity incentive compensation through grants of stock options and shares of restricted stock. The goal of the long-term stock incentives has been to align the interests of the CEO with those of the Company's shareholders and to provide the CEO with a long-term incentive to manage the Company from the perspective of an owner with an equity stake in the business. It is the belief of the Compensation Committee that stock options and restricted stock grants directly motivate an executive to maximize long-term shareholder value. The philosophy of administering the long-term stock incentive plan is to tie the number of stock options and shares of restricted stock awarded to each employee in the plan to the performance of the Company and to the individual contribution of each employee in the plan. No long-term stock incentives were granted to Mr. Harding during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2011. Based on Mr. Harding's current level of stock ownership, the Compensation Committee determined that Mr. Harding's interests were adequately aligned with the interests of the Company's shareholders and that Mr. Harding currently had significant incentives to maximize long-term shareholder value. In addition, the Compensation Committee determined that cash compensation in the form of bonuses would provide better incentives for Mr. Harding to achieve the Company's performance objectives.

#### **Discussion with Respect to Qualifying Compensation for Deductibility**

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code imposes a limit on tax deductions for annual compensation (other than performance-based compensation) in excess of one million dollars paid by a corporation to its CEO and its other four most compensated executive officers. The Company has not established a policy with regard to Section 162(m) of the Code because the Company does not currently anticipate paying cash compensation in excess of one million dollars per annum to any employee. The Compensation Committee will continue to assess the impact of Section 162(m) on its compensation practices and determine what further action, if any, is appropriate.

### Stock Ownership Requirements for Executive Officers

While the Company has not established stock ownership guidelines for its executive officer(s), at August 31, 2011, the Company's CEO owned stock with a market value in excess of eight times his base salary, in excess of the five times base salary multiple that is the median multiple for the Top 100 of S&P 500 companies and the six times base salary that the Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) defines as robust ownership, earning such companies the highest score on the item form ISS.

### Compensation Tables

The Company's CEO, Mr. Harding, is the Principal Executive Officer and the Principal Financial Officer of the Company. Therefore, all tables contained in this section relate solely to Mr. Harding.

Name and principal position (a)	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,
	Fiscal year (b)	Base Salary (\$)(c)	Bonus (\$)(d)	Stock Awards (\$)(e)	Option Awards (\$)(f)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)(g)	Change in Pension Value and Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Earnings (\$)(h)	All Other Compensation (\$)(i)	Total (\$)(j)
Mark W. Harding, President, CEO and CFO	2011	250,000	110,000						360,000
	2010	250,000							250,000
	2009	250,000							250,000

**Grants of Plan Based Awards** The Company did not grant any plan based awards to Mr. Harding during the year ended August 31, 2011. Therefore, the Company omitted the Grants of Plan Based Awards Table.

**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End** Mr. Harding did not have any outstanding equity awards at August 31, 2011. Therefore, the Company omitted the Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End table.

**Option Exercise and Stock Vested** Mr. Harding did not exercise any options or have any stock vest during the year ended August 31, 2011. Therefore, the Company omitted the Option Exercise and Stock Vested table.

**Pension Benefits** The Company does not offer pension benefits. Therefore, the Company omitted the Pension Benefits Table.

**Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation** The Company does not have any non-qualified deferred compensation plans. Therefore, the Company has omitted the Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Table.

**Termination or Change-in-Control Payments** The Company does not have any plan or arrangement that provides for payments to the executive officer in connection with a termination or change of control.

### **Compensation Committee Report<sup>1</sup>**

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management, and based on the Committee's review and discussion with management, has recommended to the full board of directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the Company's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors

/s/ George M. Middlemas (Chairman)

/s/ Harry H. Augur

/s/ Arthur G. Epker III

### **REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>**

The Audit Committee of the board of directors is comprised of independent directors and operates under a written charter adopted by the board of directors. The Audit Committee charter is reassessed and updated as needed in accordance with applicable rules of the SEC and The NASDAQ Stock Market.

The Audit Committee serves in an oversight capacity. Management is responsible for the Company's internal controls over financial reporting. The independent auditors are responsible for performing an independent audit of the Company's financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) and issuing a report thereon. The Audit Committee's primary responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes and to select and retain the Company's independent auditors. In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed with management the Company's audited financial statements and discussed not only the acceptability but also the quality of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of the significant judgments and estimates, critical accounting policies and the clarity of disclosures in the audited financial statements prior to issuance.

The Audit Committee reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements as of and for the year ended August 31, 2011 with the Company's independent auditors, GHP Horwath, P.C. (GHP), and discussed not only the acceptability but also the quality of the accounting principles, the reasonableness of the significant judgments and estimates, critical accounting policies and the clarity of disclosures in the audited financial statements prior to issuance. The Audit Committee meets with GHP, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examination and the overall quality of the Company's financial reporting. The Audit Committee discussed and reviewed with GHP all communications required by generally accepted auditing standards, including those described in Statement on Auditing Standards (SAS) No. 61, as amended (AICPA, *Professional Standards, Vol. 1*, AU Section 380), as adopted by the PCAOB in Rule 3200T. GHP also provided the Audit Committee the written disclosures and the letter required by the applicable requirements of the PCAOB for independent auditor communications with the Audit Committee concerning independence. The Audit Committee also confirmed GHP's independence with GHP.

Based on the foregoing, the Audit Committee recommended to the board of directors that the Company's audited financial statements be included in the Company's Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2011.

/s/ Peter C. Howell (Chairman)

/s/ Harrison H. Augur

/s/ Richard L. Guido

<sup>1</sup> These reports are not soliciting material, are not deemed filed with the Commission and are not to be incorporated by reference in any filing of the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, irrespective of any general incorporation language in any such filing, except to the extent the Company specifically references one of these reports.



---

## CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

### Agreements with Related Parties

**Tap Participation Fee Payments** On August 31, 2006, pursuant to an Asset Purchase Agreement (the "Arkansas River Agreement") with HP A&M, the Company purchased approximately 60,000 acre feet of water rights in the Arkansas River and other related assets. As consideration for these assets, the Company issued HP A&M 3,000,000 shares of its common stock. The Company also granted HP A&M the right to receive ten percent (10%) of gross proceeds, or the equivalent thereof, from the sale of the next 40,000 water taps (the "Tap Participation Fee"), which was valued at approximately \$45.6 million at the acquisition date. The Tap Participation Fee is due and payable once the Company sells a water tap and receives the consideration due for such water tap. The Company did not sell any water taps during the years ended August 31, 2011 or 2010. As of the date of this Proxy Statement, as further described in Note 14 to the Company's 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K, 19,468 water taps remain subject to the Tap Participation Fee which was increased to 20% effective September 1, 2011. As a result of the acquisition, HP A&M owns 12.5% of the outstanding shares of common stock of the Company.

**Convertible Negotiable Promissory Note** Effective September 28, 2010, the Company issued a Convertible Negotiable Promissory Note (the "Note") to PIP, an approximately 15.2% shareholder of the Company's common stock at the time of issuance. On January 11, 2011, upon approval by the Company's shareholders, the Note was converted into 1,982,099 shares of the Company's common stock.

**Stock Purchase Pursuant to the Company's Public Offering** In connection with the Company's September 28, 2010, offering of 1,923,931 shares of the Company's common stock, the Company's Chairman of the board, Mr. Augur, purchased 13,333 shares (or \$40,000) in the offering and PIP purchased 930,633 shares (or \$2,791,899) in the offering at the offering price of \$3.00 per share. The Audit Committee discussed and evaluated the proposed purchases in accordance with the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and the Audit Committee Charter, as described below. The Audit Committee approved the purchases after determining that the terms and conditions of the purchases were fair to the Company and its shareholders and that the purchases were in the Company's best interest.

### Review and Approval of Related Party Transactions

It is the Company's policy as set forth in its Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that actual or apparent conflicts of interest are to be avoided if possible and must be disclosed to the board of directors. Pursuant to the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, any transaction involving a related party must be reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee. Additionally, the Audit Committee Charter requires the Audit Committee to review any transaction involving the Company and a related party at least once a year or upon any significant change in the transaction or relationship. The Code also provides non-exclusive examples of conduct which would involve a potential conflict of interest and requires any material transaction involving a potential conflict of interest to be approved in advance by the board. If a waiver from the Code is granted to an executive officer or director, the nature of the waiver will be disclosed on the Company's website, in a press release, or on a current report on Form 8-K.

The Company annually requires each of its directors and executive officers to complete a directors' and officers' questionnaire that solicits information about related party transactions. The Company's board of directors and outside legal counsel review all transactions and relationships disclosed in the directors' and officers' questionnaire, and the board makes a formal determination regarding each director's independence. If a director is determined to no longer be independent, such director, if he or she serves on any of the Audit Committee, the Nominating Committee, or the Compensation Committee, will be removed from such committee prior to (or otherwise will not participate in) any future meeting of the committee. If the transaction presents a conflict of interest, the board of directors will determine the appropriate response.

---

**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

**(Proposal No. 1)**

As of the date of the Meeting, the number of members of the board of directors will be fixed at six. The board of directors nominates the following persons currently serving on the board for reelection to the board: Mark W. Harding, Harrison H. Augur, Arthur G. Epker III, Richard L. Guido, Peter C. Howell, and George M. Middlemas.

Set forth below are the names of all nominees for director, all positions and offices with the Company held by each such person, the period during which each has served as such, and the principal occupations and employment of and public company directorships held by such persons during at least the last five years, as well as additional information regarding the skills, knowledge and experience with respect to each nominee which has led the board of directors to conclude that each such nominee should be elected or re-elected as a director of the Company.

**Mark W. Harding.** Mr. Harding joined the Company in April 1990 as Corporate Secretary and Chief Financial Officer. He was appointed CEO of the Company in April 2001, CEO in April 2005, and a member of the board of directors in February 2004. Mr. Harding brings a background in investment banking and public finance, having worked from 1988 to 1990 for Price Waterhouse's management consulting services where he assisted clients in public finance and other investment banking related services. In determining Mr. Harding's qualifications to on the board of directors, the board of directors considered, among other things, that Mr. Harding is the CEO and a board member of the Rangeview Metropolitan District and serves on a number of advisory boards relating to water and wastewater issues in the Denver region, including a statewide roundtable created by the Colorado legislature charged with identifying ways in which Colorado can address the water shortages facing Front Range cities including Denver and Colorado Springs. Mr. Harding earned a B.S. Degree in Computer Science and a Masters in Business Administration in Finance from the University of Denver.

**Harrison H. Augur.** Mr. Augur joined the board and was elected Chairman in April 2001. For more than 20 years, Mr. Augur has been involved with investment management and venture capital investment groups. Mr. Augur has been a general partner of CA Partners since 1987 and of Patience Partners LLC since 1999. Mr. Augur received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University, an LLB degree from Columbia University School of Law, and an LLM degree from New York University School of Law. In determining Mr. Augur's qualifications to serve on the board of directors, the board of directors has considered, among other things, his extensive experience and expertise in finance and law.

**Arthur G. Epker III.** Mr. Epker was appointed to the board in August 2007. Since 1992, Mr. Epker has been a Vice CEO and partner of PAR Capital Management, Inc., an investment adviser. In that capacity, Mr. Epker manages a portion of the assets of PAR Investment Partners, L.P., a private investment fund. Mr. Epker received his undergraduate degree in computer science and economics with highest distinction from the University of Michigan and received a Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School. In determining Mr. Epker's qualifications to serve on the board of directors, the board of directors has considered, among other things, his extensive experience and expertise in finance and investment management.

**Richard L. Guido.** Mr. Guido served as a member of the Company's board from July 1996 through August 31, 2003, and rejoined the board in 2004. Mr. Guido was Associate General Counsel of DeltaCom, Inc., a telecommunications company, from March 2006 to March 2007. From 1980 through 2004, Mr. Guido was an employee of Inco Limited, a Canadian mining company (now known as Vale Inco). While at Inco Mr. Guido served as Associate General Counsel of Inco Limited and served as CEO, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary of Inco United States, Inc., now known as Vale Inco Americas, Inc. Mr. Guido received a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Air Force Academy, a Master of Arts degree from Georgetown University, and a Juris Doctor degree from the Catholic University of America. In determining Mr. Guido's qualifications to serve on the board of directors, the board of directors has considered, among other things, his extensive experience and expertise in finance, law and natural resource development.

**Peter C. Howell.** Mr. Howell was appointed to fill a vacancy on the board in February 2005. From 1997 to present, Mr. Howell has served as an officer, director or advisor to various business enterprises in the area of acquisitions, marketing and financial reporting. From August 1994 to August 1997, Mr. Howell served as the Chairman and CEO of Signature Brands USA, Inc. (formerly known as Health-O-Meter), and from 1989 to 1994 Mr. Howell served as CEO and a director of Mr. Coffee, Inc. Mr. Howell is a member of the board of directors of Libbey, Inc., Global Lite

Array Inc. (a subsidiary of Global-Tech Advanced Innovations Inc.) and Great Lakes Cheese, Inc., a privately held company. Mr. Howell received a Master of Arts degree in Economics from Cambridge University. In determining Mr. Howell's qualifications to serve on the board of directors, the board of directors has considered, among other things, his extensive experience and expertise in finance and financial reporting as well as his general business expertise.

**George M. Middlemas.** Mr. Middlemas has been a director since April 1993. Mr. Middlemas has been a general partner with Apex Venture Partners, a diversified venture capital management group, since 1991. From 1985 to 1991, Mr. Middlemas was Senior Vice CEO of Inco Venture Capital Management, primarily involved in venture capital investments for Inco Securities Corporation. From 1979 to 1985, Mr. Middlemas was Vice CEO and a member of the Investment Committee of Citicorp Venture Capital Ltd., where he sourced, evaluated and completed investments for Citicorp. Mr. Middlemas is a director of Advanced Equities, Inc., Pennsylvania State University Library Development Board and Athletic Committee and the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago. Mr. Middlemas received a Bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Pennsylvania State University, a Masters degree in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School. In determining Mr. Middlemas's qualifications to serve on the board of directors, the board of directors has considered, among other things, his extensive experience and expertise in finance and investment management.

The proxy cannot be voted for more than the six nominees named. Directors are elected for one-year terms or until the next annual meeting of the shareholders and until their successors are elected and qualified. All of the nominees have expressed their willingness to serve, but if because of circumstances not contemplated, one or more nominees is not available for election, the proxy holders named in the enclosed proxy card intend to vote for such other person or persons as the Nominating Committee may nominate.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT THE SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE ELECTION AS DIRECTORS OF THE PERSONS NOMINATED.**

## **RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS**

### **(Proposal No. 2)**

Action is to be taken by the shareholders at the Meeting with respect to the ratification and approval of the selection by the Audit Committee of the Company's board of directors of GHP Horwath, P.C. (GHP) to be the independent auditors of the Company for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2012. In the event of a negative vote on such ratification, the Audit Committee of the board of directors will reconsider its selection. A representative of GHP is expected to be present at the Meeting. The GHP representative will have the opportunity to make a statement if he or she desires to do so, and is expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

The Audit Committee reviews and approves in advance the audit scope, the types of non-audit services, if any, and the estimated fees for each category for the coming year. For each category of proposed service, GHP is required to confirm that the provision of such services does not impair the auditors' independence. Before selecting GHP, the Audit Committee carefully considered that firm's qualifications as an independent registered public accounting firm for the Company. This included a review of its performance in prior years, as well as its reputation for integrity and competence in the fields of accounting and auditing. The Audit Committee has expressed its satisfaction with GHP in all of these respects. The Audit Committee's review included inquiry concerning any litigation involving GHP and any proceedings by the SEC against the firm.

GHP has no direct or indirect financial interest in the Company and does not have any connection with the Company in the capacity of promoter, underwriter, voting trustee, director, officer or employee. Neither the Company, nor any officer, director nor associate of the Company has any interest in GHP.

**Fees** For the fiscal years ended August 31, 2011 and 2010, the Company was billed the following audit, audit-related, tax and other fees by its independent registered public accountant. The Audit Committee approved 100% of these fees in accordance with the Audit Committee Charter.

	September 30, For the Fiscal Years Ended: August 31, 2011	September 30, For the Fiscal Years Ended: August 31, 2010
Audit Fees	\$ 52,000	\$ 57,200
Audit Related Fees	\$ 1,500	\$ 5,800
Tax	\$ 8,000	\$
All Other Fees	\$	\$

**Pre-Approval Policy** The Audit Committee has established a pre-approval policy in its charter. In accordance with the policy, the Audit Committee pre-approves all audit, non-audit and internal control related services provided by the independent auditors prior to the engagement of the independent auditors with respect to such services.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS.**

#### ACTION TO BE TAKEN UNDER THE PROXY

The proxy will be voted FOR approval of proposal 2 and FOR the directors nominated by the board, unless the proxy is marked in such a manner as to withhold authority to so vote. The proxy will also be voted in connection with the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof. Management knows of no other matters, other than the matters set forth above, to be considered at the Meeting. If, however, any other matters properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof, the persons named in the accompanying proxy will vote such proxy in accordance with their best judgment on any such matter. The persons named in the accompanying proxy will also, if in their judgment it is deemed to be advisable, vote to adjourn the Meeting from time to time.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

##### Section 16 (a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

The Company's directors and executive officers and persons who are beneficial owners of more than 10% of common stock are required to file reports of their holdings and transactions in common stock with the SEC and furnish the Company with such reports. Based solely upon the review of the copies of the Section 16(a) reports received by the Company and written representations from these persons, the Company believes that during the fiscal year ended August 31, 2011, all the directors, executive officers and 10% beneficial owners complied with the applicable Section 16(a) filing requirements. The Company files the Form 4 with respect to stock purchases made on behalf of the directors.

##### Shareholder Proposals

Shareholder proposals for inclusion in the Proxy Statement for the 2013 annual meeting of shareholders must be received at the principal executive offices of the Company by August 10, 2012 but not before June 12, 2012. For more information refer to the Company's Bylaws which were filed as Appendix C to the Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on December 14, 2007. The Company is not required to include proposals received outside of these dates in the proxy materials for the 2013 annual meeting of shareholders, and any such proposals shall be considered untimely. The persons named in the proxy will have discretionary authority to vote all proxies with respect to any untimely proposals.

##### Delivery of Materials to Shareholders with Shared Addresses

The Company utilizes a procedure approved by the SEC called "householding", which reduces printing and postage costs. Shareholders who have the same address and last name will receive one copy of the Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials or one set of printed proxy materials unless one or more of these shareholders has provided contrary instructions.

If you wish to receive a separate copy of the proxy statement or the Notice of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, or if you are receiving multiple copies and would like to receive a single copy, please contact the Company's transfer agent at 1-800-579-1639, or write to or call the Company's Secretary at the Company's address or phone number set forth above, and the Company will undertake to deliver such documents promptly. If your shares are owned through a bank, broker or other nominee, you may request householding by contacting the nominee.

**Form 10-K and Related Exhibits**

The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K is available, free of charge, at the Company's website, [www.purecyclewater.com](http://www.purecyclewater.com), or at the SEC's website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, the Company will furnish a copy of its Form 10-K to any shareholder free of charge and a copy of any exhibit to the Form 10-K upon payment of the Company's reasonable expenses incurred in furnishing such exhibit(s). You may request a copy of the Form 10-K or any exhibit thereto by writing the Company's Secretary at: Pure Cycle Corporation, 1490 Lafayette Street, Suite 203, Denver, CO 80218, or by sending an email to [info@purecyclewater.com](mailto:info@purecyclewater.com). The information on the Company's website is not part of this proxy statement.

**Documents Incorporated by Reference**

Shareholders should review the following items included in the Company's 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K, which is provided with this proxy statement, and such items are incorporated by reference herein:

*Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*

*Item 7A Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk*

*Item 8 Financial Statements and Supplementary Data*

*Item 9 Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure*













