

# SWISS WATER DECAFFEINATED COFFEE INC.

Notice of Annual General Meeting of Shareholders

To be held on May 16, 2024

Information Circular

## **MESSAGE FROM DIRECTORS**



March 28, 2024

Dear Fellow Shareholders,

On behalf of Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc., we are pleased to present our 2023 annual report and proxy materials for our upcoming Annual General Meeting of Shareholders on May 16, 2024 (the "Meeting").

The year 2023 stands as a testament to our company's unwavering commitment to excellence and growth. We are thrilled to share with you the highlights of our journey and the promising trajectory that lies ahead. One of the significant decade-long accomplishments of the year was the completion of the second production line at our state-of-the-art processing plant in Delta, BC. With both lines now operating 24/7, we have not only expanded our capacity but also enhanced our ability to meet the increasing demand for chemical-free decaffeinated coffees.

Despite facing some capacity constraints during the year as we closed our former Burnaby facility, our team demonstrated exceptional resilience and skillfully managed the transition, ensuring minimal interruption to our customers and operations. As a result, we achieved strong revenues of \$166.3 million and adjusted EBITDA of \$13.4 million. Furthermore, we have continued to strengthen our relationships with existing customers while laying the groundwork for attracting important new partners who are keen to offer their customers chemical-free decaffeinated coffee. This proactive approach has already borne positive outcomes, with tangible results in 2023 and promising prospects for continued growth in 2024 and beyond.

Looking ahead, we are confident in our ability to capitalize on the additional capacity and satisfy the anticipated demand volume growth for chemical-free decaffeination in the years to come. The measures we have taken have positioned us well for future success, enabling us to generate increasing volumes and cash flow, which in turn will allow us to strengthen our balance sheet and position us for future growth.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all our Shareholders, Customers, Suppliers, and Employees for your unwavering support and commitment. Your trust in our company and personnel fuels our determination to excel, and we are deeply appreciative of the confidence you have placed in us.

Also, we would like to thank all of our Shareholders for your support at our last Annual General Meeting and we look forward to hearing from you at our upcoming Meeting on May 16, 2024.

Sincerely,

(Signed) "Frank A. Dennis"
Frank A. Dennis, Director, CEO and President
Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc.
Delta, British Columbia, Canada

(Signed) "Alan C. Wallace" Alan C. Wallace, Chairman of the Board Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc. Delta, British Columbia, Canada **2024 Notice of Annual General Meeting of Shareholders** 



# You are invited to the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc.

**Date** Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. (PDT)

Listen only Teleconference

Canada/USA (toll-free) 1-844-763-8274
International (toll) 1-647-484-8814

Interested parties should dial in 5 to 10 minutes prior to the start time and ask to join the Swiss Water call.

# **Pre-registration of participants**

Registered Shareholders and Proxyholders wishing to participate fully and vote during the Meeting must preregister at least 48 hours prior to the Meeting by clicking here:

# Link to MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION

(Deadline is 48 hours in advance of the Meeting where pre-registrants will receive dial-in details and a PIN)

Or copy the following URL link and paste it into your search browser's address bar: <a href="https://dpregister.com/sreg/10023204/f7eee95c00">https://dpregister.com/sreg/10023204/f7eee95c00</a>

#### **Definitions**

In this Notice, we, us, our, Swiss Water and Company refer to Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc. and all entities controlled by it unless otherwise specified. You and your, refer to Swiss Water's Registered Shareholders and duly appointed Proxyholders. Meeting and Teleconference Meeting refer to Swiss Water's Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.

An electronic version of this Notice of Meeting and Information Circular is also available on <a href="www.sedarplus.ca">www.sedarplus.ca</a> and our website <a href="https://investor.swisswater.com/">https://investor.swisswater.com/</a>.

# **Business of the Meeting**

- 1. To place before the Meeting the report of the Directors, the financial statements of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the Independent Auditor's Report thereon;
- 2. To elect the Directors who will serve until the next Annual General Meeting of Shareholders;
- 3. To appoint MNP LLP as Auditors of the Company for the ensuing year and authorize the Directors to fix their remuneration;
- 4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

#### SWISS WATER DECAFFEINATED COFFEE INC.

**2024 Notice of Annual General Meeting of Shareholders** 

# **Teleconference Meeting**

Our Shareholders and guests will be able to access the Meeting by telephone only. Shareholders and guests will not be able to attend the Meeting in person.

Only Registered Shareholders and Proxyholders who have pre-registered before the deadline will be permitted to vote and participate/ask questions during the Teleconference Meeting. To pre-register for the Meeting, Registered Shareholders and Proxyholders should follow the link above. **Shareholders are strongly encouraged to submit votes early, before the Meeting, by using their Form of Proxy.** Guests and individuals who do not pre-register are welcome to dial in on the listen-only teleconference numbers provided above and will not be able to participate/ask questions during the Meeting.

#### Who Can Vote

You have the right to vote at our Meeting if you are a Shareholder. The manner in which you can vote your Swiss Water shares depends on whether: (i) your shares are held in your name or where you hold certificates or Direct Registration DRS in your name ("Registered Shareholder"); or (ii) your shares are held in the name of an intermediary such as a bank, trust company, securities broker or other intermediaries ("Beneficial Shareholder"). You can also authorize another person (a "Proxyholder") to vote at the Meeting on your behalf. You are entitled to vote if you were a Registered Shareholder by the close of business at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on April 8, 2024, which is the Record Date, for determining Shareholders who are entitled to attend and vote. As a Swiss Water Shareholder, it is important that you read the accompanying Information Circular carefully.

#### **How to Vote**

You can vote in advance of the Meeting by Form of Proxy, or you can vote over the phone, refer to the Information Circular under "How to vote in advance of the meeting" and "How to vote at the meeting".

# Voting in Advance of the Meeting is strongly encouraged by using the Form of Proxy

If you are a Registered Shareholder, complete the enclosed Proxy Form, then date, sign, and deliver it (via mail or courier) to the Company's Transfer Agent addressed to c/o Proxy Department, Computershare Investor Services Inc., 100 University Avenue, 8th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2Y1, Canada. Proxy Forms must be delivered, by no later than 2:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 ("Deadline"). Advance voting is also available using the telephone or using the internet, prior to the Deadline. You will need your Shareholders' unique 15-digit control number that is listed on the Form of Proxy.

Call to vote in advance (toll-free) 1-866-732-8683

Link to voting in advance www.investorvote.com

Or copy the following URL link and paste it into your search browser's address bar:

http://www.investorvote.com/
(prior to the Deadline of May 14, 2024)

#### SWISS WATER DECAFFEINATED COFFEE INC.

# **2024 Notice of Annual General Meeting of Shareholders**

<u>If you are a Beneficial Shareholder</u>, complete the enclosed voting instruction form provided by your intermediary and return it in accordance with the instructions contained in the voting instruction form. Voting instruction forms generally should be submitted one day prior to the Deadline.

# **Voting at the Meeting**

Registered Shareholders and duly appointed Proxyholders may participate at the Meeting via a live teleconference. Specifically, Registered Shareholders and duly appointed Proxyholders who have <u>properly preregistered</u> to participate in the Meeting, will have the opportunity to speak during the Meeting and participate in telephone voting. If a Shareholder who has already voted chooses to cast their vote again, it overrides the votes they previously submitted.

The online **pre-registration link** is above and must be completed prior to the proxy cut-off time of **2:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on Tuesday, May 14, 2024**, which is at least 48 hours prior to the Meeting.

After pre-registration has been completed, pre-registered Registered Shareholders and duly appointed Proxyholders will see on the screen a **unique PIN they have been assigned and dial-in phone numbers they will use to join the conference call.** These details will also be sent by email in the form of a calendar booking. It is recommended that you attempt to connect at least ten minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the Meeting.

All other Shareholders and stakeholders wishing to attend the Meeting by teleconference, but not ask questions, may dial the phone numbers provided at the top of page 1, approximately five minutes prior to the commencement of the Meeting and ask the operator to join the Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc. Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.

#### **Questions?**

Accompanying this Notice of Meeting is our Information Circular, where you can find more information on how to vote with your Shares in the Company. Please read the accompanying materials carefully, as there may be additional steps to follow due to the nature of the Meeting being held as a live teleconference.

Shareholders are encouraged to email their questions early. To submit your questions ahead of the Meeting please email them to <a href="mailto:investor-relations@swisswater.com">investor-relations@swisswater.com</a>.

For further information and updates on Swiss Water, please visit <a href="https://investor.swisswater.com/financial-information/">https://investor.swisswater.com/financial-information/</a>.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

(Signed) "Frank Dennis"

Frank A. Dennis

President & Chief Executive Officer

Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc.

#### **INFORMATION CIRCULAR**

This Information Circular is provided in connection with the solicitation of proxies on behalf of the Directors of SWISS WATER DECAFFEINATED COFFEE INC. ("Swiss Water" or the "Company"). Information contained in this Circular is for the use at the Annual General Meeting ("the Meeting") of its Shareholders to be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time), and at any adjournment thereof, at the time and place and for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of the Meeting.

# PERSONS OR COMPANIES MAKING THE SOLICITATION

This Information Circular is provided in connection with the solicitation of proxies on behalf of the Directors by the management of Swiss Water. The cost of the solicitation has been and will be borne by the Company. Information contained in this Circular is dated March 28, 2024, except where otherwise noted. All figures are in Canadian Dollars unless stated otherwise.

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#### **ABOUT SWISS WATER**

Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc. ("Swiss Water" or the "Company"), is a company amalgamated under the *Canada Business Corporations Act* and its common shares (the "Common Shares" and each, a "Common Share" or the "Shares" and each, a "Share") are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (the "TSX") under the symbol "SWP". The Company's principal office is located at 7750 Beedie Way, Delta, British Columbia, V4G 0A5, Canada.

Swiss Water is a result of an amalgamation, which occurred on September 28, 2018, between Ten Peaks Coffee Company Inc. ("Ten Peaks") and its 100% owned subsidiary, Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Company Inc. ("SWDCC"). At the time of the amalgamation, the Company's symbol on the TSX was changed from TPK to SWP.

Ten Peaks resulted from a reorganization (the "Reorganization") effective January 1, 2011, pursuant to a plan of arrangement (the "Arrangement") involving, among others, Ten Peaks, Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Income Fund ("the Fund") and SWDCC.

Information herein with respect to Swiss Water includes information in respect of the Fund prior to completion of the Reorganization and Arrangement to the extent applicable unless the context otherwise requires. In addition, references to "common shares" and "shares" should be read as references to "units" and references to "director" should be read as references to "trustee" for periods prior to January 1, 2011.

#### **MEETING DATE AND ACCESS**

# Date and Time of the Meeting

Swiss Water's Annual General Meeting of Shareholders (the "Meeting") is a virtual meeting, in a form of a live audio teleconference only. The Meeting is on

# → Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (5:00 p.m. Eastern)

and is for the purposes outlined in the Notice of Meeting. Shareholders and guests will not be able to attend the Meeting in person.

# **How to Access the Meeting**

#### To listen only

To listen only to the Teleconference Meeting, interested parties should dial in 5 to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time and ask to join the Swiss Water call.

**Teleconference** Canada/USA (toll-free) **1-844-763-8274** 

(Listen only) International (toll) 1-647-484-8814

#### How to Pre-register to participate and vote

Only Registered Shareholders and Proxyholders will be able to participate/ask questions and/or vote during the live teleconference Meeting. To do so, the Registered Shareholders and Proxyholders wishing to participate fully and vote during the meeting must pre-register at least 48 hours before the Meeting.

### **Pre-registration**

Registered Shareholders and Proxyholders wishing to participate fully and/or vote (Participants) during the meeting must pre-register before the proxy cut-off time, at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, which is at least 48 hours before the Meeting, by clicking:

# Link to MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION

(Deadline is 48 hours in advance of the Meeting where pre-registrants will receive dial-in details and a PIN)

Or copy the following URL link and paste it into your search browser's address bar: <a href="https://dpregister.com/sreg/10023204/f7eee95c00">https://dpregister.com/sreg/10023204/f7eee95c00</a>

For support with pre-registration, please contact Chorus Call Canada, via email at <a href="mailto:canada@choruscall.com">canada@choruscall.com</a> Attention: G. Van Dusen. After pre-registration has been completed, pre-registered Registered Shareholders and duly appointed Proxyholders will see onscreen dial-in details they will use to join the conference call, including a unique PIN they have been assigned. These details will also be sent by email in the form of a calendar booking. It is recommended that callers attempt to connect at least ten minutes before the scheduled start time of the Meeting. Although voting during the meeting is possible, the Board of Directors highly recommends that Shareholders vote early, prior to the meeting, using the Form of Proxy.

#### **REVOCABILITY OF PROXIES**

A Shareholder executing and delivering a proxy has the power to revoke it by an instrument in writing signed by the Shareholder giving the same or by his or her attorney authorized in writing and deposited at the registered office of the Company at any time up to and including the last business day preceding the day of the Meeting or any adjournment thereof, or delivered to the Chair of the Meeting on the day of the Meeting or any adjournment thereof, or in any other manner provided by law. A proxy is valid only in respect of the Meeting.

#### BUSINESS OF THE MEETING AND MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON

The following will be addressed at the meeting:

# 1. Receiving Annual Financial Statements and the Independent Auditor's Report

Swiss Water's annual consolidated financial statements for the financial year ended December 31, 2023, including the independent auditor's report were sent to Shareholders who requested these materials. They are also available on <a href="https://investor.swisswater.com/">www.sedarplus.ca</a> and the Company's website <a href="https://investor.swisswater.com/">https://investor.swisswater.com/</a>.

#### 2. Election of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board") is proposing the election of seven Directors and the Board recommends that Shareholders and duly appointed Proxyholders vote **FOR** the election of the following individuals:

Frank A. Dennis	Roland W. Veit	Robert B. Johnston	Nancy L. McKenzie
Donald J. Tringali	Alan C. Wallace	Justin C. Jacobs	

# 3. Appointment of Auditors

The Directors propose to nominate MNP LLP as Auditors of the Company for remuneration to be determined by the Board to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders. MNP LLP was first appointed as the Auditor in 2023. Details as to the remuneration paid to the Auditors for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, can be found in the Company's Annual Information Form for the year ended December 31, 2023, filed on <a href="www.sedarplus.ca">www.sedarplus.ca</a>. The Board recommends that Shareholders and Proxyholders vote **FOR** the appointment of MNP LLP.

# 4. Other Business

The Company will consider any other business that may properly come before the Meeting. As of the date of this Information Circular, the Directors are not aware of any amendments to the matters to be presented for action at the Meeting or of any other matters to be presented for action at the Meeting other than the matters referred to in the Notice of Meeting.

Where any amendments or variations to the matters identified in the Notice of Meeting or such other matters that may properly come before the Meeting, Shareholders are also conferring discretionary authority to Shareholders' appointed representative to vote on such matters as they see fit.

## **VOTING INFORMATION**

# Who Can Vote and Record Date

Registered Shareholders, Beneficial Holders, and Proxyholders.

Only Registered Shareholders, registered by the **Record Date**, which is April 8, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time), or duly appointed Proxyholders are entitled to participate and vote or have their Shares voted at the Meeting.

Shareholders can vote in advance of the Meeting by Form of Proxy, refer to section 'How to vote in advance of the meeting & Proxy Submission Deadline'. While the Board of Directors highly recommends voting early, in advance of the Meeting, Shareholders can vote over the phone at the Meeting. Also, Registered Shareholders have the right to authorize another person, a "Proxyholder", to vote at the Meeting on their behalf.

The manner in which a Shareholder can vote depends on whether the Shares are held in the Registered Shareholder's name or, in the case of a Beneficial Holder, in the name of their Intermediary (defined below).

A <u>Registered Shareholder</u> is a shareholder who holds share certificates issued in their name or appears as the registered shareholder on the shareholder register or who holds share certificates or Direct Registration DRS advice issued in their name.

A <u>Beneficial Holder</u> is a shareholder whose shares are registered in the name of a bank, trust company, investment dealer, or other institution (an "*Intermediary*") and such shares are held for that shareholder's benefit.

### When to Vote

Shareholders can and are STRONGLY encouraged to vote early and in advance of the Meeting by Form of Proxy, refer to section 'How to vote in advance of the meeting & Proxy Submission Deadline'. While the Board of Directors highly recommends voting early, in advance of the Meeting, Shareholders can vote over the phone at

the Meeting. Also, Registered Shareholders have the right to authorize another person, a "**Proxyholder**", to vote at the Meeting on their behalf.

# How to Vote in Advance of the Meeting & Form of Proxy Submission Deadline

Registered Shareholders can and are STRONGLY encouraged to vote in advance of the Meeting by completing the enclosed Proxy Form, adding a date and their signature, and delivering it (via mail or courier) to the Company's Transfer Agent. Proxy Forms must be delivered, by no later than 2:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 ("Deadline"). Advance voting is also available using the telephone by calling, toll-free, 1-866-732-8683; or via the internet by going to the website <a href="www.investorvote.com">www.investorvote.com</a> prior to the Deadline. You will need your Shareholders' unique 15-digit control number that is listed on the Form of Proxy.

If the Meeting is adjourned or postponed, the Form of Proxy must be received no later than 48 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and statutory holidays, before the commencement of such adjourned or postponed meeting.

# Where to Submit Form of Proxy & Transfer Agent Address

The Form of Proxy must be submitted, by the Deadline, to the **Company's Transfer Agent, Computershare**, either in person, by mail, or by courier, to the attention of c/o Proxy Department, Computershare Investor Services Inc., 100 University Avenue, 8th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2Y1, Canada; or via the internet by going to www.investorvote.com.

# How to Vote at the Meeting

Registered Shareholders and duly appointed Proxyholders may participate at the Meeting via a live teleconference. Specifically, Registered Shareholders and duly appointed Proxyholders who have properly preregistered to participate in the Meeting, as outlined above, will have the opportunity to speak during the Meeting and to participate in telephone voting. If a Registered Shareholder who has already voted chooses to cast their vote again, it overrides the votes they previously submitted. To pre-register, see instructions under the 'Meeting date and access' subheading 'How to pre-register to participate and vote'.

# How to Appoint a Proxyholder using the Form of Proxy

Registered Shareholders can appoint a Proxy /Proxyholder, either the person(s) designated by the Company or another person, who does not need to be a Shareholder, to attend and act for the Shareholder at the Meeting.

- A. The persons named in the enclosed Form of Proxy are the Directors and/or Officers of the Company ("Company designated Proxyholders"). Registered Shareholders can complete their voting selection on their Form of Proxy and submit it as follows:
  - via the internet at <a href="www.investorvote.com">www.investorvote.com</a> or by scanning the QR code displayed on the Form of Proxy and following the instructions. The Registered Shareholder's account number and proxy access number are also located on the Form of Proxy; or
  - by calling toll-free 1-866-732-8683 from a touch-tone phone and following the instructions. The Registered Shareholder's account number and proxy access number are located on the Form of Proxy; or
  - by completing, signing, dating, and returning their Form of Proxy to the Company's Transfer Agent, Computershare, by the Deadline (as defined above), as instructed on the Form of Proxy.
- B. A Registered Shareholder has the right to appoint a person, a *Proxyholder*, other than those designated by the Company, who does not need to be a Shareholder, to attend and act for the Registered Shareholder

and on the Registered Shareholder's behalf. This is a two-step process. First, the Form of Proxy needs to be submitted and secondly, the Proxyholder will need to pre-register for the virtual Teleconference Meeting. Both steps need to be done prior to the Deadline.

**Failure to properly complete or deposit a Form of Proxy** by the Deadline may result in its invalidation. The time limit for the deposit of proxies may be waived by the Board at its discretion without notice.

After a completed Form of Proxy is delivered to Computershare before the Deadline, the Proxyholder is required to pre-register in order to represent and vote at the Meeting on behalf of the Shareholder. **Failure to pre-register the Proxyholder** by the Deadline will result in the Proxyholder not receiving a dedicated phone number and a unique pin. Without the dedicated phone number and the unique pin, the Proxyholders will not be able to vote or participate at the Meeting. To pre-register, see instructions under 'Meeting date and access', subheading 'How to pre-register to participate and vote'. The two steps to appoint a Proxyholder are:

Shareholder completes the Form Proxy by:

- inserting the full name of the person the Shareholder wishes to represent them at the Meeting in the space provided on the Form of Proxy;
- indicating how the appointed Proxy is to vote on the Shareholder's behalf, signing and dating the
  Form of Proxy and returning it to Computershare as instructed on Form of Proxy. Shareholders who
  wish to appoint a Proxyholder to represent them at the live audio teleconference of the Meeting
  must submit their Form of Proxy prior to pre-registering the Proxyholder prior to the Deadline
  (see 'Where to submit Form of Proxy').

<u>The Proxyholder pre-registers</u> for the virtual Teleconference Meeting before the Deadline in order to obtain a dedicated phone number and a unique pin. To pre-register, see the instructions under 'Meeting date and access', subheading 'How to pre-register to participate and vote'. In order to participate and/or vote at the live audio Teleconference of the Meeting, the Proxyholder MUST pre-register using the link provided above for pre-registration.

# **How are Shares Voted by Proxies**

The Form of Proxy accompanying this Information Circular confers discretionary authority upon the proxy nominee with respect to any amendments or variations to the matters identified in the Notice of Annual General Meeting and any other matters that may properly come before the Meeting. By duly completing and returning and not revoking a Form of Proxy, Registered Shareholders are appointing the individuals named on the Form of Proxy to represent them at the Meeting and to vote on each resolution, or withhold from voting, in accordance with the Registered Shareholder's instructions. If a Registered Shareholder has not indicated how they wish their Shares to be voted on a matter and have appointed the Company's designated Proxy(ies), such Shares will be voted in favour of the resolutions referred to therein and for the election of all nominees listed in this Information Circular as Directors, and the appointment of MNP LLP as Auditors.

#### How to Vote As a Beneficial Holder

The majority of the Company's shares are registered in the name of CDS & Co. (the registration name for The Canadian Depository for Securities Limited) ("CDS") and Shareholders (called "Beneficial Holders") hold their shares through their brokers, intermediaries, trustees or other persons ("Intermediary").

In accordance with Canadian securities law, the Company has distributed copies of the Notice of Meeting, this Information Circular, and the Form of Proxy (collectively, the "**Meeting Materials**") to CDS and Intermediaries for onward distribution to Beneficial Holders. Intermediaries are required to forward the Meeting Materials to

Beneficial Holders unless a Beneficial Holder has waived the right to receive them and to seek voting instructions from Beneficial Holders in advance of Shareholders' meetings. Each Intermediary has its own mailing procedures and provides its own return instructions to clients, which should be carefully followed by Beneficial Holders to ensure that their shares are voted at the Meeting. Typically, Intermediaries will use a service company to forward the Meeting Materials to Beneficial Holders. If a Beneficial Holder did not receive a voting instruction form, and they have not waived their right to receive one, the Beneficial Holder should contact their Intermediary.

Beneficial Holders will receive either a **voting instruction form** or, less frequently, a **Form of Proxy**. The purpose of these forms is to permit Beneficial Holders to direct the voting of the shares they beneficially own. The Beneficial Holder should follow the procedures set out below, depending on which type of form they receive.

### A. Voting Instruction Form

In most cases, a Beneficial Holder will receive, as part of the Meeting Materials, a voting instruction form. If the Beneficial Holder does not wish to attend and vote at the Meeting (or have another person attend the Meeting and vote on the Beneficial Holder's behalf), the voting instruction form should be completed, signed, and returned in accordance with the directions on the form. If a Beneficial Holder wishes to attend and vote at the Meeting (or have another person attend and vote on the Beneficial Holder's behalf), the Beneficial Holder must carefully complete, sign and return the voting instruction form in accordance with the directions provided.

or

#### B. Form of Proxy

Less frequently, a Beneficial Holder will receive, as part of the Meeting Materials, a Form of Proxy that has already been signed by the Intermediary which is restricted as to the number of shares beneficially owned by the Beneficial Holder but which is otherwise uncompleted. If the Beneficial Holder does not wish to attend and vote at the Meeting (or have another person attend and vote on the Beneficial Holder's behalf) but wishes to submit their vote, the Beneficial Holder should complete the Form of Proxy and deposit it with the Company's Transfer Agent, Computershare, to the address indicated under 'Where to submit a Form of Proxy & Transfer Agent Address' before the Deadline.

If a Beneficial Holder wishes to attend and vote at the Meeting (or have another person attend and vote on the Beneficial Holder's behalf), the Beneficial Holder must perform two steps. Firstly, the Beneficial Holder must strike out the names of the persons named on the Form of Proxy and insert the Beneficial Holder's (or such other person's) name in the blank space provided, and then the Beneficial Holder should complete the Form of Proxy and deposit it with the Company's Transfer Agent, Computershare to the address indicated under 'Where to submit a Form of Proxy and Transfer Agent Address' before the Deadline. Secondly, in order for the Beneficial Holder or their Proxyholder to vote and participate in the live audio Teleconference Meeting, the Beneficial Holder must also pre-register themselves or the appointed Proxyholder. To appoint a Proxyholder, refer to the section 'How to Appoint a Proxyholder using the Form of Proxy'. To pre-register, see instructions under 'Meeting date and access', subheading 'How to pre-register to participate and vote'. Pre-registration is an additional step to participate in the live audio teleconference Meeting.

# **Votes Necessary to Pass Resolutions - Majority Voting**

Following changes to the *Canada Business Corporations Act* effective in 2022, Shareholders may now vote for or against each Director nominee, with the result that the Company's previously adopted Majority Voting Policy became redundant. On the recommendation of the Compensation Committee, the Board repealed the Majority Voting Policy at its meeting in March 2023. Any Director nominee who does not obtain a majority vote is not reelected or elected, as the case may be.

#### **VOTING SECURITIES AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS THEREOF**

The Company is authorized to issue an unlimited number of Shares. As of the date hereof, there is an aggregate of 9,460,552 Shares issued and outstanding. All of the Shares are entitled to be voted at the Meeting and on a poll, each Share is entitled to one vote.

To the knowledge of the Directors and the Officers of the Company and based solely upon a review of the public filings, no persons beneficially own, directly or indirectly, or exercise control or direction over, more than 10% of the outstanding Shares.

The Directors and the Officers of the Company as a group beneficially own, directly or indirectly, or exercise control or direction over, 7.0% of the issued and outstanding Shares.

#### INTEREST OF CERTAIN PERSONS OR COMPANIES IN MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON

Since January 1, 2024, no Director or executive officer of the Company, or any persons nominated for election as a director at this Meeting, nor any associate or affiliate of such persons has any material interest, direct or indirect, by way of beneficial ownership of securities or otherwise, in any matter to be acted upon.

#### INTEREST OF INFORMED PERSONS IN MATERIAL TRANSACTIONS

Other than as disclosed in this Information Circular, since January 1, 2024, no informed person of the Company, nominee for Director, or any associate or affiliate of an informed person or nominee, had any material interest, direct or indirect, in any transaction or any proposed transaction which has materially affected or would materially affect the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

#### **ABOUT PROPOSED DIRECTORS**

## **Election of Directors**

Each of the persons whose name appears hereunder is proposed to be nominated for election as a Director of the Company to serve until the next Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders or until they sooner cease to hold office. It is intended that the Shares represented by proxies solicited on behalf of the Directors will be voted in favour of the election of such persons as Directors of the Company if no choice in respect of such election is specified in the proxy.

The number of Shares referred to in respect of each individual is the number of Shares beneficially owned, directly or indirectly, or over which control and direction are exercised by each individual. The number of restricted share units ("RSUs") is the number of RSUs granted that have not yet been vested to such individuals. The number of deferred share units ("DSUs") represents the number of fully vested DSUs held by such individuals. The general provisions of RSUs and DSUs are described under 'Share-based compensation'.

The following information concerning the respective nominees has been furnished by them and represents the amount as of the day of this report.

Name and Residence	Office Held	Director Since	Principal Occupation Past 5 Years	ownersh	ip
Frank A. Dennis British Columbia, Canada	President & CEO,	April 2002	President & CEO of Swiss Water	290,327	shares
British Columbia, Canada	Director	2002		73,394	RSUs
Roland W. Veit <sup>(1)</sup>	Director	September	Co-Founder & Chairman, Paragon	136,300	shares
Florida, USA	Director	2007	Coffee Trading Company	58,640	DSUs
Robert B. Johnston <sup>(1)</sup>	Director	June	Chief Strategy Officer of The	35,000	shares
South Carolina, USA	Director.	2020	InterTech Group Inc.	24,934	DSUs
Donald J. Tringali <sup>(2)</sup>	Director	July	Corporate Director and Founder &	13,000	shares
Arizona, USA	Director	2020	CEO, Augusta Advisory Group	76,268	DSUs
Nancy L. McKenzie <sup>(2)</sup>	Director	February	Corporate Director	-	shares
British Columbia, Canada		2021		29,378	DSUs
Alan C. Wallace (2)	Chairman	June	Corporate Director and President,	-	shares
British Columbia, Canada	& Director	2021	Peloton Advisors Inc.	55,141	DSUs
			Corporate Director; CEO, Natural Gas		
Justin C. Jacobs <sup>(1)(3)</sup>	Director	November	Services Group, Inc.;	-	share
Texas, USA		2022	Managing Director, Mill Road Capital LLC	8,532	DSUs

<sup>(1)</sup> The Directors have established a Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee. As of the date of this report, the members of this Committee are Messrs. Veit (Chair), Johnston, and Jacobs.

Except as noted otherwise, each of the individuals named above has been engaged for more than five years in his or her present principal occupation or organization in which he or she currently holds his or her principal occupation.

To the knowledge of management, none of the named individuals above is at the date hereof or has been within the past ten years: (i) a director, chief executive officer, or chief financial officer of any company that, while such individual was acting in such capacity, was the subject of or was the subject of an event that resulted in, after such an individual ceased to act in such capacity, an order within the meaning of Form 51-102F5 of National Instrument 51-102 - Continuous Disclosure Obligations; or (ii) been bankrupt, made a proposal under any legislation relating to bankruptcy or insolvency or became subject to or instituted any proceedings, arrangement or compromise with creditors or had a receiver, receiver-manager, or a trustee appointed to hold any of his or her assets.

To the knowledge of management, none of the individuals named above have been subject to any penalties or sanctions imposed by a court relating to securities legislation or by a securities regulatory authority or has entered into a settlement agreement with a securities regulatory authority; or any other penalties or sanctions imposed by a court or regulatory body that would likely be considered important to a reasonable security holder in deciding whether to vote for such individual as a Director of the Company.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Company's Audit Committee members are Ms. McKenzie (Chair) Messrs. Tringali, and Wallace.

<sup>(3)</sup> Until January 2024, Mr. Jacobs was a Managing Director at Mill Road Capital LLC, a company that owns 6.4% of common shares of Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc.

The Directors have appointed Mr. Wallace to serve as Chair of the Board. Further information concerning the Directors and the Company's Audit Committee can be found in the Company's Annual Information Form for the year ended December 31, 2023, under the headings 'Directors' and Officers' and 'Audit Committee', filed at www.sedarplus.ca.

### **Director Nominees**

This year we have seven nominees. The following nominee profiles include a summary of each nominee's career experience, areas of expertise, current Board committee membership and directorship at other companies over the past five years. The information on each director nominee in this circular is current as at the date of this Information Circular. Nominees are listed in the order of length of service with the Company.

#### Mr. Frank A. Dennis



Current role at Swiss Water: Director since 2002, President and CEO of Swiss Water.

Mr. Dennis leads Swiss Water with over 30 years of experience in the coffee industry. His background is in packaged goods marketing with Braun Canada and Kraft Foods Canada. Mr. Dennis led the \$300 million Kraft coffee portfolio in the late 1990s and was responsible for the sale of the Swiss Water Division to private equity interests in 2000. As President and CEO of Swiss Water, he has led the growth of the business through a major transition of the operation into a newly constructed facility, overseen the development of the brand in many jurisdictions, and championed the importance of chemical free decaffeination in

the industry. Mr. Dennis is highly involved in the specialty coffee industry and has served on several boards, including Grounds For Health, a charity dedicated to reducing cancer in women living in coffee-producing regions, the World Coffee Research Foundation, and the Canadian Coffee Association. Mr. Dennis earned a BA in Economics from the University of Western Ontario, and an MBA from the University of Toronto.

#### Mr. Roland W. Veit

Current role at Swiss Water: Director since 2007 and Chair of the Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee.

A native of Switzerland, Mr. Veit has over 50 years of experience in the coffee industry. He is the Co-Founder and current Chairman of Paragon Coffee Trading Company (Paragon), a medium sized US green coffee importing/trading house. He started his business and coffee career at Nestlé's world headquarters in Vevey, Switzerland in 1972. He also worked for Nestle USA and South Africa, where his main responsibility was green coffee purchasing. In 1978, Mr. Veit left Nestle to work as a coffee trader, first in Johannesburg and then in New York, before co-founding Paragon in 1986. He served on the board of the Specialty



Coffee Association of America (SCAA) from 1989 to 1992 and the following seven years on SCAA's International Relations Committee (serving as its Chairman during his last three years). He also served as a board member of the Green Coffee Association of New York (GCA) from 1998 until 2007, including two terms as the Chairman. Until 2022, he also served as a director on the board of Rapid Oxygen Company, a private company.

#### Mr. Robert B. Johnston

Current role at Swiss Water: Independent Director since 2020 and a member of the Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee.

Mr. Johnston brings extensive public company and related industry experience to Swiss Water having served on the boards of a number of domestic and international companies in the packaging, food and agricultural industries. He is currently the Chief Strategy Officer of The InterTech Group Inc., a leading, private investment company based in South Carolina, USA. Mr. Johnston's previous experience includes serving as Deputy Governor, President and Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of the Hudson's Bay Company. Mr. Johnston is currently a chair of the board of directors of Supremex Inc. and serves as a director of the following public companies: Colabor Group Inc. (and



he is a member of the Human Resources Committee), RGCO Resources, and FIH Group PLC (and he is a member of the Human Resources Committee). His prior corporate directorships include Circa Enterprises Inc., Corning Natural Gas Holding Corporation, Produce Investments PLC, Gas Natural Inc., Fyffes Plc, along with the South Carolina Community Loan Fund. He holds an MBA Degree from the John Molson School of Business, a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Public Administration, and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Concordia University in Montreal, and has completed the University of Oxford Advanced Management and Leadership Program in the UK. Mr. Johnston also holds the ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

### Mr. Donald J. Tringali



Current role at Swiss Water: Independent Director since 2020 and a member of the Audit Committee.

Mr. Tringali is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Augusta Advisory Group, a US-based boutique financial and business consulting firm providing a full range of executive, operations and corporate advisory services to companies. He has held a variety of C-level executive positions and directorships for public and private companies across many industries. He is the former Chairman of the Board of National Technical Systems, Inc., a leading international testing and engineering firm that was sold to a private equity firm in 2013, and the former Executive Chairman of the Board of Cartesian, Inc., an international telecom consulting company, which was sold to private equity in 2018. Since April 2021, Mr. Tringali has been a director

of POSaBIT Systems Corporation (CSE: PBIT) and a member of the Audit Committee. Since April 2023, he has been the Lead Independent Director of Natural Gas Services Group, Inc (NYSE: NGS) and Chair of the Compensation Committee and a member of the Audit Committee and Nominating and Governance Committee. Mr. Tringali began his career as a corporate attorney in Los Angeles, where he was a partner in a prominent firm representing public and private companies in general business matters and M&A transactions. Mr. Tringali holds a BA in Economics from UCLA and a JD (Juris Doctor) degree from Harvard Law School.

### Ms. Nancy L. McKenzie

Current role at Swiss Water: Independent Director since 2021, and a Chair of the Audit Committee.

Ms. McKenzie's experience as a financial professional spans over 30 years and includes a senior executive position within industrial manufacturing & service businesses, some consumer branded and private label foods sector experience, and articling at a large public practice accounting firm. Her experience comprises large-scale capital project oversight of manufacturing, infrastructure & office facilities as well as marine & industrial equipment acquisition during her 12 year tenure as the Chief Financial Officer at Seaspan ULC. Currently, she is Vice Chair of the Board at Coast Capital Savings Federal Credit Union, a member and prior Chair of the Risk Committee, a member of the Human Resources Committee, and a former member



of the Audit and Finance Committee and Nominations and Governance Committee. She recently completed her term on the Board of Governors for the University of British Columbia, where she was Board Chair for 3.5 years and also previously served as Chair of the Finance Committee. Additionally, she has served as a member of the Audit and HR & Governance Committees, and chaired the Nominations Committee at UBC Investment Management Trust Inc.; was Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee at Western Transportation Advisory Council; and was an Advisory Board member for BGE Air Quality Solutions Ltd. (a privately own manufacturing and service business). She is a Fellow of the Chartered Professional Accountants of BC, holds an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University (Waterloo), and holds an ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

#### Mr. Alan C. Wallace



Current role at Swiss Water: Independent Director since 2021, Swiss Water's Board of Directors Chairman, and a member of the Audit Committee.

Mr. Wallace has worked for over 30 years in corporate finance including as Vice Chairman and Managing Director of CIBC World Markets Inc. He is currently the President of Peloton Advisors Inc., a corporate financial advisory firm. Throughout his career, he has worked with both private and public companies in industries similar and adjacent to Swiss Water's business, including distribution, processing plants, international operations, and branding. Many of these organizations provide perspectives on commodity-based businesses that are relevant to Swiss Water. He brings to the Board extensive experience in capital markets, commodity industries, risk management, mergers and acquisitions, securities regulatory matters, financial and accounting matters, international business, equity and debt financings and

corporate strategic planning. He currently serves on the Board and is the Chair of the Audit Committee and a member of the Compensation and Human Resources Committee at Mercer International Inc., a global forest products company. He is also a member of the Advisory Board to Tricor Pacific Capital Inc., a leading Canadian family office that invests in a diverse group of companies. Mr. Wallace holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Applied Science (Mechanical Engineering) from the University of Toronto and the ICD.D designation.

#### Mr. Justin C. Jacobs

Current role at Swiss Water: Independent Director, since 2022, and a member of the Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee.

Mr. Jacobs is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Natural Gas Services Group, Inc., a leading provider of contracted natural gas compression to the oil and natural gas industry. Previously, he was a Management Committee Director of Mill Road Capital LLC, a private investment firm. He was appointed to the Board of Directors of Swiss Water in November 2022. Mr. Jacobs joined Mill Road in 2005, prior to the raising of its first fund; previously, he worked at LiveWire Capital, an investment and management group, and in the private equity group at The Blackstone Group. Mr. Jacobs has been a director at numerous public and private companies, including British Columbia based PRT Growing Services Ltd., Lignetics Inc., and National



Technical Systems, Inc. He holds a BSC (Finance & Accounting) from the University of Virginia where he graduated Beta Gamma Sigma, the highest academic distinction in the business program.

# **Directors' Attendance at Board and Committee Meetings**

The Directors have regular quarterly meetings and meet more frequently as required. At each Board and Committee meeting, the Directors hold a regularly scheduled in-camera meeting at which members of management are not present.

The following is a summary of the attendance of each of the Directors at Board and Committee meetings during the year ended December 31, 2023:

Name of Director	Board	Audit Committee	Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee
Frank A. Dennis	6 of 7	n/a	n/a
Roland W. Veit	7 of 7	n/a	5 of 5
Anne G. Saunders (1)	4 of 4	n/a	2 of 2
Robert B. Johnston	7 of 7	n/a	5 of 5
Donald J. Tringali	7 of 7	4 of 4	n/a
Nancy McKenzie	7 of 7	4 of 4	n/a
Alan C. Wallace	7 of 7	4 of 4	n/a
Justin C. Jacobs	7 of 7	n/a	5 of 5

<sup>(1)</sup> Ms. Saunders was not put forward for re-election at the 2023 Annual General Meeting. The above records reflect attendance while she was a Director and she did not miss a scheduled meeting.

# **Compensation of Directors**

The following table sets out the compensation earned by the Directors (other than Mr. Dennis) for Directorship and Committee membership services for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023:

Name	Fees Earned	Share-Based Awards	Option-Based Awards	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation	Pension Value	All Other Compensation	Total
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Roland W. Veit (1)	65,684	-	-	-	-	-	65,684
Anne G. Saunders (1) (2)	22,007	-	-	-	-	-	22,007
Robert B. Johnston (1)	53,742	-	-	-	-	-	53,742
Donald J. Tringali <sup>(1)</sup>	53,742	-	-	-	-	-	53,742
Nancy McKenzie	55,000	-	-	-	-	-	55,000
Alan C. Wallace	65,000	-	-	-	-	-	65,000
Justin C. Jacobs <sup>(1)</sup>	53,742	-	-	-	-	-	53,742

<sup>(1)</sup> Compensation was paid in US\$. The amounts shown are the Canadian dollar equivalent, calculated using the average exchange rate in 2023 of US\$1 to CAD\$1.3497.

Ms. Saunders and Messrs. Veit, Johnston, Tringali, and Jacobs received the cash component of their compensation in United States dollars. The Directors are also entitled to be reimbursed for reasonable travel and other expenses properly incurred by them in attending meetings of the Board or any committee thereof, or in connection with their services as Directors. Mr. Dennis is an employee of the Company and was not entitled to receive any compensation for acting as a Director.

The compensation of the Directors is intended to attract and retain highly qualified, experienced, and committed individuals to act as Directors of the Company and promote the long-term interests of the Company. The Board seeks to ensure that Directors are competitively compensated, having consideration to the size and nature of the Company's business and the expected contribution of Directors.

The Compensation Committee reviews director compensation on an annual basis. The Compensation Committee most recently reviewed director compensation in 2023. In 2022, with the assistance of Board Chair Wallace, the Compensation Committee undertook a comprehensive review of the Company's director compensation practices by reviewing the practices of a subset of the comparator group of companies compiled by Compensation Governance Partners ("CGP") in 2020. See 'Compensation Discussion & Analysis – Compensation Philosophy – Periodic Compensation Review'.

The comparator group consisted of the following companies:

Andrew Peller Limited	Bridgford Foods Corporation	AgroFresh Solutions Inc.
Lifevantage Corporation.	Coffee Holding Co. Inc.	Reliv' International Inc.
Corby Spirit and Wine Limited	Lifeway Foods Inc.	S&W Seed Company
Natural Alternatives International	Waterloo Brewing Ltd.	Big Rock Brewery Inc.
Village Farms International, Inc.		

<sup>(2)</sup> Ms. Saunders' tenure on the Board of Directors concluded in May 2023.

The Compensation Committee considered the comparator group data and applied a modifying factor to the median director compensation of the Russell 3000 Consumer Staples Index to more accurately reflect the Company's context.

The Compensation Committee considered a number of alternatives and determined to recommend amending Director compensation so that all Directors are paid in US dollars for the cash component of their retainer. Director compensation approved by the Board in 2023, with an effective date of January 1, 2024, is as follows:

Compensation Item	Amount
Annual cash retainer	US\$25,000
DSU Retainer	CAD\$25,000
Board Chair retainer	US\$15,000
Audit Committee Chair retainer	US\$10,000
Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee Chair retainer	US\$10,000

In comparison, from 2018 to 2023, Directors' compensation was as follows. Annual cash and Chair retainers paid to Directors residing in the USA were paid in US dollars, while retainers paid to Directors residing in Canada were paid in Canadian dollars. All DSU retainers were paid in CAD.

Compensation Item	Amount
Annual cash retainer	\$25,000
DSU Retainer	\$20,000
Board Chair retainer	\$20,000
Audit Committee Chair retainer	\$10,000
Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee Chair retainer	\$10,000

# **Directors' Share Ownership Guidelines**

In February 2012, the Board adopted share ownership guidelines for the Directors. Specifically, each Director (other than Mr. Dennis, the Company's President and CEO) is required to hold that number of shares and/or DSUs equal in value to three (3) times the annual cash retainer paid to Directors. Directors have five years from the date of adoption of the guidelines (for new directors, from the date they are appointed to the Board) to achieve this level. For the purpose of measuring compliance with these guidelines, value is determined based on a Director's acquisition cost for the shares and/or DSUs. In March 2024, these guidelines were revised to provide that in the event a Director's annual fees increase, that Director is required to increase their shareholdings by the amount of the annual fee increase within three years of such fee increase.

As is noted under 'Compensation of Directors', the Board approved a director compensation structure effective January 1, 2024. The current required share ownership value is USD\$75,000.

As at the date hereof, the current shareholdings, number of DSUs and the cumulative acquisition cost of each Director's equity position are as follows:

#### SWISS WATER DECAFFEINATED COFFEE INC.

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Director	Shares	Shares Acquisition Cost	DSUs	DSUs Acquisition Cost	Total
Roland W. Veit	136,300	\$429,063	58,640	\$181,992	\$611,056
Robert B. Johnston	35,000	\$109,424	24,934	\$65,330	\$174,754
Donald J. Tringali	13,000	\$42,401	76,268	\$204,187	\$246,588
Nancy L. McKenzie	-	-	29,378	\$79,817	\$79,817
Alan C. Wallace	-	-	55,141	\$134,884	\$134,884
Justin C. Jacobs (1)(2)	-	-	8,532	\$17,967	\$17,967

<sup>(1)</sup> Mr. Jacobs has until 2027 to comply with the share ownership value requirement of US\$75,000.

## INDEBTEDNESS OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table sets forth, as at the date of this Information Circular, the information in respect of the aggregate indebtedness of current and former executive officers, Directors, and employees of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

Aggregate Indebtedness (\$)					
Purpose To the Company or its Subsidiaries To Another Entity					
Share purchases					
Other	\$23,639				

The following table sets forth the indebtedness of each Director or executive officer who is, or at any time since the beginning of the most recently completed financial year has been indebted to the Company or any of its subsidiaries. The indebtedness is routine in nature and will be applied over time to vesting RSUs. No Director or executive officer has any indebtedness to another entity that is the subject of a guarantee, support agreement, letter of credit, or other similar arrangement or understanding provided by the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

Inde	Indebtedness of Directors and Executive Officers under (1) Securities Purchase and (2) Other Programs					
Name and Principal Position  Securities Purchase	Involvement of Company or Subsidiary	Largest Amount Outstanding During the Most recently completed financial year (\$)	Amount Outstanding	Financially Assisted Securities Purchases During the year	Security for Indebtedness (security purchase programs only)	Amount Forgiven During the year (\$)
Securities raidinase	. 1 1 0g1 a1113	<u> </u>				1
Other Programs	Other Programs					
lain Carswell, CFO	Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc.	\$ 23,639	\$23,639			

<sup>(2)</sup> In 2023, Mr. Jacobs was a Managing Director at Mill Road Capital LLC, a company that owns 6.4% of common shares of Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc.

#### **COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

Compensation of Directors and executives and related matters are the responsibility of the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee reviews and recommends compensation levels and terms for the President & Chief Executive Officer (the "CEO") and the Directors to the Board. The Compensation Committee also reviews and recommends individual goals and objectives relevant to the total compensation package and the bonus payout and long term incentive plan awards, if any, for the Chief Financial Officer (the "CFO"). Other than as set out herein, hiring and compensation of other executives of Swiss Water and its subsidiaries are the responsibilities of the CEO, operating within the guidelines established by the Compensation Committee and Board, as applicable. Following discussions with the CEO and after receiving his recommendations, the Compensation Committee is responsible for approving incentive compensation levels of other executives.

# **Compensation Governance**

The Board has appointed a Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee ("Compensation Committee") to review and approve compensation for members of management and to recommend to the Board for approval of the compensation arrangements for the CEO and the Directors. The full Terms of Reference of the Compensation Committee are included in Appendix A.

As of the date hereof, the Compensation Committee comprises Mr. Veit (Chair), Mr. Johnston, and Mr. Jacobs. The majority of the members of the Compensation Committee are "independent" within the meaning of section 1.4 of Multilateral Instrument 52-110. Mr. Veit is a non-management Director member of the Compensation Committee. No member of the Compensation Committee (i) was indebted to the Company during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, (ii) was an officer or employee of the Company during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023; or (iii) was formerly an officer of the Company.

Mr. Veit operates a coffee business that does business with Swiss Water. His company buys decaffeinated coffee and/or decaffeination services from Swiss Water and sells green coffee to Swiss Water. All transactions are in the normal course of business. These transactions are discussed in greater detail in the notes to the Company's audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, which are available on <a href="https://www.sedarplus.ca">www.sedarplus.ca</a>.

#### **Compensation Committee Member Experience**

The Board believes that each committee member has direct experience relevant to the Compensation Committee's responsibilities in executive compensation. The biographies and relevant experience of each Compensation Committee member are included under 'About Proposed Directors'.

# **Compensation Philosophy**

The Company's executive compensation program is based on a "pay for performance" philosophy and is designed to attract, retain and reward high calibre and experienced executives who will contribute to the success of the Company. Executives are motivated through various elements of the compensation program to meet annual performance goals and to enhance long-term shareholder value.

The compensation strategy is intended to accomplish the following objectives:

- to attract, retain and effectively reward executive talent;
- to provide compensation that is competitive with that offered in the marketplace;
- to align compensation with corporate business strategies; and

• to ensure alignment of personal interests of the executive team with those of the Shareholders.

The Compensation Committee believes these objectives will be reached with a total compensation package comprised of base salary, short-term variable compensation tied to performance in each fiscal year, longer-term incentives that increase share ownership of executives, benefits and perquisites. In the second half of 2020, the Compensation Committee engaged CGP to conduct a compensation review. See "Periodic Compensation Review".

#### **Risks Associated with Compensation Policies and Practices**

The Compensation Committee is responsible for considering the risks associated with the Company's compensation policies and practices. In order to fulfill this responsibility, the Compensation Committee reviews the Company's compensation components and practices annually and considers those factors that could encourage members of management to take inappropriate or excessive risks. This includes an assessment of risks facing the Company and their potential impact on compensation plans, as well as the overall balance and terms of compensation arrangements. As part of this assessment, the Compensation Committee also considers the Company's internal controls, processes and procedures which would mitigate excessive risk taking by management. The compensation risk analysis is prepared by the Chief Financial Officer, who serves as the Company's principal risk officer and is presented to the Compensation Committee for its consideration.

The Chief Financial Officer conducted a compensation risk analysis in March 2024, and no compensation related risks were identified that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

### **Periodic Compensation Review**

Periodically, the Compensation Committee of the Board engages a third party consulting firm to provide an independent review of the Company's relative compensation competitiveness.

In the second half of 2020, the Compensation Committee engaged CGP to: review the Company's current executive compensation practices from a total compensation perspective; assess how well the current compensation plans align with the Company's objectives and business strategy; review and confirm appropriate peer groups for the executive team; assess the competitiveness of the Company's executive compensation based on current roles, scope and responsibilities; conduct a compensation survey; and, assess the risks associated with the Company's compensation arrangements.

In performing this work, CGP and the Compensation Committee agreed on a revised primary peer group consisting of publicly traded companies of similar size; other food industry companies with revenues of less than \$400 million; and similar sized general industry companies that regularly pay a dividend. It was noted that setting the primary peer group was particularly challenging as there are no publicly traded companies in the same business. At the time of the review, it was agreed that the primary peer group would consist of the following 13 North American companies:

Andrew Peller Limited	Bridgford Foods Corporation	AgroFresh Solutions Inc.
Lifevantage Corporation.	Coffee Holding Co. Inc.	Reliv' International Inc.
Corby Spirit and Wine Limited	Lifeway Foods Inc.	S&W Seed Company
Natural Alternatives International Inc.	Waterloo Brewing Ltd.	Big Rock Brewery Inc.
Village Farms International, Inc.		

Given the Company size relative to the primary peer group, CGP recommended and the Compensation Committee agreed that the Company target compensation levels at the 25th percentile of the primary peer group.

As a secondary reference point, CGP provided data compiled from its 2020 General Canadian Industrial Compensation database for all participants with annual revenue of \$500 million or less (a total of 45 companies). This secondary peer group allowed for comparisons to the 25th percentile pay levels. This is consistent with the Company's practice of using this secondary peer group to assess management compensation levels when third party consultants are not engaged by the Compensation Committee. The Compensation Committee believes that this is a relevant benchmark for the Company and its subsidiaries, as they represent companies of similar size and sales revenue that compete in the same geographic regions for executive talent.

The Compensation Committee continues to monitor the Company's relative compensation competitiveness. In 2021 it approved the adoption of the abovementioned peer group and implemented changes to the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer compensation for the years 2021 to 2023. The changes in the approach are to encompass compensation that is more financial-metric focused, which is in line with shareholders' expectations. During 2022, CGP provided additional guidance as an update on the above advice, while in 2023, CGP made recommendations around the Company's incentive compensation program, a relative total shareholder return analysis, and relative TSX indices.

### **Executive Compensation Related Fees**

During 2023 the Company paid \$8,100 in total to Compensation Governance Partners Inc. for the abovementioned updates (2022: \$5,000, and between 2020 and 2021: \$37,800). No other services were retained from this consultant.

# **Management's Role in the Compensation Setting Process**

Members of management, including the CEO, participate in various aspects of the compensation setting process including (i) recommending compensation programs, compensation policies, compensation levels, and incentive opportunities; (ii) compiling and preparing materials for Compensation Committee meetings, including benchmark market data; (iii) recommending performance targets and objectives; and (iv) ensuring effective evaluation of employee performance.

#### **Hedging Prohibited**

The Company's Code of Business Ethics (the "Code") prohibits any Director or Officer of the Company from purchasing financial instruments (such as prepaid variable forward contracts, equity swaps, collars, or units of exchange funds) that are designed to hedge or offset a decrease in the market value of any of the Company's securities granted as compensation or held, directly or indirectly, by such Director or Officer.

# **Elements of Executive Compensation**

The main elements of executive compensation are base salary, benefits and perquisites, pension benefits, long-term incentive awards, and short-term variable incentive pay. Each compensation element is described as follows.

# Base Salary, Benefits, and Perquisites

To ensure compensation is competitive in the marketplace for executive talent, base salaries are targeted to the 25th percentile levels of comparable entities, as described under 'Periodic Compensation Review'. Salary for a position is deemed to be competitive if it is within 15% of the comparator group base salary for the relevant quartile. Salaries are adjusted as necessary to maintain the desired competitive position in the marketplace. Salaries, benefits, and perquisites are reviewed annually and adjustments are made when appropriate. Individual variations in base salaries reflect job scope, experience, retention risk, and other relevant factors.

Swiss Water and its subsidiaries offer group life, health and dental benefits, paid time off, and other benefits to employees on a competitive level with peer companies, ensuring that benefit costs are prudently managed.

#### **Pension Benefits**

Swiss Water does not have a pension plan. Instead, the Company and its subsidiaries make contributions to RRSPs (or in the case of employees residing in the United States, to an IRA account) in the names of employees, whose accounts are controlled by the individual employees. The Company contributes 5% of a base salary and will also match an employee's own contribution up to a maximum of 2% of the employee's base salary, into the RRSP. For employees residing in the United States, the subsidiary contributes 2% of their salary to an IRA in the name of such employee (consistent with US laws governing individual retirement accounts). Due to the annual RSP contribution limits set by the federal government, the above entitlement exceeded the CEO's and CFO's RRSP annual contribution limit. Therefore, the Company contributes any amount above the annual RRSP contribution limit to a non-registered pension account controlled by the CEO and CFO respectively.

# **Short-Term Incentive Plan ("STIP")**

Each member of management participates in a variable pay bonus plan, with payments under the STIP tied to the achievement of specific targets that derive from the Company's strategic and operating plans. The amounts paid out under the STIP increase or decrease with performance, and thus provide an element of compensation at risk.

In 2020/2021, CGP was engaged by the Compensation Committee to also review the STIP including targets and thresholds, and to provide guidance on how to improve the link between pay and performance. CGP's review took a principles-based approach, and considered whether the performance targets:

- 1. Align with and support the business strategy
- 2. Align with compensation strategy and organizational culture
- 3. Encourage appropriate risk-taking (aligned with the organization's risk appetite), and
- 4. Align across goals consistently.

The review determined that the performance targets demonstrated strong alignment with the considerations noted above, and recommended revisions in how payments against performance are calculated. The revisions provided for more direct pay-for-performance, such that bonus amounts (and possible ranges of bonus payments) would have a more direct correlation to corporate performance. These recommendations were approved for implementation in 2021.

Under the STIP, the Compensation Committee annually approves the performance objectives for the executives (other than the CEO and CFO), as well as the target levels of performance for each objective, the thresholds below which no payments against an objective will be paid and the weights assigned to each objective. In respect of the CEO's and CFO's performance objectives, the Compensation Committee recommends, and the Board reviews and approves the objectives, targets, thresholds and weights for the CEO and CFO each year.

Following the review of the STIP program by CGP, it was determined by the Compensation Committee that all executives will have the same performance objectives. The proposed objectives, weights, targets, thresholds and maximum levels for each objective are reviewed and approved by the Compensation Committee each year for all executives. The Board then reviews and approves the objectives, weights, targets, thresholds and maximum ranges for each of the CEO's and CFO's objectives.

In 2023, the performance objectives, weights, targets, thresholds, maximums and actual performance for the CEO and CFO were as follows. All payments under the STIP are subject to maximum levels.

Objective	Weight	Target	Threshold (50% of target)	Maximum (200% of target)	Actual	% Pay-out
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>(1)</sup>	100%	\$13.06 million	\$10.45 million	\$15.67 million	\$13.35 million	111.4%

(1) Adjusted EBITDA, under the 2023 STIP program, is a Non-GAAP measure and is the same as is contained in the Company's Management Discussion and Analysis for the year ended December 31, 2023. It is defined as net income before interest, depreciation, amortization, impairments, share-based compensation, gains/losses on foreign exchange, gains/losses on disposal of property and capital equipment, gains/losses on fair value adjustments on embedded options, gains/losses on extinguishment of debt, gains/losses on extinguishment of asset retirement obligation, adjustment for the impact of IFRS 16 - Leases, and provision for income taxes. The Company's definition of Adjusted EBITDA also excludes unrealized gains and losses on the undesignated portion of foreign exchange forward contracts.

# Long-Term Incentive Plan ("LTIP")

#### RSU plan

The Company adopted a restricted share unit plan in June 2011, which was amended in June 2019 and in June 2022 ("RSU Plan"). The general provisions of the RSU Plan are described in more detail under 'Share-based compensation'.

Periodic grants are proposed by management, reviewed and approved by the Compensation Committee and, for those RSUs granted to the CEO and CFO, approved by the Board. These grants vest as determined by the Compensation Committee, and may not vest later than the third anniversary of the respective grant date, provided the grant recipient is still employed by Swiss Water or one of its subsidiaries as at the date of vesting. Upon vesting, each RSU converts to one Share.

These grants allow participants to receive up to 50% of the market value of the award in cash (instead of Shares) upon vesting, in order to facilitate payment of taxes owing on the awards. Any RSUs paid in cash are returned to the pool and may be re-issued, subject to the maximum number of shares available under the Plan. Each award that is granted is increased by the value of dividends paid to Shareholders during the vesting period, using a formula that uses the higher of the then-current share price and \$3.201.

The amounts of the initial grants as well as subsequent grants were designed to ensure that the number of shares reserved for issuance under the RSU Plan is sufficient for the RSU Plan to last at least 3 years (i.e. until June 2025) in order to limit dilution to Shareholders. In June 2022, Shareholders approved an increase in the number of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The formula is: Additional RSUs = [Current RSUs \* (dividend paid/deemed share price)], where the deemed share price is the higher of the current market value of shares (using a volume weighted average share price for the 5 trading days immediately preceding the dividend payment date) or \$3.20. If the current market value is lower than \$3.20 per share, the dividend yield will be lower than the current market yield, as the denominator in the yield calculation will be higher than the current market value.

common shares available for issuance under the RSU Plan from 815,509 shares to a maximum of 1,115,509 Shares, which represented 12.2% of the issued and outstanding shares at that time.

In January 2021, Compensation Governance Partners was engaged by the Compensation Committee to review the LTIP. They determined that the current LTIP structure adequately links awards to performance however they recommended that the Company strengthen the correlation with the delivery of strategic objectives going forward.

#### 2021-2023 LTIP for CEO and CFO

In September 2021, following the adoption of a three-year strategy, the Board approved an LTIP structure for the CEO and CFO that identified the most critical elements driving long-term shareholder value and established performance metrics relating to EBITDA and the completion of the second production line at the Delta plant that are the qualifying criteria for the granting and vesting of RSUs through to the end of the 2023 fiscal year. The determination of the award payout levels was based on the Company's audited financial results in each of the fiscal years ending 2021, 2022, and 2023. On March 12, 2024, the Board of Directors conducted its evaluation to determine the extent to which the EBITDA and/or Project Titan 2 targets set forth in the LTIP structure had been met. On the recommendation of the CCGC, the Board approved the vesting of 75% of the RSUs granted to the CEO and CFO.

#### **CEO and CFO Share Ownership Policy**

In March 2024, on the recommendation of the CCGC, the Board adopted a share ownership policy (the "Policy") to further enhance the interests of the CEO and CFO with those of the Company and its shareholders. The Policy provides that the CEO is required to hold common shares having a value equal to three times his base salary in 2024. The CFO is required to hold common shares having a value equal to two times his base salary in 2024. Each of them is required to achieve this level of share ownership within five years of the date the Policy was adopted.

#### **COMPENSATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Director's compensation is addressed above, under the heading 'About Proposed Directors', while the compensation of executive officers is discussed below.

#### **Report On CEO Compensation**

The Board reviews and sets the CEO's compensation, using the compensation elements including base salary, short-term incentives, long-term incentives, benefits and perquisites, to recognize performance and promote leadership by the CEO. All compensation decisions for the CEO are approved by the Board on the recommendation of the Compensation Committee.

In 2021, 2022, and 2023, on the recommendation of the Compensation Committee, the CEO's salary was adjusted by the Board for a cost of living increase of 4.2%, 2.5%, and 4.9%, respectively. Each year the Board approves a number of performance objectives for Mr. Dennis for the coming year, as is discussed in more detail in 'Elements of Executive Compensation – Short-Term Incentive Plan'.

### **Report On Executive Officers' Compensation**

The following executive officers are considered "Named Executive Officers" for the purposes of disclosure requirements. No other individuals are in charge of a principal business unit, division, or function, or perform policy-making functions in respect of the Company. The 2021 and 2022 Annual Incentive Plans reflect actual

amounts paid out for that year, while for 2023, the values reflect an estimated amount the Company has accrued but has not yet paid to the Named Executive Officer.

Name and Principal	Year	Salary	Share-	Option-	Plan Compe	ensation (\$)	Pension	All Other	Total
Position		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Based	Based	Annual	Long-Term	Value	Compensation <sup>(3)</sup>	Compensation
			Awards <sup>(1)</sup>	Awards	Incentive	Incentive			
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	Plans <sup>(2)</sup>	Plans	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Frank A. Dennis	2023	399,478	199,680		201,585			27,987	828,730
President & Chief	2022	380,961	199,680		383,972			26,661	991,274
Executive Officer	2021	371,794	199,680		378,788			26,019	976,281
Iain T. Carswell	2023	301,498	150,756		121,714			21,098	595,066
Chief Financial	2022	287,552	150,756		231,836			20,120	690,264
Officer	2021	276,015	150,756		225,084			19,463	569,500
Barry Close	2023	219,075	27,207		55,275			15,328	316,885
VP Operations <sup>(4)</sup>	2022	208,920	25,800		60,540			14,618	309,878
	2021	189,763	15,661		66,443			14,267	286,134
David Kastle	2023	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Senior VP	2022	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Trading <sup>(5)</sup>	2021	121,550	61,483						183,033

- (1) Share-based awards reflect the deemed value of RSU awards granted during the year, even though these awards are not payable until vesting (on the third anniversary of the grant date). Non-performance grants were made on March 31, 2021, February 16, 2022, and February 10, 2023, and they vest three years from the grant date. The value was determined by multiplying the number of RSUs granted in the year by the volume-based weighted average share price for the 5 trading days immediately preceding the grant date, in accordance with the terms of the RSU Plan. The actual value of the RSUs cannot be determined until the RSUs are converted to shares and sold or paid in cash on vestment date. Performance grants were made to Messiers Dennis and Carswell on September 14, 2021, September 14, 2022, and February 10, 2023, with specific targets of second production plant completion and EBITDA, and they vested on March 15, 2024, where 75% of these grants were approved. The above figures for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 reflect RSU's actual value received on vestment date on March 15, 2024.
- (2) Annual incentive plans represent payments made under the Company's STIP program and include any discretionary bonus payments. The Company has no long-term non-equity incentive plans.
- (3) The Company does not offer a pension plan. The amounts in this column consist of contributions paid to retirement savings plans in the name of the respective Named Executive Officers. For Canadian resident employees, the plan provides for payment of 5% of their base salary and the Company will also match an employee's own contribution up to a maximum of 2% of the employee's base salary. For employees residing in the United States, the Company contributes 2% of cash compensation to individual retirement accounts. Perquisites and other personal benefits do not exceed the lesser of \$50,000 and 10% of the total salary for any of the Named Executive Officers, and as such are not disclosed here.
- (4) During the fourth quarter of 2023, Mr. Close communicated his intention to retire from the Company in 2024. Owen Horn joined the Company as Vice President of Operations in January 2024. Mr. Close is currently advising the Company on strategic process improvements and supporting Mr. Horn's onboarding.
- (5) Until January 2021, David Kastle was employed by Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Company USA, Inc. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Swiss Water), and was paid in US dollars. All amounts shown were converted into Canadian dollars using the average US-Canadian dollar exchange rate for the applicable year.

#### **Share-Based Awards Agreements**

The outstanding RSU awards contain provisions related to a change in control, death, or termination without cause. Specifically, in the event that an Award recipient passes away or is terminated without cause including upon change of control, the Award will vest rateably to the relevant date. Additionally, each of Mr. Dennis' and Mr. Carswell's RSUs contained forfeiture, termination and change in control provisions that did not materialize

prior to the Board's March 2024 evaluation to determine the extent to which the EBITDA and/or Project Titan 2 targets set forth in the LTIP structure had been met by each of them.

#### **Incentive Plan Awards**

The following table shows the value of share-based awards vested during the year, as well as the value of non-equity incentive plan compensation earned during the year 2023. Vested share based awards were granted in the year 2020. The Company has no option-based awards.

Name	Option-based awards - Value vested during the year	Share-based awards - Value vested during the year	Non-equity incentive plan compensation - Value earned during the year
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
President & CEO		\$94,115	\$201,585
Chief Financial Officer		\$53,780	\$121,714
VP Operations	+	\$26,890	\$55,275

### **Outstanding Share-Based Awards**

The following table shows all equity-based awards outstanding at the end of the most recently completed fiscal year. The only share-based awards the Named Executive Officers hold are RSUs. The Company has no option-based awards.

Name	Option-based awards				Share-based awards		
	Number of securities underlying unexercised options	Option exercise price	Option expiration date	Value of unexercis ed in-the- money options	Number of shares or units of shares that have not vested by most recently completed fiscal year	Market or payout value of share-based awards that have not vested as at the most recent fiscal year <sup>(1)</sup>	Market or payout value of vested share-based awards not paid out or distributed
	(#)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(#)	(\$)	(\$)
Frank A. Dennis					270,600	\$699,162	
Iain T. Carswell					204,300	\$527,860	
Barry Close					25,000	\$64,594	

(1) Share-based awards reflect the total number of granted RSUs (and not yet vested) as at the end of the most recently completed fiscal year, even though these awards are not payable until these grants vest, which, in Mr. Close's case is on the third anniversary of the grant date. In the case of Mr. Dennis and Mr. Carswell, their RSUs were performance based pursuant to the 2021-2023 LTIP structure and criteria adopted by the Board. Subsequent to the December 31, 2023 year end, on March 12, 2024, the Board evaluated their performance and approved the vesting of 75% of the above noted RSUs.

#### **Employment Agreements, Termination, and Change of Control Benefits**

Mr. Dennis, Mr. Carswell, and Mr. Horn are employees of Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc. Mr. Horn commenced employment with the Company in January 2024. Mr. Close stepped back from his role as VP Operations in December 2023 but he continues to advise the Company on strategic process improvements ahead of his scheduled retirement in 2024.

#### Mr. Frank A. Dennis, Director, President and CEO

In the event that Mr. Dennis' employment is terminated without cause by the Company (including upon a change of control) or he terminates his employment (1) within twelve months of a change of control, or (2) for good reason (both as defined in the executive employment agreement), Mr. Dennis' employment agreement provides for severance payments of 24 months of salary and a pro-rata payment under the short-term incentive plan for the year in which employment was terminated. In addition, Mr. Dennis would receive a continuation of specified benefits (where reasonably practicable and permitted under the terms of any group or individual insurance programs) for 12 months. In the event of Mr. Dennis' death during his service with the Company, his estate will be entitled to receive a pro-rata portion, if any, of his base salary and annual bonus entitlement, if any, up to the date of his death which remains unpaid. With regard to RSUs, Mr. Dennis' awards are subject to provisions on termination and Change in Control (as defined in the RSU Plan), at the discretion of the Board, and pursuant to the terms of the RSU Plan.

### Mr. Iain T. Carswell, CFO

In the event that Mr. Carswell's employment is terminated without cause by the Company or he or the Company terminates his employment within twelve months of a change of control (as defined in the executive employment agreement), Mr. Carswell will receive or give, as the case may be, 3 months written notice of termination, as well as severance payments equal to 12 months of base salary and incentive payments that would have been owed to him during his period of service with Swiss Water. In addition, Mr. Carswell would receive a cash payment equal to the cost of all benefits which would have been paid by Swiss Water for himself and his family for 6 months immediately following his termination. With regard to RSUs, Mr. Carswell's awards are subject to provisions on termination and Change in Control (as defined in the RSU Plan), at the discretion of the Board, and pursuant to the terms of the RSU Plan.

# Mr. Barry Close, Consultant – Strategic Process Advisor (formerly Vice President, Operations)

Mr. Close has communicated his intention to retire and leave the Company in 2024. In the event that Mr. Close's employment is terminated without cause by the Company or he or the Company terminates his employment within twelve months of a change of control (as defined in the executive employment agreement), Mr. Close will receive or give, as the case may be, 3 months written notice of termination, as well as severance payments equal to 6 months of base salary and incentive payments that would have been owed to him during his period of service with Swiss Water. In addition, Mr. Close would receive a cash payment equal to the cost of all benefits which would have been paid by Swiss Water for himself and his family for 6 months immediately following his termination. Mr. Close's RSU award agreements contain clauses in the case of termination of employment with the Company. In case of termination of employment for any reason other than death or termination without cause, the unvested RSU awards will be forfeited immediately. In case of death, or termination of employment without cause by the Company, the RSUs will vest rateably to the date of death or termination.

#### Mr. Owen Horn, Vice President of Operations

Mr. Horn was hired in January 2024. In the event that Mr. Horn's employment is terminated without cause by the Company or he or the Company terminates his employment within twelve months of a change of control (as defined in the executive employment agreement), Mr. Horn will receive or give, as the case may be, 3 months written notice of termination, as well as severance payments equal to 6 months of base salary and incentive payments that would have been owed to him during his period of service with Swiss Water. In addition, Mr. Horn would receive a cash payment equal to the cost of all benefits which would have been paid by Swiss Water for himself and his family for 6 months immediately following his termination. Mr. Horn does not have any RSUs.

### **Agreements Summary Table**

The following table sets out the severance amounts that would have been payable to the Named Executive Officers had their employment been terminated without cause including upon change in control (and in the case of Mr. Dennis and Mr. Carswell, if they terminated their employment for good reason as defined in the executive employment agreement).

	Frank A. Dennis (\$)	Iain T. Carswell (\$)	Barry Close (\$)
Salary	798,956	301,498	109,538
Incentive Payments	100,793	60,857	27,638
Share-Based Compensation <sup>(1)</sup>	459,362	346,813	35,585
Estimated Cost of Benefits	27,987	10,549	7,664
Total	1,387,097	719,717	180,424

(1) The estimated value of the share-based compensation reflects the number of RSUs that would have vested for each of the Named Executive Officers as at December 31, 2023 (the last business day of the Company's most recently completed fiscal year), assuming the RSUs vested rateably. The value was determined by multiplying the number of RSUs granted and vested, by the volume-based weighted average share price for the 5 trading days immediately preceding December 31, 2023, in accordance with the terms of the RSU Plan. The actual value of the RSUs cannot be determined until the RSUs are converted to shares and sold or paid in cash on vesting.

# SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION

# **Information Regarding the Company's Common Shares**

During the twelve months preceding the date of this Information Circular, no common shares of the Company have been purchased or sold by the Company.

The Company's common shares are listed on the TSX. The following table sets out the volume of trading and price range of the common shares during the six month period preceding the date of this Information Circular.

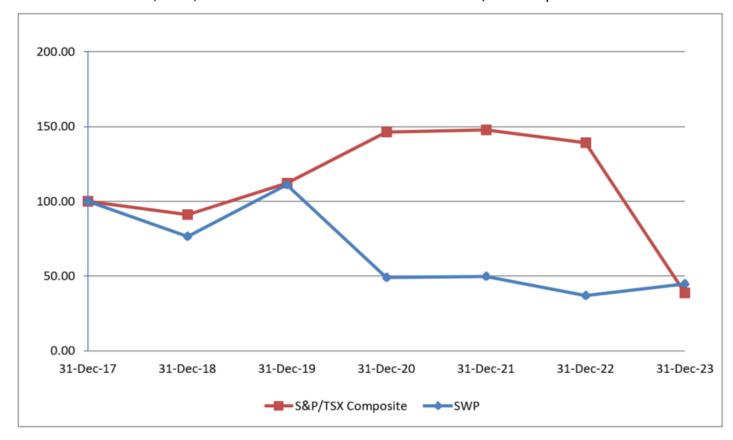
Month	High (\$)	Low (\$)	Close (\$)	Volume
September, 2023	\$2.80	\$2.60	\$2.60	105,700
October, 2023	\$2.76	\$2.40	\$2.40	145,600
November, 2023	\$2.81	\$2.40	\$2.78	92,600
December, 2023	\$2.85	\$2.49	\$2.78	169,700
January, 2024	\$2.83	\$2.64	\$2.74	58,900
February, 2024	\$2.95	\$2.69	\$2.93	49,200

The number of Common Shares of outstanding Common Shares beneficially owned, or over which control and direction is exercised, by each of the directors and officers of the Company are set out under the heading "About Proposed Directors" of this Information Circular, which is approximately 7.0% of all issued and outstanding common shares. Mill Road Capital LLP owns 6.4% of the Company's common shares and to the knowledge of the

Company. After a reasonable inquiry, there are no other Common Shares beneficially owned or over which control and direction is exercised by any associate or affiliate of an insider of the Company, any associate or affiliate of the Company, or any person acting jointly or in concert with the Company.

### **Performance Graph**

A substantial portion of executive compensation is fixed irrespective of financial or share price performance, reflecting the non-variable portions (salary and RRSP contributions) of the total compensation which does not change with the level of cash generated by the business. The Board believes that non-variable compensation components are necessary to attract and retain executives, and these aspects of compensation are consistent with the Company's as discussed under 'Compensation Philosophy'. The following graph compares the cumulative total return, including the reinvestment of distributions and dividends, from an investment of \$100 in shares made on December 31, 2017, with the cumulative total return of the S&P/TSX Composite Index.



# **Restricted Share Unit Plan**

In June 2022, Shareholders approved amendments to the RSU Plan, which was originally approved by the Shareholders in 2011 and amended in 2019. Under the RSU Plan, Swiss Water Shareholders approved a maximum of 1,115,509 common shares, being 12.2% of the issued and outstanding shares of the Company, for issuance under the Restricted Share Unit Plan. The following is a summary of important provisions of the RSU Plan.

#### **Summary of RSU Plan**

*Purpose*. The purpose of the RSU Plan is to promote the Company's interests and long-term success by providing officers, employees, and consultants with greater incentive to develop and promote the Company's business and financial success over the longer term, to further align the interest of persons to whom Awards may be granted with those of the Shareholders generally through a proprietary ownership interest in the Company, and to assist

the Company in attracting, retaining and motivating its officers, employees, and consultants. As the values of the awards under the RSU Plan increase or decrease with the share price, the RSU Plan provides an element of compensation at risk.

Eligible Participants. The RSU Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee which has been empowered by the Board to set the terms of incentive awards under the Plan. The Compensation Committee can, from time to time, grant Awards to any officer, or employee, including an employee who is also a director, in their capacity as an employee, or any individual, company, or other person engaged to provide ongoing valuable services to the Company (a "Consultant") (an "Eligible Person").

No Grants to Independent Directors. Independent Directors are not eligible to participate in the RSU Plan.

Maximum Grant to Any One Participant. The aggregate number of shares issuable to any person to whom Awards have been granted under the RSU Plan (each, a "Participant") within any one year period cannot, in the aggregate, exceed 1% of the then outstanding Shares. In addition, the maximum number of shares issuable at any time, and issued in any one year period, to Participants who are Insiders, pursuant to the RSU Plan or when combined with any other share compensation arrangements of the Company, cannot exceed 10% of the total number of outstanding Shares.

*Vesting of Awards.* Each Award will vest on the date or dates determined by the Compensation Committee and specified in the Award Agreement pursuant to which such Award is granted, provided that unless previously forfeited, such date may not be later than the date which is the last day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> calendar year following the date on which such Award is granted.

Forfeiture of RSUs. Except as determined by the Compensation Committee, all Awards will cease to vest upon: (i) the date upon which the Participant ceases to be employed or (ii) the death of the Participant. Unvested Awards shall be forfeited and terminated, provided, however, that the Compensation Committee may, when it finds that a waiver would be in the best interest of the Company, waive in whole or in part any or all remaining restrictions with respect to RSUs.

Payment. Awards will be settled in Shares, unless the Company offers the Participant the right to receive cash in lieu of shares and the Participant, in his/her sole discretion, so elects. If an Award is settled in cash, the Participant will receive payment of an amount equal to the market price of the Shares underlying the Award at the time of vesting. The market price is determined based on the volume weighted average trading price of the Shares over the five trading days prior to the date of vesting. Procedure for Amending. Shareholder approval must be obtained by ordinary resolution for any amendment that would: (i) increase the number of shares reserved for issuance under the RSU Plan; (ii) extend the term of an Award beyond its original expiry time; (iii) allow for the participation by independent directors in the RSU Plan; or (iv) permit an Award to be transferable or assignable to any person other than in accordance with the RSU Plan.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Shareholder approval is not required for amendments of a clerical nature, amendments to reflect any regulatory authority requirements (including those of the TSX), and amendments to the expiry date of an Award so long as such amendments do not extend the term of an Award past the original date of expiration.

Non-transferability of awards. RSUs granted are not transferable or assignable to anyone other than the Participant. RSUs can only be exercised by the Participant or their legal representative in case of death or incapacity by reason of physical or mental infirmity.

Other Material Information. Appropriate adjustments to the RSU Plan and to the Awards granted thereunder will be made by the Compensation Committee to give effect to adjustments in the number and type of shares (or

other securities or other property) resulting from subdivisions, consolidations, substitutions, or reclassifications of Shares, payment of stock dividends or other changes in the Company's capital. In the event of any merger, acquisition, amalgamation, arrangement, or another scheme of reorganization that results in a change of control, the Compensation Committee will, in an appropriate and equitable manner:

- (a) determine any adjustment to the number and type of shares (or other securities or other property) that thereafter shall be made the subject of Awards;
- (b) determine the number and type of shares (or other securities or other property) subject to outstanding Awards;
- (c) determine the unit price with respect to any Award, provided, however, that the number of shares covered by any Award or to which such Award relates shall always be a whole number;
- (d) determine the manner in which all unexercised Awards granted under this Plan will be treated including, without limitation, requiring the acceleration of the time for the exercise of such Awards by the Participants, the time for the fulfillment of any conditions or restrictions on such exercise, and the time for the expiry of such rights;
- (e) offer any Participant the opportunity to obtain a new or replacement award for securities into which the shares are changed or are convertible or exchangeable, on a basis proportionate to the number of shares issuable under the Award (and otherwise substantially upon the terms of the Award being replaced, or upon terms no less favourable to the Participant) including, without limitation, the periods during which the Award may be exercised and expiry dates; and in such event, the Participant shall, if he/she accepts such offer, be deemed to have released his/her Award and such Award shall be deemed to have lapsed and be cancelled; and
- (f) commute for or into any other security or any other property or cash, any Award that is still capable of being exercised, upon giving to the Participant to whom the Award has been granted at least 30 days written notice of its intention to commute such Award, and during such period of notice, the Award, to the extent it has not been exercised, can be exercised by the Participant without regard to any vesting conditions attached thereto, and on the expiry of such period of notice, the unexercised portion of the Award will lapse and be cancelled.

#### Securities Authorized for Issuance under RSU Compensation Plan

From the adoption of the RSU Plan, the following sets out grants in the last three years, the total number of RSUs converted into shares, and total RSUs granted and in the process of vesting, as at both the end of the last fiscal year and as at the date of this Information Circular.

In the last three years, the Company granted the following amount of RSUs:

Description	2021	2022	2023
RSUs granted	245,300	221,300	253,300
RSUs issued for dividends	-	-	-
Total	245,300	221,300	253,300
Weighted average number of outstanding Shares as at December 31	9,206,368	9,158,161	9,206,368
Granted RSUs as a percentage of weighted average number of outstanding Shares	2.7%	2.4%	2.8%

Since the RSU Plan's inception and until December 31, 2023, the last fiscal year-end, the total number of RSUs exercised into shares was 287,755. As at December 31, 2023, a total of 716,900 RSUs, or 7.8% of the total issued and outstanding common shares, were granted and they represent the total securities to be issued upon the exercise of outstanding RSUs and a total of 110,854, or 1.2% of all issued and outstanding common shares, represents securities remaining available for future issuance under the RSU Plan.

	As at the last
	fiscal year-end
Number of RSUs authorized for issuance by shareholders under the RSU Plan	1,115,509
Number of RSUs converted to common shares since the inception of the RSU Plan	(287,755)
RSUs outstanding as at the last fiscal year-end	(716,900)
RSUs remaining available for future issuance under the RSU Plan	110,854

			Number of Securities
			Remaining Available for
	Number of Securities to be		Future Issuance Under Equity
Plan Category	Issued Upon Exercise of	Weighted-Average Exercise	Compensation Plans
	Outstanding Options,	Price of Outstanding Options,	(excluding securities reflected
	Warrants and Rights	Warrants and Rights	in column (a)
	(a)	(b)	(c)
Equity compensation plans approved by	716.900		110,854
security holders <sup>(1)</sup>	710,500		110,854
Equity compensation plans not approved by			
security holders (1)			
Total	716,900		110,854

(1) The only equity compensation plan under which shares can be issued is the RSU Plan, described in 'Share-based Compensation'. The weighted average exercise price of outstanding RSUs is based on a formula using a volume weighted average share price for the 5 trading days immediately preceding the maturity date. The actual value of the RSUs weighted average exercise price cannot be determined until the RSUs are converted to shares and sold or paid in cash on vesting.

Since the RSU Plan inception, and until the date of this Information Circular, the total number of RSUs exercised into shares was 535,352. As at the date of this report, a total of 447,554 RSUs, or 4.7% of the total issued and outstanding common shares, were granted and they represent the total securities to be issued upon the exercise of outstanding RSUs. A total of 132,603, or 1.4% of all issued and outstanding common shares, represents securities remaining available for future issuance under the RSU Plan.

	As at the date of this
	Information Circular
Number of RSUs authorized for issuance by shareholders under the RSU Plan	1,115,509
Number of RSUs converted to common shares since the inception of the RSU Plan	(535,352)
RSUs outstanding as at the last fiscal year-end	(716,900)
RSUs vestment since the last fiscal year-end until the date of Information Circular	474,900
RSUs forfeiture since the last fiscal year-end until the date of Information Circular	3,500
RSUs granted since the last fiscal year end until the date of Information Circular	(209,054)
RSUs remaining available for future issuance under the RSU Plan	132,603

			Number of Securities
			Remaining Available for
	Number of Securities to be		Future Issuance Under Equity
Plan Category	Issued Upon Exercise of	Weighted-Average Exercise	Compensation Plans
	Outstanding Options,	Price of Outstanding Options,	(excluding securities reflected
	Warrants and Rights	Warrants and Rights	in column (a)
	(a)	(b)	(c)
Equity compensation plans approved by	447,554		132,603
securityholders <sup>(1)</sup>	447,554		132,003
Equity compensation plans not approved by			
securityholders <sup>(1)</sup>	-		
Total	447,554		132,603

(1) The only equity compensation plan under which shares can be issued is the RSU Plan, described in 'Share-based Compensation'. The weighted average exercise price of outstanding RSUs is based on a formula using a volume weighted average share price for the 5 trading days immediately preceding the maturity date. The actual value of the RSUs weighted average exercise price cannot be determined until the RSUs are converted to shares and sold or paid in cash on vesting.

### **Deferred Share Unit Plan**

In September 2011, the Compensation Committee and the Board approved the creation of a Deferred Share Unit Plan ("**DSU Plan**") for Directors and designated employees of the Company. The DSU Plan is designed to allow Directors, and if designated by the Compensation Committee, specified employees, the opportunity to defer a portion of their cash compensation by directing it into a phantom-equity plan, and thus align their interests with Shareholders. The DSU Plan is administered by the Compensation Committee, subject to Board approval of certain awards as determined by the terms of the DSU Plan. The following is a summary of important provisions of the DSU Plan.

#### **Summary of DSU Plan**

Directors and employees who are eligible to participate in the DSU Plan in any particular fiscal year may elect to receive in DSUs a specified percentage of their Directors' remuneration (in the case of Directors) or bonus entitlement (in the case of employees) for a such fiscal year by giving written notice to the Company in a form specified in the DSU Plan. DSUs acquired through such an election are automatically vested in full upon issuance.

Subject to Board approval, the Company may grant discretionary awards of DSUs to any Director or designated employee.

Accounts. The company is required to establish an account for each participant. All DSUs shall be credited to the accounts of participants as at the applicable award date. The deferred amount shall be expressed in Canadian dollars, and in each case, the number of DSUs to be credited to an account shall be determined by dividing the deferred amount by the fair market value on the trading day immediately preceding the award date.

On the last day of each fiscal quarter, the Company shall determine whether any dividend has been paid on shares during that fiscal quarter, and if so, the rate thereof per share (expressed as a percentage based on the closing price of the shares on the record date for the payment of the applicable dividend) (the "**Dividend Rate**"). The Company shall credit each account with an additional number of DSUs equal to the number of DSUs in the respective account on the record date for such dividend multiplied by the Dividend Rate.

Redemption Events. DSUs shall not be redeemed except upon the occurrence of any one of the following events (each a "Redemption Event"): (a) the death of such participant; (b) the retirement of such participant; (c) in the

case of a designated employee, the termination of such employee's employment with the Company or one of its subsidiaries; or (d) unless the Board in good faith determines that the nature of the transactions resulting in a change of control are such that it would not be appropriate for such change of control to constitute a Redemption Event, a change of control.

Redemption. Upon the occurrence of a Redemption Event with respect to a particular participant, such participant will be entitled to receive a lump sum payment, net of applicable withholding taxes, equal to the product of (i) the number of DSUs in such participant's account on the date of the Redemption Event and (ii) the fair market value of one share on the date of the Redemption Event. Upon the occurrence of a Redemption Event, the DSUs in the applicable participant's account will not represent any right other than the right to receive a lump sum cash payment referred to herein, and such DSUs shall automatically be cancelled immediately following the payment of such lump sum amount.

In February 2018, the Board approved a director compensation structure that included a retainer in the form of DSUs with a value of \$20,000. Effective January 1, 2024, the retainer in the form of DSUs increased to a value of \$25,000. Directors are also encouraged to voluntarily participate in the DSU Plan, by directing a portion of the cash compensation paid to them into DSUs. In 2023 two Directors elected to direct a portion of their cash compensation into DSUs. See 'Compensation of Directors'. As at the date hereof, 252,893 discretionary awards have been granted under the DSU Plan.

#### **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES**

#### The Board of Directors

The majority of Directors are "Independent" as such term is defined for the purposes of National Instrument 58-101 "Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practices". Mr. Frank Dennis is the President and CEO of Swiss Water. Mr. Veit is the Chairman of a coffee company that does business with Swiss Water. That Company buys decaffeinated coffee and/or decaffeination services from Swiss Water and sells green coffee to Swiss Water. All transactions are in the normal course of business, and none of the transactions are material to the Company. Mr. Veit is a non-management Director of the Company. The Chair of the Board is Mr. Wallace, who is an Independent Director. At each Board and Committee meeting, the Board and Committee, as the case may be, meets without members of management in attendance.

Mr. Tringali is the Lead Independent Director of Natural Gas Services Group, Inc. ("NGS"), which is a reporting issuer. Mr. Jacobs recently became the CEO of NGS. The Board is of the view that this relationship does not adversely impact the effectiveness of these Directors to serve shareholders' interests on the Company's Board.

#### **Nomination of Directors**

The Compensation Committee, which is comprised of a majority of independent Directors, considers proposed nominees for Directors as part of planned Board renewal and as vacancies arise, with a view to ensuring that the Board is comprised of individuals with a complementary range of general business and industry-specific experience and financial literacy. This Committee may, if necessary, engage the assistance of outside advisors to identify suitable nominees for election as Directors. The terms of reference detailing the responsibilities of this Committee are attached as **Appendix A** to this Information Circular.

#### **Business Ethics**

The Company has adopted a written Code of Business Ethics that applies to the Directors, officers, employees, agents and contractors of Swiss Water and its subsidiaries. The Code of Business Ethics also applies to third

parties, as determined by the Board of Directors The Code of Business Ethics is reviewed on an annual basis and it was most recently revised and approved by the Board in March 2024. The Board monitors compliance with the Code of Business Ethics. The Board, in compliance with the Code of Business Ethics and applicable corporate law, ensures that Directors who have a material interest in proposed transactions involving the Company disclose such interest prior to consideration of the relevant matter by the Board and abstain from voting on approval of such transactions as appropriate.

#### Number of Women on the Board and in Executive Officer Positions

Swiss Water currently has seven Directors, one of whom is a woman, representing 14%, of the Directors. Of the seven nominees for re-election at the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, one female director will represent 14% of the Board. At this time there are no Named Executive Officers who are women.

#### **Position Descriptions for Board and Committee Chairs**

Each of the Chair and the Audit Committee Chair is an Independent Director. The Compensation Chair is independent of management. The Board has developed written position descriptions for the Chair of the Board and the chairs of the Committees (the "Committee Chairs").

The Chair is responsible for the management, development, and effective performance of the Board and leads the Board to ensure that it fulfills its duties as required by law and as set out in the Board's terms of reference. The Committee Chairs are responsible for leading and overseeing the applicable Committee to ensure it fulfills its mandate as set out in its terms of reference and reporting regularly to the Board on the activities of the Committee.

#### **Director Orientation and Continuing Education**

The Compensation Committee is responsible for ensuring that Directors receive appropriate orientation and education as to their duties and responsibilities and an understanding of the Company's business. In 2020, the Compensation Committee updated the Director Orientation process. From time to time, management provides the Directors with education sessions during Board meetings on topics such as the coffee industry, trends in the food industry in general, market conditions, financing alternatives and governance practices. Individual Directors also participate in education sessions offered by the Institute of Corporate Directors ("ICD"), the National Association of Corporate Directors ("NACD"), investment banks, professional associations, law firms, accounting firms, governance consulting firms, and other professional services firms, proxy advisory firms, attend association conferences, and from time to time, and read publications on a broad range governance matters published by those same organizations. The governance matters include securities law trends, risk oversight, human capital oversight, executive compensation, cybersecurity and cyber risk, environmental, social, and governance topics, proxy trends, board evaluation practices, ethics, and climate change.

#### **Board Assessment**

Typically, the Board conducts an annual evaluation and review of the performance of the Board, its committees, and the Board Chair during the past year. In the first quarter of 2024, the Board undertook a Board self-assessment, reviewing the performance of the Board, its committees, and the Board Chair. The self-assessment identified areas of focus for the Board in the next year, as well as areas where the Board may wish to improve its effectiveness.

#### **Director Term Limits and Other Mechanisms of Board Renewal**

The Company has not adopted term limits for Directors because the Board believes the imposition of arbitrary term limits may result in an effective Director being disqualified and discounts the value of deep knowledge held

by longer serving Directors. As a small company with a very small market capitalization, it is more difficult to attract and retain qualified people to serve on the Board. A vacancy created by adopting Director term limits could create an imbalance in the Board for an extended period of time, which could be detrimental to the overall governance of the Company. However, the Compensation Committee is committed to an orderly process for Board renewal. The Compensation Committee is responsible for assessing the effectiveness of the Board of Directors and Board renewal is one of the factors the Compensation Committee considers in its evaluation. The Board self-assessment has also identified skills gaps and priority skills to recruit for.

### Diversity Targets Regarding the Representation of Designated Diversity Groups on the Board and in Executive Officer Positions

The Company has not adopted targets regarding Designated Diversity Groups on the Board or in executive officer positions.

#### **Diversity on the Board**

The Company seeks to maintain a Board comprised of talented and dedicated directors with a diverse mix of expertise, skills, experience and backgrounds. In 2019 (amended in 2022), the Board adopted a Diversity Policy with a broad definition of diversity, including but not limited to, characteristics articulated in the laws applicable to the Company (the "Designated Diversity Groups"). The Diversity Policy articulates existing Board practices relating to diversity considerations and is reviewed by the Compensation Committee on an annual basis.

The Compensation Committee is responsible for overseeing Board renewal, including the evaluation, identification and recommendation of nominees to the Board. The Compensation Committee must identify nominees with the appropriate skills, experience and characteristics to promote the continued growth and success of Swiss Water. One of the factors that the Compensation Committee considers is the diversity criteria contained in the Diversity Policy. The Compensation Committee also considers the Company's corporate strategy and takes into consideration the skills and experience of the current Directors (individually and the Board as a whole) in identifying nominees to the Board. It also considers the time and energy required to devote to Swiss Water's Board and committee work and knowledge of the business and operations of the Company. The Diversity Policy specifically states that the Compensation Committee will consider that qualified candidates for directors may be found in a broad range of organizations and engage, where appropriate, qualified independent executive search firms to conduct searches for candidates, to help achieve the Company's diversity objectives in relation to the Board. Most recently in 2021, utilizing the networks of individual Directors and the Corporate Secretary, the Compensation Committee identified Ms. McKenzie as a Director, taking into consideration all of the above.

#### **Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance**

The Company has purchased directors' and officers' liability insurance policies for the benefit of the Directors and executive officers of Swiss Water and its subsidiaries against any liability, including legal costs, incurred by them in their capacity as Directors or executive officers, subject to all of the terms and conditions of such policies. The aggregate amount of premiums paid in the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, in respect of Directors and executive officers as a group was approximately \$21,279 total limit of insurance purchased under the policy was \$10 million per loss in the annual aggregate.

#### **Diversity in Executive Officer Appointments**

The Company's Diversity Policy informs its executive officer appointments. When identifying and considering the selection of candidates for appointment or promotion to executive officer positions, the President and Chief Executive Officer, with assistance from the Chief Financial Officer, considers the skills, experience and leadership abilities necessary for the position. They also consider diversity criteria relating to the Designated Diversity

Groups. Consistent with the Compensation Committee's practice, the Diversity Policy specifically states that the President and Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer will consider that qualified candidates may be found in a broad range of organizations and engage, where appropriate, qualified independent executive search firms to conduct searches for candidates, to help achieve the Company's diversity objectives in relation to executive officer positions.

#### **Mandate of the Board of Directors**

#### Scope of the Board's Duties

The Board is responsible for the stewardship of the Company and satisfies its legal responsibility to manage or supervise the management of the business in the interest of its Shareholders through the CEO. In doing so, each Director must act honestly, in good faith, and in the best interests of the Company. The Board guides the strategic direction, evaluates the performance of senior management, monitors financial results, provides oversight of the Company's material risks and risk mitigation strategies, and is ultimately accountable to the Company's Shareholders, employees, customers, suppliers and regulators. The members of the Board are kept informed of the Company's operations at meetings of the Board and its committees and through reports and analyses by, and discussions with, management. The Board manages the delegation of decision making authority to management through Board resolutions under which management is given authority to transact business, but only within specific limits and restrictions.

#### **Selection of Management**

The Board is responsible for appointing the CEO, monitoring and evaluating the CEO's performance, and approving the CEO's and CFO's total compensation. Through the recommendation of the CEO and the Compensation Committee, the Board is also responsible for oversight of the remuneration of all other senior executives of the Company. The Board also ensures that adequate plans are in place for management succession and, through the Compensation Committee, conducts an annual review of such plans.

#### **Corporate Strategy**

The Board is responsible for reviewing and approving the corporate strategy on a yearly basis, as well as determining the goals and objectives to achieve and implement the corporate strategy, while taking into account, among other things, the opportunities and risks of the business. Each year, the Board meets for a strategic planning session to set the plans for the upcoming year. In addition to the general management of the business, the Board expects management to achieve the corporate goals set by the Board and the Board monitors throughout the year the progress made against these goals.

In addition, the Board approves key transactions that have a strategic impact on the Company, such as acquisitions, key supply arrangements and strategic alliances. Through the delegation of signing authorities, the Board is responsible for setting out the types of transactions that require the approval of the Board before completion.

#### Fiscal Management and Reporting

The Board monitors the financial performance of the Company and must ensure that the financial results are reported (a) to Shareholders and regulators on a timely and regular basis and (b) fairly and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for publicly accountable enterprises. The Board must also ensure that all material developments of the Company are disclosed to the public on a timely basis in accordance with applicable securities regulations. The Board reviews and approves the Company's audited financial statements, management discussion and analysis and related disclosures which describe the achievements and performance

of the Company for the preceding year. At least annually, the Board reviews with management the type and presentation of the Company's key environmental, social and governance ("ESG") disclosures and the adequacy and effectiveness of applicable internal controls relating to such disclosures, and oversees key finance-related initiatives related to ESG. The Audit Committee also recommends that the Board approve (subject to Shareholder approval) the appointment of the Company's auditors on an annual basis.

#### **Legal Compliance**

The Board is responsible for overseeing compliance with all relevant policies and procedures by which the Company operates and ensuring that the Company operates at all times in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and to the highest ethical and moral standards.

#### **Statutory Requirements**

The Board is responsible for approving all matters which require board approval as prescribed by applicable statutes and regulations. Management ensures that such matters are brought to the attention of the Board as they arise.

#### Risk Management

The Board is responsible for ensuring that management identifies the Company's principal risks and implements appropriate systems to manage these risks. The Board is also responsible for the integrity of the Company's internal control and management of information systems.

#### **External Communications**

The Board is responsible for overseeing the establishment, maintenance and annual review of the Company's external communications policies which should address how the Company interacts with analysts and the public and contain measures for the Company to avoid selective disclosure. The Board is responsible for establishing a process for receiving Shareholder and other stakeholder feedback.

#### Committees of the Directors

The following committees of the Board have been established:

#### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee consists of three Independent Directors. The Audit Committee's principal functions are:

- 1. to review all financial information and statutory disclosure documents prior to their approval by the Directors and their distribution to Shareholders and other interested persons;
- 2. to review the Company's systems of internal control; and
- 3. to monitor the performance of the external auditors.

For more information regarding the Audit Committee, including a detailed description of the Audit Committee's mandate and the qualifications of the members of the Audit Committee, as well as information regarding the compensation paid to the Company's auditors; please refer to the Company's current Annual Information Form, which is available on <a href="https://www.sedarplus.ca">www.sedarplus.ca</a>.

#### **Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee**

The Compensation Committee consists of three Directors, the majority of whom are independent (with the other Director being a non-management Director). The Compensation Committee's principal functions are:

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- 1. to develop and monitor the Company's overall approach to corporate governance issues;
- 2. to recommend to the Directors nominees for election and re-election as Directors;
- 3. to review the performance of the Directors and their Committees; and
- 4. to oversee organizational structure, executive appointment and succession, executive compensation, and performance review of the President and CEO.

The mandate of the Compensation Committee is contained in **Appendix A** of this Information Circular.

#### **Shareholder Communications**

The Finance Department is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the communication needs of Shareholders, and investors generally, are satisfied, by written communication including via email to or by direct contact with senior management.

## Mandate of the President and Chief Executive Officer and Expectations of Management

The President and CEO, and the CFO report directly to the Chair of the Board on a regular and ongoing basis. They have full accountability to the Board for the operating, financial and strategic performance of the Company.

The Board reviews and approves annually specific personal goals and objectives for the ensuing year. An annual review of the President and CEO's, and the CFO's performance is conducted by the Compensation Committee.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **Availability of Documents**

The Company's Annual Information Form, consolidated financial statements and related management's discussion and analysis for the year ended December 31, 2023 and can be found at www.sedarplus.ca.

The Company will provide to any security holder, upon request to the Chief Financial Officer at <a href="mailto:investor-relations@swisswater.com">investor-relations@swisswater.com</a> or 604.420.4050, one copy of the following documents:

- the Company's most recent Annual Information Form, together with any document, or the pertinent pages of any document, incorporated therein by reference, filed with the applicable securities regulatory authorities;
- 2. the annual consolidated financial statements of the Company filed with the applicable securities regulatory authorities for the Company's most recently completed fiscal period in respect of which such financial statements have been issued, together with the report of the auditors thereon, related management's discussion and analysis and any interim financial statements of the Company filed with the applicable securities regulatory authorities subsequent to the filing of the annual financial statements; and
- 3. the most recent Information Circular of the Company filed with the applicable securities regulatory authorities in respect of the most recent Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of the Company which involved the appointment of Directors.

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Copies of the above documents will be provided, upon request, free of charge to Shareholders of the Company. The Company may require the payment of a reasonable charge by any person or company who is not a Shareholder of the Company and who requests a copy of such a document.

#### **Approval of this Information Circular**

The contents and the sending of this Information Circular have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Company.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

(Signed) "Frank A. Dennis"

Frank A. Dennis

President & Chief Executive Officer

Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc.

#### **APPENDIX A: CCGC TERMS OF REFERENCE**



# SWISS WATER DECAFFEINATED COFFEE INC. Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee TERMS OF REFERENCE (Revised and Approved by the Board: March 28, 2024)

#### **Establishment of the Committee**

There shall be a Committee of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Swiss Water Decaffeinated Coffee Inc. (the "Company") to be known as the Compensation and Corporate Governance Committee ("Committee") whose membership, authority and responsibilities shall be as set out in this charter.

#### Mandate of Committee - Corporate Governance and Nomination

#### 1. <u>Identification and Long-Term Planning of Board Member Characteristics</u>

#### The Committee shall:

- (a) identify and review with the Board the appropriate skills and characteristics required of Board members, taking into consideration the Board's short-term needs and long-term succession plans; and
- (b) develop a long-term plan for the Board's composition that takes into consideration the characteristics of independence, skills, experience and availability of service of its members, as well as the opportunities, risks, and strategic direction of the Company.

#### 2. Evaluation, Identification and Recommendation of Nominees to the Board

In consultation with the Board Chair, the Committee shall identify and recommend to the Board nominees for election or re-election to the Board or for appointment to fill any vacancy that is anticipated or has arisen on the Board.

#### 3. Monitoring and Review of Board Member Education and Commitments

#### The Committee shall:

- (a) review, monitor and make recommendations regarding the initial orientation and education of new Board members and the ongoing education of Directors; and
- (b) upon a significant change in a Board member's principal occupation or upon a member assuming any significant outside commitments, review the continued Board membership of such individual.

#### 4. Recommendation of Directors to Serve as Committee Members and Chairs

The Committee shall identify and recommend to the Board individual Directors to serve as members and Chairs of Board Committees.

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#### 5. <u>Disclosure of Corporate Governance Practices</u>

The Committee shall be responsible for the Company's disclosure obligations regarding compliance with governance guidelines, recommendations or requirements under applicable securities laws, rules and regulations and the requirements of any applicable stock exchange.

#### 6. Board Guidelines, Policies, Procedures and Terms of Reference

#### The Committee shall:

- (a) review periodically the Board's policies and procedures by which the Board will operate and the Terms of Reference for the Board, committees of the Board, the Board Chair, Committee Chairs, individual Directors and the Chief Executive Officer of the Company;
- (b) advise the Board regularly with respect to significant developments in the law and practice of corporate governance as well as the compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- (d) make recommendations to the Board on all matters of corporate governance, including any reports that may be required or considered advisable, and on any corrective action to be taken, as the Committee may deem appropriate; and
- (e) at the request of the Board Chair or the Board, undertake such other corporate governance initiatives as may be necessary or desirable to contribute to the success of the Company.

#### 7. Establishment and Implementation of Evaluation Processes

The Committee shall establish criteria for, and periodically undertake, an evaluation process for the Board, the Board Chair and each committee of the Board in order to assess the effectiveness of the Board as a whole, the Board Chair and each committee of the Board.

#### Mandate of the Committee - Compensation

#### 1. Director Compensation

The Committee shall review and make recommendations to the Board with respect to the compensation of the Directors of the Company to ensure that the compensation is appropriate and adequately reflects their responsibilities.

#### 2. Compensation Guidelines and Agreements

The Committee shall review and recommend to the Board a compensation strategy and incentive policies and programs for the Company's senior management, and any material changes to such strategy, policies or programs, and administer the executive compensation and benefits program in accordance with such strategy, policies and programs.

The Committee shall also be responsible for reviewing and recommending to the Board certain matters relating to all employees, including material changes to annual salary and incentive policies and programs, material new benefit programs, or material changes to existing benefit programs.

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#### 3. Chief Executive Officer Evaluation and Compensation

The Committee shall review and recommend to the Board the individual goals and objectives relevant to the total compensation package of Chief Executive Officer for the current year, recommend to the Board a performance evaluation process for the Chief Executive Officer, evaluate the performance of the Chief Executive Officer in light of these goals and objectives and determine and recommend to the Board the Chief Executive Officer's compensation level, bonus payout and LTIP awards, if any, based on this evaluation.

In reviewing the long-term incentive component of the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer, the Committee shall consider the performance and relative shareholder return and performance of the Company, the value of similar incentive awards to chief executive officers at comparable companies and the awards given to the Chief Executive Officer in past years.

#### 4. Other Executive Compensation and Oversight

The Committee shall provide input to the Chief Executive Officer, in order for the Chief Executive Officer to evaluate the Chief Financial Officer's performance at least annually. Taking into account the views and recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer, the Committee shall review and recommend to the Board the individual goals and objectives relevant to the total compensation package of Chief Financial Officer for the current year. Taking into account the views and recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer, the Committee shall review and recommend to the Board the bonus payout and LTIP awards, if any, for the Chief Financial Officer for the most recently completed financial year.

The Committee shall oversee the Chief Executive Officer in the establishment of goals and objectives of the Company's senior management (including executive officers) other than the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, the evaluation of the Company's senior management (including executive officers) and shall approve the total compensation package for the senior management (including executive officers) other than the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

#### 5. Equity Compensation Review

The Committee shall review periodically, and make recommendations to the Board regarding incentive compensation or equity plans, programs or similar arrangements that the Company establishes for, or makes available to, its employees and consultants.

In addition, the Committee shall review periodically the extent to which these forms of compensation are meeting their intended objectives and shall make recommendations to the Board regarding modifications that will more accurately relate such compensation to employee performance.

#### 6. Management Resources and Plans for Executive Development

The Committee shall review existing management resources and plans, including recruitment, training and evaluations, to ensure that qualified personnel will be available for succession to senior management positions. On an annual basis, the Committee will receive a report from the Chief Executive Officer containing his or her views as to a successor for the position of Chief Executive Officer and all other senior management positions.

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#### 7. Retirement Matters

The Committee shall:

- (a) review and recommend for approval by the Board any material changes in the Company's retirement plans;
- (b) where appropriate, give direction concerning retirement program matters to the management committee that supervises the Company's retirement programs; and
- (c) where appropriate, receive reports from management on any retirement program matters that may be of concern to the Board and report to the Board on such matters.

#### 8. Compensation Committee Report

The Committee shall review the disclosure on executive officer compensation required to be published by applicable securities laws, rules and regulations, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, and recommend such disclosure for approval by the Board.

#### **Procedural Matters**

#### 1. Membership

- (a) The Committee will be comprised of at least three (3) members, the majority of whom will be non-executive, independent Directors as defined in applicable securities laws, rules and regulations.
- (b) Members will be appointed by the Board and shall serve until the earlier to occur of the date on which he or she shall be replaced by the Board, resigns from the Committee, or ceases to be a Director.
- (c) The Board shall appoint one of the Directors elected to the Committee as the Chair of the Committee. In the absence of the Chair of the Committee at any meeting, the members shall elect a Chair from those in attendance to act as Chair of the meeting. The fundamental responsibility of the Chair is to be responsible for the management and effective performance of the Committee and provide leadership to the Committee in fulfilling its mandate and any other matters delegated to it by the trustees and directors. The Chair's responsibilities shall include:
  - a. working with the Committee members and the Chief Executive Officer to establish the frequency of Committee meetings and the agendas for meetings;
  - b. providing leadership to the Committee and presiding over Committee meetings;
  - c. ensuring that the Committee is properly organized and effectively discharges its duties;
  - d. facilitating the flow of information to and from the Committee and fostering an environment in which Committee members may ask questions and express their viewpoints;
  - e. reporting to the Board with respect to the significant activities of the Committee and any recommendations of the Committee:
  - f. leading the Committee in annually reviewing and assessing the adequacy of its mandate and evaluating its effectiveness in fulfilling its mandate; and

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- g. taking such other steps as are reasonably required to ensure that the Committee carries out its mandate.
- (d) The secretary of the Committee will be the Company's Secretary, or such other person as determined by the Committee.

#### 2. Meetings

- (a) The Committee shall meet as frequently as required, but no fewer than two times annually. Together, the President and Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, the Corporate Secretary, and the Chair shall prepare an agenda in advance of each meeting. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum and the act of a majority of the members present at a meeting where a quorum is present shall be the act of the Committee. The Committee may also act by unanimous written consent of its members. The Committee shall maintain minutes or other records of meetings and activities of the Committee.
- (b) Notice of a meeting of the Committee may be given orally or by letter, electronic mail, facsimile transmission or telephone not less than 24 hours before the time fixed for the meeting, unless such notice is otherwise waived in writing by the all of the members of the Committee.
- (c) The Committee may invite such other persons (e.g. the CEO, CFO) to its meetings, as it deems necessary.

#### 3. Authority

The Board grants authority to the Committee, within the scope of its responsibilities, to:

- (a) Seek any information it requires from any employee (and all employees are directed to co-operate with any request made by the Committee) or external parties.
- (b) Obtain outside legal or other professional advice as deemed necessary and to set and authorize the compensation to be paid to such advisors.
- (c) Ensure the attendance of officers of the Company at meetings as appropriate.

#### 4. Terms of Reference and Calendar

The Committee review these terms of reference and the calendar of activities on an annual basis and submit any recommended changes to the Board for approval



www.Swisswater.com

https://investor.Swisswater.com

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