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

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Quarter Ended September 30, 2017

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission File No. 001-03262

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

NEVADA
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

94-1667468
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

5300 Town and Country Blvd., Suite 500, Frisco, Texas 75034
(Address of principal executive offices)

Telephone No.: (972) 668-8800

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes No

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

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

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's common stock, par value \$0.50, as of November 2, 2017 was 15,427,561.

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.
QUARTERLY REPORT
For the Quarter Ended September 30, 2017
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PART I — FINANCIAL INFORMATION
ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(Unaudited)

	<u>September 30,</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>December 31,</u> <u>2016</u>
<i>(In thousands)</i>		
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 25,392	\$ 65,904
Accounts Receivable:		
Oil and gas sales	24,693	19,339
Joint interest operations	9,703	3,105
Derivative Financial Instruments	3,203	—
Other Current Assets	2,494	1,824
Total current assets	<u>65,485</u>	<u>90,172</u>
Property and Equipment:		
Oil and gas properties, successful efforts method	3,900,858	3,797,101
Other	19,609	19,590
Accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization	<u>(3,087,279)</u>	<u>(3,018,029)</u>
Net property and equipment	833,188	798,662
Other Assets	<u>934</u>	<u>1,040</u>
	<u>\$ 899,607</u>	<u>\$ 889,874</u>
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' DEFICIT		
Accounts Payable	\$ 92,298	\$ 45,311
Derivative Financial Instruments	—	6,030
Accrued Expenses	19,929	40,366
Total current liabilities	<u>112,227</u>	<u>91,707</u>
Long-term Debt	1,089,719	1,044,506
Deferred Income Taxes	10,007	9,126
Reserve for Future Abandonment Costs	<u>16,098</u>	<u>15,804</u>
Total liabilities	1,228,051	1,161,143
Commitments and Contingencies		
Stockholders' Deficit:		
Common stock — \$0.50 par, 75,000,000 shares authorized, 15,427,561 and 13,937,627 shares outstanding at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively	7,714	6,969
Common stock warrants	3,557	5,672
Additional paid-in capital	545,228	531,924
Accumulated deficit	<u>(884,943)</u>	<u>(815,834)</u>
Total stockholders' deficit	<u>(328,444)</u>	<u>(271,269)</u>
	<u>\$ 899,607</u>	<u>\$ 889,874</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
	<i>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</i>			
Revenues:				
Natural gas sales.....	\$ 56,164	\$ 36,852	\$ 147,541	\$ 87,726
Oil sales.....	10,647	13,478	34,542	39,482
Total oil and gas sales.....	<u>66,811</u>	<u>50,330</u>	<u>182,083</u>	<u>127,208</u>
Operating expenses:				
Production taxes.....	1,490	1,556	3,730	4,069
Gathering and transportation.....	4,755	3,829	12,428	12,219
Lease operating.....	9,359	12,301	28,681	38,249
Exploration.....	—	76,391	—	84,144
Depreciation, depletion and amortization.....	32,807	37,545	93,009	112,410
General and administrative.....	6,174	4,188	19,134	15,426
Impairment of oil and gas properties.....	—	113	—	24,573
Loss on sale of oil and gas properties.....	1,036	13,196	1,060	14,103
Total operating expenses.....	<u>55,621</u>	<u>149,119</u>	<u>158,042</u>	<u>305,193</u>
Operating income (loss).....	11,190	(98,789)	24,041	(177,985)
Other income (expenses):				
Gain on extinguishment of debt.....	—	100,540	—	190,116
Gain from derivative financial instruments.....	1,430	—	14,585	674
Other income.....	170	175	398	770
Interest expense.....	(37,595)	(31,227)	(107,250)	(90,053)
Total other income (expenses).....	<u>(35,995)</u>	<u>69,488</u>	<u>(92,267)</u>	<u>101,507</u>
Loss before income taxes.....	(24,805)	(29,301)	(68,226)	(76,478)
Benefit from (provision for) income taxes.....	69	825	(883)	(3,723)
Net loss.....	<u>\$ (24,736)</u>	<u>\$ (28,476)</u>	<u>\$ (69,109)</u>	<u>\$ (80,201)</u>
Net loss per share – basic and diluted.....	<u>\$ (1.67)</u>	<u>\$ (2.32)</u>	<u>\$ (4.74)</u>	<u>\$ (7.13)</u>
Weighted average shares outstanding – basic and diluted.....	<u>14,796</u>	<u>12,293</u>	<u>14,591</u>	<u>11,255</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF STOCKHOLDERS' DEFICIT
For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017
(Unaudited)

	<u>Common Stock (Shares)</u>	<u>Common Stock – Par Value</u>	<u>Common Stock Warrants</u>	<u>Additional Paid-in Capital</u>	<u>Accumulated Deficit</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<i>(In thousands)</i>					
Balance at January 1, 2017	13,938	\$ 6,969	\$ 5,672	\$ 531,924	\$ (815,834)	\$ (271,269)
Stock-based compensation.....	451	225	—	4,230	—	4,455
Tax withholdings related to equity awards	(34)	(16)	—	(296)	—	(312)
Common stock issued for debt conversions.....	826	412	—	7,377	—	7,789
Common stock warrants exercised.....	247	124	(2,115)	1,993	—	2
Net loss	—	—	—	—	(69,109)	(69,109)
Balance at September 30, 2017	<u>15,428</u>	<u>\$ 7,714</u>	<u>\$ 3,557</u>	<u>\$ 545,228</u>	<u>\$ (884,943)</u>	<u>\$ (328,444)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net loss	\$ (69,109)	\$ (80,201)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities:		
Deferred income taxes	768	3,687
Loss on sale of oil and gas properties	1,060	14,103
Exploratory lease impairments.....	—	84,144
Impairment of oil and gas properties	—	24,573
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	93,009	112,410
Gain on derivative financial instruments	(14,585)	(674)
Cash settlements of derivative financial instruments	5,352	2,120
Gain on extinguishment of debt	—	(190,116)
Amortization of debt discount, premium and issuance costs	24,914	6,413
Interest paid in-kind	28,194	2,576
Stock-based compensation	4,455	3,571
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	(11,952)	101
Decrease (increase) in other current assets	(670)	18
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expenses	29,327	(37,443)
	90,763	(54,718)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Capital expenditures	(132,493)	(41,142)
Proceeds from sales of oil and gas properties	1,528	2,067
	(130,965)	(39,075)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Payments to retire debt	—	(3,397)
Common stock warrants exercised	2	9
Debt and equity issuance costs	—	(9,928)
Tax withholdings related to equity awards	(312)	(313)
	(310)	(13,629)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(40,512)	(107,422)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period.....	65,904	134,006
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 25,392	\$ 26,584

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

September 30, 2017
(Unaudited)

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES —

Basis of Presentation

In management's opinion, the accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments necessary to present fairly the financial position of Comstock Resources, Inc. and subsidiaries ("Comstock" or the "Company") as of September 30, 2017, the related results of operations for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, and cash flows for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016. Net loss and comprehensive loss are the same in all periods presented. All adjustments are of a normal recurring nature unless otherwise disclosed.

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Certain information and disclosures normally included in annual financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States have been omitted pursuant to those rules and regulations, although Comstock believes that the disclosures made are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. These unaudited consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in Comstock's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

The results of operations for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2017 are not necessarily an indication of the results expected for the full year.

These unaudited consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Comstock and its wholly-owned subsidiaries.

Property and Equipment

The Company follows the successful efforts method of accounting for its oil and gas properties. Costs incurred to acquire oil and gas leasehold are capitalized.

In 2017, the Company entered agreements to jointly develop certain acreage prospective for the Haynesville shale in Louisiana and Texas with USG Properties Haynesville, LLC ("USG"). As of September 30, 2017, USG has acquired approximately 7,000 net acres prospective for Haynesville shale development for the joint development program primarily in Caddo Parish, Louisiana. The Company operates wells drilled on USG's acreage and has the right to acquire a 25% working interest in the acreage by reimbursing USG for the attributable acreage costs of the wells being drilled. USG is also participating in four wells being drilled in the Company's Bossier shale acreage in Sabine Parish, Louisiana and in a Haynesville shale drilling program on approximately 5,700 acres of Comstock's acreage in Harrison County, Texas. Under the terms of the participation agreements for Sabine Parish and Harrison County acreage owned by the Company, Comstock will receive between \$1.1 million and \$1.4 million, respectively, for 50% of Comstock's interest for each location for acreage and infrastructure related to each well location, with \$400,000 of that amount being paid only if each well meets or exceeds established production targets. Comstock also receives \$80,000 for each well drilled as consideration for the Company's services managing the joint drilling program in addition to customary operating fees for each well drilled except for the four Bossier shale wells. Comstock and USG plan to continue to acquire additional acreage for the joint development venture.

Comstock sold various oil and gas properties in the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2017 for total proceeds of \$1.5 million and recognized a loss of \$1.0 million on these divestitures. In January 2016, the Company designated certain of its natural gas properties located in South Texas as held for sale and recognized an impairment charge of \$20.8 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2016 to adjust the carrying value of these assets to their estimated net realizable value. The sale of these properties was completed in December 2016. The Company also sold certain other oil and gas properties during the first nine months of 2016 for total proceeds of \$2.1 million and recognized a loss of \$1.6 million on these divestitures.

Results of operations for the properties that were sold or held for sale were as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
	<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Total oil and gas sales.....	\$ 6	\$ 2,644	\$ 392	\$ 6,551
Total operating expenses ⁽¹⁾	(265)	(1,541)	(771)	(5,670)
Operating income (loss).....	\$ (259)	\$ 1,103	\$ (379)	\$ 881

(1) Includes direct operating expenses, depreciation, depletion and amortization and exploration expense. Excludes interest expense, general and administrative expenses and depreciation, depletion and amortization expense subsequent to the date the assets were designated as held for sale.

Unproved oil and gas properties are periodically assessed and any impairment in value is charged to exploration expense. The costs of unproved properties which are determined to be productive are transferred to oil and gas properties and amortized on an equivalent unit-of-production basis. The Company recognized impairments included in exploration expense of \$76.4 million and \$84.1 million in the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, related to leases that were expiring on certain of its unproved oil and gas properties.

The Company also assesses the need for an impairment of the capitalized costs for its proved oil and gas properties on a property basis. Accordingly, the Company recognized additional impairments of its oil and gas properties of \$0.1 million and \$24.6 million for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, to reduce the carrying value of certain properties to their estimated fair value.

The Company determines the fair values of its oil and gas properties using a discounted cash flow model and proved and risk adjusted probable oil and natural gas reserves. Undrilled acreage can also be valued based on sales transactions in comparable areas. Significant Level 3 assumptions associated with the calculation of discounted future cash flows included in the cash flow model include management's outlook for oil and natural gas prices, production costs, capital expenditures, and future production as well as estimated proved oil and gas reserves and risk-adjusted probable oil and natural gas reserves. Management's oil and natural gas price outlook is developed based on third-party longer-term price forecasts as of each measurement date. The expected future net cash flows are discounted using an appropriate discount rate in determining a property's fair value.

It is reasonably possible that the Company's estimates of undiscounted future net cash flows attributable to its oil and gas properties may change in the future. The primary factors that may affect estimates of future cash flows include future adjustments, both positive and negative, to proved and appropriate risk-adjusted probable oil and gas reserves, results of future drilling activities, future prices for oil and natural gas, and increases or decreases in production and capital costs. As a result of these changes, there may be further impairments in the carrying values of these or other properties.

Accrued Expenses

Accrued expenses at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 consist of the following:

	As of September 30, 2017	As of December 31, 2016
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Accrued drilling costs.....	\$ 4,834	\$ 7,498
Accrued interest payable	4,016	22,721
Accrued transportation costs	3,005	2,227
Accrued employee compensation.....	3,841	6,292
Accrued ad valorem taxes	2,700	—
Other.....	1,533	1,628
	<u>\$ 19,929</u>	<u>\$ 40,366</u>

Reserve for Future Abandonment Costs

Comstock's asset retirement obligations relate to future plugging and abandonment expenses on its oil and gas properties and related facilities disposal. The following table summarizes the changes in Comstock's total estimated liability for such obligations during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Future abandonment costs — beginning of period.....	\$ 15,804	\$ 20,093
Accretion expense.....	645	716
New wells placed on production.....	5	2
Assets held for sale.....	—	(3,442)
Liabilities settled and assets disposed of.....	(356)	(1,217)
Future abandonment costs — end of period.....	<u>\$ 16,098</u>	<u>\$ 16,152</u>

Derivative Financial Instruments and Hedging Activities

Comstock periodically uses swaps, floors and collars to hedge oil and natural gas prices and interest rates. Swaps are settled monthly based on differences between the prices specified in the instruments and the settlement prices of futures contracts. Generally, when the applicable settlement price is less than the price specified in the contract, Comstock receives a settlement from the counterparty based on the difference multiplied by the volume or amounts hedged. Similarly, when the applicable settlement price exceeds the price specified in the contract, Comstock pays the counterparty based on the difference. Comstock generally receives a settlement from the counterparty for floors when the applicable settlement price is less than the price specified in the contract, which is based on the difference multiplied by the volumes hedged. For collars, generally Comstock receives a settlement from the counterparty when the settlement price is below the floor and pays a settlement to the counterparty when the settlement price exceeds the cap. No settlement occurs when the settlement price falls between the floor and cap. All of the Company's derivative financial instruments are used for risk management purposes and, by policy, none are held for trading or speculative purposes. Comstock minimizes credit risk to counterparties of its derivative financial instruments through formal credit policies, monitoring procedures, and diversification. The Company is not required to provide any credit support to its counterparties other than cross collateralization with the assets securing its bank credit facility. None of the Company's derivative financial instruments involve payment or receipt of premiums. The Company classifies the fair value amounts of derivative financial instruments as net current or noncurrent assets or liabilities, whichever the case may be, by commodity and counterparty.

The Company had the following outstanding derivative financial instruments used for oil and natural gas price risk management at September 30, 2017:

Commodity and Derivative Type	Weighted-Average Contract Price	Contract Volume (MMBtu)	Contract Period
Natural Gas Swap Agreements	\$3.38 per MMBtu	11,655,000	October 2017 – March 2018

None of the Company's derivative contracts were designated as cash flow hedges. The Company recognized cash settlements and changes in the fair value of its derivative financial instruments as a single component of other income (expenses). The Company recognized a gain of \$1.4 million in the three months ended September 30, 2017, and \$14.6 million and \$0.7 million in the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, related to the change in fair value of its natural gas swap agreements. No gains or losses attributable to derivative financial instruments were recognized during the three months ended September 30, 2016.

Stock-Based Compensation

Comstock accounts for employee stock-based compensation under the fair value method. Compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on the fair value of the award and is recognized over the award vesting period. The Company recognized \$1.7 million and \$1.1 million of stock-based compensation expense within general and administrative expenses related to awards of restricted stock and performance stock units ("PSUs") to its employees and directors in the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. For the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, the Company recognized \$4.5 million and \$3.6 million, respectively, of stock-based compensation expense within general and administrative expenses.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, the Company granted 500,002 shares of restricted stock with a grant date fair value of \$5.6 million, or \$11.11 per share, to its employees and directors. The fair value of each restricted share on the date of grant was equal to its market price. As of September 30, 2017, Comstock had 619,867 shares of unvested restricted stock outstanding at a weighted average grant date fair value of \$11.14 per share. Total unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested restricted stock grants of \$4.7 million as of September 30, 2017 is expected to be recognized over a period of 1.9 years.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, the Company granted 241,814 PSUs with a grant date fair value of \$4.4 million, or \$18.17 per unit, to its employees. As of September 30, 2017, Comstock had 281,800 PSUs outstanding at a weighted average grant date fair value of \$17.12 per unit. The number of shares of common stock to be issued related to the PSUs is based on the Company's stock price performance as compared to its peers which could result in the issuance of anywhere from zero to 563,600 shares of common stock. Total unrecognized compensation cost related to these grants of \$3.5 million as of September 30, 2017 is expected to be recognized over a period of 2.2 years.

Income Taxes

Deferred income taxes are provided to reflect the future tax consequences or benefits of differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements using enacted tax rates. The deferred tax provision in the first three months and nine months of 2017 related to adjustments to the valuation allowances on state net operating loss carryforwards. The deferred income tax provision for the first three months and nine months of 2016 related to an increase in the Company's deferred income tax liability resulting from certain state tax law changes enacted during the period. In recording deferred income tax assets, the Company considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of its deferred income tax assets will be realized in the future. The ultimate realization of deferred income tax assets is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income during the periods in which those deferred income tax assets would be deductible. The Company believes that after considering all the available objective evidence, historical and prospective, with greater weight given to historical evidence, management is not able to determine that it is more likely than not that all of its deferred tax assets will be realized. As a result, the Company established valuation allowances for its deferred tax assets and U.S. federal and state net operating loss carryforwards that are not expected to be utilized due to the uncertainty of generating taxable income prior to the expiration of the carryforward periods.

The following is an analysis of consolidated income tax provision (benefit):

	<u>Three Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>		<u>Nine Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Current - State.....	\$ 18	\$ 7	\$ 115	\$ 36
- Federal.....	—	—	—	—
Deferred - State.....	(87)	(832)	768	3,687
- Federal.....	—	—	—	—
	<u>\$ (69)</u>	<u>\$ (825)</u>	<u>\$ 883</u>	<u>\$ 3,723</u>

The difference between the Company's effective tax rate and the 35% federal statutory rate is caused by valuation allowances on deferred taxes and state taxes. The impact of these items varies based upon the Company's projected full year loss and the jurisdictions that are expected to generate the projected losses. The difference between the federal statutory rate of 35% and the effective tax rate on the income (loss) before income taxes is due to the following:

	<u>Three Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>		<u>Nine Months Ended</u> <u>September 30,</u>	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Tax at statutory rate.....	35.0%	35.0%	35.0%	35.0%
Tax effect of:				
Valuation allowance on deferred tax assets.....	(37.8)	(45.0)	(39.2)	(47.8)
State income taxes, net of federal benefit.....	3.8	12.4	4.1	7.8
Nondeductible stock-based compensation.....	(0.7)	0.4	(1.1)	—
Other.....	—	0.1	(0.1)	—
Effective tax rate.....	<u>0.3%</u>	<u>2.9%</u>	<u>(1.3)%</u>	<u>(5.0)%</u>

The Company's federal income tax returns for the years subsequent to December 31, 2012, remain subject to examination. The Company's income tax returns in major state income tax jurisdictions remain subject to examination for various periods subsequent to December 31, 2011. The Company currently believes that all other significant filing positions are highly certain and that all of its other significant income tax positions and deductions would be sustained under audit or the final resolution would not have a material effect on the consolidated financial statements. Therefore, the Company has not established any significant reserves for uncertain tax positions.

Future use of the Company's federal and state net operating loss carryforwards may be limited in the event that a cumulative change in the ownership of Comstock's common stock by more than 50% occurs within a three-year period. Such a change in ownership could result in a substantial portion of the Company's net operating loss carryforwards being eliminated or becoming restricted. It is highly likely that a change in ownership that would result from the future conversion of the Company's convertible notes would result in limits on the future use of its net operating loss carryforwards.

Fair Value Measurements

The Company holds or has held certain items that are required to be measured at fair value. These include cash and cash equivalents held in bank accounts and derivative financial instruments in the form of oil and natural gas price swap agreements. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. A three-level hierarchy is followed for disclosure to show the extent and level of judgment used to estimate fair value measurements:

Level 1 — Inputs used to measure fair value are unadjusted quoted prices that are available in active markets for the identical assets or liabilities as of the reporting date.

Level 2 — Inputs used to measure fair value, other than quoted prices included in Level 1, are either directly or indirectly observable as of the reporting date through correlation with market data, including quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets and quoted prices in markets that are not active. Level 2 also includes assets and liabilities that are valued using models or other pricing methodologies that do not require significant judgment since the input assumptions used in the models, such as interest rates and volatility factors, are corroborated by readily observable data from actively quoted markets for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.

Level 3 — Inputs used to measure fair value are unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and reflect the use of significant management judgment. These values are generally determined using pricing models for which the assumptions utilize management's estimates of market participant assumptions.

The Company's valuation of cash and cash equivalents is a Level 1 measurement. The Company's natural gas price swap agreements are not traded on a public exchange. Their value is determined utilizing a discounted cash flow model based on inputs that are readily available in public markets and, accordingly, the valuation of these swap agreements is categorized as a Level 2 measurement.

The following table summarizes financial assets accounted for at fair value as of September 30, 2017:

	Carrying Value Measured at Fair Value at September 30, 2017	Level 1	Level 2
		<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis:			
Cash and cash equivalents held in bank accounts.....	\$ 25,392	\$ 25,392	\$ —
Derivative financial instruments.....	3,203	—	3,203
Total assets.....	<u>\$ 28,595</u>	<u>\$ 25,392</u>	<u>\$ 3,203</u>

As of September 30, 2017, the Company's other financial instruments, comprised solely of its fixed rate debt, had a carrying value of \$1.1 billion and a fair value of \$1.1 billion. The fair market value of the Company's fixed rate debt was based on quoted prices as of September 30, 2017, a Level 2 measurement.

Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share is determined without the effect of any outstanding potentially dilutive securities and diluted earnings per share is determined with the effect of any outstanding securities that are potentially dilutive. Unvested share-based payment awards containing nonforfeitable rights to dividends are considered to be participating securities and included in the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share pursuant to the two-class method. PSUs represent the right to receive a number of shares of the Company's common stock that may range from zero to up to two times the number of PSUs granted on the award date based on the achievement of certain performance measures during a performance period. The number of potentially dilutive shares related to PSUs is based on the number of shares, if any, which would be issuable at the end of the respective period, assuming that date was the end of the contingency period. Common stock warrants represent the right to convert the warrants into common stock at an exercise price of \$0.01 per share. The treasury stock method is used to measure the dilutive effect of outstanding PSUs and common stock warrants. The shares that would be issuable upon exercise of the conversion rights contained in the Company's convertible debt for each period are based on the if-converted method for computing potentially dilutive shares of common stock that could be issued upon conversion.

Basic and diluted loss per share for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 were determined as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,					
	2017			2016		
	Loss	Shares	Per Share	Loss	Shares	Per Share
	<i>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</i>					
Basic and diluted net loss attributable to common stock.....	\$ (24,736)	14,796	\$ (1.67)	\$ (28,476)	12,293	\$ (2.32)

	Nine Months ended September 30,					
	2017			2016		
	Loss	Shares	Per Share	Loss	Shares	Per Share
	<i>(In thousands, except per share amounts)</i>					
Basic and diluted net loss attributable to common stock.....	\$ (69,109)	14,591	\$ (4.74)	\$ (80,201)	11,255	\$ (7.13)

At September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, 619,867 and 354,986 shares of restricted stock, respectively, are included in common stock outstanding as such shares have a nonforfeitable right to participate in any dividends that might be declared and have the right to vote on matters submitted to the Company's stockholders. Weighted average shares of unvested restricted stock outstanding during the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 which were excluded from the computation of the loss per share were as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
	<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Unvested restricted stock	666	355	612	340

For the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, all stock options, unvested PSUs, common stock warrants and contingently issuable shares related to the convertible debt were anti-dilutive to earnings and excluded from weighted average shares used in the computation of earnings per share in all periods presented. Options to purchase common stock, warrants exercisable into common stock, PSUs that were outstanding and contingently issuable shares related to the convertible debt that were excluded as anti-dilutive from the determination of diluted earnings per share are as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
	<i>(In thousands except per share/unit data)</i>			
Weighted average stock options.....	—	12	—	12
Weighted average exercise price per share	\$ —	\$ 166.10	\$ —	\$ 166.10
Weighted average warrants for common stock	415	377	479	127
Weighted average exercise price per share	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.01
Weighted average PSUs.....	303	135	281	137
Weighted average grant date fair value per unit.....	\$ 17.12	\$ 22.09	\$ 17.12	\$ 22.09
Weighted average contingently convertible shares	37,624	9,770	36,676	3,257
Weighted average conversion price per share	\$ 12.32	\$ 12.32	\$ 12.32	\$ 12.32

Supplementary Information With Respect to the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

For the purpose of the consolidated statements of cash flows, the Company considers all highly liquid investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Cash payments made for interest and income taxes for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, were as follows:

	Nine Months Ended September 30	
	2017	2016
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Interest payments	\$ 72,913	\$ 109,642
Income tax payments	\$ 3	\$ —

Interest paid in-kind related to the Company's convertible notes was \$9.6 million and \$2.6 million during the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively and \$28.2 million and \$2.6 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

On January 1, 2017, the Company adopted ASU No. 2016-09, *Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting* ("ASU 2016-09"). The adoption of this new standard did not have a material impact on the Company's financial statements. The Company is accounting for forfeitures in compensation cost as they occur, and it is applying the prospective transition method for presentation of the income tax effects of vested equity awards in its consolidated statements of cash flows.

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)* ("ASU 2014-09"), which supersedes nearly all existing revenue recognition guidance under existing generally accepted accounting principles. This new standard is based upon the principal that revenue is recognized to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. ASU 2014-09 also requires additional disclosure about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from customer contracts. ASU 2014-09 is effective for annual and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2017. Early adoption is permitted beginning with periods after December 15, 2016 and entities have the option of using either a full retrospective or modified approach to adopt ASU 2014-09. The Company is currently reviewing its primary oil and natural gas marketing agreements in order to assess the impact of adoption. At this time, adopting this standard is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial statements because recognition of revenue is not expected to materially change under the new standard, since most of the Company's revenue will continue to be recognized as production is delivered. However, the Company is still evaluating the ultimate impact of this accounting standard on its consolidated results of operations, financial position, cash flows and financial disclosures. This evaluation will continue throughout 2017, and the Company will adopt this new standard in the first quarter of 2018. The Company currently expects to apply the modified retrospective method of adoption for this new standard.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, *Leases* ("ASU 2016-02"). ASU 2016-02 requires lessees to include most leases on their balance sheets, but recognize lease costs in their financial statements in a manner similar to accounting for leases prior to ASC 2016-02. ASU 2016-02 is effective for annual periods ending after December 15, 2018 and interim period thereafter. Early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the new guidance and anticipates that certain operating leases that it has in place will be reflected as an asset and a liability in its consolidated balance sheet. The Company has not yet determined which method of adoption it will apply for this new standard.

(2) LONG-TERM DEBT –

At September 30, 2017, long-term debt was comprised of the following:

	<i>(In thousands)</i>
10% Senior Secured Toggle Notes due 2020:	
Principal	\$ 697,195
Discount, net of amortization	(9,812)
7¾% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes due 2019:	
Principal	273,832
Accrued interest payable in kind	10,611
Discount, net of amortization	(45,342)
9½% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes due 2020:	
Principal	178,580
Accrued interest payable in kind	4,993
Discount, net of amortization	(33,937)
10% Senior Notes due 2020:	
Principal	2,805
7¾% Senior Notes due 2019:	
Principal	17,959
Premium, net of amortization	79
9½% Senior Notes due 2020:	
Principal	4,860
Discount, net of amortization	(77)
Debt issuance costs, net of amortization	(12,027)
	<u>\$ 1,089,719</u>

Interest on the 10% Senior Secured Toggle Notes is payable on March 15 and September 15 and the notes mature on March 15, 2020. The Company has the option to pay up to \$75.0 million of accrued interest by issuing additional notes. To the extent that interest is paid in kind, the interest rate increases to 12¼% only for that interest payment and would result in up to an additional \$91.9 million of notes outstanding.

Interest on the 7¾% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes is payable on April 1 and October 1 and these notes mature on April 1, 2019. Interest on the 9½% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes is payable on September 15 and December 15 and these notes mature on September 15, 2020. Interest on the convertible notes is only payable in kind. Each series of the convertible notes is convertible, at the option of the holder, into 81.2 shares of the Company's common stock for each \$1,000 of principal amount of notes. The convertible notes will mandatorily convert into shares of common stock following a 15 consecutive trading day period during which the daily volume weighted average price of the Company's common stock is equal to or greater than \$12.32 per share. \$9.9 million of principal amount of the convertible notes plus accrued interest thereon were converted into 826,327 shares of common stock during the nine months ended September 30, 2017.

On September 6, 2016, Comstock completed a debt exchange offer with the holders of approximately 98% of the Company's outstanding senior notes. Transaction costs of \$4.4 million related to the exchange were recognized in the three months ended September 30, 2016 as a reduction to the gain on extinguishment of debt which is reported as a component of other income (loss). The exchange of the 2019 Senior Notes and the 2020 Senior Notes was accounted for as a debt extinguishment due to the substantial difference in the terms of the exchanged notes. A gain of \$106.2 million on extinguishment of debt was recognized on this exchange representing the difference between the fair market value of the then issued 7¾% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes and the 9½% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes convertible second lien notes and the then carrying amount of the 2019 Notes and the 2020 Notes that were exchanged. Transaction costs of \$6.5 million related to these exchanges were reflected as debt issuance costs which are being amortized to interest expense over the life of the notes.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2016, the Company retired \$87.5 million in principal amount of the 2019 Notes and \$19.8 million of the 2020 Notes in exchange in the aggregate for the issuance of 2,748,403 shares of common stock and \$3.5 million in cash. A gain of \$89.6 million was recognized on the exchanges and purchases of the 2019 Notes and the 2020 Notes during the nine months ended September 30, 2016. The gain is included in the net gain on extinguishment of debt for the difference between the market value of the stock on the closing date of the exchange and the net carrying value of the debt and the related net premium and net debt issuance costs.

Comstock has a \$50.0 million revolving credit facility with Bank of Montreal and Bank of America, N.A. that matures March 4, 2019. As of September 30, 2017, the Company did not have any borrowings outstanding under the revolving credit facility. Indebtedness under the revolving credit facility is guaranteed by all of the Company's subsidiaries and is secured by substantially all of Comstock's and its subsidiaries' assets. Borrowings under the revolving credit facility bear interest, at Comstock's option, at either (1) LIBOR plus 2.5% or (2) the base rate (which is the higher of the administrative agent's prime rate, the federal funds rate plus 0.5% or 30 day LIBOR plus 1.0%) plus 1.5%. A commitment fee of 0.5% per annum is payable quarterly on the unused credit line. The revolving credit facility contains covenants that, among other things, restrict the payment of cash dividends and repurchases of common stock, limit the amount of additional debt that Comstock may incur and limit the Company's ability to make certain loans, investments and divestitures. The only financial covenants are the maintenance of a current ratio, including availability under the revolving credit facility, of at least 0.9 to 1.0 which increases to 1.0 to 1.0 on March 31, 2018 and the maintenance of an asset coverage ratio of proved developed reserves to amounts outstanding under the credit facility of at least 2.5 to 1.0. The Company was in compliance with these covenants as of September 30, 2017.

All of the Company's subsidiaries guarantee the bank credit facility, the 10% Senior Secured Toggle Notes, the 7¾% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes, the 9½% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes, and the other outstanding senior notes. The bank credit facility, the 10% Senior Secured Toggle Notes and the convertible notes are secured by liens on substantially all of the assets of the Company and its subsidiaries. The allocation of proceeds related to the liens on the Company's assets are governed by intercreditor agreements granting priority to the bank credit facility. Proceeds from liens on the convertible notes are also subject to the priority of the 10% Senior Secured Toggle Notes.

(3) STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY –

At September 30, 2017 the Company had warrants outstanding to purchase 415,087 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$0.01 per share. Warrants for 246,793 shares of common stock were exercised during the nine months ended September 30, 2017.

(4) COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES –

From time to time, Comstock is involved in certain litigation that arises in the normal course of its operations. The Company records a loss contingency for these matters when it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. The Company does not believe the resolution of these matters will have a material effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

The Company has entered into natural gas transportation and treating agreements through July 2019. Maximum commitments under these transportation agreements as of September 30, 2017 totaled \$2.9 million. As of September 30, 2017, the Company had commitments for contracted drilling services through April 2018 of \$9.1 million.

(5) SUBSEQUENT EVENTS –

On October 31, 2017, the Company adopted a plan to divest of its South Texas oil properties in the Eagle Ford shale. These properties have a net book value of approximately \$238.0 million as of September 30, 2017. This decision was based upon a strategic assessment of Comstock's business plans including current and projected future economic conditions in the crude oil markets. The Company intends to sell these assets through a competitive bid process, and has engaged a financial advisor to facilitate the potential sale. The Company plans to use the proceeds from the divestiture to reduce its long-term debt and enhance its liquidity.

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

This report contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties that are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual results may differ materially from those anticipated in our forward-looking statements due to many factors. The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in this report and in our annual report filed on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Results of Operations

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
<i>(In thousands, except per unit amounts)</i>				
Net Production Data:				
Natural gas (Mmcf).....	19,987	14,074	51,307	41,418
Oil (Mbbls)	229	320	737	1,092
Natural gas equivalent (Mmcfe).....	21,362	15,997	55,730	47,971
Revenues:				
Natural gas sales	\$ 56,164	\$ 36,852	\$ 147,541	\$ 87,726
Oil sales.....	10,647	13,478	34,542	39,482
Total oil and gas sales.....	<u>\$ 66,811</u>	<u>\$ 50,330</u>	<u>\$ 182,083</u>	<u>\$ 127,208</u>
Expenses:				
Production taxes.....	\$ 1,490	\$ 1,556	\$ 3,730	\$ 4,069
Gathering and transportation.....	4,755	3,829	12,428	12,219
Lease operating ⁽¹⁾	9,359	12,301	28,681	38,249
Exploration expense.....	—	76,391	—	84,144
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	32,807	37,545	93,009	112,410
Average Sales Price:				
Natural gas (per Mcf).....	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.62	\$ 2.88	\$ 2.12
Oil (per Bbl).....	\$ 46.45	\$ 42.07	\$ 46.86	\$ 36.15
Average equivalent (Mcf)	\$ 3.13	\$ 3.15	\$ 3.27	\$ 2.65
Expenses (\$ per Mcfe):				
Production taxes.....	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.07	\$ 0.08
Gathering and transportation.....	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.25
Lease operating ⁽¹⁾	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.77	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.81
Depreciation, depletion and amortization ⁽²⁾	\$ 1.52	\$ 2.33	\$ 1.65	\$ 2.33

(1) Includes ad valorem taxes.

(2) Represents depreciation, depletion and amortization of oil and gas properties only.

Revenues –

Our oil and natural gas sales grew 33% in the third quarter of 2017 to \$66.8 million from \$50.3 million in the third quarter of 2016, primarily due to the growth in our natural gas production driven by our Haynesville shale drilling program and higher oil and natural gas prices. Natural gas sales in the third quarter increased 52% to \$56.2 million due to higher natural gas prices and production growth. Our natural gas production increased by 42% and our realized natural gas price increased by 7% as compared to

the third quarter of 2016. Oil sales in the third quarter of 2017 decreased by 21% to \$10.6 million from the third quarter of 2016 due to a 28% decrease in our oil production which was offset in part by a 10% increase in oil prices. The decline in oil production is attributable to the lack of drilling activity in our Eagle Ford shale properties in South Texas.

In the first nine months of 2017, our oil and natural gas sales increased by \$54.9 million (43%) to \$182.1 million from \$127.2 million in the first nine months of 2016. Natural gas sales in the first nine months of 2017 increased by \$59.8 million (68%) from 2016 while oil sales decreased by \$4.9 million (13%) from 2016. Our natural gas production increased by 24% from 2016 and our realized natural gas price increased by 36%. The decrease in oil sales is attributable to the 33% decline in our production which was partially offset by the 30% increase in realized oil prices.

We utilize oil and natural gas price swaps to manage our exposure to oil and natural gas prices and protect returns on investment from our drilling activities. Gains related to our natural gas derivative financial instruments were \$1.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and \$14.6 million and \$0.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. We had no gains from derivative financial instruments in the three months ended September 30, 2016. The following table presents our natural gas prices before and after the effect of cash settlements of our derivative financial instruments:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Average Realized Natural Gas Price:				
Natural gas, per Mcf	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.62	\$ 2.88	\$ 2.12
Cash settlements of derivative financial instruments, per Mcf.....	0.17	—	0.10	0.05
Price per Mcf, including cash settlements of derivative financial instruments	\$ 2.98	\$ 2.62	\$ 2.98	\$ 2.17

Costs and Expenses —

Our production taxes decreased \$0.1 million to \$1.5 million for the third quarter of 2017 from \$1.6 million in the third quarter of 2016 despite the increase in sales. Production taxes of \$3.7 million for the first nine months of 2017 decreased \$0.4 million as compared with production taxes of \$4.1 million for the first nine months of 2016. The decrease is mainly due to our lower oil sales. Much of the increase in natural gas sales is attributable to new wells drilled which are initially exempt from production taxes.

Gathering and transportation costs for the third quarter of 2017 increased \$1.0 million to \$4.8 million as compared to \$3.8 million in the third quarter of 2016. Gathering and transportation costs for the first nine months of 2017 increased \$0.2 million to \$12.4 million as compared to \$12.2 million for the first nine months of 2016. Our gathering and transportation costs have increased primarily as a result of our higher natural gas production.

Our lease operating expense of \$9.4 million for the first quarter of 2017 decreased \$2.9 million (24%) from lease operating expense of \$12.3 million for the third quarter of 2016 despite the increase in production. This decrease primarily reflects lower costs associated with our Haynesville shale properties as well as the divestiture of certain high lifting cost properties in 2016. Our lease operating expense for the first nine months of 2017 of \$28.7 million decreased \$9.5 million or 25% from our lease operating expense of \$38.2 million for the first nine months of 2016. Our lease operating expense of \$0.51 per Mcfe produced for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 was \$0.30 per Mcfe lower than the lease operating expense of \$0.81 per Mcfe for the same period in 2016.

Exploration costs of \$76.4 million and \$84.1 million in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, related to the impairments of certain unevaluated leases.

Depreciation, depletion and amortization (“DD&A”) decreased \$4.7 million (13%) to \$32.8 million in the third quarter of 2017 from \$37.5 million in the third quarter of 2016. Our DD&A per equivalent Mcf produced decreased \$0.81 (35%) to \$1.52 for the three months ended September 30, 2017 from \$2.33 for the three months ended September 30, 2016. DD&A for the first nine months of 2017 of \$93.0 million decreased by \$19.4 million (17%) from DD&A expense of \$112.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2016. For the first nine months of 2017, our per unit DD&A rate of \$1.65 decreased \$0.68 (29%) from our DD&A rate of \$2.33 for the first nine months of 2016. The lower rates in 2017 reflect the increase in production from our lower cost Haynesville shale properties.

General and administrative expenses, which are reported net of overhead reimbursements, increased to \$6.2 million for the third quarter of 2017 from \$4.2 million in the third quarter of 2016. Included in general and administrative expenses are stock-based compensation of \$1.7 million and \$1.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. For the first nine months of 2017, general and administrative expenses of \$19.1 million increased \$3.7 million (24%) from general and

administrative expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 of \$15.4 million. Included in general and administrative expense is stock-based compensation of \$4.5 million and \$3.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The increase in 2017 primarily relates to higher compensation costs for our employees.

We assess the need for impairment of the capitalized costs for our oil and gas properties on a property basis. We recognized impairment charges of \$24.6 million on our oil and gas properties during the nine months ended September 30, 2016 which included an impairment of \$20.8 million to reduce the carrying value of our South Texas natural gas properties classified as assets held for sale. We also had a net loss on sale of oil and gas properties of \$1.0 million in the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 that was primarily associated with the sale of several non-operated properties. The net loss on sale of oil and gas properties of \$14.1 million for the first nine months of 2016 reflected the sale of certain oil and gas properties and a \$13.2 million adjustment to reduce the carrying value of our assets held for sale.

Interest expense increased \$6.4 million to \$37.6 million for the third quarter of 2017 from interest expense of \$31.2 million in the third quarter of 2016. Interest expense increased \$17.2 million to \$107.3 million for the first nine months of 2017 from interest expense of \$90.1 million in the first nine months of 2016. The increase in interest expense mainly reflects the amortization of the debt discounts recognized as a result of the gain recognized on debt exchange that we completed in September 2016 and the amortization of costs incurred on the exchange. These increases were partially offset by lower interest expense as a result of the reduction in the principal amount of our debt outstanding due to our debt reduction program in 2016.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2016, we recognized a net gain on extinguishment of debt of \$190.1 million. \$100.5 million of the net gain was associated with the debt exchange we completed on September 6, 2016. Prior to the exchange we retired \$107.3 million of our unsecured notes in the nine months ended September 30, 2016.

Income taxes for the three months ended September 30, 2017 were a benefit of \$0.1 million as compared to a benefit of \$0.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2016. Income taxes for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 were a provision of \$0.9 million as compared to a provision of \$3.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2016. The provisions in 2017 primarily related to adjustments of the valuation allowances against our federal and state net operating loss carryforwards. During the first quarter of 2016, Louisiana changed its tax laws with respect to the utilization of net operating losses. As a result of this tax law change we increased our deferred income tax liability related to state income taxes by \$3.7 million.

We reported a net loss of \$24.7 million, or \$1.67 per share, for the three months ended September 30, 2017 as compared to net loss of \$28.5 million, or \$2.32 per share, for the three months ended September 30, 2016. We reported a net loss of \$69.1 million, or \$4.74 per share, for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, as compared to a net loss of \$80.2 million, or \$7.13 per share, for the nine months ended September 30, 2016. The net loss for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 was primarily due to our interest expense, which includes the higher non-cash interest expense recognized in 2017 related to the amortization of discounts and costs recognized on our senior notes exchange.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Funding for our activities has historically been provided by our operating cash flow, debt or equity financings or proceeds from asset sales. For the nine months ended September 30, 2017, our primary source of funds was operating cash flow and cash on hand. Cash provided from operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 was \$90.8 million as compared to cash used for operating activities of \$54.7 million for the first nine months of 2016. This increase in operating cash flow is due to higher oil and gas sales and the reduction in cash interest.

Our primary needs for capital, in addition to funding our ongoing operations, relate to the acquisition, development and exploration of our oil and gas properties and the repayment of our debt. In the first nine months of 2017, we incurred capital expenditures of \$129.8 million to fund our development and exploration activities.

The following table summarizes our capital expenditure activity, on an accrual basis, for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Exploration and development:		
Development leasehold.....	\$ 1,947	\$ 2,772
Development drilling.....	121,561	29,503
Other development	6,302	4,381
Total capital expenditures	<u>\$ 129,810</u>	<u>\$ 36,656</u>

We expect to fund our future development and exploration activities with future operating cash flow and from cash on hand. The timing of most of our future capital expenditures is discretionary because we have no material long-term capital expenditure commitments. Consequently, we have a significant degree of flexibility to adjust the level of our capital expenditures as circumstances warrant. As of September 30, 2017, we have three drilling rigs under contract through April 2018 at a cost of \$9.1 million and commitments of \$2.9 million to transport and treat natural gas through July 2019. We also have obligations to incur future payments for dismantlement, abandonment and restoration costs of oil and gas properties which are currently estimated to be incurred primarily after 2022.

Through September 30, 2017, we drilled 18 (13.0 net) wells and completed 16 (11.9 net) horizontal Haynesville shale wells. We are currently planning to drill seven (2.8 net) additional wells in 2017. Capital expenditures for the remainder of 2017 are estimated at \$38.0 million.

On October 31, 2017, we adopted a plan to divest of our South Texas oil properties in the Eagle Ford shale. These properties have a net book value of approximately \$238.0 million as of September 30, 2017. This decision was based upon a strategic assessment of Comstock's business plans including current and projected future economic conditions in the crude oil markets. We intend to sell these assets through a competitive bid process, and have engaged a financial advisor to facilitate the potential sale. We plan to use the proceeds from the divestiture to reduce our long-term debt and enhance our liquidity.

At September 30, 2017 we had outstanding \$697.2 million of 10% Senior Secured Toggle Notes due 2020, \$273.8 million of 7¾% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes due 2019 and \$178.6 million of 9½% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes due 2020. We also had \$25.6 million of unsecured notes outstanding due in 2019 and 2020. Interest on the 10% Senior Secured Toggle Notes is payable on March 15 and September 15 and the notes mature on March 15, 2020. We have the option to pay up to \$75.0 million of accrued interest by issuing additional notes. To the extent that interest is paid in kind, the interest rate increases to 12¼% only for that interest payment and would result in up to an additional \$91.9 million of notes outstanding. Interest on the 7¾% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes is payable on April 1 and October 1 and these notes mature on April 1, 2019. Interest on the 9½% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes is payable on September 15 and December 15 and these notes mature on September 15, 2020. Interest on the convertible notes is only payable in kind. Each series of the convertible notes is convertible, at the option of the holder, into 81.2 shares of our common stock for each \$1,000 of principal amount of notes. The convertible notes will mandatorily convert into shares of common stock following a 15 consecutive trading day period during which the daily volume weighted average price of our common stock is equal to or greater than \$12.32 per share. \$9.9 million of principal amount of the convertible notes plus related accrued interest were converted into 826,327 shares of common stock during the nine months ended September 30, 2017.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2016, we retired \$87.5 million in principal amount of the 2019 Notes and \$19.8 million of the 2020 Notes in exchange in the aggregate for the issuance of 2,748,403 shares of common stock and \$3.5 million in cash. A gain of \$89.6 million was recognized on the exchanges and purchases of the 2019 Notes and the 2020 Notes during the nine months ended September 30, 2016. The gain is included in the net gain on extinguishment of debt for the difference between the market value of the stock on the closing date of the exchange and the net carrying value of the debt and the related net premium and net debt issuance costs.

We have a \$50.0 million revolving credit facility with Bank of Montreal and Bank of America, N.A. that matures March 4, 2019. As of September 30, 2017, there were no borrowings outstanding under the revolving credit facility. Indebtedness under the revolving credit facility is guaranteed by all of our subsidiaries and is secured by substantially all of our and our subsidiaries' assets. Borrowings under the revolving credit facility bear interest, at our option, at either (1) LIBOR plus 2.5% or (2) the base rate (which is the higher of the administrative agent's prime rate, the federal funds rate plus 0.5% or 30 day LIBOR plus 1.0%) plus 1.5%. A commitment fee of 0.5% per annum is payable quarterly on the unused credit line. The revolving credit facility contains covenants that, among other things, restrict the payment of cash dividends and repurchases of common stock, limit the amount of additional debt that we may incur and limit our ability to make certain loans, investments and divestitures. The only financial covenants are the maintenance of a current ratio, including availability under the credit facility, of at least 0.9 to 1.0, which increases to 1.0 to 1.0 on March 31, 2018, and the maintenance of an asset coverage ratio of proved developed reserves to amounts outstanding under the revolving credit facility of at least 2.5 to 1.0. We were in compliance with these covenants as of September 30, 2017.

All of our subsidiaries guarantee the bank credit facility, the 10% Senior Secured Toggle Notes, the 7¾% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes, the 9½% Convertible Second Lien PIK Notes, and the other outstanding senior notes. The bank credit facility, the 10% Senior Secured Toggle Notes and the convertible notes are secured by liens on substantially all of our and our subsidiaries assets. The allocation of proceeds related to the liens on our assets are governed by intercreditor agreements granting priority to the bank credit facility. Proceeds from liens on the convertible notes are also subject to the priority of the 10% Senior Secured Toggle Notes.

Federal Taxation

Future use of our net operating loss carryforwards may be limited in the event that a cumulative change in the ownership of our common stock by more than 50% occurs within a three-year period. Such a change in ownership could result in a substantial portion

of our net operating loss carryforwards being eliminated or becoming restricted. It is highly likely that a change in ownership that would result from the future conversion of our convertible notes would result in limits on the future use of our net operating loss carryforwards.

ITEM 3: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE ABOUT MARKET RISK

Oil and Natural Gas Prices

Our financial condition, results of operations and capital resources are highly dependent upon the prevailing market prices of natural gas and oil. These commodity prices are subject to wide fluctuations and market uncertainties due to a variety of factors, some of which are beyond our control. Factors influencing oil and natural gas prices include the level of global demand for crude oil, the foreign supply of oil and natural gas, the establishment of and compliance with production quotas by oil exporting countries, weather conditions that determine the demand for natural gas, the price and availability of alternative fuels and overall economic conditions. It is impossible to predict future oil and natural gas prices with any degree of certainty. Sustained weakness in natural gas and oil prices may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations, and may also reduce the amount of oil and natural gas reserves that we can produce economically. Any reduction in our natural gas and oil reserves, including reductions due to price fluctuations, can have an adverse effect on our ability to obtain capital for our exploration and development activities. Similarly, any improvements in natural gas and oil prices can have a favorable impact on our financial condition, results of operations and capital resources.

As of September 30, 2017, we have entered into natural gas price swap agreements to hedge approximately 11.7 billion cubic feet of our 2017 and 2018 production at an average price of \$3.38 per Mcf. None of our derivative contracts have margin requirements or collateral provisions that could require funding prior to the scheduled cash settlement date. The change in the fair value of our natural gas swaps that would result from a 10% change in commodities prices at September 30, 2017 would be \$1.8 million. Such a change in fair value could be a gain or a loss depending on whether prices increase or decrease.

Based on our oil and natural gas production for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and our outstanding natural gas price swap agreements, a \$0.10 change in the price per Mcf of natural gas would have changed our cash flow by approximately \$2.8 million and a \$1.00 change in the price per barrel of oil would have resulted in a change in our cash flow from continuing operations for such period by approximately \$0.7 million.

Interest Rates

At September 30, 2017, we had approximately \$1.2 billion principal amount of long-term debt outstanding. All but \$25.6 million of this debt is secured by substantially all of our assets. Of this amount, our first lien notes of \$697.2 million bear interest at a fixed rate of 10%, our second lien notes of \$273.8 million bear interest at a fixed rate of 7¾% and our second lien notes of \$178.6 million bear interest at a fixed rate of 9½%. At our option, up to \$75.0 million of the interest on the first lien debt is payable in-kind. All of the interest on the second lien debt is payable in kind. The \$25.6 million of unsecured senior notes bear interest at rates of between 7¾% to 10% and mature in 2019 and 2020. The fair market value of our fixed rate debt as of September 30, 2017 was \$1.1 billion based on the market price of approximately 93% of the face amount of such debt. At September 30, 2017, we did not have any borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facility, which is subject to variable rates of interest that are tied at our option to either LIBOR or the corporate base rate.

ITEM 4: CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

As of September 30, 2017, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934). Based on this evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2017 to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports filed or submitted by us under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by us is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. There were no changes in our internal controls over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that occurred during the quarter ended September 30, 2017, that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

PART II — OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 6: EXHIBITS

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
10.1*	<u>Third Amendment to Credit Agreement dated September 30, 2017, among Comstock Resources, Inc., the lenders party thereto and Bank of Montreal, as administrative agent.</u>
31.1*	<u>Section 302 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer.</u>
31.2*	<u>Section 302 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer.</u>
32.1†	<u>Certification for the Chief Executive Officer as required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
32.2†	<u>Certification for the Chief Financial Officer as required by Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
101.INS*	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH*	XBRL Schema Document
101.CAL*	XBRL Calculation Linkbase Document
101.LAB*	XBRL Labels Linkbase Document
101.PRE*	XBRL Presentation Linkbase Document
101.DEF*	XBRL Definition Linkbase Document

* Filed herewith.

† Furnished herewith.

SIGNATURES

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

COMSTOCK RESOURCES, INC.

Date: November 2, 2017

/s/ M. JAY ALLISON

M. Jay Allison, Chairman, Chief
Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)

Date: November 2, 2017

/s/ ROLAND O. BURNS

Roland O. Burns, President, Chief Financial
Officer and Secretary
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)