

CKX LANDS, INC.  
Form DEF 14A  
April 03, 2018

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**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**(Rule 14a-101)**

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

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

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

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**CKX Lands, Inc.**

**(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)**

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on  
table below per

Exchange Act

Rules 14a-6(i)(1)  
and 0-11.

(1) Title of each  
class of

securities to  
which  
transaction  
applies:

- (2) Aggregate  
number of  
securities to  
which  
transaction  
applies:

- (3) Per unit price  
or other  
underlying  
value of  
transaction  
computed  
pursuant to  
Exchange  
Act Rule  
0-11 (set  
forth the  
amount on  
which the  
filing fee is  
calculated  
and state  
how it was  
determined):

- (4) Proposed  
maximum  
aggregate  
value of  
transaction:

- (5) Total fee  
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Fee paid  
previously with  
preliminary  
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part of the fee is  
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filing for which  
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Identify the  
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registration  
statement number,  
or the Form or  
Schedule and the  
date of its filing.

Amount

(1) Previously  
Paid:

Form,  
Schedule or

(2) Registration  
Statement  
No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

**CKX LANDS, INC.**

**1508 Hodges Street**

**Lake Charles, LA 70601**

**Tel. 337-493-2399**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**TO BE HELD THURSDAY MAY 3, 2018**

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of CKX Lands, Inc., will be held at 1508 Hodges Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601, on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., central time, for the following purposes:

1. To elect directors;
2. To vote on the proposal to ratify the appointment of MaloneBailey LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018;
3. To vote, by non-binding vote, on an advisory approval of our executive compensation; and
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 26, 2018, are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOUR SHARES BE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING. THEREFORE, WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE SIGN AND DATE YOUR PROXY AND RETURN IT IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, WHICH REQUIRES NO POSTAGE IF MAILED IN THE UNITED

STATES. IF YOU ATTEND THE MEETING AND VOTE IN PERSON, YOUR PROXY WILL NOT BE USED.

*/s/ Brian R. Jones*  
BRIAN R. JONES

President and Treasurer

April 3, 2018

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE  
AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS FOR THE  
2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
TO BE HELD ON MAY 3, 2018**

**This Proxy Statement, the form of Proxy and the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 are available at [www.envisionreports.com/ckx](http://www.envisionreports.com/ckx).**

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CKX Lands, Inc.

## **PROXY STATEMENT**

### **APPROXIMATE DATE OF MAILING: APRIL 3, 2018**

The enclosed proxy card is solicited by the Board of Directors of CKX Lands, Inc. (“CKX Lands” or “Company”) for use at its Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., central time, at 1508 Hodges Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601 or any adjournments or postponements thereof. You may revoke your proxy at any time prior to it being voted by giving written notice to the Secretary of the Company, by submission of a later dated proxy through any of the permissible means of voting listed on the proxy card, or by voting in person at the meeting.

All expenses of preparing, printing and mailing the proxy statement and all materials used in the solicitation will be borne by the Company. Proxies may also be solicited in person or by telephone or fax by directors, officers and other employees of the Company, none of whom will receive additional compensation for such services. The Company will also request brokerage houses, custodians and nominees to forward these materials to the beneficial owners of the stock held of record by them and will pay the reasonable expenses of such persons for forwarding the material. The mailing address of CKX Lands is P.O. Box 1864, Lake Charles, LA 70602.

On March 26, 2018, CKX Lands had outstanding 1,942,495 shares of Common Stock, its only class of stock, held by \_\_\_ shareholders of record. Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 26, 2018, will be entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the meeting. With respect to all matters that will come before the meeting, each stockholder may cast one vote for each share registered in his or her name on the record date. The presence, in person or by proxy, of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Common Stock entitled to vote at the meeting is necessary to constitute a quorum at the meeting. Stockholders voting, or abstaining from voting, by proxy on any issue will be counted as present for purposes of constituting a quorum. If a quorum is present, the election of directors will be determined by a plurality vote and the approval of the independent auditor and the non-binding advisory vote on our executive compensation will be determined by a majority of the votes cast at the meeting in person or by proxy. Abstentions will have no effect on the calculation of the vote on any matter at the meeting.

If you are the record holder of your shares, then the shares represented by your properly executed proxy card will be voted at the meeting in accordance with your directions set forth on the proxy, unless you revoke it. If you do not specify a choice on the proxy, the shares will be voted FOR the election of the nominees as directors, FOR approval of MaloneBailey LLP as auditors and FOR the approval of the compensation of the Company’s Named Executive Officer. The proxy also gives authority to the proxy holders to vote the shares in their discretion on any other matter

presented at the meeting, including matters as to which the Company has not received timely advance notice. If you hold your shares in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, broker-dealer, or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in “street name,” and the proxy materials were forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered the stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the annual meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to instruct that organization on how to vote the shares held in your account.

If your shares are held in the name of a broker, bank or other nominee, you will receive instructions from your broker, bank or other nominee that you must follow in order for your broker, bank or other nominee to vote your shares according to your instructions. Many brokerage firms and banks have a process for their beneficial holders to provide instructions via the Internet or over the telephone. If you are a beneficial owner of shares held in street name and you wish to vote in person at the annual meeting, **you must obtain a legal proxy from the organization that holds your shares.**

If the organization that holds your shares does not receive instructions from you on how to vote your shares, then under the rules of various national and regional securities exchanges, the organization that holds your shares may generally vote your shares in its discretion on routine matters, but it cannot vote on non-routine matters. **If the organization that holds your shares does not receive instructions from you on how to vote your shares on a non-routine matter, the organization that holds your shares will not have the authority to vote, and therefore cannot vote, on that matter with respect to your shares. This is generally referred to as a “broker non-vote.” The election of directors (Item 1) and matters relating to executive compensation (Item 3) are non-routine matters, so brokers may not vote your shares on Items 1 or 3 if you do not give specific instructions on how to vote. We encourage you to provide instructions to your broker or nominee regarding these proposals so your shares will be voted.**

The ratification of the independent auditors (Item No. 2) is a matter that we believe will be considered routine. Therefore, no broker non-votes are expected to occur in connection with Item No. 2.

Broker non-votes will be counted as present at the stockholders' meeting for the purposes of calculating a quorum but will not be counted as present for any other purpose or as a vote cast for or against a matter. Thus, we believe broker non-votes will have no effect on any matter at the meeting.

### BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF COMMON STOCK

The following table provides information as of March 26, 2018, concerning beneficial ownership of Common Stock by each director, each director nominee, each executive officer, all directors and executive officers as a group, and each person known by CKX Lands to own beneficially more than 5% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock. Unless otherwise noted, the listed persons have sole voting and dispositive powers with respect to shares listed below. The address of each person listed below is c/o CKX Lands, Inc., 1508 Hodges Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601.

| Name of Beneficial Owner                        | Number<br>Beneficially<br>Owned | Percent<br>of Class |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lee Boyer (1)                                   | 1,000                           | 0.05 %              |
| Max H. Hart (2)                                 | 9,805                           | 0.50 %              |
| Brian R. Jones                                  | --                              | 0.00 %              |
| Eugene T. Minvielle, IV                         | --                              | 0.00 %              |
| Mary Watkins Savoy (1)                          | 9,158                           | 0.47 %              |
| Charles D. Viccellio (1)                        | 10,625                          | 0.55 %              |
| Mary Leach Werner (3)                           | 21,276                          | 1.10 %              |
| Michael B. White (4)                            | 367,638                         | 18.93 %             |
| All directors and executive officers as a group | 419,502                         | 21.58 %             |

(1) Mr. Boyer, Mrs. Savoy, and Mr. Viccellio have sole voting and/or investment power of their shares.

(2) Includes 3,500 shares owned by a trust of which Mr. Hart is a co-trustee, 2,200 shares owned by a trust of which Mr. Hart is a co-trustee and 1,000 shares owned by a limited liability company of which Mr. Hart is a manager. Mr. Hart does not have the sole voting and/or investment powers over these 6,700 shares. Mr. Hart does have the sole voting and/or investment powers over the remaining 3,105 shares.

(3)



Includes 8,250 shares owned by a partnership of which Mrs. Werner is a partner and 11,250 shares owned by a corporation of which Mrs. Werner is a director. Mrs. Werner does not have the sole voting and/or investment power over these 19,500 shares. Mrs. Werner does have the sole voting and/or investment power over the remaining 1,776 shares.

- (4) Includes 367,638 shares owned by a L.L.C. of which Mr. White is sole manager and sole member. Mr. White does have the sole voting and/or investment power over these 367,638 shares.

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

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), requires the Company's executive officers, directors and more than 10% stockholders to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reports on prescribed forms of their ownership and changes in ownership of Company stock and furnish copies of such forms to the Company. Based solely upon a review of the Form 3, 4 and 5 filings received from or filed by CKX Lands, Inc. on behalf of reporting persons during the most recent fiscal year, CKX Lands, Inc. is not aware of any failure to file on a timely basis any Form 3, 4 or 5 specifically during the most recent fiscal year.

**ITEM 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The By-Laws of the Company specify that the number of directors shall not be less than five and not more than fifteen and the Board shall fix this number for the calendar year at the last meeting of the preceding year. The Board fixed the number of Board members for the calendar year 2018 at eight (8) members. Each director will hold office for one year and until his successor is elected and qualified. On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, the Board of Directors has nominated the persons listed below for election as director. If a nominee should become unavailable for election, the persons voting the accompanying proxy may in their discretion vote for a substitute. All nominees have been with the same organization in the same position as listed below for the past five years unless noted. The table below also includes the specific qualifications and experience of each nominee that led to the conclusion that the nominee should serve as a director.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR EACH OF THE NOMINEES NAMED BELOW.

| <b><u>Name</u></b>                | <b><u>Age</u></b> | <b><u>Experience and Qualifications</u></b>   | <b><u>Director Since</u></b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Lee W. Boyer                      | 60                | Secretary of CKX Lands, Inc.; Attorney with Stockwell, Sievert, Viccellio, Clements & Shaddock, L.L.P.; President, Second University Homesites, Inc.; Manager, Jones-Boyer, LLC; Manager, Boyer Properties, LLC; Director, Mallard Bay, LLC. Mr. Boyer's experience in land management and oil and gas leasing activities makes him qualified to serve as a director. | 2016                         |
| Max H. Hart<br>(1) (2)            | 59                | Principal, Haas-Hirsch Interests. Mr. Hart's experience in land management, oil and gas leasing activities, forestry, farming and rights of way makes him qualified to serve as a director.   | 2016                         |
| Brian R. Jones                    | 57                | President and Chairman of the Board of CKX Lands, Inc. since 2013 and Treasurer of CKX Lands, Inc. since 2006; Managing member of Brian R. Jones CPA, LLC. Mr. Jones' experience in public accounting, SEC compliance and land management makes him qualified to serve as a director.   | 2007                         |
| Eugene T. Minvielle, IV<br>(1)    | 44                | Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Marlin Energy, LLC. Mr. Minvielle's experience in oil and gas and financial reporting makes him qualified to serve as a director.  | 2018                         |
| Mary Watkins Savoy<br>(1) (2) (3) | 78                | Private investments; Director of Mallard Bay, LLC. Mrs. Savoy's experience in land management and oil and gas leasing activities makes her qualified to serve as a director.  | 1998                         |

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|                              |    |  |      |
|------------------------------|----|--|------|
| Charles D. Viccellio         | 84 | Attorney (retired), Stockwell, Sievert, Viccellio, Clements & Shaddock, L.L.P. Mr. Viccellio's extensive legal experience in land management and oil and gas activities makes him qualified to serve as a director.                            | 1996 |
| Mary Leach Werner<br>(2) (3) | 50 | Vice President and Director of North American Land Co., LLC. Vice President and Director of Sweet Lake Land & Oil Co., LLC. Mrs. Werner's experience in land management and oil and gas activities makes her qualified to serve as a director. | 2004 |
| Michael B. White<br>(3)      | 61 | Oil and gas ventures, farmland and timberland investments, sole manager of Ottley Properties, LLC. Mr. White's experience in oil and gas, farmland and timberland make him qualified to serve as a director.                                   | 2013 |

Member of the (1) Audit Committee, (2) Compensation Committee, (3) Nominating Committee.

Stockwell, Sievert, Viccellio, Clements & Shaddock, L.L.P. is a law firm. Second University Homesites, Inc., Jones-Boyer, LLC, and Boyer Properties, LLC are residential and commercial property management companies. Mallard Bay Corp., Haas-Hirsch Interests, North American Land Co., Inc., and Sweet Lake Land & Oil Co., Inc. are all land management companies. Marlin Energy, LLC is an upstream oil and gas company. Ottley Properties, LLC is an investment holding company. Brian R. Jones CPA, LLC is a CPA firm.

The Board of Directors has determined that director nominees Hart, Minvielle, Savoy, Werner, and White are “independent directors” as defined under the rules of the NYSE MKT. In connection with this assessment, the Board of Directors also determined that Hart, Minvielle, and Savoy are independent within the meaning of the NYSE MKT standards currently in effect and Rule 10A-3 of the Exchange Act applicable to members of the Audit Committee, and that Hart, Savoy and Werner are independent under the standards applicable to members of the Compensation Committee.

Each of the Company’s directors is requested to attend the Annual Meeting in person. All of the Company’s directors attended the Company’s 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND RISK OVERSIGHT**

CKX Lands’ president and treasurer, Brian R. Jones also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Company believes this leadership structure is most appropriate for the communication of Company decisions, activities and other third-party communications to the Board members, management and company personnel due to the small company size and the lack of complexity in its operating activities.

The Company’s Board of Directors does not have a lead independent director. Independent Directors meet at least annually in executive session without non-independent or management Directors in attendance. During 2017, independent Directors met four times in executive session.

CKX Lands’ Board of Directors administers its risk oversight responsibilities by requiring specific Board authorization of all non-routine activities of the Company and through its Audit Committee’s quarterly review of the Company’s financial statements, management activities discussions and communication with external auditors.

During 2017, the Board of Directors held a total of five meetings. No director attended fewer than 75% of the aggregate of all board meetings and meetings of committees of which he or she is a member during 2017.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMITTEES**

The Board of Directors has an Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Nominating Committee. The membership of each Committee consists solely of non-employee directors who meet the independence standards established by the NYSE MKT.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE:** The Audit Committee assists the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to financial reports and other financial information, and selects and appoints the independent registered public accountants. The Company has determined that Mr. Minvielle qualifies as “audit committee financial expert” under Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K. Each member of the Audit Committee meets the financial literacy requirements of the NYSE MKT. During 2017, the Audit Committee held four meetings. A copy of the Audit Committee’s charter is available on the company’s website, [www.ckxlands.com](http://www.ckxlands.com). All committee members attended all Audit Committee meetings during 2017.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE:** The Compensation Committee approves all executive compensation. The Compensation Committee does not have a charter. During 2017, the Compensation Committee held one meeting. All members attended the compensation committee meeting. Executive officers do not participate in the design of, deliberations about, or voting on their compensation or the compensation of directors. In light of the simplicity and relatively modest levels of the Company's executive and director compensation, the Company does not believe that there is any risk that could arise from its pay practices that would have a material adverse effect on it.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** The Nominating Committee selects nominees for the Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee identifies individuals qualified to become directors and recommends them to the Board for directorships. The Nominating Committee will consider persons recommended by stockholders to become nominees for election as directors. Recommendations for consideration by the Nominating Committee should be sent to the Secretary of the Company in writing together with appropriate biographical information. Please see "Stockholder Proposals."

The Committee identifies and evaluates nominees on the basis of their education, business experience, integrity, and knowledge of Southwest Louisiana particularly as it relates to land management. Nominees recommended by security holders will be evaluated by the same criteria. When identifying nominees for directorships, the Committee considers diversity of skills, experience and business background, and no specific minimum qualifications are required.

The Nominating Committee has in the past considered potential director candidates suggested by its members, other directors and management. Members on the committee and management have in the past interviewed potential candidates who were not incumbent directors, and the committee has then voted to recommend a slate of nominees to the Board.

The Nominating Committee does not have a charter and operates under a board resolution addressing the nominating process.

During 2017, the Nominating Committee held one meeting. All members attended the nominating committee meeting

## **DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**

The Company set director fees per meeting in 2017 at the levels below:

| Meeting                | Chairperson | Member                     |        |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------|
|                        |             | Non-Attending<br>Attending |        |
| Board of Directors     | \$ 1,000    | \$600                      | \$ 200 |
| Audit Committee        | 800         | 400                        | --     |
| Compensation Committee | 300         | 200                        | --     |
| Nominating Committee   | \$ 300      | \$200                      | \$ --  |

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Actual compensation paid to Directors during 2017 is presented below:

| Director                | Fees<br>Paid |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Lee W. Boyer            | 3,400        |
| Max H. Hart             | 4,600        |
| Brian R. Jones          | 5,000        |
| Eugene T. Minvielle, IV | 5,200        |
| Mary Watkins Savoy      | 4,700        |
| William Gray Stream     | 2,000        |
| Charles D. Viccellio    | 3,400        |
| Mary Leach Werner       | 2,900        |
| Michael B. White        | 3,200        |
|                         | \$34,400     |

## **COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **BY STOCKHOLDERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

The Company's Annual Meeting of Stockholders provides an opportunity for stockholders and others to ask questions directly of Company Directors on matters relevant to the Company. In addition, stockholders and other interested parties may, at any time, communicate with the full Board of Directors, any individual director or any group of directors, by sending a written communication to the full Board of Directors, individual director or group of directors at the following address: CKX Lands, Inc., P.O. Box 1864, Lake Charles, LA 70602.

### **SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE**

| <b><u>Name and Position</u></b> | <b>Year Salary</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|



|                         |      |          | <b>Non-Equity<br/>Incentive<br/>Plan</b> | <b>All Other<br/>Compensation<sup>(1)</sup></b> |           |
|-------------------------|------|----------|--|---|-----------|
| Brian R. Jones          | 2017 | \$88,083 | \$ 3,125                                 | \$ 5,000  | \$96,208  |
| President and Treasurer | 2016 | \$48,000 | \$ 57,737                                | \$ 4,000  | \$109,737 |

(1) Consists solely of Board of Director meeting attendance fees.

During the 2016 and 2017 fiscal years, the President and Treasurer's compensation plan included a salary and a cash incentive bonus for directing the Company's strategic goal of acquiring suitable timberland equal to 2.5% of the approved value of each property purchased. During this period, his salary was change as follows:

|          |                   |                   |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Salary   | From              | To                |
| \$48,000 | September 1, 2015 | November 30, 2016 |
| \$85,000 | December 1, 2016  | December 31, 2017 |

On January 31, 2017, the Board of Directors increased the annual salary of the President and Treasurer from \$48,000 to \$85,000, effective December 1, 2016. The increase was due to the President and Treasurer's scope of responsibilities and duties increasing over the year. The Board of Directors also expanded the President and Treasurer's existing cash incentive bonus plan for directing the Company's strategic goals. Under the plan as modified by the Board of Directors on January 31, 2017, the plan will apply to both acquisitions and dispositions of real property and will not be limited to timberland transactions. For each transaction, the incentive bonus will be no less than \$2,000 and no greater than \$15,000 unless otherwise approved by the Board.

The Company has no long-term compensation programs, stock option program or stock grants program.

The Company has no employment agreements, pension plan or profit-sharing plan.

## **CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Mrs. Savoy is Mr. Boyer's aunt.

Office rent of \$4,800 and \$4,800 was paid to a company owned by the President in 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Mr. Jones' spouse's law firm received \$12,243 and \$5,883 for legal services performed for the Company in 2017 and 2016, respectively.

## **ITEM 2: RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

MaloneBailey LLP, acted as our independent registered public accounting firm and audited our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017. The Audit Committee of the Board has selected MaloneBailey LLP as independent registered public accounting firm to audit our financial statements for 2018. Representatives of MaloneBailey LLP will attend the annual meeting, have an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and, respond to appropriate questions.

## **REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The following Report of the Audit Committee does not constitute proxy soliciting materials and should not be deemed filed or incorporated by reference into any other filing by the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except to the extent specifically incorporated into such a filing.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has furnished the following report on the Company's audit procedures and its relationship with its independent accountants for the twelve-month period ending December 31, 2017.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed with the Company's management and MaloneBailey LLP the audited financial statements of the Company contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the Company's 2017 fiscal year. The Audit Committee has also discussed with MaloneBailey LLP the matters that registered independent public accounting firms are required to communicate to the Audit Committees pursuant to Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Auditing Standard No. 16, Communications with Audit Committees. Auditing Standard No. 16 requires the independent auditor to provide the Audit Committee with information regarding scope and results of an audit that may assist the Audit Committee in overseeing management's financial reporting and disclosure process.

The Audit Committee also has received from MaloneBailey LLP the written disclosures and the letter required by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's Ethics and Independence Rule 3526, Communications with Audit Committees Concerning Independence, and has discussed with MaloneBailey LLP their independence from the Company. In addition, the Committee considered whether the provision by the independent auditors of non-audit services is compatible with maintaining the independent auditors' independence from management and the Company.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for its 2017 fiscal-year for filing with the SEC.

The Board of Directors adopted a Charter governing the Audit Committee in January 2003. The Audit Committee is composed of independent directors as required by and in compliance with the listing standards of the NYSE MKT.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Eugene T. Minvielle (Chairman)

Max H. Hart

Mary W. Savoy

## **RELATIONSHIP WITH INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

During 2017 and 2016, MaloneBailey LLP was paid \$45,000 and \$50,000, respectively, solely for Audit Services. Audit service fees include fees for services performed for the recurring audit of the Company's financial statements.

MaloneBailey, LLC was paid no audit-related fees or tax fees during either 2017 or 2016. Audit-related fees include fees associated with assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company's financial statements. Tax fees are for the preparation of the Company's federal and state income tax returns and the state franchise tax return.

The Audit Committee has adopted policies and procedures which require the pre-approval of all audit and non-audit services to be performed by the independent auditor of the Company.

The Audit Committee may delegate, to one or more designated members of the Committee, the authority to grant pre-approvals of audit and permitted non-audit services. Any decision by such member or members to grant pre-approval shall be presented to the Committee at its next scheduled meeting. During 2017, there was no audit or non-audit work performed by the independent auditor which was not pre-approved by the Audit Committee prior to the engagement.

The Audit Committee has selected the firm of MaloneBailey LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018. Stockholder approval and ratification of this selection is not required by law or by the By-Laws of the Company. Nevertheless, the Board of Directors has chosen to submit it to the stockholders for their ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. A majority of the votes cast on the proposal to ratify the appointment of MaloneBailey LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 must be voted in favor of the proposal for the proposal to be adopted. If the proposal is not adopted, the Audit Committee will take the vote into consideration in selecting independent auditors for the Company.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the appointment of MaloneBailey LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018.

## **ITEM 3: ADVISORY VOTE ON THE COMPANY'S EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 amended the Exchange Act. As a result, the Company's stockholders are to be provided an opportunity to vote whether to approve the compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officer as disclosed in this Proxy Statement in accordance with the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission. As this vote is an advisory vote, it is not binding upon the Company, the Board of Directors, or Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. However, the Board of Directors will take the results of this advisory vote under advisement. Also, this vote is not intended to address any specific element of compensation, but rather relates to the overall compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officer as disclosed in this Proxy Statement.

In 2014, the Company's stockholders voted to hold an advisory vote on executive compensation every year.

Therefore, we are asking stockholders to vote on the following proposal, which gives you the opportunity to endorse or not endorse our pay program for our Named Executive Officer by voting for or against the following resolution. This resolution is required pursuant to Section 14A of the Exchange Act.

“RESOLVED, that the stockholders of CKX Lands, Inc. (the “Company”) approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officer, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-K, including the compensation tables and narrative disclosures.”

The Board of Directors recommends that the stockholders vote FOR the proposal to approve the compensation of CKX Lands' Named Executive Officer as disclosed in its proxy statement relating to its 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders pursuant to the SEC's compensation disclosure rules.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

At the time of the preparation of this Proxy Statement, the Company had not been informed of any matters to be presented by, or on behalf of, the Company or its management, for action at the meeting other than those listed in the notice of meeting and referred to herein. If any other matters come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof, the persons named in the enclosed proxy will vote on such matters according to their best judgment.

A copy of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K as filed with the SEC for 2017 accompanies this Proxy Statement.

**Stockholders are urged to sign the enclosed proxy, which is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors and return it at once in the enclosed envelope. Stockholders can also access the proxy material at [www.envisionreports.com/ckx](http://www.envisionreports.com/ckx).**

## **STOCKHOLDERS PROPOSALS**

Proposals of stockholders intended to be included in the proxy materials, including director nominations, relating to the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders, must be received by the Secretary at CKX Lands, Inc., P.O. Box 1864, Lake Charles, LA 70602, in proper form, on or before December 4, 2018. If a proposal is not submitted timely, it will not be considered for inclusion in the proxy statement. A stockholder wishing to propose a matter for consideration at an annual meeting of stockholders must provide notice thereof to the Company's Secretary prior to the annual meeting for the current year by a deadline that is 45 days before the date on which the Company first mailed its proxy materials for the prior year's annual meeting of stockholders.

## **BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*/s/ Brian R. Jones*  
Brian R. Jones  
President and Treasurer

Lake Charles, Louisiana

April 3, 2018











