



## **MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

**FOR**

**FIRE RIVER GOLD CORP.**

**FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 JANUARY 2013 - UNAUDITED**

The following discussion and analysis is Management's assessment of the results and financial condition of Fire River Gold Corp. (the "Company" or "FAU") for the quarter ended 31 January 2013 and should be read in conjunction with the unaudited, first quarter consolidated financial statements and the related notes. The date of this Management Discussion and Analysis is 27 March 2013.

### **IFRS**

Effective 1 November 2011, the Company adopted accounting principles used under the International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), using a transition date of 1 November 2010 to accommodate comparative periods. The associated quarterly financial statements are prepared in accordance with IFRS standards.

Additional information on the Company is available on SEDAR at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

### **FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain information included in this discussion may constitute forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and entail various risks and uncertainties. These risks and uncertainties could cause or contribute to actual results that are materially different than those expressed or implied. The Company disclaims any obligation or intention to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

## BUSINESS OF FIRE RIVER GOLD CORP.

Fire River Gold Corp. is a pre-commercial production company with an experienced technical team focused on bringing its Nixon Fork underground gold mine back into commercial production. The Nixon Fork Gold Mine is a fully permitted and bonded gold mine located 240 miles northwest of Anchorage, Alaska, United States. Production facilities at the Nixon Fork Gold Mine include a 250 tonne per day carbon-in-leach circuit, a sulphide concentration circuit and a gravity recovery circuit. The mine also includes a fleet of mining vehicles, a self-contained diesel power plant, maintenance facilities, drilling equipment, an 85 person camp, office facilities and a 1.2 kilometre long landing strip.

## GOING CONCERN

The Company's Financial Statements have been prepared on the basis of accounting principles applicable to a going concern, which assume that the Company will continue in operation for the foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of operations as they come due. The Company had cash and cash equivalents of \$295,700 as at 31 January 2013 (31 Oct 2012: \$988,989), but management cannot provide assurance that the Company will ultimately achieve profitable operations or become cash flow positive or raise additional debt and/or equity capital. The Company's solvency, ability to meet its liabilities as they become due and to continue its operations is essentially solely dependent on funding provided by Waterton Global Value, L. P. ("Waterton"). If Waterton is unwilling to provide ongoing funding to the Company and/or if the Company is unable to raise additional capital in the immediate future, the Company will need to curtail operations, liquidate assets, seek additional capital on less favourable terms and/or pursue other remedial measures or cease operations. This material uncertainty may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Company to continue as a going concern. These consolidated financial statements do not include any adjustments that might be necessary should the Company be unable to continue as a going concern including adjustments related to employee severance pay and other costs related to ceasing operations.

## PROPERTIES

### NIXON FORK GOLD MINE OPERATIONS REVIEW

The Nixon Fork Mine, which the Company has been developing since June 2011, continues to produce at pre-commercial levels. Mining data for the quarter was as follows:

#### Mine Production for the Quarter ended 31 January 2013

Month	Tonnes Mined	Tonnes Milled	Gold Sold (ozs)
Nov	3,180	3,894	1,144
Dec	3,045	3,242	1,205
Jan	4,733	5,387	1,796
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,958</b>	<b>12,523</b>	<b>4,145</b>

Work continued on the second Larox unit during the quarter. The base was set up on the landing and work began to refurbish reinforce the supporting structure and some components of the unit, being a used piece of equipment. Efforts are being made to bring this unit as compatible as possible with the existing unit so the support/supply equipment can be utilized for both filters.

On an on-going full production basis, it is still envisioned that the recoverable gold distribution between both streams will be approximately 55% in dore form from the gravity and CIL circuits and 45% in the form of concentrate from the sulphide flotation circuit. The dore produced from the gravity and CIL circuits is processed at the Johnson Matthey facility in Brampton, Ontario, Canada and the out-turned gold and silver is purchased by Waterton Global Value L.P. The concentrate produced from the sulphide flotation circuit is sold to Glencore Ltd.

Mining operations for the quarter were conducted primarily in the Mystery Mine, which provides the bulk of the sulfide ore to feed the sulphide concentration circuit. The Crystal Mine provided smaller quantities of oxide ore.

Exploration drilling of 4,571 meters was completed during the quarter all in the Mystery Mine.

The mine plan of operations must be submitted for review to both the State of Alaska and the US Bureau of Land Management in May 2013. The as-built drawings of the mill are in progress with Knight Piesold and Darling Geomatics. Enviroscentists, an environmental and permitting consulting company headquartered in Reno, Nevada, has been contracted to supervise the preparation of the document and has completed their initial assessment.

Avalon Development has been contacted to complete an updated resource estimate. A delivery date has not been set.

The resource estimate for the Nixon Fork Mine remains the 2011 estimate as follows:

2011 Resource Estimate for the Nixon Fork Mine (at 10 g/t Au, Giroux)  
 Geologic Report NF-12-1 dated 3 February 2012, Technical Report of the Nixon Fork Mine Project,  
 Medfra Quadrangle, Alaska; prepared by Curtis J. Freeman, BA, MS PGeo, Avalon Development Corp.

Zone	Indicated					Interred				
	Tonnes	Grade		Contained Au		Tonnes	Grade		Contained Au	
		g/t	opt	g	oz		g/t	opt	g	oz
<i>Hard Rock:</i>										
3000	10,570	31.8	0.93	336,443	10,817	20,350	31.7	0.93	645,909	20,766
3300	81,200	25.6	0.75	2,078,720	66,840	19,800	30.9	0.90	612,018	19,677
3550	1,200	11.7	0.34	14,052	452	1,550	11.6	0.34	17,965	578
Whalen	630	11.2	0.33	7,056	227	10	10.2	0.30	102	3
J5	7,500	16.7	0.49	125,025	4,020	660	13.6	0.40	8,963	288
3100	560	11.3	0.33	6,350	204	410	12.4	0.36	5,076	163
Mystery	27,400	23.7	0.69	649,380	20,878	100	18.9	0.55	1,885	61
Southern Cross						11,100	19.6	0.57	218,004	7,009
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>129,060</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>3,217,027</b>	<b>103,438</b>	<b>63,980</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>1,509,921</b>	<b>48,545</b>
Existing Tailings*	92,000	7.9	0.23	724,040	23,287	48,000	7.4	0.21	353,760	11,377
<b>Total</b>	<b>221,060</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>3,941,067</b>	<b>126,725</b>	<b>101,980</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>1,863,681</b>	<b>59,922</b>

From this resource 32,046 tonnes from the 3300, 231 tonnes from the 3350, 135 tonnes from the 3100 and 1,552 tonnes from the Mystery were mined in the year ended 31 October 2012 and 10,958 tonnes was mined in the quarter ended 31 January 2013.

## OTHER PROPERTIES

The Draken property is located in southeast-central Alaska, approximately 288km southeast of Fairbanks, Alaska, and approximately 61km west of the Canadian border.

The Kansas Creek Project is located in the Bonnifield District of the central Alaska Range in central-interior Alaska approximately 110km south of Fairbanks, Alaska and 70km east of Healy, Alaska.

As the Company focus is on the Nixon Fork Mine, there is no intent to dedicate funds and effort to these properties.

## SELECTED QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following selected financial information is derived from the unaudited consolidated financial statements of the company prepared in accordance with IFRS.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 2013	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 2012	2012
General and administrative expenses	370,635	976,797	2,809,633
Mineral property cash costs incurred	4,301,804	7,557,373	27,818,221
Loss before other items in total	4,672,439	8,534,170	30,627,854
Loss per share – Basic & fully diluted	0.01	0.09	0.21
Net comprehensive loss	5,449,469	8,656,898	32,566,782
Comprehensive loss per share – Basic & fully diluted	0.02	0.08	0.24
Total assets	10,797,213	13,403,209	12,511,210
Total long term liabilities	15,564,007	2,205,902	15,040,144

Major cost activity areas include the following:

	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 2013	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 2012	2012
Administrative costs	\$0.9 million	\$1.1 million	\$3.3 million
Camp and Maintenance	\$4.4 million	\$5.3 million	\$16.6 million
Drilling and mining	\$1.8 million	\$2.8 million	\$7.8 million
Geology and engineering	\$1.1 million	\$0.3 million	\$0.9 million
Assaying	\$0.3 million	\$0.2 million	\$0.9 million
Crushing and milling	\$1.8 million	\$1.1 million	\$6.5 million
Safety and environmental	\$0.4 million	\$0.1 million	\$1.0 million
Royalties	\$0.4 million	\$0.2 million	\$1.0 million
Decommissioning liability	\$Nil	\$Nil	\$2.3 million
Financing	\$0.8 million	\$0.1 million	\$2.0 million
Cost recoveries	(\$7.0 million)	(\$4.7 million)	(\$14.2 million)

The net comprehensive loss for the quarter (\$5.4 million) decreased by \$3.2 million over the quarter ended 31 January 2012. The primary contributor to the decrease was the increase in cost recoveries (\$7.0 million) of \$2.3 million over the quarter ended 31 January 2012, which was the result of the increased gold recoveries and sales (4,145 ounces) during the quarter. This increase in gold sales brought about an expected increase in royalty expense. These increased gold recoveries are reflected in increased costs for geology and engineering, crushing and milling, assaying and safety. The primary cost drivers are fuel, freight and labor. Environmental costs increased due the use of consultants in the preparation of the mine plan of operations for the US Bureau of Land Management. The drilling and mining costs decreased and the camp and maintenance costs decreased as the major refurbishment projects have been completed. Finance costs increased during the quarter due to the costs associated with the \$12.75 million Waterton credit facility, which was concluded in the second quarter of fiscal 2012. The cost recoveries improved during the quarter but were still only 60% of costs. Costs are now in a relatively steady state and are not expected to vary significantly either up or down from current levels.

Quarterly comparison data:

	31 Jan 2013	31 Oct 2012	31 Jul 2012	30 Apr 2012	31 Jan 2012	31 Oct 2011	31 Jul 2011	30 Apr 2011
Total revenues	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Net loss	5,449,469	11,314,889	7,731,317	5,588,912	8,656,898	5,978,361	6,333,900	2,988,654
Net loss per share	0.02	0.05	0.08	0.05	0.08	0.05	0.08	0.04
Total assets	10,797,213	12,511,210	11,422,023	14,906,785	13,403,429	11,495,124	16,324,886	21,263,345

## LIQUIDITY

At 31 January 2013, the Company's working capital (deficit), defined as current assets less current liabilities, was a deficit of \$8,511,690 compared with working capital deficit of \$3,746,776 at 31 October 2012. This issue is the single greatest concern of Company management and is being addressed through the operational improvements being implemented in the mine and mill, which is expected to lead to the increased gold production needed for the financial viability of the Company. Management has also successfully negotiated extensions on loan repayments to Waterton to July 2013. As at 31 January 2013, the Company had the following commitments:

	< 1 year \$	2-3 years \$	> 3 years \$	Total \$
Rent and lease payments	52,651	52,651	-	105,302
Notes for Larox	284,722	-	-	284,722
Waterton loan extension fee	653,908	544,923	-	1,198,831
Waterton credit facility	4,084,904	12,254,711	-	16,339,615
<b>Total commitments</b>	<b>5,076,185</b>	<b>12,852,285</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,928,470</b>

## MOST RECENT FINANCING

On 4 April 2012, the Company entered into a US\$12.75 million gold-backed credit facility with Waterton. The Waterton Credit Facility bears interest at a fixed rate of 5% per annum, consists of a single drawdown on closing and is repayable in 16 monthly instalments, beginning 31 July 2013. The Waterton Credit Facility may be repaid, at Waterton's option, in either cash or ounces of gold at 78% of the then prevailing gold price. As part of the transaction, the Company has also agreed to sell to Waterton all of the gold and silver produced from the Carbon-in-leach ("CIL") circuit until 30 April 2014 pursuant to a gold and silver supply agreement (the "Supply Agreement") at approximately 98.5% of current prices. In connection with the Waterton Credit Facility, the Company paid Waterton a cash structuring fee of US\$255,000 and issued warrants (the "Warrants") to Waterton to purchase 8,250,000 common shares priced at \$0.23575 per common share. The Warrants expire three years from the date of closing and are subject to a four month hold. In addition, the Company paid a finder's fee of US\$255,000 to a broker.

## **MOST RECENT SHARE PROCEEDS**

On August 9, 2012, the Company issued 88,417,458 equity units at a price of \$0.065 for gross proceeds of \$5,747,135 (the "First Tranche"). Each equity unit consists of one common share of the Company and one common share purchase warrant. Each warrant entitles the holder to purchase one common share at an exercise price of \$0.10 for a period of five years. In connection with the offering, various agents were paid \$137,041 and issued 2,108,320 compensation options which entitle the agents to purchase one share and one warrant at a price of \$0.065 with each warrant having the same terms as the equity unit warrants.

On August 31, 2012, the Company issued 16,602,709 equity units at a price of \$0.065 for gross proceeds of \$1,079,176 (the "Second Tranche"). Each equity unit consists of one common share of the Company and one common share purchase warrant. Each warrant entitles the holder to purchase one common share at an exercise price of \$0.10 for a period of five years. In connection with the offering, an agent was paid \$86,334 and issued 1,328,216 compensation options which entitle the agent to purchase one share and one warrant at a price of \$0.065 with each warrant having the same terms as the equity unit warrants.

On Sept 20, 2012, the Company issued 108,694,492 equity units at a price of \$0.065 for gross proceeds of \$7,065,142 (the "Third and Final Tranche"). Each equity unit consists of one common share of the Company and one common share purchase warrant. Each warrant entitles the holder to purchase one common share at an exercise price of \$0.10 for a period of five years. In connection with the offering, various agents were paid an aggregate of \$409,864 and issued 6,305,603 compensation options which entitle the agents to purchase one share and one warrant at a price of \$0.065 with each warrant having the same terms as the equity unit warrants.

The proceeds of these offerings have been used for the further development of the Nixon Fork Gold Mine, satisfaction of outstanding debt and general working capital.

## **OUTSTANDING SHARE AND OPTION DATA**

The Company is authorized to issue unlimited common shares without par value. At 31 January 2013 there were 316,157,031 outstanding shares compared to 316,157,031 at 31 October 2012 and 99,181,502 outstanding shares at 31 October 2011. At 31 January 2013 there were 6,601,636 outstanding stock options at an average exercise price of \$0.25. The Company also had 221,964,659 common share purchase warrants outstanding and exercisable, at weighted average exercise price of \$0.11 and 9,671,062 compensation options at an average exercise price of \$.065.

### **Stock Options**

The Company has established a fixed share purchase option plan as of 26 July 2012, whereby the board of directors ("Board") may from time to time grant to directors, officers, employees or consultants up to a maximum of 10,244,237 stock options. Options granted must be exercised no later than ten years from date of grant or such lesser period as determined by the Company's board of directors. The exercise price of an option will be set by the Board at the time such option is granted and cannot be less than the closing market price on the TSX Venture Exchange ("TSXV") on the last trading day preceding the grant date, less any allowable discounts that may be permitted under applicable exchange policies. During the quarter ended 31 January 2013 200,000 options were issued at a price of \$0.10.

## Share Purchase Warrants

No share purchase warrants were issued during the quarter ended 31 January 2013. During the year ended 31 October 2012, 231,635,721 share purchase warrants were granted at a weighted average exercise price of \$.10.

## Exercise of Warrants and Options

During the quarter ended 31 January 2013, there were no agent compensation warrants, warrants, or stock options exercised.

## RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The remuneration of directors and other members of key management were as follows:

	Qtr ended 31 January 2013	Qtr ended 31 January 2012	Year Ended 31 Oct 2012
Short-term benefits	\$131,312	\$166,528	\$907,127
Share-based payments	\$36,318	\$261,340	\$481,173
Total	\$167,630	\$427,868	\$1,388,300

The liabilities of the Company include the following amounts due to related parties:

	Qtr ended 31 Jan 2013	Qtr ended 31 January 2012	Year ended 31 October 2012
Chief Executive Officer	\$6,073	\$Nil	\$6,218
Chief Financial Officer	\$3,846	\$Nil	\$3,938
Former Chief Financial Officer	\$Nil	\$Nil	\$32,282
Current directors	\$22,542	\$Nil	-
Former director	\$39,984	\$78,000	\$39,984
Total	\$72,445	\$78,000	\$82,422

## IMPORTANT NOTES

The Waterton Credit Facility has been amended to delay principal payments until no earlier than 31 May 2013 at a cost of \$1,200,000 to be paid in future periods under the terms of that amendment.

The Company is involved in disputes related to human resources matters. Management intends to vigorously defend these claims. Included in trade and other payables at 31 January 2013 is \$500,000 for total costs related to these matters.

## SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent to the quarter ended 31 January 2013, the Company received payments and advance payments from Waterton for the sale of gold doré valued at USD\$5,456,113. In total since inception under

the dore purchase agreement with Waterton, the Company has received payments of US\$15,157,091 and delivered USD\$8,298,325 in gold doré to Waterton, resulting in a current dore advance balance of USD\$6,858,766.

The 200,000 stock options granted in November 2012 were cancelled in February 2013.

Mine operating costs for February 2013 were approximately \$3.3 million and cost recoveries were approximately \$2.3 million. Mine operating costs for March 2013 are forecasted at \$3 million with cost recoveries of \$2 million.

Ken Stowe, the chairman of the Board of Directors, resigned effective 25 March 2013.

## **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Significant estimates used in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements include, amongst other things, depreciation, determination of net recoverable value of assets, determination of fair value on taxes, and share compensation. These estimates are reviewed periodically (at least annually), and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known.

A detailed summary of all of the Company's significant accounting policies is included in Note 1 of the consolidated financial statements for the period ended 31 January 2013.

## **IFRS ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The Company's unaudited consolidated quarterly financial statements as at 31 January 2013 and the audited consolidated financial statements as at and for the year ended 31 October 2012 have been prepared in accordance with IFRS as issued by the IASB.

## **FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND RISK**

The Company's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, trade payables and loans payable. The fair value of these financial instruments approximates their carrying value unless otherwise noted.



## Fair Values

	Fair value hierarchy	FVTPL at fair value	Loans and receivables at amortized cost	Available-for-sale, at fair value	Other liabilities at amortized cost
Cash and cash equivalents	Level 1	295,700	-	-	-
Trade and other receivables	Level 1	468,305	-	-	-
Trades payable	N/A	-	-	-	1,163,998
Loans payable	N/A	-	-	-	13,117,920

### a) Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk of an unexpected loss if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations and arises primarily from the Company's cash and cash equivalents and amounts receivable. The Company manages its credit risk relating to cash and cash equivalents by dealing only with highly-rated Canadian and U.S. financial institutions. As at 31 January 2013, amounts receivable included Harmonized Sales Tax of \$102,006, \$186,656 due from Glencore for concentrate and \$179,825 due from Alaska Air Fuel. Sales of commodities produced are made to established counterparties (Glencore and Waterton) and a significant portion of the receivable is paid to the Company upon shipment of the product. As a result of all of the above, credit risk is considered insignificant.

### b) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Company manages liquidity risk by continuously monitoring actual and projected cash flows and matching the maturity profile of financial assets and liabilities. This issue is the single greatest concern of Company management and is being addressed through the operational improvements being implemented in the mine and mill, which is expected to lead to the increased gold production needed for the financial viability of the Company.

### c) Currency Risk

The Company is exposed to currency risk on its acquisition and exploration expenditures on its US properties since it has to convert Canadian dollars raised through equity financing in Canada to US dollars. The Company's expenditures will be negatively impacted if the US dollar increases versus the Canadian dollar.

At 31 January 2013 the majority of the Company's cash flows and financial assets and liabilities are denominated in US dollars, however, the Company's functional and reporting currency is Canadian dollars. Foreign currency risk is therefore limited to accounting for the foreign exchange gain/loss for the portion of the Company's business transactions denominated in currencies other than the Canadian dollar.

The Company monitors and forecasts the values of net foreign currency cash flow and balance sheet exposures and from time to time could authorize the use of derivative financial instruments such as forward foreign exchange contracts to economically hedge a portion of foreign currency fluctuations.

The following table provide an indication of the Company's significant foreign currency exposures during the quarter ended 31 January 2013 and the year ended 31 October 2012:

	<b>Qtr 31 Jan 2013</b>	<b>31 October 2012</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	US\$182,610	US\$988,989
Trade receivables	US\$366,656	US\$Nil
Trade payables	US\$(1,102,921)	US\$(1,228,532)
Loans payable	US\$(12,750,000)	US\$(12,750,000)

The activities at the Company's main operating unit, the Nixon Fork Mine, are conducted primarily in US dollars. The Company receives US dollars for the sale of its products from the Nixon Fork Mine (copper-gold concentrates and gold doré). The Company intends to minimize its net exposures to foreign currency fluctuations by maintaining a large portion of the revenues expected to be produced at the Nixon Fork Mine in US dollars to cover US dollar operating costs.

The Company has not entered into derivative instruments to offset the impact of foreign currency fluctuations.

**d) Interest Risk**

The company had no interest bearing investments at 31 January 2013.

**e) Commodity Price Risk**

The Company is in the advanced development stage at its Nixon Fork Mine and is subject to fluctuations in the price of gold, which impacts the Company's cost recoveries. The results of our operations will depend, amongst other variables, upon the market price of gold. Gold prices fluctuate widely and are affected by numerous factors beyond our control. The level of interest rates, the rate of inflation, the world supply of gold and the stability of exchange rates, among other factors, can all cause significant fluctuations in commodity prices. Such external economic factors are in turn influenced by changes in international investment patterns, monetary systems and political developments. The price of gold has fluctuated widely in recent years, and future price declines could cause a mineral project to become uneconomic, thereby having a material adverse effect on our business and financial condition. We have not entered into derivative contracts to protect the selling price for gold. We may in the future more actively manage our exposure through derivative contracts or other commodity price risk management programs, although we have no intention of doing so in the near-term.

## **DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

Disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that all relevant information is gathered and reported on a timely basis to senior management, so that appropriate decisions can be made regarding public disclosure. As at the end of the period covered by this management's discussion and analysis, management has evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as required by Canadian securities laws.

Based on the evaluation of the disclosure controls performed to date, the Company has determined that the internal controls over financial reporting are effective.

## **INTERNAL CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

Internal controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements in accordance with IFRS. As at the end of the year covered by this management's discussion and analysis, management had designed and implemented internal controls and procedures as required by Canadian securities laws.

The Company has evaluated the design of its internal controls and procedures over financial reporting for the quarter ended 31 January 2013. All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation. Management continues to review and refine its internal controls and procedures.

### **OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS**

The Company has no off-balance sheet arrangements.