

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

FORM 10-Q

Quarterly Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the Quarterly Period Ended March 31, 2019

Commission File Number 001-37469

GREEN PLAINS PARTNERS LP

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

47-3822258

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1811 Aksarben Drive, Omaha, NE 68106

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(402) 884-8700

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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 every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit 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.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

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

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Trading Symbol(s)</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
Common Units, Representing Limited Partner Interests	GPP	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC

The registrant had 23,137,695 common units outstanding as of May 6, 2019.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Commonly Used Defined Terms	3
Item 1. Financial Statements	4
Consolidated Balance Sheets	4
Consolidated Statements of Operations	5
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows	6
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	7
Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	23
Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	29
Item 4. Controls and Procedures	30
PART II – OTHER INFORMATION	
Item 1. Legal Proceedings	31
Item 1A. Risk Factors	31
Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds	31
Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities	31
Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures	31
Item 5. Other Information	31
Item 6. Exhibits	32
Signatures.	33

[Table of Contents](#)

Commonly Used Defined Terms

The abbreviations, acronyms and industry terminology used in this quarterly report are defined as follows:

Green Plains Partners LP, Subsidiaries, and Partners:

Green Plains Operating Company	Green Plains Operating Company LLC
Green Plains Partners; the partnership	Green Plains Partners LP and its subsidiaries
NLR	NLR Energy Logistics LLC

Green Plains Inc. and Subsidiaries:

Green Plains; the parent or sponsor	Green Plains Inc. and its subsidiaries
Green Plains Holdings, the general partner	Green Plains Holdings LLC
Green Plains Trade	Green Plains Trade Group LLC

Other Defined Terms:

2018 annual report	The partnership's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018, filed February 20, 2019
ARO	Asset retirement obligation
ASC	Accounting Standards Codification
Bgy	Billion gallons per year
CAFE	Corporate Average Fuel Economy
CAMEX	Brazil Chamber of Foreign Trade
Conflicts committee	The partnership's committee responsible for reviewing situations involving certain transactions with affiliates or other potential conflicts of interest
D.C.	District of Columbia
E10	Gasoline blended with up to 10% ethanol by volume
E15	Gasoline blended with up to 15% ethanol by volume
E85	Gasoline blended with up to 85% ethanol by volume
EBITDA	Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization
EIA	U.S. Energy Information Administration
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Exchange Act	Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board
GAAP	U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
IPO	Initial public offering of Green Plains Partners LP
LIBOR	London Interbank Offered Rate
LTIP	Green Plains Partners LP 2015 Long-Term Incentive Plan
Mmg	Million gallons
MTBE	Methyl tertiary-butyl ether
MVCs	Minimum volume commitments
Partnership agreement	First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Green Plains Partners LP, dated as of July 1, 2015, between Green Plains Holdings LLC and Green Plains Inc.
PCAOB	Public Company Accounting Oversight Board
RFS II	Renewable Fuels Standard II
RIN	Renewable identification number
RVO	Renewable volume obligation
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
U.S.	United States
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture

PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements.

GREEN PLAINS PARTNERS LP
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(in thousands, except unit amounts)

	March 31, 2019	December 31, 2018
	(unaudited)	
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 304	\$ 569
Accounts receivable	2,277	1,460
Accounts receivable from affiliates	18,646	13,897
Prepaid expenses and other	667	690
Total current assets	<u>21,894</u>	<u>16,616</u>
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$29,250 and \$28,265, respectively	39,926	40,911
Operating lease right-of-use assets	35,950	-
Goodwill	10,598	10,598
Investment in equity method investee	3,863	3,648
Note receivable	8,100	8,100
Other assets	1,069	1,271
Total assets	<u>\$ 121,400</u>	<u>\$ 81,144</u>
LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' DEFICIT		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 4,697	\$ 2,501
Accounts payable to affiliates	517	676
Accrued and other liabilities	6,326	4,337
Asset retirement obligations	683	674
Operating lease current liabilities	12,621	-
Total current liabilities	<u>24,844</u>	<u>8,188</u>
Long-term debt	143,037	142,025
Deferred lease liability	-	843
Asset retirement obligations	2,592	2,542
Operating lease long-term liabilities	24,323	-
Total liabilities	<u>194,796</u>	<u>153,598</u>
Commitments and contingencies (Note 9)		
Partners' deficit		
Common unitholders - public (11,551,147 units issued and outstanding)	114,958	115,352
Common unitholders - Green Plains (11,586,548 units issued and outstanding)	(187,110)	(186,635)
General partner interests	(1,244)	(1,171)
Total partners' deficit	<u>(73,396)</u>	<u>(72,454)</u>
Total liabilities and partners' deficit	<u>\$ 121,400</u>	<u>\$ 81,144</u>

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

GREEN PLAINS PARTNERS LP
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(unaudited and in thousands, except per unit amounts)

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2019	2018
Revenues		
Affiliate	\$ 18,782	\$ 24,257
Non-affiliate	2,305	1,628
Total revenues	<u>21,087</u>	<u>25,885</u>
Operating expenses		
Operations and maintenance (excluding depreciation and amortization reflected below)	6,865	8,410
General and administrative	1,117	1,401
Depreciation and amortization	985	1,181
Total operating expenses	<u>8,967</u>	<u>10,992</u>
Operating income	<u>12,120</u>	<u>14,893</u>
Other income (expense)		
Interest income	20	20
Interest expense	(2,055)	(1,571)
Other	-	75
Total other expense	<u>(2,035)</u>	<u>(1,476)</u>
Income before income taxes and income (loss) from equity method investee	10,085	13,417
Income tax expense	(52)	(32)
Income (loss) from equity method investee	215	(13)
Net income	<u>\$ 10,248</u>	<u>\$ 13,372</u>
Net income attributable to partners' ownership interests:		
General partner	\$ 205	\$ 267
Limited partners - common unitholders	10,043	6,559
Limited partners - subordinated unitholders	-	6,546
Earnings per limited partner unit (basic and diluted):		
Common units	<u>\$ 0.43</u>	<u>\$ 0.41</u>
Subordinated units	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 0.41</u>
Weighted average limited partner units outstanding (basic and diluted):		
Common units	<u>23,119</u>	<u>15,922</u>
Subordinated units	<u>-</u>	<u>15,890</u>

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

GREEN PLAINS PARTNERS LP
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(unaudited and in thousands)

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2019	2018
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 10,248	\$ 13,372
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	985	1,181
Accretion	59	63
Amortization of debt issuance costs	204	145
Unit-based compensation	79	60
(Income) loss from equity method investee	(215)	13
Other	(22)	11
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(817)	1,829
Accounts receivable from affiliates	(4,749)	(5,380)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	23	189
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	4,238	2,583
Accounts payable to affiliates	(159)	611
Operating lease liabilities and right-of-use assets	119	-
Other	11	12
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>10,004</u>	<u>14,689</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment, net	-	(1,212)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,212)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Payments of distributions	(11,269)	(15,306)
Proceeds from revolving credit facility	30,600	24,400
Payments on revolving credit facility	(29,600)	(22,300)
Payments of loan fees	-	(185)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(10,269)</u>	<u>(13,391)</u>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(265)	86
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	569	502
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	<u>\$ 304</u>	<u>\$ 588</u>
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow		
Cash paid for income taxes	\$ 126	\$ 71
Cash paid for interest	\$ 1,780	\$ 1,327
Non-cash investing activities:		
Contributions to equity method investee	\$ -	\$ 1,172

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

GREEN PLAINS PARTNERS LP
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(unaudited)

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION, DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Organization

References to “the partnership” in the consolidated financial statements and notes to the consolidated financial statements refer to Green Plains Partners LP and its subsidiaries.

Green Plains Holdings LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Green Plains Inc., serves as the general partner of the partnership. References to (i) “the general partner” and “Green Plains Holdings” refer to Green Plains Holdings LLC; (ii) “the parent,” “the sponsor” and “Green Plains” refer to Green Plains Inc.; and (iii) “Green Plains Trade” refers to Green Plains Trade Group LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Green Plains.

Consolidated Financial Statements

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the partnership and its controlled subsidiaries. All significant intercompany balances and transactions are eliminated on a consolidated basis for reporting purposes. Results for the interim periods presented are not necessarily indicative of the expected results for the entire year.

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with GAAP for interim financial information and instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Because they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP, the consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the partnership’s 2018 annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018, as filed with the SEC on February 20, 2019.

The partnership accounts for its interest in joint ventures using the equity method of accounting, with its investment recorded at the acquisition cost plus the partnership’s share of equity in undistributed earnings or losses and reduced by distributions received.

Reclassifications

Certain prior year amounts were reclassified to conform to the current year presentation. These reclassifications did not affect total revenues, costs and expenses, net income, or partners’ deficit.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Consolidated Financial Statements

Preparation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The partnership bases its estimates on historical experience and assumptions it believes are proper and reasonable under the circumstances. The partnership regularly evaluates the appropriateness of these estimates and assumptions. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Key accounting policies, including, but not limited to, those related to depreciation of property and equipment, asset retirement obligations, operating leases, and impairment of long-lived assets and goodwill, are impacted significantly by judgments, assumptions and estimates used to prepare the consolidated financial statements.

[Table of Contents](#)

Description of Business

The partnership provides fuel storage and transportation services by owning, operating, developing and acquiring ethanol and fuel storage tanks, terminals, transportation assets and other related assets and businesses. The partnership is its parent's primary downstream logistics provider to support the parent's approximately 1.1 bgy ethanol marketing and distribution business since the partnership's assets are the principal method of storing and delivering the ethanol its parent produces. The ethanol produced by the parent is predominantly fuel grade, made principally from starch extracted from corn, and primarily used for blending with gasoline. Ethanol currently comprises approximately 10% of the U.S. gasoline market and is an economical source of octane and oxygenates for blending into the fuel supply. The partnership does not take ownership of, or receive any payments based on the value of the ethanol, other fuels or products it handles. As a result, the partnership does not have any direct exposure to fluctuations in commodity prices.

Revenue Recognition

The partnership recognizes revenue when obligations under the terms of a contract with a customer are satisfied. Generally, this occurs with the completion of services or the transfer of control of products to the customer or another specified third party. Operating lease revenue related to minimum volume commitments is recognized on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. To the extent shortfalls associated with minimum volume commitments in the previous four quarters continue to exist, volumes in excess of the minimum volume commitment are applied to those shortfalls. Remaining excess volumes generating operating lease revenue are recognized as incurred.

The partnership generates a substantial portion of its revenues under fee-based commercial agreements with Green Plains Trade. Please refer to *Note 2 - Revenue* to the consolidated financial statements for further details.

Operations and Maintenance Expenses

The partnership's operations and maintenance expenses consist primarily of lease expenses related to the transportation assets, labor expenses, outside contractor expenses, insurance premiums, repairs and maintenance expenses, and utility costs. These expenses also include fees for certain management, maintenance and operational services to support the storage and terminal facilities, trucks, and leased railcar fleet allocated by Green Plains under the operational services and secondment agreement.

Concentrations of Credit Risk

In the normal course of business, the partnership is exposed to credit risk resulting from the possibility a loss may occur due to failure of another party to perform according to the terms of their contract. The partnership provides fuel storage and transportation services for various parties with a significant portion of its revenues earned from Green Plains Trade. The partnership continually monitors its credit risk exposure and concentrations. Please refer to *Note 2 - Revenue* and *Note 10 - Related Party Transactions* to the consolidated financial statements for additional information.

Segment Reporting

The partnership accounts for segment reporting in accordance with ASC 280, *Segment Reporting*, which establishes standards for entities reporting information about the operating segments and geographic areas in which they operate. Management evaluated how its chief operating decision maker has organized the partnership for purposes of making operating decisions and assessing performance, and concluded it has one reportable segment.

Asset Retirement Obligations

The partnership records an ARO for the fair value of the estimated costs to retire a tangible long-lived asset in the period incurred if it can be reasonably estimated, which is subsequently adjusted for accretion expense. Corresponding asset retirement costs are capitalized as a long-lived asset and depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's remaining useful life. The expected present value technique used to calculate the fair value of the AROs includes assumptions about costs, settlement dates, interest accretion, and inflation. Changes in assumptions, such as the amount or timing of estimated cash flows, could increase or decrease the AROs. The partnership's AROs are based on legal obligations to perform remedial activity related to land, machinery and equipment when certain operating leases expire.

[Table of Contents](#)*Recent Accounting Pronouncements*

On January 1, 2019, the partnership adopted the amended guidance in ASC 842, *Leases*. Please refer to *Note 9 – Commitments and Contingencies* to the consolidated financial statements for further details.

2. REVENUE*Revenue Recognition*

The partnership recognizes revenue when obligations under the terms of a contract with a customer are satisfied. Generally, this occurs with the completion of services or the transfer of control of products to the customer or another specified third party. Revenue is measured as the amount of consideration expected to be received in exchange for providing services.

Revenue by Source

The following table disaggregates our revenue by major source for the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2019	2018
Revenues		
Service revenues		
Terminal services	\$ 2,566	\$ 2,281
Trucking and other	895	1,083
Railcar transportation services	-	26
Total service revenues	3,461	3,390
Leasing revenues ⁽¹⁾		
Storage and throughput services	11,785	14,642
Railcar transportation services	5,619	7,443
Terminal services	222	410
Total leasing revenues	17,626	22,495
Total revenues	\$ 21,087	\$ 25,885

(1) Leasing revenues do not represent revenues recognized from contracts with customers under ASC 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, and are accounted for under ASC 842, *Leases*.

Terminal Services Revenue

The partnership provides terminal services and logistics solutions to Green Plains Trade, and other customers, through its fuel terminal facilities under various terminal service agreements, some of which have minimum volume commitments. Revenue generated by these terminals is disaggregated between service revenue and leasing revenue in accordance with the new revenue standard. If Green Plains, or other customers, fail to meet their minimum volume commitments during the applicable term, a deficiency payment equal to the deficient volume multiplied by the applicable fee will be charged. Deficiency payments related to the partnership's terminal services revenue may not be utilized as credits toward future volumes. At terminals where customers have shared use of terminal and tank storage assets, revenue is generated from contracts with customers and accounted for as service revenue. This service revenue is recognized at the point in time when product is withdrawn from tank storage. At terminals where a customer is predominantly provided exclusive use of the terminal or tank storage assets, the partnership is considered a lessor as part of an operating lease agreement. Revenue is recognized over the term of the lease based on the minimum volume commitment or total actual throughput if in excess of the minimum volume commitment.

Trucking and Other Revenue

The partnership transports ethanol, natural gasoline, other refined fuels and feedstocks by truck from identified receipt points to various delivery points. Trucking revenue is recognized over time based on the percentage of total miles traveled, which is on average less than 100 miles.

[Table of Contents](#)

Railcar Transportation Services Revenue

Under the rail transportation services agreement, Green Plains Trade is obligated to use the partnership to transport ethanol and other fuels from receipt points identified by Green Plains Trade to nominated delivery points. Green Plains Trade is required to pay the partnership fees for the minimum railcar volumetric capacity provided, regardless of utilization of that capacity. However, Green Plains Trade is not charged for railcar volumetric capacity that is not available for use due to inspections, upgrades or routine repairs and maintenance. Revenue associated with the rail transportation services fee is considered leasing revenue and is recognized over the term of the lease based on the actual average daily railcar volumetric capacity provided. The partnership may also charge Green Plains Trade a related services fee for logistical operations management of railcar volumetric capacity utilized by Green Plains Trade which is not provided by the partnership. Revenue associated with the related services fee is also considered leasing revenue and recognized over the term of the lease based on the average volumetric capacity for which services are provided.

Storage and Throughput Revenue

The partnership generates leasing revenue from its storage and throughput agreement with Green Plains Trade based on contractual rates charged for the handling, storage and throughput of ethanol. Under this agreement, Green Plains Trade is required to pay the partnership a fee for a minimum volume commitment regardless of the actual volume delivered. If Green Plains Trade fails to meet its minimum volume commitment during any quarter, the partnership will charge Green Plains Trade a deficiency payment equal to the deficient volume multiplied by the applicable fee. The deficiency payment may be applied as a credit toward volumes delivered by Green Plains Trade in excess of the minimum volume commitment during the following four quarters, after which time any unused credits will expire. Revenue is recognized over the term of the lease based on the minimum volume commitment or total actual throughput if in excess of the minimum volume commitment.

Payment Terms

The partnership has standard payment terms, which vary depending on the nature of the services provided, with the majority of terms falling within 10 to 30 days after transfer of control or completion of services. Contracts generally do not include a significant financing component in instances where the timing of revenue recognition differs from the timing of invoicing.

Major Customers

Revenue from Green Plains Trade Group was \$18.8 million and \$24.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively, which exceeds 10% of the partnership's total revenue.

Contract Liabilities

The partnership records unearned revenue when consideration is received, or such consideration is unconditionally due, from a customer prior to transferring goods or services to the customer under the terms of service and lease agreements. Unearned revenue from service agreements, which represents a contract liability, is recorded for fees that have been charged to the customer prior to the completion of performance obligations, and is generally recognized in the subsequent quarter.

The following table reflects the changes in our unearned revenue from service agreements, which is recorded in accrued and other liabilities on the consolidated balance sheets, for the three months ended March 31, 2019 (in thousands):

	Amount
Balance at January 1, 2019	\$ 248
Revenue recognized included in beginning balance	(248)
Net additions	101
Balance at March 31, 2019	<u>\$ 101</u>

The partnership expects to recognize all of the unearned revenue associated with service agreements from contracts with customers as of March 31, 2019, in the subsequent quarter when the product is withdrawn from tank storage.

3. DEBT

Revolving Credit Facility

Green Plains Operating Company has a \$200.0 million revolving credit facility, which matures on July 1, 2020, to fund working capital, acquisitions, distributions, capital expenditures and other general partnership purposes. The credit facility can be increased by an additional \$20.0 million without the consent of the lenders. Advances under the credit facility, are subject to a floating interest rate based on the preceding fiscal quarter's consolidated leverage ratio at a base rate plus 1.25% to 2.00% or LIBOR plus 2.25% to 3.00%. The unused portion of the credit facility is also subject to a commitment fee of 0.35% to 0.50%, depending on the preceding fiscal quarter's consolidated leverage ratio.

The revolving credit facility is available for revolving loans, including sublimits of \$30.0 million for swing line loans and \$30.0 million for letters of credit. The revolving credit facility is guaranteed by the partnership, each of its existing subsidiaries, and any potential future domestic subsidiaries. As of March 31, 2019, the revolving credit facility had an average interest rate of 5.51%.

The partnership's obligations under the credit facility are secured by a first priority lien on (i) the capital stock of the partnership's present and future subsidiaries, (ii) all of the partnership's present and future personal property, such as investment property, general intangibles and contract rights, including rights under any agreements with Green Plains Trade, and (iii) all proceeds and products of the equity interests of the partnership's present and future subsidiaries and its personal property. The terms impose affirmative and negative covenants, including restrictions on the partnership's ability to incur additional debt, acquire and sell assets, create liens, invest capital, pay distributions and materially amend the partnership's commercial agreements with Green Plains Trade. The credit facility also requires the partnership to maintain a maximum consolidated net leverage ratio of no more than 3.50x and a minimum consolidated interest coverage ratio of no less than 2.75x, each of which is calculated on a pro forma basis with respect to acquisitions and divestitures occurring during the applicable period. The consolidated leverage ratio is calculated by dividing total funded indebtedness minus the lesser of cash in excess of \$5.0 million or \$30.0 million by the sum of the four preceding fiscal quarters' consolidated EBITDA. The consolidated interest coverage ratio is calculated by dividing the sum of the four preceding fiscal quarters' consolidated EBITDA by the sum of the four preceding fiscal quarters' interest charges.

The partnership had \$135.0 million and \$134.0 million of borrowings outstanding under the revolving credit facility as of March 31, 2019, and December 31, 2018 respectively.

The partnership had \$63 thousand and \$75 thousand of debt issuance costs recorded as a direct reduction of the carrying value of the partnership's long-term debt as of March 31, 2019, and December 31, 2018, respectively.

Covenant Compliance

The partnership, including all of its subsidiaries, was in compliance with its debt covenants as of March 31, 2019.

4. DISPOSITIONS

On November 15, 2018, Green Plains closed on the sale of three of its ethanol plants located in Bluffton, Indiana, Lakota, Iowa, and Riga, Michigan to Valero Renewable Fuels Company, LLC ("Valero"). Correspondingly, the partnership's storage assets located adjacent to such plants were sold to Green Plains for \$120.9 million. As consideration, the partnership received from its parent 8.7 million Green Plains units and a portion of the general partner interest equating to 0.2 million equivalent limited partner units to maintain the general partner's 2% interest. These units were retired upon receipt. In addition, the partnership also received cash consideration of \$2.7 million from Valero for the assignment of certain railcar operating leases. This transaction was accounted for as a transfer between entities under common control and was approved by the conflicts committee.

[Table of Contents](#)

The following is a summary of assets and liabilities disposed of (in thousands):

Total consideration received	\$ 120,900
Identifiable assets and liabilities disposed of:	
Property and equipment, net	4,192
Asset retirement obligations	(425)
Total identifiable net assets	3,767
Units retired:	
Common units - Green Plains	118,482
General partners interest	2,418
Total units retired	120,900
Partners' deficit effect	\$ (3,767)

In conjunction with the disposition, the partnership amended the 1) omnibus agreement, 2) operational services agreement, 3) ethanol storage and throughput agreement, and (4) rail transportation services agreement. Please refer to *Note 10 – Related Party Transactions* to the consolidated financial statements for additional information.

5. UNIT-BASED COMPENSATION

The board of directors of the general partner adopted the LTIP upon completion of the IPO. The LTIP is intended to promote the interests of the partnership, its general partner and affiliates by providing unit-based incentive compensation awards to employees, consultants and directors to encourage superior performance. The LTIP reserves 2,500,000 common limited partner units for issuance in the form of options, restricted units, phantom units, distribution equivalent rights, substitute awards, unit appreciation rights, unit awards, profit interest units or other unit-based awards. The partnership measures unit-based compensation grants at fair value on the grant date and records noncash compensation expense related to the awards over the requisite service period.

There was no change in the number of non-vested unit-based awards during the three months ended March 31, 2019.

Compensation costs related to the unit-based awards of \$79 thousand and \$60 thousand were recognized during the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively. As of March 31, 2019, there was \$79 thousand of unrecognized compensation costs from unit-based compensation awards.

6. PARTNERS' DEFICIT

Changes in partners' deficit are as follows (in thousands):

	Limited Partners		General Partner	Total
	Common Units- Public	Common Units- Green Plains		
Balance, December 31, 2018	\$ 115,352	\$ (186,635)	\$ (1,171)	\$ (72,454)
Quarterly cash distributions to unitholders (\$0.475 per unit)	(5,487)	(5,504)	(278)	(11,269)
Net income	5,014	5,029	205	10,248
Unit-based compensation, including general partner net contributions	79	-	-	79
Balance, March 31, 2019	\$ 114,958	\$ (187,110)	\$ (1,244)	\$ (73,396)

[Table of Contents](#)

	Limited Partners				General Partner	Total
	Common Units- Public	Common Units- Green Plains	Subordinated Units- Green Plains			
Balance, December 31, 2017	\$ 115,747	\$ (38,505)	\$ (139,376)	\$ (712)	\$ (62,846)	
Quarterly cash distributions to unitholders (\$0.470 per unit)	(5,420)	(2,063)	(7,468)	(355)	(15,306)	
Net income	4,751	1,808	6,546	267	13,372	
Unit-based compensation, including general partner net contributions	60	-	-	-	60	
Balance, March 31, 2018	\$ 115,138	\$ (38,760)	\$ (140,298)	\$ (800)	\$ (64,720)	

There was no change in the number of common limited partner units outstanding during the three months ended March 31, 2019.

Subordinated Unit Conversion

The requirements under the partnership agreement for the conversion of all of the outstanding subordinated units into common units were satisfied upon the payment of the distribution with respect to the quarter ended June 30, 2018. Accordingly, the subordination period ended on August 13, 2018, the first business day after the date of the distribution payment, and all of the 15,889,642 outstanding subordinated units were converted into common units on a one-for-one basis. The conversion of the subordinated units did not impact the amount of cash distributions paid or the total number of outstanding units.

Issuance of Additional Securities

The partnership agreement authorizes the partnership to issue unlimited additional partnership interests on the terms and conditions determined by the general partner without unitholder approval.

Cash Distribution Policy

Quarterly distributions are made from available cash within 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter. Available cash generally means, all cash and cash equivalents on hand at the end of that quarter less cash reserves established by the general partner plus all or any portion of the cash on hand resulting from working capital borrowings made subsequent to the end of that quarter.

The general partner also holds incentive distribution rights that entitles it to receive increasing percentages, up to 48%, of available cash distributed from operating surplus, as defined in the partnership agreement, in excess of \$0.46 per unit per quarter. The maximum distribution of 48% does not include any distributions the general partner or its affiliates may receive on its general partner interest, common units, or subordinated units.

On February 8, 2019, the partnership distributed \$11.3 million to unitholders of record as of February 1, 2019, related to the quarterly cash distribution of \$0.475 per unit that was declared on January 17, 2019, for the quarter ended December 31, 2018.

On April 18, 2019, the board of directors of the general partner declared a quarterly cash distribution of \$0.475 per unit, or approximately \$11.3 million, for the quarter ended March 31, 2019. The distribution is payable on May 10, 2019, to unitholders of record at the close of business on May 3, 2019.

[Table of Contents](#)

The total cash distributions declared for the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018, are as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2019	2018
General partner distributions	\$ 225	\$ 310
Incentive distributions	53	73
Total distributions to general partner	278	383
Limited partner common units - public	5,487	5,478
Limited partner common units - Green Plains	5,504	2,085
Limited partner subordinated units - Green Plains	-	7,547
Total distributions to limited partners	10,991	15,110
Total distributions declared	\$ 11,269	\$ 15,493

7. EARNINGS PER UNIT

The partnership computes earnings per unit using the two-class method. Earnings per unit applicable to common units, and to subordinated units prior to the expiration of the subordination period, is calculated by dividing the respective limited partners' interest in net income by the weighted average number of common and subordinated units outstanding during the period, adjusted for the dilutive effect of any outstanding dilutive securities. Diluted earnings per limited partner unit was the same as basic earnings per limited partner unit as there were no potentially dilutive common or subordinated units outstanding as of March 31, 2019. The following tables show the calculation of earnings per limited partner unit – basic and diluted (in thousands, except for per unit data):

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2019		
	Limited Partner Common Units	General Partner	Total
Net income:			
Distributions declared	\$ 10,991	\$ 278	\$ 11,269
Earnings less than distributions	(948)	(73)	(1,021)
Total net income	\$ 10,043	\$ 205	\$ 10,248
Weighted-average units outstanding - basic and diluted	23,119		
Earnings per limited partner unit - basic and diluted	\$ 0.43		

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2018			
	Limited Partner Common Units	Limited Partner Subordinated Units ⁽¹⁾	General Partner	Total
Net income:				
Distributions declared	\$ 7,563	\$ 7,547	\$ 383	\$ 15,493
Earnings less than distributions	(1,004)	(1,001)	(116)	(2,121)
Total net income	\$ 6,559	\$ 6,546	\$ 267	\$ 13,372
Weighted-average units outstanding - basic and diluted	15,922	15,890		
Earnings per limited partner unit - basic and diluted	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.41		

(1) The subordinated units converted to common units on a one-for-one basis in August 2018 (see Note 6 – Partners' Deficit).

8. INCOME TAXES

The partnership is a limited partnership, which is not subject to federal income taxes. The general partner and the unitholders are responsible for paying federal and state income taxes on their share of the partnership's taxable income. However, the partnership owns a subsidiary that is taxed as a corporation for federal and state income tax purposes. In addition, the partnership is subject to state income taxes in certain states. As a result, the financial statements reflect a provision or benefit for such income taxes.

The partnership recognizes uncertainties in income taxes based upon the technical merits of the position, and measures the maximum benefit and degree of likelihood to determine the tax liability in the financial statements.

9. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Adoption of ASC 842

On January 1, 2019, the partnership adopted the amended guidance in ASC 842, *Leases*, and all related amendments ("new lease standard") and applied it to all leases using the optional transition method which requires the amended guidance to be applied at the date of adoption. The standard does not require the guidance to be applied to the earliest comparative period presented in the financial statements. As such, comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under the accounting standards in effect for those periods. The new lease standard had a material impact on the partnership's consolidated balance sheets, increasing total assets and total liabilities by \$39.7 million upon adoption. It did not have a material impact on the consolidated statement of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2019.

The impact on the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2018 for the adoption of the new lease standard was as follows (in thousands):

	Balance at December 31, 2018 (audited)	Adjustments Due to ASC 842	Balance at January 1, 2019
Balance sheet			
Assets			
Operating lease right-of-use assets	\$ -	\$ 39,685	\$ 39,685
Liabilities			
Operating lease current liabilities	-	13,534	13,534
Deferred lease liabilities	843	(843)	-
Operating lease long-term liabilities	-	26,994	26,994

The partnership's leases do not specify an implicit interest rate. Therefore, the incremental borrowing rate was used based on information available at commencement date to determine the present value of future payments.

Practical Expedients

Under the new lease standard, companies may elect various practical expedients upon adoption. The partnership elected the package of practical expedients related to transition, which states that an entity need not reassess initial direct costs for existing leases, the lease classification for any expired or existing leases, and whether any expired or existing contracts are or contain leases.

The partnership elected to utilize a portfolio approach for lease classification, which allows for an entity to group together leases with similar characteristics provided that its application does not create a material difference when compared to accounting for the leases at a contract level. For the partnership's railcar leases, the partnership elected to combine the railcars within each contract rider and account for each contract rider as an individual lease.

The partnership also elected the practical expedient for lessees to include both the lease and non-lease components as a single component and account for them as a lease. Certain of the partnership's railcar agreements provide for maintenance costs to be the responsibility of the partnership as incurred or charged by the lessor. This maintenance cost is a non-lease component that the partnership elected to combine with the monthly rental payment and account for the total cost as operating lease expense. In addition, the partnership has a land lease that contains a non-lease component for the handling

[Table of Contents](#)

and unloading services the landlord provides. The partnership elected to combine the cost of services with the land lease cost and account for the total as operating lease expense.

The lessor practical expedient to combine both the lease and non-lease components and account for them as a lease was applied by class of underlying asset. The storage and throughput agreement consists of lease costs paid by Green Plains Trade for the rental of the terminal facilities as well as non-lease costs for the throughput services provided by the partnership. For this agreement, the partnership elected to combine the facility rental revenue and the service revenue and account for the total as leasing revenue. The railcar transportation services agreement consists of lease costs paid by Green Plains Trade for the use of the partnership's railcar assets as well as non-lease costs for logistical operations management and other services. For this agreement, the partnership elected to combine the railcar rental revenue and the service revenue and account for the total as leasing revenue.

A lessee may elect not to apply the recognition requirements in the new lease standard for short-term leases. Instead, the lease payments may be recognized into profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The partnership has elected to use this short-term lease exemption, and therefore will not record a lease liability or right-of-use asset for leases with a term of one year or less. The partnership did not incur any short-term lease expense for the three months ended March 31, 2019.

Operating Lease Expense

The partnership leases certain facilities, parcels of land, and railcars with remaining terms ranging from less than one year to approximately 12.6 years, including renewal options reasonably certain to be exercised for the land and facility leases. Railcar agreement renewals are not considered reasonably certain to be exercised as they typically renew with significantly different underlying terms.

The partnership may sublease certain of its railcars to third parties on a short-term basis. These subleases are classified as operating leases, with the associated sublease revenue recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The components of lease expense are as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2019
Lease expense	
Operating lease expense	\$ 4,209
Variable lease expense ⁽¹⁾	122
Total lease expense	<u>\$ 4,331</u>

(1) Represents amounts incurred in excess of the minimum payments required for the handling and unloading of railcars for a certain land lease, offset by railcar lease abatements provided by the lessor when railcars are out of service during periods of maintenance or upgrade.

Supplemental cash flow information related to operating leases is as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2019
Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of lease liabilities:	
Operating cash flows from operating leases	\$ 4,091

Supplemental balance sheet information related to operating leases is as follows:

	March 31, 2019
Weighted average remaining lease term	4.3 years
Weighted average discount rate	5.21%

[Table of Contents](#)

Aggregate minimum lease payments under the operating lease agreements for the remainder of 2019 and in future years are as follows (in thousands):

Year Ending December 31,	Amount
2019	\$ 10,892
2020	12,315
2021	6,803
2022	5,183
2023	1,587
Thereafter	4,794
Total	\$ 41,574
Less: Present value discount	(4,630)
Operating lease liabilities	\$ 36,944

The partnership has additional railcar operating leases that will commence in the second quarter of 2019 to replace expiring leases, with estimated future minimum lease commitments of approximately \$6.7 million and lease terms of five years. The undiscounted amounts are not included in the tables above.

Aggregate minimum lease payments remaining under the operating lease agreements as of December 31, 2018 are as follows (in thousands):

Year Ending December 31,	Amount
2019	\$ 14,180
2020	11,843
2021	6,842
2022	4,758
2023	1,164
Thereafter	4,028
Total	\$ 42,815

Lease Revenue

The components of lease revenue are as follows (in thousands):

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2019
Lease revenue	
Operating lease revenue	\$ 17,334
Variable lease revenue ⁽¹⁾	68
Sublease revenue	224
Total lease revenue	\$ 17,626

(1) Represents amounts delivered by Green Plains Trade and other customers in excess of various minimum volume commitments, as well as the difference between the contracted railcar volumetric capacity and the actual amount provided to Green Plains Trade during the period.

[Table of Contents](#)

In accordance with the amended storage and throughput agreement, Green Plains Trade is obligated to deliver a minimum volume of 235.7 mmg per calendar quarter to the partnership's storage facilities and pay \$0.05 per gallon on all volume it throughputs associated with the agreement. While this agreement contains a provision stating that the rate could potentially increase above the \$0.05 per gallon on the sixth anniversary of the effective date, the potential increase would be based on a percentage change in the Bureau of Labor Producer Price Index, which cannot be predicted at this time. The remaining lease term for this agreement is approximately 9.3 years, with automatic one-year renewal periods in which either party has the right to terminate the contract. Due to the unilateral right to termination during the renewal period, the lease contract would no longer contain enforceable rights or obligations. Therefore, the lease term does not include the successive one-year renewal periods. Anticipated minimum operating lease revenue under this agreement assuming a consistent rate of \$0.05 per gallon for the remainder of 2019 and in future years is as follows (in thousands):

Year Ending December 31,	Amount
2019	\$ 35,355
2020	47,140
2021	47,140
2022	47,140
2023	47,140
Thereafter	212,130
Total	\$ 436,045

In accordance with the amended rail transportation services agreement with Green Plains Trade, Green Plains Trade is required to pay the rail transportation services fee for railcar volumetric capacity provided by the partnership. The remaining lease term for this agreement is approximately 6.3 years, with automatic one-year renewal periods in which either party has the right to terminate the contract. Due to the unilateral right to termination during the renewal period, the lease contract would no longer contain enforceable rights or obligations. Therefore, the lease term does not include the successive one-year renewal periods. Under the terms of the agreement, Green Plains Trade is not required to pay for volumetric capacity that is not available due to inspections, upgrades, or routine repairs and maintenance. As a result, the actual volumetric capacity billed may be reduced based on the amount of volumetric capacity available for use during any applicable period. Anticipated minimum operating lease revenue under this agreement for the remainder of 2019 and in future years is as follows (in thousands):

Year Ending December 31,	Amount
2019	\$ 14,252
2020	17,255
2021	9,983
2022	7,417
2023	1,109
Thereafter	-
Total	\$ 50,016

The partnership provides terminal services and logistics solutions to certain customers under various terminal service agreements, some of which have minimum volume commitments. At terminals where a customer is predominantly provided exclusive use of the terminal or tank storage assets, the partnership is considered a lessor as part of an operating lease agreement. Revenue is recognized over the term of the lease based on the minimum volume commitment, or total actual throughput if in excess of the minimum volume commitment. The remaining lease terms for these agreements range from less than one year to approximately 6.4 years, some of which contain renewal options reasonably certain to be exercised. Minimum operating lease revenue for these terminals for the remainder of 2019 and in future years is as follows (in thousands):

Year Ending December 31,	Amount
2019	\$ 106
2020	74
2021	74
2022	74
2023	74
Thereafter	123
Total	\$ 525

[Table of Contents](#)

Other Commitments and Contingencies

The partnership has agreements for contracted services with certain vendors that require the partnership to pay minimum monthly amounts, which expire on various dates. These agreements do not contain an identified asset and therefore are not considered operating leases. The partnership satisfied the minimum commitments under these agreements during the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018. Aggregate minimum payments under these agreements for the remainder of 2019 and in future years are as follows (in thousands):

Year Ending December 31,	Amount
2019	\$ 498
2020	153
2021	157
2022	156
2023	-
Thereafter	-
Total	\$ 964

Legal

The partnership may be involved in litigation that arises during the ordinary course of business. The partnership is not currently party to any material litigation.

10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The partnership engages in various related party transactions with Green Plains and subsidiaries of Green Plains. Green Plains provides a variety of shared services to the partnership, including general management, accounting and finance, payroll and human resources, information technology, legal, communications and treasury activities. These costs are proportionally allocated by Green Plains to its subsidiaries based on common financial metrics management believes are reasonable. The partnership recorded expenses related to these shared services of \$0.9 million and \$1.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively. In addition, the partnership reimburses Green Plains for wages and benefit costs of employees directly performing services on its behalf. Green Plains may also pay certain direct costs on behalf of the partnership, which are reimbursed by the partnership. The partnership believes the consolidated financial statements reflect all material costs of doing business related to its operations, including expenses incurred by other entities on its behalf.

Omnibus Agreement

The partnership has entered into an omnibus agreement, as amended, with Green Plains and its affiliates which, among other terms and conditions, addresses the partnership's obligation to reimburse Green Plains for direct or allocated costs and expenses incurred by Green Plains for general and administrative services; the prohibition of Green Plains and its subsidiaries from owning, operating or investing in any business that owns or operates fuel terminals or fuel transportation assets; the partnership's right of first offer to acquire assets if Green Plains decides to sell them; a nontransferable, nonexclusive, royalty-free license to use the Green Plains trademark and name; the allocation of taxes among the parent, the partnership and its affiliates and the parent's preparation and filing of tax returns; and an indemnity by Green Plains for environmental and other liabilities.

If Green Plains or its affiliates cease to control the general partner, then either Green Plains or the partnership may terminate the omnibus agreement, provided that (i) the indemnification obligations of the parties survive according to their respective terms; and (ii) Green Plains' obligation to reimburse the partnership for operational failures survives according to its terms.

[Table of Contents](#)

Operating Services and Secondment Agreement

The general partner has entered into an operational services and secondment agreement, as amended, with Green Plains. Under the terms of the agreement, Green Plains seconded employees to the general partner to provide management, maintenance and operational functions for the partnership, including regulatory matters, health, environment, safety and security programs, operational services, emergency response, employee training, finance and administration, human resources, business operations and planning. The seconded personnel are under the direct management and supervision of the general partner who reimburses the parent for the cost of the seconded employees, including wages and benefits. If a seconded employee does not devote 100% of his or her time providing services to the general partner, the general partner reimburses the parent for a prorated portion of the employee's overall wages and benefits based on the percentage of time the employee spent working for the general partner.

Under the operational services and secondment agreement, Green Plains will indemnify the partnership from any claims, losses or liabilities incurred by the partnership, including third-party claims, arising from their performance of the operational services secondment agreement; provided, however, that Green Plains will not be obligated to indemnify the partnership for any claims, losses or liabilities arising out of the partnership's gross negligence, willful misconduct or bad faith with respect to any services provided under the operational services and secondment agreement.

Commercial Agreements

The partnership has various fee-based commercial agreements with Green Plains Trade, including:

- 10-year storage and throughput agreement, expiring on June 30, 2028;
- 10-year rail transportation services agreement, expiring on June 30, 2025;
- 1-year trucking transportation agreement, expiring on May 31, 2019;
- Terminal services agreement for the Birmingham, Alabama unit train terminal, expiring December 31, 2019; and
- Various other terminal services agreements for other fuel terminal facilities, each with Green Plains Trade.

The storage and throughput, rail transportation services, and trucking transportation agreements have various automatic renewal terms if not cancelled by either party within specified timeframes. Please refer to *Item 15 – Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedule* in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018, for further details.

The storage and throughput agreement and terminal services agreements are supported by minimum volume commitments. The rail transportation services agreement is supported by minimum take-or-pay volumetric capacity commitments.

Under the storage and throughput agreement, as amended, Green Plains Trade is obligated to deliver a minimum volume of 235.7 mmg of product per calendar quarter to the partnership's storage facilities and pay \$0.05 per gallon on all volume it throughputs. If Green Plains Trade fails to meet its minimum volume commitment during any quarter, Green Plains Trade will pay the partnership a deficiency payment equal to the deficient volume multiplied by the applicable fee. The deficiency payment may be applied as a credit toward volumes delivered by Green Plains Trade in excess of the minimum volume commitment during the following four quarters, after which time any unused credits will expire. The partnership charged Green Plains Trade a deficiency payment in the amount of \$4.0 million related to the minimum volume commitment for the three months ended March 31, 2019. The cumulative minimum volume deficiency credits available to Green Plains Trade as of March 31, 2019 totaled \$7.0 million, of which \$3.0 million will expire if unused by the end of the fourth quarter of 2019, and \$4.0 million will expire if unused by the end of the first quarter of 2020.

Under the rail transportation services agreement, Green Plains Trade is obligated to use the partnership to transport ethanol and other fuels from receipt points identified by Green Plains Trade to nominated delivery points. The average daily railcar volumetric capacity provided by the partnership was 83.4 mmg and 99.2 mmg, respectively, and the associated monthly fee was approximately \$0.0216 and \$0.0252 per gallon, respectively, during the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018. The partnership's leased railcar fleet consisted of approximately 2,840 and 3,500 railcars as of March 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

[Table of Contents](#)

Green Plains Trade is also obligated to use the partnership for logistical operations management and other services related to average daily railcar volumetric capacity provided by Green Plains Trade, which was approximately 3.6 mmg and 6.6 mmg for the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively. Green Plains Trade is obligated to pay a monthly fee of approximately \$0.0013 per gallon for these services. In addition, Green Plains Trade reimburses the partnership for costs related to: (1) railcar switching and unloading fees; (2) increased costs related to changes in law or governmental regulation related to the specification, operation or maintenance of railcars; (3) demurrage charges, except when the charges are due to the partnership's gross negligence or willful misconduct; and (4) fees related to rail transportation services under transportation contracts with third-party common carriers. Green Plains Trade frequently contracts with the partnership for additional railcar volumetric capacity during the normal course of business at comparable margins.

Under the trucking transportation agreement, Green Plains Trade pays the partnership to transport ethanol and other fuels by truck from identified receipt points to various delivery points. Green Plains Trade is obligated to pay a monthly trucking transportation services fee equal to the aggregate volume transported in a calendar month by the partnership's trucks, multiplied by the applicable rate for each truck lane. A truck lane is defined as a specific and routine route of travel between a point of origin and point of destination. Rates for each truck lane are negotiated based on product, location, mileage and other factors. Green Plains Trade reimburses the partnership for costs related to: (1) truck switching and unloading fees; (2) increased costs related to changes in law or governmental regulation related to the specification, operation and maintenance of trucks; and (3) fees related to trucking transportation services under transportation contracts with third-party common carriers.

Under the Birmingham terminal services agreement, effective January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2019, Green Plains Trade is obligated to throughput a minimum volume commitment of approximately 2.8 mmg per month and pay associated throughput fees, as well as fees for ancillary services.

The partnership recorded revenues from Green Plains Trade under the storage and throughput agreement and rail transportation services agreement of \$17.2 million and \$22.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively. The partnership recorded revenues from Green Plains Trade and other Green Plains subsidiaries related to trucking and terminal services of \$1.6 million and \$2.2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

Cash Distributions

The partnership distributed \$5.8 million and \$9.9 million to Green Plains related to the quarterly cash distribution paid for the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

Equity Method Investment

The partnership entered into a project management agreement with NLR Energy Logistics LLC, effective June 23, 2017, in which NLR provided the partnership a fixed monthly fee to coordinate and manage the development, design, and construction of the Little Rock, Arkansas unit train terminal. Construction of the terminal was completed during the first quarter of 2018. The partnership recognized no income related to the project management agreement during the three months ended March 31, 2019, and \$75 thousand of other income during the three months ended March 31, 2018. In addition, the partnership has recorded a receivable of \$51 thousand for various expenses to be reimbursed by NLR as of March 31, 2019.

Other Related Party Revenues and Expenses

The partnership incurs expenses charged by a subsidiary of the parent for cleaning of its storage tanks. There were no tank cleaning expenses incurred for the three months ended March 31, 2019. The partnership incurred tank cleaning expense of \$10 thousand for the three months ended March 31, 2018.

11. EQUITY METHOD INVESTMENT

NLR Energy Logistics LLC

The partnership and Delek Renewables LLC have a 50/50 joint venture, NLR Energy Logistics LLC, which operates a unit train terminal in the Little Rock, Arkansas area with capacity to unload 110-car unit trains and provide approximately 100,000 barrels of storage. Operations commenced at the beginning of the second quarter of 2018, and the first unit train was received in July 2018. As of March 31, 2019, the partnership's investment balance in the joint venture was \$3.9 million.

The partnership does not consolidate any part of the assets or liabilities or operating results of its equity method investee. The partnership's share of net income or loss in the investee increases or decreases, as applicable, the carrying value of the investment. With respect to NLR, the partnership determined that this entity does not represent a variable interest entity and consolidation is not required. In addition, although the partnership has the ability to exercise significant influence over the joint venture through board representation and voting rights, all significant decisions require the consent of the other investor without regard to economic interest.

Summarized Financial Information

The partnership reports its proportional share of equity method investee income (loss) on a one-month lag in the consolidated statements of operations. The following table presents combined summarized statement of operations data of our equity method investee for the three months ended February 28, 2019 and 2018 (amounts represent 100% of investee financial information in thousands, unaudited):

	Three Months Ended	
	February 28,	
	2019	2018
Total revenues	\$ 816	\$ -
Total operating expenses	387	26
Net income (loss)	\$ 429	\$ (26)

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

The following discussion and analysis provides information we believe is relevant to understand our consolidated financial condition and results of operations. This discussion should be read in conjunction with our unaudited consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes contained in this report together with our 2018 annual report. The results of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2019, are not necessarily indicative of the results we expect for the full year.

Cautionary Information Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Forward-looking statements are made in accordance with safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on current expectations that involve a number of risks and uncertainties and do not relate strictly to historical or current facts, but rather to plans and objectives for future operations. These statements may be identified by words such as "anticipate," "believe," "continue," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "outlook," "plan," "predict," "may," "could," "should," "will" and similar expressions, as well as statements regarding future operating or financial performance or guidance, business strategy, environment, key trends and benefits of actual or planned acquisitions.

Factors that could cause actual results to differ from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements include those discussed in Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors," of our 2018 annual report or incorporated by reference. Specifically, we may experience fluctuations in future operating results due to changes in general economic, market or business conditions; foreign imports of ethanol; fluctuations in demand for ethanol and other fuels; risks of accidents or other unscheduled shutdowns affecting our assets, including mechanical breakdown of equipment or infrastructure; risks associated with changes to federal policy or regulation; ability to comply with changing government usage mandates and regulations affecting the ethanol industry; price, availability and acceptance of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, and laws mandating such fuels or vehicles; changes in operational costs at our facilities and for our railcars; failure to realize the benefits projected for capital projects; competition; inability to successfully implement growth strategies; the supply of corn and other feedstocks; unusual or severe weather conditions and natural disasters; ability and willingness of parties with whom we have material relationships, including Green Plains Trade, to fulfill their obligations; labor and material shortages; changes in the availability of unsecured credit and changes affecting the credit markets in general; risks related to acquisition and disposition activities; and other risk factors detailed in our reports filed with the SEC.

We believe our expectations regarding future events are based on reasonable assumptions. However, these assumptions may not be accurate or account for all risks and uncertainties. Consequently, forward-looking statements are not guaranteed. Actual results may vary materially from those expressed or implied in our forward-looking statements. In addition, we are not obligated nor do we intend to update our forward-looking statements as a result of new information unless it is required by applicable securities laws. We caution investors not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which represent management's views as of the date of this report or documents incorporated by reference.

Overview

Green Plains Partners provides fuel storage and transportation services by owning, operating, developing and acquiring ethanol and fuel storage tanks, terminals, transportation assets and other related assets and businesses. We are Green Plains' primary downstream logistics provider and generate a substantial portion of our revenues under fee-based commercial agreements with Green Plains Trade for receiving, storing, transferring and transporting ethanol and other fuels, which are supported by minimum volume or take-or-pay capacity commitments.

Results of Operations

During the first quarter of 2019, our parent continued to adjust ethanol production in response to the weaker margin environment. In addition, overall performance at our parent's ethanol plants was negatively impacted by flooding during the quarter, with the largest impact on the ability to transport products. Our parent's average utilization rate was approximately 56.0% of capacity, resulting in ethanol production of 155.0 mmg, compared with the contracted minimum volume commitment of 235.7 mmg per quarter. As a result, we charged Green Plains Trade a deficiency payment in the amount of \$4.0 million related to the minimum volume commitment for the three months ended March 31, 2019.

[Table of Contents](#)*Adjusted EBITDA and Distributable Cash Flow*

Adjusted EBITDA is defined as earnings before interest expense, income tax expense, depreciation and amortization excluding the amortization of right-of-use assets and debt issuance costs, plus adjustments for transaction costs related to acquisitions or financing transactions, minimum volume commitment deficiency payments, unit-based compensation expense, net gains or losses on asset sales, and our proportional share of EBITDA adjustments of our equity method investee.

Distributable cash flow is defined as adjusted EBITDA less interest paid or payable, income taxes paid or payable, maintenance capital expenditures, which are defined under our partnership agreement as cash expenditures (including expenditures for the construction or development of new capital assets or the replacement, improvement or expansion of existing capital assets) made to maintain our operating capacity or operating income, and our proportional share of distributable cash flow adjustments of our equity method investee.

Adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow are supplemental financial measures that we use to assess our financial performance. We believe their presentation provides useful information to investors in assessing our financial condition and results of operations. However, these presentations are not made in accordance with GAAP. The GAAP measure most directly comparable to adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow is net income. Since adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow may be defined differently by other companies in our industry, our definitions of adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies, diminishing their utility. Adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow should not be considered in isolation or as alternatives to net income or any other measure of financial performance presented in accordance with GAAP to analyze our financial performance and operating results.

The following table presents reconciliations of net income to adjusted EBITDA and to distributable cash flow, for the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018 (unaudited, dollars in thousands):

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2019	2018
Reconciliations to Non-GAAP Financial Measures:		
Net income	\$ 10,248	\$ 13,372
Interest expense	2,055	1,571
Income tax expense	52	32
Depreciation and amortization	985	1,181
MVC adjustments ⁽¹⁾	-	747
Transaction costs	-	135
Unit-based compensation expense	79	60
Proportional share of EBITDA adjustments of equity method investee ⁽²⁾	66	-
Adjusted EBITDA	13,485	17,098
Interest paid or payable	(2,055)	(1,571)
Income taxes paid or payable	(53)	(32)
Maintenance capital expenditures	-	(15)
Distributable cash flow	\$ 11,377	\$ 15,480
Distributions declared ⁽³⁾	\$ 11,269	\$ 15,493
Coverage ratio	1.01x	1.00x

(1) Adjustments related to the storage and throughput quarterly minimum volume commitments.

(2) Represents our proportional share of depreciation and amortization, interest expense, and income tax expense of our equity method investee.

(3) Distributions declared for the applicable period and paid in the subsequent quarter.

[Table of Contents](#)

Selected Financial Information and Operating Data

The following discussion reflects the results of the partnership for the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018.

Selected financial information for the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018, is as follows (unaudited, in thousands):

	Three Months Ended		
	March 31,		
	2019	2018	% Var.
Revenues			
Storage and throughput services	\$ 11,785	\$ 14,642	(19.5)%
Railcar transportation services	5,619	7,469	(24.8)
Terminal services	2,788	2,691	3.6
Trucking and other	895	1,083	(17.4)
Total revenues	<u>21,087</u>	<u>25,885</u>	(18.5)
Operating expenses			
Operations and maintenance (excluding depreciation and amortization reflected below)	6,865	8,410	(18.4)
General and administrative	1,117	1,401	(20.3)
Depreciation and amortization	985	1,181	(16.6)
Total operating expenses	<u>8,967</u>	<u>10,992</u>	(18.4)
Operating income	<u>\$ 12,120</u>	<u>\$ 14,893</u>	(18.6)%

Selected operating data for the three months ended March 31, 2019 and 2018, is as follows (unaudited):

	Three Months Ended		
	March 31,		
	2019	2018	% Var.
Product volumes (mmg)			
Storage and throughput services	155.7	298.3	(47.8)%
Terminal services:			
Affiliate	24.8	29.6	(16.2)
Non-affiliate	25.6	32.1	(20.2)
	<u>50.4</u>	<u>61.7</u>	(18.3)
Railcar capacity billed (daily avg.)	83.4	99.2	(15.9)

Three Months Ended March 31, 2019, Compared with the Three Months Ended March 31, 2018

Consolidated revenues decreased \$4.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2019, compared with the same period for 2018. Storage and throughput revenue decreased \$2.9 million primarily due to a decrease in throughput volumes as a result of our parent's sale of the Bluffton, Indiana, Lakota, Iowa, and Riga, Michigan ethanol plants in the fourth quarter of 2018, and lower utilization rates across the remaining platform. Revenues generated from rail transportation services decreased \$1.8 million primarily due to the reduction in volumetric capacity provided as a result of the assignment of railcar operating leases to Valero in the fourth quarter of 2018. Trucking and other revenue decreased \$0.2 million primarily due to a reduction in volumes transported for Green Plains Trade. Terminal services revenue remained relatively consistent as a result of non-affiliate minimum volume commitments.

Operations and maintenance expenses decreased \$1.5 million for the three months ended March 31, 2019, compared with the same period for 2018, primarily due to lower railcar lease expense as a result of the assignment of railcar leases to Valero in the fourth quarter of 2018, as well as lower unloading fees on less volume at our terminals.

General and administrative expenses decreased \$0.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2019, compared with the same period for 2018, primarily due to a reduction in accounting and transaction fees.

[Table of Contents](#)

Distributable cash flow decreased \$4.1 million for the three months ended March 31, 2019, compared with the same period for 2018 primarily due to lower net income as a result of the sale of our parent's Bluffton, Indiana, Lakota, Iowa, and Riga, Michigan ethanol plants in the fourth quarter of 2018. Interest expense increased by \$0.5 million primarily due to higher average interest rates.

Industry Factors Affecting our Results of Operations

U.S. Ethanol Supply and Demand

According to the EIA, domestic ethanol production averaged 1.01 million barrels per day during the first quarter of 2019, which was 3% lower than the 1.04 million barrels for the first quarter of last year. Refiner and blender input volume increased 1% to 886 thousand barrels per day for the first quarter of 2019, compared with 875 thousand barrels per day for the same quarter last year. Gasoline demand for the first quarter of 2019 decreased 62 thousand barrels per day, or 1% compared to the same quarter last year. U.S. domestic ethanol ending stocks increased by approximately 1.6 million barrels, or 7%, to 24.0 million barrels for the first quarter of 2019. As of May 1, 2019, there were approximately 1,780 retail stations selling E15 in 31 states, up from 1,700 at the beginning of the year, according to Growth Energy.

Global Ethanol Supply and Demand

According to the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service, domestic ethanol exports for 2018 were approximately 1.70 bgy, up 25% from 1.37 bgy for 2017. Brazil remained the largest export destination for U.S. ethanol, which accounted for 30% of domestic ethanol export volume despite the 20% tariff on U.S. ethanol imports in excess of 150 million liters, or 39.6 million gallons per quarter, imposed in September 2017 by Brazil's Chamber of Foreign Trade, or CAMEX. Canada, India and South Korea accounted for 20%, 9% and 5%, respectively, of U.S. ethanol exports.

On April 1, 2018, China announced it would add an additional 15% tariff to the existing 30% tariff it had earlier imposed on ethanol imports from the United States and Brazil. China later raised the tariff further to 70% as the trade war escalated. In April 2019, the Trump administration announced a potential meeting with Chinese President Xi in May of 2019 to complete the trade agreement between the U.S. and China.

The cost to produce the equivalent amount of starch found in sugar from \$3.50-per-bushel corn is 7 cents per pound. The average price of sugar remained at approximately 13 cents per pound during the first quarter of 2019. We currently estimate that net ethanol exports will reach between 1.6 billion gallons and 1.7 billion gallons in 2019 based on historical demand from a variety of countries and certain countries who seek to improve their air quality and eliminate MTBE from their own fuel supplies.

Legislation and Regulation

We are sensitive to government programs and policies that affect the supply and demand for ethanol and other fuels, which in turn may impact the volume of ethanol and other fuels we handle. This Congress may consider legislation that would impact the RFS. Various bills have been discussed in the House and Senate which would eliminate the RFS entirely, eliminate the corn based ethanol portion of the mandate, or make it more difficult to sell fuel blends with higher levels of ethanol. However, we believe it is unlikely these bills will be passed in a divided Congress.

Federal mandates supporting the use of renewable fuels are a significant driver of ethanol demand in the U.S. Ethanol policies are influenced by environmental concerns, diversifying our fuel supply, and an interest in reducing the country's dependence on foreign oil. Consumer acceptance of flex-fuel vehicles and higher ethanol blends of ethanol in non-flex-fuel vehicles may be necessary before ethanol can achieve significant growth in U.S. market share. CAFE, which was first enacted by Congress in 1975 to reduce energy consumption by increasing the fuel economy of cars and light trucks, provides a 54% efficiency bonus to flexible-fuel vehicles running on E85. Another important factor is a waiver in the Clean Air Act, known as the One-Pound Waiver, which allows E10 to be sold year-round, even though it exceeds the Reid Vapor Pressure limitation of nine pounds per square inch. In proposed rule-making, the EPA has proposed to extend the One-Pound Waiver to E15 so its sale can expand beyond flex-fuel vehicles during the June 1 to September 15 summer driving season.

The EPA accepted comments on its proposed rule until April 29, 2019, and is working to finalize the rule consistent with the U.S. President's stated goal of having a final rule out before the start of summer driving season on June 1, 2019. Any final rule from the agency is susceptible to legal challenges. The proposed rule also contains certain RIN reform changes that could reduce RIN values and subsequently reduce incentives for higher ethanol blends, including E15.

[Table of Contents](#)

When the RFS II was passed in 2007 and rulemaking finalized in October 2010, the required volume of conventional renewable fuel to be blended with gasoline was to increase each year until it reached 15.0 billion gallons in 2015. In November 2018, the EPA announced it would maintain the 15.0 billion gallon mandate for conventional ethanol in 2019.

The EPA has the authority to waive the mandates in whole or in part if there is inadequate domestic renewable fuel supply or the requirement severely harms the economy or environment. According to the RFS II, if mandatory renewable fuel volumes are reduced by at least 20% for two consecutive years, the EPA is required to modify, or reset, statutory volumes through 2022. While conventional ethanol maintained 15 billion gallons, 2019 is the second year that the total proposed RVOs are more than 20% below statutory volumes levels. Thus, the EPA Administrator has directed his staff to initiate a reset rulemaking, wherein the EPA will modify statutory volumes through 2022, based on the same factors used to set the RVOs post-2022. These factors include environmental impact, domestic energy security, expected production, infrastructure impact, consumer costs, job creation, price of agricultural commodities, food prices, and rural economic development.

The EPA assigns individual refiners, blenders, and importers the volume of renewable fuels they are obligated to use based on their percentage of total domestic transportation fuel sales. Obligated parties use RINs to show compliance with RFS-mandated volumes. RINs are attached to renewable fuels by ethanol producers, like our parent, and detached when the renewable fuel is blended with transportation fuel or traded in the open market. The market price of detached RINs affects the price of ethanol in certain markets and influences the purchasing decisions by obligated parties.

The EPA can, in consultation with the Department of Energy, waive the obligation for individual refineries that are suffering “disproportionate economic hardship” due to compliance with the RFS. To qualify, the refineries must be under total throughput of 75,000 barrels per day and state their case for an exemption in an application to the EPA each year.

The Trump administration waived the obligation for 19 of 20 applicants for compliance year 2016, totaling 790 million gallons, and 35 of 37 for compliance year 2017, totaling 1.82 billion gallons. This effectively reduces the annual RVO by that amount, since the waived gallons are not reallocated to other obligated parties at this time. The resulting surplus of RINs in the market has brought values down significantly to under \$0.20. Since higher RIN values help to make higher blends of ethanol more cost effective, lower RIN values could negatively impact retailer and consumer adoption of E15 and higher blends. There are 39 waiver applications pending for compliance year 2018.

Biofuels groups have filed a lawsuit in the U.S. Federal District Court for the D.C. Circuit, challenging the 2019 RVO rule over the EPA’s failure to address small refinery exemptions in the rulemaking. This is the first RFS rulemaking since the expanded use of the exemptions came to light, however the EPA has refused to cap the number of waivers it grants or how it accounts for the retroactive waivers in its percentage standard calculations. The EPA has a statutory mandate to ensure the volume requirements are met, which are achieved by setting the percentage standards for obligated parties. The current approach accomplishes the opposite. Even if all the obligated parties comply with their respective percentage obligations for 2019, the nation’s overall supply of renewable fuel will not meet the total volume requirements set by the EPA. We believe this undermines Congressional intent of demand pressure creation and an increased consumption of renewable fuels. Biofuels groups argue the EPA must therefore adjust its percentage standard calculations to make up for past retroactive waivers and adjust the standards to account for any waivers it reasonably expects to grant in the future.

In another case on July 28, 2017, the U.S. Federal District Court for the D.C. Circuit ruled in favor of the Americans for Clean Energy and its petitioners against the EPA related to its decision to lower the 2016 volume requirements. The Court concluded the EPA erred in how it interpreted the “inadequate domestic supply” waiver provision of RFS II, which authorizes the EPA to consider supply-side factors affecting the volume of renewable fuel available to refiners, blenders and importers to meet statutory volume requirements. The waiver provision does not allow the EPA to consider the volume of renewable fuel available to consumers or the demand-side constraints that affect the consumption of renewable fuel by consumers. As a result, the Court vacated the EPA’s decision to reduce the total renewable fuel volume requirements for 2016 through its waiver authority, which the EPA is expected to address. We believe this decision to confine the EPA’s waiver analysis to supply considerations benefits the industry overall and expect the primary impact will be on the RINs market. The EPA has not yet accounted for the 500 million gallons that the Court in the Americans for Clean Energy case directed, though they have indicated they will include it in the reset rulemaking or the 2020 RVOs.

[Table of Contents](#)

Government actions abroad can significantly impact the demand for U.S. ethanol. In September 2017, China's National Development and Reform Commission, the National Energy Board and 15 other state departments issued a joint plan to expand the use and production of biofuels containing up to 10% ethanol by 2020. China, the number three importer of U.S. ethanol in 2016, imported negligible volumes during fiscal year 2018 due to a 30% tariff, which increased to 70% in early 2018, imposed on the U.S. There is no assurance that China's joint plan will lead to increased imports of U.S. ethanol. Our exports also face tariffs, rate quotas, countervailing duties, and other hurdles in Brazil, the European Union, India, Peru, and elsewhere, which limits our ability to compete in some markets.

In Brazil, the Secretary of Foreign Trade issued an official written resolution, imposing a 20% tariff on U.S. ethanol imports in excess of 150 million liters, or 39.6 million gallons per quarter in September 2017. The ruling is valid for two years, and is set to expire at the end of August 2019. In June 2017, the Energy Regulatory Commission of Mexico (CRE) approved the use of 10% ethanol blends, which was challenged by nine lawsuits. Four cases were dismissed. The five remaining cases follow one of two tracks: 1) to determine the constitutionality of the CRE regulation, or 2) to determine the benefits, or lack thereof, of introducing E10 to Mexico. An injunction was granted in October 2017, preventing the blending and selling of E10, but was overturned by a higher court in June 2018 making it legal to blend and sell E10 by PEMEX throughout Mexico except for its three largest metropolitan areas. U.S. ethanol exports to Mexico totaled 29.4 mmg in 2018.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our principal sources of liquidity include cash generated from operating activities and borrowings under our revolving credit facility. We consider opportunities to repay, redeem, repurchase or refinance our debt, depending on market conditions, as part of our normal course of doing business. Our ability to meet our debt service obligations and other capital requirements depends on our future operating performance, which is subject to general economic, financial, business, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other conditions, many of which are beyond our control. We plan to fund future expansion capital expenditures primarily from external sources, including borrowings under our revolving credit facility and issuances of debt and equity securities. We expect these sources will be adequate for both our short-term and long-term liquidity needs.

At March 31, 2019, we had \$0.3 million of cash and cash equivalents and \$65.0 million available under our revolving credit facility.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$10.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2019, compared with \$14.7 million for the three months ended March 31, 2018. The decrease in cash flows from operating activities resulted primarily from a decrease in net income of \$3.1 million as a result of the sale of the storage assets and the assignment of railcar operating leases associated with the Bluffton, Indiana, Lakota, Iowa, and Riga, Michigan ethanol plants in the fourth quarter of 2018. There was no cash used in investing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2019, compared to \$1.2 million utilized for the expansion of our truck and tanker fleet during the three months ended March 31, 2018. Net cash used in financing activities was \$10.3 million for the three months ended March 31, 2019, compared with \$13.4 million for the three months ended March 31, 2018. The decrease in cash used in financing activities was due to a \$4.0 million reduction in cash distributions as a result of the retirement of shares in the fourth quarter of 2018, partially offset by a \$1.1 million decrease in net borrowings.

We did not incur any capital expenditures for the three months ended March 31, 2019, and we do not anticipate significant capital spending for the remainder of 2019.

We did not make any equity method investee contributions related to the NLR joint venture for the three months ended March 31, 2019, and we do not anticipate making significant equity contributions to NLR for the remainder of 2019.

Revolving Credit Facility

Green Plains Operating Company has a \$200.0 million secured revolving credit facility, which matures on July 1, 2020, to fund working capital, acquisitions, distributions, capital expenditures and other general partnership purposes. The facility can be increased by up to \$20.0 million without the consent of the lenders. At March 31, 2019, the outstanding principal balance was \$135.0 million with an average interest rate of 5.51%.

We use LIBOR as a reference rate for our revolving credit facility. LIBOR is set to be phased out at the end of 2021. At this time, it is not possible to predict the effect of this change or the alternative reference rate to be used. We will need to renegotiate our credit facility to determine the interest rate to replace LIBOR with the new standard that is established. The potential effect of any such event on interest expense cannot yet be determined.

[Table of Contents](#)

For more information related to our debt, see *Note 3 – Debt* to the consolidated financial statements in this report.

Distributions to Unitholders

On February 8, 2019, the partnership distributed \$11.3 million to unitholders of record as of February 1, 2019, related to the quarterly cash distribution of \$0.475 per unit that was declared on January 17, 2019, for the quarter ended December 31, 2018.

On April 18, 2019, the board of directors of the general partner declared a quarterly cash distribution of \$0.475 per unit, or approximately \$11.3 million, for the quarter ended March 31, 2019. The distribution is payable on May 10, 2019, to unitholders of record at the close of business on May 3, 2019.

Contractual Obligations

Our contractual obligations as of March 31, 2019, were as follows (in thousands):

Contractual Obligations	Payments Due By Period				
	Total	Less Than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	More Than 5 Years
Long-term debt obligations ⁽¹⁾	\$ 143,100	\$ -	\$ 136,505	\$ 1,366	\$ 5,229
Interest and fees on debt obligations ⁽²⁾	10,390	7,870	2,124	148	248
Operating leases ⁽³⁾	41,574	13,929	17,422	5,513	4,710
Service agreements ⁽⁴⁾	964	651	313	-	-
Other ⁽⁵⁾	4,525	642	1,061	1,739	1,083
Total contractual obligations	\$ 200,553	\$ 23,092	\$ 157,425	\$ 8,766	\$ 11,270

(1) Includes the current portion of long-term debt and excludes the effect of any debt discounts.

(2) Interest amounts are calculated over the terms of the loans using current interest rates, assuming scheduled principal and interest amounts are paid pursuant to the debt agreements. Includes administrative and/or commitment fees on debt obligations.

(3) Operating lease costs are primarily for property and railcar leases.

(4) Service agreements are primarily related to minimum commitments on railcar unloading contracts at our fuel terminals.

(5) Includes asset retirement obligations to return property to its original condition at the termination of lease agreements.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

Key accounting policies, including those relating to depreciation of property and equipment, asset retirement obligations, and impairment of long-lived assets and goodwill are impacted significantly by judgments, assumptions and estimates used to prepare our consolidated financial statements. Information about our critical accounting policies and estimates is included in our 2018 annual report.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

Market risk is the risk of loss arising from adverse changes in market rates and prices. At this time, we conduct all of our business in U.S. dollars and are not exposed to foreign currency risk.

Interest Rate Risk

We are exposed to interest rate risk through our revolving credit facility, which bears interest at variable rates. At March 31, 2019, we had \$135.0 million outstanding under our revolving credit facility. A 10% change in interest rates would affect our interest expense by approximately \$744 thousand per year, assuming no changes in the amount outstanding or other variables under our revolving credit facility.

Other details about our outstanding debt are discussed in the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in this report and in our annual report.

[Table of Contents](#)

Commodity Price Risk

We do not have any direct exposure to risks associated with fluctuating commodity prices because we do not own the ethanol and other fuels that are stored at our facilities or transported by our railcars and trucks.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures designed to ensure information that must be disclosed in the reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required financial disclosure. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. Management is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures.

Under the supervision and participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, management carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of March 31, 2019, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act and concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of our financial reporting and the preparation of our consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by this report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. We implemented internal controls to ensure we properly assessed the impact of the new lease accounting standard on our financial statements to facilitate the adoption on January 1, 2019. There were no significant changes to our internal control over financial reporting due to the adoption of this standard.

Emerging Growth Company Status

As an emerging growth company, we are not required to provide an auditor's attestation report on the effectiveness of our system of internal control over financial reporting, adopt new or revised financial accounting standards until they apply to private companies, comply with any new requirements adopted by the PCAOB to rotate audit firms or supplement the auditor's report with additional information about the audit and financial statements of the issuer, or disclose the same level of information about executive compensation required of larger public companies.

We have elected to take advantage of these provisions except for the exemption that allows us to extend the transition period for compliance with new or revised financial accounting standards. This election is irrevocable.

PART II – OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

We may be involved in litigation that arises during the ordinary course of business. We are not, however, involved in any material litigation at this time.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

Investors should carefully consider the discussion of risks and the other information in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018, in Part I, Item 1A, “Risk Factors,” and the discussion of risks and other information in Part I, Item 2, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” under “Cautionary Information Regarding Forward-Looking Statements” of this report. Although we have attempted to discuss key factors, our investors need to be aware that other risks may prove to be important in the future. New risks may emerge at any time and we cannot predict such risks or estimate the extent to which they may affect our financial performance. There have been no material changes to the risk factors disclosed in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.

None.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.

None.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Other Information.

Given the timing of the event, the following information is included in this Form 10-Q pursuant to Item 5.03 “Amendments to Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws; Change in Fiscal Year” of Form 8-K, in lieu of filing a separate Form 8-K.

On May 7, 2019, Green Plains Holdings LLC, the general partner of Green Plains Partners LP (the “Partnership”), entered into the First Amendment (the “Amendment”) of the First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership dated as of July 1, 2015, to make certain revisions in response to changes to the Internal Revenue Code enacted by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 relating to changes in partnership audit and adjustment procedures.

The foregoing description of the Amendment does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the complete text of the Amendment, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.1 to this Form 10-Q and is incorporated herein by reference.

[Table of Contents](#)

Item 6. Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Description of Exhibit
10.1	First Amendment to the First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of Green Plains Partners LP, dated as of May 7, 2019
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
101	The following information from Green Plains Partners LP Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2019, formatted in Extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL): (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) Consolidated Statements of Operations, (iii) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, (iv) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (v) the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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.

GREEN PLAINS PARTNERS LP
(Registrant)

Date: May 9, 2019	By: Green Plains Holdings LLC, its general partner
	By: <u>/s/ Todd A. Becker</u> Todd A. Becker President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)
Date: May 9, 2019	By: <u>/s/ John W. Nepl</u> John W. Nepl Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE FIRST AMENDED AND RESTATED
AGREEMENT OF LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
OF
GREEN PLAINS PARTNERS LP**

This First Amendment (the "Amendment") to the First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership dated as of July 1, 2015 (the "Agreement") of Green Plains Partners LP (the "Company") is made and entered into as of May 7, 2019, by Green Plains Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, as the General Partner (as such term is defined in the Agreement).

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the General Partner and the Organizational Limited Partner have previously formed the Company pursuant to the provisions of the Delaware Act and adopted an original agreement that was subsequently amended and restated in the Agreement;

WHEREAS, under Section 13.1(d)(i) of the Agreement, the General Partner may amend any provision of the Agreement for which the General Partner determines that the change does not adversely affect the Limited Partners considered as a whole or any particular class of Partnership Interests in any material respect;

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which significantly changed partnership audit procedures for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017 that necessitate the amendment of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the General Partner has determined that the Agreement needs to be amended to address the new centralized partnership audit rules in the respects set forth herein and such changes will not adversely affect the Limited Partners as a whole or any particular class of Partnership Interests in any material respect.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual covenants and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and legal sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereby agree as follows (all capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall have the meanings assigned to such term in the Agreement):

1. Amendment to Definitions. Section 1.1 of the Agreement is amended by inserting the following paragraphs in alphabetical order, as appropriate, in such Section 1.1:

"Budget Act" means the Bi-partisan Budget Act of 2015.

"BBA Partnership Audit Rules" means Sections 6221 through 6241 of the Code, as amended by the Budget Act, including any other Code provisions with respect to the same subject matter as Sections 6221 through 6241 of the Code, and any regulations promulgated or proposed under any such Sections and any administrative guidance with respect thereto.

"Partnership Representative" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 9.3(b).

2. **Revision of Section 9.3.** Section 9.3 of the Agreement shall be deleted in its entirety and new Section 9.3 shall be inserted to state as follows:

Section 9.3 *Tax Controversies.*

(a) Subject to the provisions hereof, the General Partner is designated as the “tax matters partner” (as defined in Section 6231(a)(7) of the Code) and is authorized and required to represent the Partnership (at the Partnership’s expense) in connection with all examinations of the Partnership’s affairs by tax authorities, including resulting administrative and judicial proceedings, and to expend partnership funds for professional services and costs associated therewith. Each Partner agrees to cooperate with the General Partner and to do or refrain from doing any or all things reasonably required by the General Partner to conduct such proceedings. Each Partner agrees that notice of or updates regarding tax controversies shall be deemed conclusively to have been given or made by the Tax Matters Partner if the Partnership has either (a) filed the information for which notice is required with the Commission via Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval system and such information is publicly available on such system or (b) made the information for which notice is required available on any publicly available website maintained by the Partnership, whether or not such Partner remains a Partner in the Partnership at the time such information is made publicly available.

(b) Effective as of January 1, 2018, General Partner shall be designated the “partnership representative” as defined in Section 6223 of the Code, as amended by the Budget Act (the “**Partnership Representative**”). The Partnership Representative shall have the power to name or remove the designated individual under Reg. § 301.6223-1(b)(3)(i) for each of the Company’s taxable years. The Partnership Representative is authorized and required to represent the Partnership (at the Partnership’s expense) in all disputes, controversies or proceedings with the Internal Revenue Service, and, in its sole discretion, is authorized to make any available election with respect to the BBA Partnership Audit Rules and take any action it deems necessary or appropriate to comply with the requirements of the Code and to conduct the Partnership’s affairs with respect to the BBA Partnership Audit Rules. Each Partner and former Partner will cooperate with the Partnership Representative with respect to any such disputes, controversies or proceedings with the Internal Revenue Service, including providing the Partnership Representative with any information reasonably requested to comply with and make elections under the BBA Partnership Audit Rules and to assist the Partnership in reducing the amount of any imputed underpayment, including but not limited to information regarding any such Partner's status for federal or state income tax purposes (such as its status as a tax-exempt entity, a corporation, an individual or a trust) and particular tax attributes.

(c) If the Partnership Representative determines in its sole discretion, (i) the Partnership Representative may cause the Partnership to elect out of the BBA Partnership Audit Rules under Code Section 6221(b) (as amended by the Budget Act), (ii) the Partnership Representative may cause the Company to push out the final partnership adjustments to the Partners as described in Code Section 6226(a) (as amended by the

Budget Act), or (iii) the Partnership Representative may cause the liability to be paid at the Partnership level.

(d) Each Partner and former Partner agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Partnership from and against any liability with respect to such person's proportionate share of any tax liability (including related interest and penalties) imposed at the Partnership level in connection with a Partnership-level tax audit of a taxable period during which such person was a Partner of the Partnership, regardless of whether such Partner is a partner of the Partnership in the year in which such tax is actually imposed on the Partnership or becomes payable by the Partnership as a result of such audit. The General Partner shall reasonably determine a Partner's proportionate share of any such tax liability, taking into account the relevant facts and any information provided by such Partner that would reduce such liability. A Partner's cooperation and indemnification obligations pursuant to this Section 9.3(d) shall survive the termination of a Partner's participation in the Partnership and the termination, dissolution and winding up of the Partnership.

(e) The Partnership may offset a Partner's share of any such tax liabilities against any distribution under this Agreement. If not offset against a distribution, the General Partner may deliver a written demand for payment to such Partner to pay the Partnership in immediately available funds the amount that the General Partner determines is needed by the Partnership to discharge those obligations and to otherwise pay and reimburse, indemnify and hold the Partnership harmless with respect to such tax liability. Any amount paid by (or any distribution retained from) a Partner under this Section 9.3(e) will not be treated as a Capital Contribution or otherwise added to the Partner's Capital Account, except to the extent (if at all) the General Partner determines that characterization or treatment is necessary or appropriate.

(f) The Partnership and the Partners specifically acknowledge, without limiting the general applicability of this Section, that the Tax Matters Partner, the Partnership Representative, or the designated individual, if any, shall not be liable, responsible or accountable in damages or otherwise to the Partnership or any Partner with respect to any action taken by him in this capacity and shall indemnify the Partnership Representative and the designated individual against any liabilities arising out of such service, as long as the Partnership Representative or the designated individual, as applicable, did not act in bad faith or gross negligence. All out of pocket expenses incurred by the Tax Matters Partner, the Partnership Representative or the designated individual in this capacity shall be considered expenses of the Partnership for which the Tax Matters Partner, the Partnership Representative, or the designated individual shall be entitled to full reimbursement.

(g) If any notice is required, each Partner (and former Partner) agrees that notice of or regarding tax controversies shall be deemed conclusively to have been given or made by the General Partner if the Partnership has either (i) filed the information for which notice is required with the Internal Revenue Service via its electronic data gathering, analysis and retrieval system and such information is publicly available on such system or (ii) made the information for which notice is required available on any publicly available website maintained by the partnership, whether or not such Partner remains a Partner in the Partnership at the time such information is made publicly available. Notwithstanding

anything herein to the contrary, nothing in this provision shall obligate the Partnership Representative to provide notice to the Partners other than as required by the Internal Revenue Code.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have duly executed this Amendment and affixed their signatures hereto as of the date first above written.

GENERAL PARTNER:

GREEN PLAINS HOLDINGS LLC

Signature: /s/ Michelle Mapes
Name: Michelle Mapes
Title: Chief Legal & Administration Officer

**CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-14(a) AND SECTION 302 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

I, John W. Nepl, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of Green Plains Partners LP;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting;
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: May 9, 2019

/s/ John W. Nepl
John W. Nepl
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

**CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES- OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Quarterly Report of Green Plains Partners LP, or “the partnership”, on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2019, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof, or “the report”, I, Todd A. Becker, President and Chief Executive Officer of the partnership, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that to my knowledge:

- 1) The report fully complies with the requirements of Sections 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- 2) The information contained in the report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the partnership.

Date: May 9, 2019

/s/ Todd A. Becker

Todd A. Becker
President and Chief Executive Officer
