

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

10/17/17 Meeting Minutes

President Nadia Glucksberg opened the meeting with a welcome to all and updates as follows:

- **NORTHEAST CONFERENCE:** Baxter Maitke reported that since there was no Northeast Regional Conference this fall, the UNH student chapter is organizing a mini conference that will happen on Saturday, Nov. 4 in Durham, NH from 9AM – 3-3:30PM. Cost is \$10 PP. He noted the UVM student chapter plans to attend, and the UNH student chapter would especially like to have professional chapter members attend. Baxter will send event information out to the PMP chapter ASAP.
- **EL PROGRESO:** This is a water project in the foothills of the Andes in Ecuador. We're working to have the FIRST TRAVEL TEAM MAKE THE ASSESSMENT THIS FALL, with many trips to follow. The travel application for the assessment trip was submitted, but was returned to us for additional details prior to approval to travel. Our response has been submitted. We've also reached out to the NGO (Engineers in Action) to have conversations re: the project. Still planning for the assessment trip to happen in Nov/Dec 2017, with a 2nd trip in the spring 2018. Note that a Spanish translator is especially needed! If you're interested and want to get involved, contact Neil Franklin (franklinn31@gmail.com) as this team meets separately for planning and completing the EWB requirements. Next project meeting is TBD.
- **HAITI BRIDGE TEAM:** With land issues hampering progression, this team is moving towards support to help with road maintenance to prevent seasonal flooding. Currently the project is on hold due to weather (hurricanes) and project manager Gabe Sullivan's health issues. It's hoped it can resume when we have land/access and bridge parts can be shipped. If you want to get involved, please let Nick Dempsey know. (Nicholas.Dempsey@hdrinc.com). Next meeting is TBD.
- **DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA:** Teams are starting to travel again, though there are still US State Dept. warnings. Our portion of this project is the design and construction of a school for 1000 K-12 graders, including a generous donation of 40 computers from Haley and Aldrich, along with a grant from Microsoft for free operating systems. Nadia reported the seasonal rains have abated and CEB production has resumed. Angeliqne plans to return to Debre Birhan the last week of October. If you have an interest in joining the team (traveling, or supporting back home) let Nadia know (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com). Weekly conference calls continue. Project team meetings occur separately; next meeting TBD

- **STEM OUTREACH:** Thanks to those who have volunteered in the previous school year! We're ready to start up again and need volunteers. We'll be presenting at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick on Sat., Oct. 28 thanks to Lina Juozelskis, Nick Dempsey and Patty Ianni. It's an event for students to explore engineering and technology. We'll also present at Greely Middle School in Cumberland on Fri., Nov. 17. Please contact Kathy Hillman Reed (khillmanreed@gmail.com) if you're interested in helping to organize or present. Volunteers currently include Nick Dempsey, Renee Givner, Lina Juozelskis, Lars Whelan.
- **LOCAL OUTREACH:** Nadia noted the Hartford Professional Chapter (HPC) is working on a projects locally, including to support a soup kitchen or "Pedal Pushers" who are looking for peddlers to bike with disabled people in the community. There may be similar opportunities for the PMP chapter locally, including serving at the soup kitchens in Portland. Please let Nadia know if there are opportunities that come to your attention (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).
- **PE SUPPORT:** Kathy Kern reported she will be talking to David Ntawuyirushintege re: PE requirements and helping him hone his resume for review by prospective US employers. It was noted there is additional immigrant support available from the Greater Portland Immigrant Welcome Center at 24 Preble Street in Portland. We will reach out to see if they will present at our November meeting. Finally, if anyone needs CEU documentation for PE requirements, please let Stan Reed know (sreed001@maine.rr.com).
- **FUNDRAISING:** Portland Uncorked! will happen again in 2018. Kathy Kern and Scott Winchester are contacting Jeff Porter at the Custom House in Portland re: March 2018 date. We'll need everyone's help to make this a "go to" event for our chapter!

OCTOBER PRESENTATION

We welcomed Bruce Fowler from Sevee & Mahar to present a recap of his role as the USM student chapter mentor for their water project trip to El Descanso, Ecuador, a village in a mountainous area of the country.

Bruce described the main issue as one of no reliable/continuous supply of water to the village of 80+ people. Villagers were siphoning water from "springs" above the village that were "full" only in the rainy season, but dried up otherwise. The water was heavily contaminated as well. During the dry season villagers were forced to travel down into the valley to buy and carry water.

Bruce described the process the team used to locate an underground water source in/near the village that would provide water continuously. He noted the team was unprepared with regard to tools/equipment needed, but they persevered and eventually located an adequate underground water source. The team was able to create a 4-inch "well" and siphon water out of it.

Bruce reported the team hopes to return to El Decanso in December 2017 to enlarge the well and pump water into an above-ground tank. He noted electricity was available to the village, which would make the process much easier to implement.

NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the SEA DOG BREWING CO.,125 WESTERN AVE., SO. PORTLAND, ME. PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary