

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

9/19/17 Meeting Minutes

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

- **EL PROGRESO:** This is a water project in the foothills of the Andes, in Ecuador and we are working to have the FIRST TRAVEL TEAM MAKE THE ASSESSMENT THIS FALL, with many trips to follow. The travel application for the assessment trip has been submitted. There is generally a 6- 8 week wait for approval. We've also reached out to the NGO (Engineers in Action) to have conversations re: the project. If you interested and want to get involved, let Charlie and or Neil know (ceb@smemaine.com and franklinn31@gmail.com) as this team meets separately for planning and completing the EWB requirements. Next project meeting is TBD.
- **HAITI BRIDGE TEAM:** Fortunately there was no major damage in Haiti due to hurricane Irma, according to our contacts there. The project is recycling the Fore River temp bridge in Quincy, MA to construct up to 18 bridges in Haiti. With land issues hampering progression, this team is moving towards support to help with road maintenance to prevent seasonal flooding. We are looking for GIS and watershed support. Gabe Sullivan has returned from Haiti with tons of data and options to move forward. If you want to get involved, please let Nick Dempsey know. (Nicholas.Dempsey@hdrinc.com). Next meeting is TBD.
- **DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA:** As noted last month, folks are starting to travel again since the Ethiopian parliament voted to lift the state of emergency. Our portion of this project is the design and construction of a school for 1000 K-12th graders, including a generous donation from Haley & Aldrich of 40 computers with a grant from Microsoft for free operating systems. Other news: PSU students missed the implementation plan deadline, so will not travel in December. Additionally the students can't travel until the US State Dept. gives the "all clear" for Ethiopia. The Denver chapter still plans to travel later in the fall. Angelique plans to return to Ethiopia in late October as well. If you have an interest in joining the team (traveling, or supporting back home) let Nadia know ([nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com](mailto:naglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com)). Weekly conference calls continue. Project team meetings occur separately; next meeting TBD
- **ANNUAL YARD SALE:** The annual yard sale occurred Aug. 26 & 27 and we raised over \$1,400! Huge thanks to Jake Jacobson for giving up his garage for yet another year to store yard sale items!! And many thanks to all who helped with set-up, selling, and clean-up this year!
- **STEM OUTREACH:** Thanks to those who have volunteered in the previous school year! We're ready to start up again and need volunteers. Please contact Kathy Hillman Reed (khillmanreed@gmail.com) if you're interested in helping to organize or present. Volunteers so far include Nick Dempsey, Renee Givner, Lina Juozelskis, Lars Whelan.

- **CHAPTER OUTREACH:** The New Haven Professional Chapter has been approved for their sanitation project in Nicaragua and will be looking for support and travel mentors. If interested, let Nadia know. Also, Baxter Maitke, Will Turner (USM Student chapter), and Rosalee Lamm are collaborating to bring aspects of the new Ecuador project to Portland High School students, i.e. design, project status, etc.
- **2017 – 2018 OFFICERS:** At the August chapter meeting we asked for volunteers for any of the Board positions. We really needed to fill the VP role, as Kathy Kern elected to step down. While there were no takers for President, Treasurer, or Secretary, Charlie Burnham and Lars Whelan both stepped up to take the VP role. To avoid a “runoff vote”, Lars offered to continue to contribute to the chapter’s success, but without the title, and to support Charlie. Paid up members were asked to indicate their approval of the new Board line-up by contacting Kathy Hillman Reed (khillmanreed@gmail.com). Many THANKS to Kathy Kern, who held the VP role for a long time and dedicated countless hours to make the STEM program and Portland Uncorked! such successes!!!

SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION

We welcomed Hunter Wing from the USM student EWB chapter to present a recap of their solar installation project at the Hogar Rafael Ayau orphanage in Villa Nueva, Guatemala.

Hunter described the main issue as one of no hot water availability for the orphanage because electricity, while available, was very expensive. The student project started in 2015 and continued until their recent trip in January 2017. It included designing and installing a solar hot water system, which was fraught with challenges. The project is currently on hold because there are very few children at the orphanage due to Guatemalan government interference. Hunter indicated next steps for the project are to monitor the situation and evaluate whether the project continues.

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the SEA DOG BREWING CO.,125 WESTERN AVE., SO. PORTLAND, ME.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary