

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

6-21-2016 Meeting Minutes

President Nadia Glucksberg opened the meeting by asking for introductions of attendees and reviewing ongoing chapter activities, including:

ANNUAL YARD SALE: Our annual yard sale fundraiser is tentatively scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, August 20 & 21, 2016. Rain date 8/27 & 8/28. Once again it will be held at Jake Jacobson's house on Greely Road in Cumberland. Keep your eyes/ears open. If you know folks who are moving, downsizing, upgrading, you name it, if they have quality items that they want to donate, we want it and can pick it up anytime! Once again, Jake has donated his garage for storing items (please only take items that will sell – no true “junk”). Set-up will happen Friday, August 19, along with a now-traditional BBQ on Jake's deck that evening. All are invited to contribute items and help with set-up and day-of sales. Questions? Contact Jake at Richard.jacobson@amecfw.com.

NOTE: there will be no formal August chapter meeting. The Yard Sale will take its place.

DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA: The TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) presentation for the wall design took place 6/16/16. It was a resounding success thanks to the work of several project team members. Lots of things happening with trips planned for this summer/fall. **UPDATE:** We've received approval from the TAC to travel to work on this portion of the project. Please contact Nadia (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com) or Kevin (KRuss@haleyaldrich.com) if you want to get involved or be on the email distribution list. Project team meetings occur separately from chapter meetings and all welcome. Travelers wanted!

We are fortunate that there are two other chapters that will join our travel efforts and will be supported by their own fundraising efforts. Oregon State University (OSU) will once again travel in September to support the water line installation. Portland State University (PSU) will travel in December to construct the latrines. Additionally, the South Denver (CO) Professional Chapter has offered their support, as their project has been sidelined due to concerns about the Zika virus. These groups are not going in place of us, but instead to support our program and get more “hands” in the mix. Our role is still to lead the building construction effort.

HAITI BRIDGE PROJECT: Our July chapter speaker will be David Murphy, PE and VP at Tighe and Bond. David is leading a bridge construction project in Haiti. Desk top support is needed for watershed analysis, flood level calcs, abutment placement scour protection, geotechnical engineering, and site surveying. Travelers are also needed to help with the project. FMI, attend our **JULY 26** chapter meeting!!

DORGOBOM, GHANA: Unfortunately, after approx. eight months, the community continues to be unresponsive, or not providing the data we need to be successful. Because of this, we have made the unfortunate decision to close this project. It has taught us that the success of any project lies with the responsiveness and participation of the NGO. We have reached out to EWB-USA for their support and are in the process of producing the final paperwork. We learned a lot, had some temporary success, and

now are looking for a new water project – anyone with knowledge or contacts with NGOs, please let us know.

STEM OUTREACH: We were hugely successful this year, supporting local schools, science fairs and other events. Thanks to everyone who supported the STEM efforts, especially Kathy Kern for leading the charge! We'll resume scheduling STEM activities in the fall after school starts. We'll be looking for folks to help with presentations. They are not difficult and can be really fun.

ELECTIONS: Elections will be held in late summer for all chapter board positions. The current board is willing to continue, but only if others are not interested in running for one of the positions. Current board member are willing to step aside in favor of fresh ideas and energy – no feelings will be hurt! If you're interested please contact Kathy Hillman Reed (khillmanreed@gmail.com). Please note that any of these positions must keep membership outreach, school outreach, and fundraising as priorities, equal to if not more of a priority than our international projects.

BON VOYAGE: Congratulations and bon voyage to Kelcy and David Adamec as they embark on their move to the "other Portland"! We wish them the best as they pursue career opportunities in their new location out West.

June Presentation

Baxter Miatke, E.I.T. and Master's candidate in Environmental Engineering at UVM, presented his experience as an EWB student chapter member partnering with the Vermont EWB PMP chapter to design re-use of gray water (from cooking and laundry only) for crop irrigation in the village of Venecia, Nicaragua. The rainy season is coming later each year, presumably due to climate change, which precipitated the request for help to design re-use of gray water.

Baxter provided an excellent overview of the project steps as well as challenges that included: treating gray water; changing student chapter leadership during the project; and changing NGO leadership during the project. He observed that the lessons learned from the project included: partnership with the PMP chapter was critical; good community relationships and continuity were critical; passing in information during transition of leadership was critical; redesign was often needed; an additional assessment trip would have been helpful with the challenge of treating gray water.

There was a very good Q&A session following Baxter's presentation. He is looking for employment in the Portland area. If you have open positions and, based on his presentation, you can get recommendations from those in attendance.

Other Business

Anyone needing PDH certificates should see or contact Stan Reed (sreed001@maine.rr.com).

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the event room at the Sea Dog Brew Pub, 125 Western Avenue, South Portland, ME. NOTE THE MEETING DATE IS ONE WEEK LATER THAN OUR NORMAL DATE!!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Secretary