

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

12-15-2015 Meeting Minutes

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

STEM OUTREACH. Kathy Kern reported we have five school districts welcoming EWB to support their STEM programs. The STEM outreach team will meet weekly (at first) to develop programs for the different grade levels. Presentations to schools will happen after March 1, 2016. We're setting dates with the school districts. We need people to help with school presentations. If interested, let Kathy Kern know at Katherine.kern58@gmail.com.

FUNDRAISING: Nadia announced that Portland Uncorked will be held on February 25, 2016 at the Portland Club. This event allows us to travel and make a difference. Ticket sales will cover the cost of the event. Please get ready to sell tickets, spread the word, collect silent auction items. If you know local craft folks, talented hobbyists, or have a talent yourself, please consider asking for/donating silent auction items. Most importantly, save the date – as it's always a good time. MUCH more info to come!!

DORGOBOM, GHANNA: The team has drafted a request for information as well as a draft MOU that was sent to the CDDF (our connections in Ghana) to gain community support. Once the community responds, we can then plan a possible return trip to continue our work there. We need regular data from the community to assess next steps for the project. If you're interested in joining this group, please contact Kelcy at Kelcy.Adamec@hdrinc.

SABHUNG, NEPAL: Scott Winchester gave an update on his trip with the Hartford (CT) Professional Chapter (HPC) to Sabhung, Nepal to work on solar-powered water pumping stations. He noted that a prior trip included repairs and modifications to the systems. He said the project has lost its senior mentor and HPC is looking for a replacement. Scott noted he'd like to return to Sabhung in May 2016, when the project will likely be ready to hand over to the community.

WEBPAGE support –Heather Lumb stepped forward to take over managing the webpage. Thank you, Heather!!!! If you have information that is appropriate for the EWB PMP website, please send it to Heather at heatherlumb@rocketmail.com.

Other EWB Chapter Support:

Jean McRae from the UMaine (Orono) student chapter requested assistance with reviewing a 521 report by January 1 for a Central American project. Contact Rita Cooper if you can help - rcooper207@gmail.com.

The USM student chapter continues to work on a solar heating project at an orphanage in Guatemala. They may be going back to Guatemala in the spring (2016). We're hoping to have an update from the student chapter re: this project.

Kelcy Adamec reported that our EWB USA regional representative has changed. The rep is now John Ordway in New Hampshire. EWB USA is redesigning the chapter rep position as well. If you're interested in regional conference work, contact Kelcy at Kelcy.Adamec@hdrinc.

There may be other opportunities to support Trinity College with their sanitation project in Tanzania. More info to come.

December Presentation

Nadia Glucksberg presented a comprehensive Power Point overview of the Debre Birhan, Ethiopia school construction project from its beginnings to the present day. PMP members who have traveled to Debre Birhan contributed their comments during the presentation.

Currently two PMP members are in Debre Birhan to continue work on the project and will report their progress upon their return. Nadia noted that there will be more trips planned because it is more cost effective to make multiple trips with small groups to supervise construction and keep the momentum going.

Other Business

There was an administrative meeting immediately following the PMP chapter meeting.

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the event room at the Sea Dog Brew Pub, 125 Western Avenue, South Portland, ME. Tarlan Amadov, Program Director at Catholic Charities of Maine will talk about CCM's activities to resettle and mentor immigrants and potentially how EWB PMP might help.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Secretary