

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

5/20/2014 Meeting Minutes

Matt Randall opened the meeting by welcoming everyone reviewing upcoming and ongoing chapter activities as follows:

Fundraising Events – Plans are under way as follows:

- The 2014 Ocean Gateway event planning continues. Kathy Hillman Reed reported the event is set for November 13, 2014 from 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM.
- Matt Randall the annual yard sale date is TBD, but will be held in August at Jake Jacobson's in Cumberland. More info to come re: date. Yard sale items are needed!
- Matt Randall & Karen Arnold reported we will have a booth at the Yarmouth Clam Festival July 18 – 20. Two volunteers needed for set-up on Thursday, 7/17 – afternoon time TBD. Booth crews needed as follows (minimum of 2 volunteers for each session): Fri. & Sat. 9:30AM – 1PM; 1PM to 5PM; 5PM – 9PM. Sunday sessions 9:30AM – 1PM and 1PM – 5PM (take down). To sign up and/or ask questions, please contact Karen Arnold at Karen.arnold@arcadis-us.com.
- Need volunteers to make more jewelry using Ghanaian and Ethiopian beads. The jewelry is sold at events such as the Yarmouth Clam Festival. Crafting sessions to be held immediately following our monthly PMP meeting on June 17 at 7:30 PM and July 15 at 6:00PM (in place of our monthly PMP meeting). Please contact Karen Arnold to RSVP or FMI.
- Matt reminded the group of the USM EWB student chapter fundraiser to take place Friday, May 23 at the Space Gallery in Portland at 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$10.00. Proceeds will support the chapter's first project – a solar installation at an orphanage in Guatemala.

The core fundraising team needs people to help with all of these events, the largest of which is the Ocean Gateway wine/beer tasting event in November 2014. Many hands make light work – please contact Kathy Hillman Reed at khillmanreed@gmail.com if you can work on one or more events We will be conscripting otherwise!

Dorgobom, Ghana Water Project – The project team meets the **2nd and 4th Mondays** of each month at HDR. Please contact Kelcy Adamec at Kelcy.Adamec@hdrinc.com to join the project or receive updates. Matt noted that Bob Andoh would be returning from his trip to Ghana where he paid an unofficial visit to the community and our NGO contacts. We'll be interested to hear how the village is doing.

The Community Project – Ethiopia – Rita Cooper & Scott Winchester joined Angelique Kidd Smith and members of the Portland, OR chapters for the second pre-assessment trip to Debre Birhan the week of May 19, 2014. We'll look forward to their trip report. The project team meets the **1st Tuesday of each month** 5:30PM – 6:30PM. Please contact Nadia Glucksberg at nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com to join the project or receive updates.

USM EWB Student Chapter – As noted above, the students are preparing their first project which is a solar installation at an orphanage in Guatemala. They are expecting approval of their 501 form from

EWB National. If you would like to mentor or help with the project, please contact Phillip Swanson at Phillip.Swanson@maine.edu or Karen Arnold at karen.arnold@arcadis-us.com. The group is especially looking for electrical engineers as PE mentors.

Community Engineering Corps – Matt reported that in February 2014, EWB, ASCE and the AWWA teamed up to reintroduce the Community Engineering Corps, a domestic partnership that will function very similarly to EWB’s international projects. He noted that AWWA is looking for projects to work on in Maine. The suggestion was made to connect AWWA with Portland Adult Education so that emigres could potentially work on projects to gain experience. The website with more information is:

<http://www.asce.org/Volunteerism-and-Mentoring/Volunteerism/Engineers-Without-Borders-USA/Community-Engineering-Corps/>

EWB Website – Matt Randall reminded folks that our website is what donors or other interested parties see first and if there are suggestions for updates or additional information to be added, please reach out to Michael Zanchi at Michael.a.zanchi@gmail.com.

Special Presentation

Jay Peters and Matt Randall reviewed EWB-USA’s “Corrective Action Process” (CAP) with the group. The CAP is a set of “rules” for project proposals and review by EWB-USA. The CAP became a topic for the PMP chapter when a project report was received by EWB-USA a day late, resulting in a demerit for our chapter. While the demerit is not a significant sanction for the PMP chapter, it is to be avoided for all future projects.

Jay laid out the three levels of infractions (A, B and C) and their increasingly severe consequences. Level A is mainly administrative and results in the least serious consequences, such as a demerit. Level C is the most serious and can include chapter revocation as a result of blatant infractions.

Jay suggested that project participants read the CAP information on the EWB website – www.ewb-usa.org.

May Presentation

Dan Plunkett, an international trade economist (and UMaine graduate), talked to the group about his work in various African countries where he focused primarily on regional economic integration to increase supplies of goods and services in those countries. Dan’s work has been funded by 4 U. S. government agencies (USAID, USDA, USDOC, USTDA) and a number of international agencies, including African regional organizations.

Dan outlined several examples of how trade agreements among participating countries, specifically eliminating tariffs, could increase food supplies (such as rice and other grains) and lower food prices. He noted he’d worked with countries about reducing tariffs on electricity in order to bring power to more villages. He pointed out that in his work the US approach to countries and communities is “tell us what

you need/want and how we can help”, which is essentially consistent with EWB’s position that communities need to be invested in projects to sustain them.

Other Business

None was brought forward.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM in the event room at the Sea Dog Brewing Company, 125 Western Avenue, South Portland, ME. Please visit the Chapter Meetings page FMI at www.ewbportlandmaine.org.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Hillman Reed, Secretary