

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

4/15/2014 Meeting Minutes

Matt Randall opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing two new attendees – both engineers looking for work in this country. He reviewed upcoming and ongoing chapter activities as follows:

Fundraising Events – Plans are under way as follows:

- The 2014 Ocean Gateway event planning is under way. Kathy Hillman Reed reported the event is set for November 13, 2014 from 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM.
- Matt Randall and Jay Peters noted it is time to start thinking about collecting items for our yard sale and the silent auction in November. Yard sale date TBD, but will likely be held in July.
- Matt Randall & Karen Arnold reported we will have a booth at the Yarmouth Clam Festival July 18 – 20. More information to come.
- Matt Randall reminded folks that Clynk bags & stickers are available for can/bottle recycling through Hannaford stores. For each Clynk bag turned in EWB receives money.
- Matt reminded folks to use the Goodsearch website, if possible, when looking for items online. EWB receives money when the website is used.

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 Kern at Katherine.kern@tylin.com or kkern1@maine.rr.com.

Dorgobom, Ghana Water Project – The team is regrouping and continuing to make progress on water filtration systems in the Dorgobom community. The team will meet with some of the contacts in preparation for a fully sanctioned trip later this year. 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.

The Community Project – Ethiopia – The school design/construction project is moving forward with an assessment team trip planned for May 2014. Rita Cooper & Scott Winchester will join Angelique Kidd Smith and members of the Portland, OR chapters on the trip. 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 – Congratulations to the USM student chapter for officially being recognized as a chapter! They are currently looking to adopt a solar project to help the Hogar Rafael Ayau orphanage in Guatemala. To support this effort, our chapter will take this on until such time EWB-US allows us to transfer the project entirely to the student chapter. 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.

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 David Adamec at david@neruson.com.

April Presentation

Judy Bruenjes reported on her recent trip to Ecuador for a month, which she had undertaken to learn Spanish, but ended up researching a possible water treatment project for our chapter as well. Judy described her stay in Quito, Ecuador under the auspices of the Yanapuma Foundation, an NGO offering Spanish language immersion programs to improve communication with local populations and enhance cultural understanding.

Judy took the opportunity to travel to the western edge of the Amazon basin for a week. She had the benefit of a Spanish translator, as the local population primarily spoke a local dialect called Kichwa (Quechuas). She travelled to the small village of San Pedro (160 people) where she found the water supply was both unreliable and totally untreated. She noted at times the village ran out of water altogether. She observed there might be an opportunity for EWB to develop a project to potentially divert water to a holding area with a gravity feed to the community, which would create a continuous supply of water. Treatment of the water would be an additional part of the project.

Judy acknowledged there would be significant preliminary work to understand whether the Ecuadorian government would provide any assistance. She said there was a government report available that would provide more information about who owns the land. She noted we would need to understand whether the project would meet the EWB requirement that the community contribute 5% toward the cost of the project and what the long term maintenance plan (sustainability) would be.

At this time our EWB chapter is not able to take the project on, given that we're already working on projects in Ghana and Ethiopia, as well as mentoring a project in Guatemala through the USM student EWB chapter. It was noted that there may be options through EWB National for another chapter to adopt the project, and EWB Portland may be able to consult re: development of 501 and 502 documents.

Other Business

Matt Randall attempted to show a video about an Indonesian sugar palm sustainability project; however technology failed us. Matt to forward the link to the video for those interested to watch.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 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