

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

1/21/14 Meeting Minutes

Matt Randall welcomed everyone and reviewed various professional chapter activities, both upcoming and ongoing, including:

- **Chapter Membership** – 2014 membership dues are due. Matt encouraged attendees to become members or renew membership in order to travel on projects and to vote on chapter business.
- **CEU Certificates** – CEU certificates are available from Stan Reed at each meeting for those who need them. If you have questions, contact Stan at stanley.reed@amec.com.
- **Water Purification: Dorgobom, Ghana** – The project team is planning the next steps for the project, including working on the design for the surface water treatment system. A trip to Ghana is tentatively set for August 2014. Project meetings are generally set for 5:30 PM on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month (except 1st Monday in February) at HDR, Inc. If you're interested in traveling or participating, please contact the project leader Kelcy Adamec at Kelcy.Adamec@hdrinc.com.
- **The Community Project – Debre Birhan, Ethiopia** – The project team is meeting regularly to lay the groundwork for building a community school. The team is planning possibly two more assessment trips in 2014. There are plenty of opportunities to become involved with the work that need to be done. Project meetings are generally scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Contact project leader Nadia Glucksberg (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).
- **USM Student Chapter** – There is a solar engineering project being developed in Guatemala. If you are interested in how this project is developing, contact Rita Cooper (rcooper@hydro-int.com) or Nadia Glucksberg (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).
- **Portland Adult Ed Outreach**: We continue to support engineers from around the world who have relocated to Maine. We extend thanks to Jessica Pierce and Kathy Kern for their patience, mentoring and time. Others who would like to become involved should contact Nadia Glucksberg at nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com.

Fundraising

- **Project participation** – Matt reviewed the three major fundraising projects for 2014: 1) spring yard sale; 2) Yarmouth Clam Festival booth; 3) Ocean Gateway beer/wine tasting. Participants are needed for all three events to work planning and executing. Sign-up sheets were circulated for anyone interested in working on one or more of the projects.
- **Goodsearch and Goodshop** – Matt encouraged use of these two websites when shopping for goods online. Goodshop donates a percentage of your online shopping bill to our chapter.

Goodsearch donates every time you search. Visit www.goodsearch.com and select Engineers Without Borders – Portland.

- **CLYNK Bags** – Recycling bags are available for our chapter to use in support of fundraising.

By-Laws Revisions

Matt reviewed the proposed revisions to the chapter by-laws. In summary, the revisions are to Article III and Article V regarding the duties of the Fundraising chairperson, fundraising participation requirements for travel on projects and financial policies for project travel. Matt asked all members to review the proposed revisions and vote by email. Kathy Hillman Reed (khillmanreed@gmail.com) was to send out an email containing a copy of the proposed revisions and a request to **vote by January 31, 2014**.

January Presentation – “Construct a Program for Irrigation & Drinking Water Suitability of Tigris and Euphrates Rivers”

Wardah Mahdi reviewed her 2009 thesis that was presented to the College of Engineering at the University of Baghdad (Iraq) as part of her work to earn a master of science degree in Water Resources Engineering.

Wardah noted she earned her master’s degree, came to the United States in October 2012 as a refugee and has been looking for an engineering job since. She also noted the difficulties of being a woman living in and pursuing an education in a war-torn country. She revealed her family was well-educated and lived in Baghdad. Her father was killed by the previous Saddam Hussein regime. Her mother and sister are here in the US with her; her brother is waiting for permission to emigrate.

Wardah’s thesis explored the effects of population and pollution increases on water quality and quantity for the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in 2007/2008, which are the major water sources for Iraq. In general, the water quality of the Tigris River was better than the Euphrates River. Some of the contributing factors included dams and hydraulic power plants along the two rivers that affected both pollutant levels and water levels. Wardah noted that Syria and Turkey controlled river water flows such that it reduced water quantity available for agricultural irrigation in Iraq, resulting in increased food imports to Iraq.

Wardah also reviewed her experiences working as a site engineer for two construction projects in Iraq. She noted how difficult it is for women to obtain engineering positions in her country due to cultural and political obstacles. She expressed her hope to find an engineering job in the US and said she felt like she was in a place where she could make a difference in the world.

New Business

None was brought forward.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM in the event room at the Sea Dog Brewing Co. located at 125 Western Avenue in South Portland. Please visit the Chapter Meetings page FMI at www.ewbportlandmaine.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed

Secretary