

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

11/19/13 Meeting Minutes

Matt Randall welcomed everyone and we shared introductions once again, since there were a several new attendees present. He 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 by year-end, although membership is not a requirement to attend EWB chapter meetings.
- **Matching Funds** – December 2, 2013 at midnight is the start of the EWB matching funds. Matt encouraged attendees to gather as many donations as possible and contact Jay Peters (JPeters@haleyalrich.com) so our chapter can maximize this offering from EWN national. They will match 50% of all donations to our chapter until the money is gone. Available matching funds go quickly.
- **EWB Portland Holiday Gathering** – Matt announced the December chapter meeting will be a holiday gathering at Maine Mead Works, 51 Washington Avenue, Portland. The gathering is set for Thursday, December 19, 2013 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM and will include free wine tasting and munchies.
- **By-laws revisions** – Matt noted the January 2014 meeting will include a vote on the proposed revision to the chapter by-laws.
- **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.

Chapter Projects

- **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. The next project team meeting is Wed., Nov. 20, 2013 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM at HDR, 970 Baxter Boulevard, Suite 301 in Portland. If you're interested in traveling or participating, please contact Matt Randall at MatthewRandall1@gmail.com.
- **The Community Project – Debre Birhan, Ethiopia** – The project team is meeting regularly. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 19, 2013, following the EWB Chapter meeting. There are plenty of opportunities to become involved and the team is starting to assign pieces of the work that needs to be done. Contact Nadia Glucksberg (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com) or Matt Randall (matthewrandall1@gmail.com).

Fundraising

- **Goodsearch and Goodshop** – Matt encouraged use of these two websites when shopping for the holiday season. 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.
- **Wine Selection Booklets** – Matt noted there are wine selection booklets left over from the wine and beer tasting event and encouraged EWB attendees to use them to purchase wine varieties to support our vendors. Booklets available from Matt – MatthewRandall1@gmail.com.

Community Outreach

- **School Outreach/STEM programs** - Matt noted again that we need a lead person for this community outreach program. He reported the chapter has been contacted by a few school districts who are interested in having classroom presentations about the STEM program. Karen Arnold and Kathy Kern have worked to increase EWB Portland’s involvement in this project. If you are interested in leading this project or participating in presentations, please contact them – Kathy Kern at Katherine.Kern@tylin.com and Karen Arnold at Karen.Arnold@arcadis-us.com.
- **Engineering Camp** – Rita Cooper is working with Pious Ali (June 2013 meeting presenter) to develop a summer engineering camp for young people (high school age) in Portland. The goal is to implement the week-long camp in the summer of 2014. If you are interested in supporting this effort, contact Rita Cooper at rcooper@hydro-int.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 devoted to this work. If interested in working with emigres, contact Nadia Glucksberg at naglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com.

November Presentation – “Reflections of a “One World” Citizen”

Bob Andoh, Chief Technology Officer at Hydro International, gave an interesting presentation highlighting his thoughts about the global challenges in the 20th and 21st centuries relative to water as a precious natural resource.

A native of Ghana, he talked about the influences that education and instructors had on his decision to pursue engineering (civil). He left Ghana to continue his education in the United Kingdom and begin his engineering career. He earned a Ph.D. in public health, which expanded his expertise in the area of water treatment.

Bob stated that major challenges for the 20th and 21st centuries were and continue to be population growth and urbanization. He noted that 60% of the world’s 7 billion people will live in urban areas within the next 20 years. Urbanization is a global issue because it includes global concerns about flooding and water pollution. He contends that urbanization demands new solutions for water treatment that are less expensive and more effective. Sewer systems were a definite advance to increase public health in the 20th century, but they are a conventional treatment system that is not sustainable.

Bob described his experiences in the U.K. and now the U.S. in developing alternative water treatment systems, in particular to deal with combined sewer overflow (CSO). He talked about the struggle to increase the speed of adaptation to new water treatment technologies and to promote “external

collaboration”, i.e. working with other countries to develop and implement waste water treatment systems. He posed questions about what could be leveraged for our project in Ghana, as an example.

Bob concluded his presentation with the idea that indeed one person can make a difference in the world. He talked about water as a unit of common heritage and that all countries, developed and developing, should be looking toward sustainability of resources to increase the standard of living for everyone. He stated his personal focus is now on Africa, and Ghana in particular, because he feels compelled to give back to his country, now that he has acquired years of education and practical knowledge from his career. He described Ghana as a “nation with potential” and posited that knowledge is essential; therefore it must be applied and transferred to future generations there.

New Business

None was brought forward.

Next Meeting

Thursday, December 19, 2013 – Holiday gathering from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM at Maine Mead Works, 51 Washington Avenue, Portland. Please visit the Chapter Meetings page FMI at www.ewbportlandmaine.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed

Secretary