

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

10/22/13 Meeting Minutes

Matt Randall welcomed everyone and we shared introductions, since there were a few new attendees present. He reviewed various professional chapter activities, both upcoming and ongoing, including:

- **Chapter Membership** – 2014 membership dues are coming up due. Matt encouraged attendees to become members or renew membership, although membership is not a requirement to attend EWB chapter meetings.
- **Membership Survey** – Matt announced there was a paper survey available that attendees could voluntarily complete. The survey could also be forwarded electronically for completion. The goal is to help the chapter understand members skills and interests to better use our talents and time.

Chapter Projects

- **Water Purification: Dorgobom, Ghana** – The project will be back on the drawing board on **October 29, 2013 from 6:00 – 7:30PM at the Sea Dog Brewing Company**. The team is planning the next steps for the project, including working on the design for the surface water treatment system. If you're interested in traveling or participating, please contact Matt Randall at MatthewRandall1@gmail.com.
- **The Community Project – Debre Birhan, Ethiopia** – The project is the presentation topic for the October meeting (see below). There will be many opportunities for engineering support and travel. Regular project meetings will commence on **November 5, 2013**. Time & location TBD. Contact Nadia Glucksberg for more information – nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com.

Fundraising

- **Ocean Gateway Wine & Beer Tasting Fundraiser** – The event was a huge success! It generated proceeds over \$13,000 for the chapter. Feedback has been positive from those who attended and commented. We're still following up with silent auction winners to distribute items and receive payment.
- **EWB Matching Gift program** – Jay Peters announced that information about the matching gift program will be available in November. EWB National has a designated amount of matching money. They will match 50% of all donations to our chapter until the money is gone. Matt & Jay encouraged early participation, as the matching funds go quickly.
- **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 that the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) at the University of Maine Orono has partnered with The Challenger Learning Center of Maine (Bangor) to create a year-long engineering program for Maine 8th graders, with emphasis on rural girls. Students would be mentored by undergraduate students from the UMO student chapter of SWE. Goals include showing 8th graders the array of STEM options that exist and providing direction/advice about how to move forward as they enter high school and consider college and career options. Karen Arnold and Kathy Kern are heading up EWB Portland's involvement in this project. If you are interested, please contact them – Kathy Kern at Katherine.Kern@tylin.com and Karen Arnold at Karen.Arnold@arcadis-us.com.
- **School Outreach/STEM programs:** We're in need of a coordinator to organize school presentations at the area middle schools and high schools. There is already a lot in place, but we need someone to lead this effort. If interested, contact Matt - MatthewRandall1@gmail.com.
- **ASCE Meeting** – Brad Roland announced that at the next ASCE meeting there would be discussion about how to connect with the student chapter at the University of Maine Orono. For more information, contact Brad at teamjabz@gmail.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 nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com.

October Presentation – Community Project in Debre Birhan, Ethiopia

Nadia Glucksberg presented a comprehensive overview of the assessment team's September 2013 trip to Debre Birhan, Ethiopia. The team included one of the project founders, Colleen Kaleda, as well as Nadia, Brad Roland and Jake Jacobson from EWB Portland, ME and EWB Portland Oregon Professionals.

The Community Project scope presently includes design & construction of a 24-room school for K – 8, a community center and community gardens co-located with the school. A major piece of the assessment trip was to coordinate with the Community Development Committee (CDC), the Education Ministry and the mayor's office in Debre Birhan to create /obtain the required documents/permissions for the project components. Other partners in the project include Debre Birhan University, University of Addis Ababa (also working with EWB Univ. of MD chapter) and Terre Global.

The assessment team succeeded in creating and obtaining signatures on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlined the CDC's commitment as well as EWB's commitment to the project. Nadia noted the team opened a bank account in country.

Nadia reviewed the steps the assessment team went through during their trip, including observing existing schools, surveying the land for the project, creating a site plan, identifying materials & costs and doing geotechnical testing and environmental assessment.

Next steps for the assessment team: complete post assessment reports; identify project leads; analyze alternatives for materials/construction. Nadia reviewed specific support roles and the near term timeline for the project. She encouraged everyone to become involved in some specific way, as this is a very large and complex project for the EWB chapters involved. She noted there will be many tasks and many opportunities for travel over the next couple of years, including a trip planned for April 2014.

Please contact Nadia Glucksberg (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com), Brad Roland (teamjabz@gmail.com) or Jake Jacobson (Richard.jacobson@amec.com) for more information or a copy of their slide presentation.

New Business

None was brought forward.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 – 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