

## EWB Portland Maine Professionals

### 8/20/13 Meeting Minutes

#### Community Outreach

In her last official meeting as President of the chapter, Nadia reviewed various chapter activities, both upcoming and ongoing, including:

- **The Community Project: Debre Birhan, Ethiopia** – EWB Portland Professionals has been approved as the lead chapter for a project in Debre Birhan, Ethiopia that includes construction of a 24-room schoolhouse, community center and community garden. We're teamed up with the Portland (OR) Professionals chapter and the Univ. of Portland student chapter. The project needs project leaders, both stateside and in-country. The first assessment trip is planned for September 2013. Assessment team includes Nadia Glucksberg, Brad Roland and Jake Jacobson from our chapter. Weekly project meetings and conference calls are ongoing. There will be several opportunities for travel and engineering support for the project. Interested individuals should contact Nadia at [nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com](mailto:nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).
  
- **Fundraising**
  - **Ocean Gateway Wine & Beer Tasting Fundraiser**  
**September 26, 2013 from 5:30 PM– 9:00 PM**

This is our principal annual fundraiser and is on track to be another great event, featuring the Jason Spooner Band , catering by Lake Region Caterers and beverage sampling thanks to local brewers/distributors. There will also be a silent auction and Ghanaian items for sale. Tickets are \$30 in advance; \$35 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online, in person from chapter members or at the door.  
Contact Kathy Kern at [Katherine.Kern@tylin.com](mailto:Katherine.Kern@tylin.com) to join the planning group or for more information.
  - **Yard Sale fundraiser July 13 & 14, 2013:** The BBQ/work party on July 12 to set up for the sale at Jake Jacobson's house in Cumberland and the yard sale itself July 13 & 14 netted over \$1000. Thanks to all who donated items and worked the sale. Especially big thanks to Jake Jacobson for donating his barn, garage & house to store yard sale items!
  - **Yarmouth Clam Festival July 19 – 21:** Big thanks to Karen Arnold, Kathy Kern and those who worked the booth for organizing sales of Ghanaian items at the festival on very short notice! We netted over \$900 and increased chapter visibility.
  - **Common Ground Fair**– September 20 – 22, 2013. We will have a table at the Common Ground Fair to provide information about the chapter and our projects and to sell tickets for the Ocean Gateway event. Volunteers are needed for the table. Jay Peters to send out information re: time slots for set up, working the booth (3 hour shifts) and take down. Contact Jay at [jpeters@haleyaldrich.com](mailto:jpeters@haleyaldrich.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](mailto:rcooper@hydro-int.com).
- **Portland Adult Ed Outreach:** We're continuing our support for helping emigres looking for help with their job search. This includes helping to revise resumes, drafting cover letters to fit typical expectations in the US and one-on-one meetings to discuss local/US expectations. We will host another panel session in October 2013. If interested in working with emigres, contact Nadia Glucksberg at [naglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com](mailto:naglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).
- **School Outreach/STEM programs:** School presentations continue. We will resume these activities with the new school year. If interested in being the liaison to Portland schools (and other towns), contact Sara Wright at [sara.wright@amec.com](mailto:sara.wright@amec.com).
- **University of Maine Orono EWB Chapter:** Matt Randall and Karen Kern met with Jean McRae to discuss how we could mentor the college chapter. They identified a need for 4 mentors to meet for an hour every 2 weeks to develop a project (s) for implementation. Karen Arnold, Rita Cooper, Kathy Kern & Mike Zanchi volunteered as mentors.
- **Trinity College Chapter:** Continuing to mentor this college chapter. Their latest project was to implement a latrine project for a preschool in a small village in Tanzania.
- **Maine PE credit hours** – See Stan Reed for certificates or contact him at [stanley.reed@amec.com](mailto:stanley.reed@amec.com).

### **Trip Report – Dorgobom, Ghana – April 2013**

Matt Randall, Katie Abbott, Emily Gervais, Charlie Burnham, Sandy Macovsky, Shanta Keller made the chapter's 4<sup>th</sup> trip to Dorgobom, Ghana in April 2013 to continue assessment of the water treatment project for the village. The project includes a rainwater harvesting system and treatment of water contained the village pond.

We were joined by Colleen Kaleda and Angelique Kidd Smith, the Ethiopian community project partners, for this presentation.

Matt Randall reported a growing concern about the community's level of participation in the ongoing water treatment project, as the original premise was that the community participates as an equal partner. The group reported this needs to be assessed going forward because it was not clear that Dorgobom continues to be equally committed.

Katie Abbott reported that erosion control is a huge issue re: turbidity of the pond water. The group observed runoff from a rainstorm to see where the water went and developed suggestions for the village to implement re: use of gravel and vegetation to filter out sediment, as well as filtering out trash from the runoff. Ongoing assessment is needed to see if/how the community implements the suggestions.

Emily Gervais reported on the results of the health survey of the Dorgobom community. She stated they reached 79% of the households in the community. She reviewed several statistics from the survey and noted it was not clear what percentage of the village uses pond water. The survey results are good material for informing goals/objective of the next trip to Dorgobom.

Matt Randall reported the moringa seed filtration experiment went well, though the water developed a bad smell & taste when the seeds were left in it over a period of time. The experiment needs further development to address the smell/taste of the water being filtered with the seeds.

The travel group concluded that overall the chapter needs to:

- Decide what the next steps are for another trip to Dorgobom, i.e. what is the community's commitment? When to make another trip, given other chapter projects?
- The moringa seed project should continue to be refined, since the sand filters are not working for the pond water.
- Decide if and how to upgrade the rainwater harvesting system.

The suggestion was made to post a summary of the April trip report on the chapter's website.

#### New Business

None was brought forward.

#### Next Meeting

**Tuesday, September 17, 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](http://www.ewbportlandmaine.org) .