

## EWB Portland

### 2/19/2013 Meeting Minutes

Nadia Glucksberg welcomed all and introductions were shared. She announced the Portland chapter of EWB had been recognized by EWB-USA as the 2013 premier chapter and thanked everyone who has been involved in the community outreach that led to the national recognition. It was noted that this recognition increases the chapter's credibility and can lead to increased local involvement.

#### Community Outreach

Nadia reviewed various chapter activities, both upcoming and ongoing.

- Engineers Week – EWB to host a table at the Saturday, March 2, 2013 Expo at USM. Need someone to lead and volunteers to staff the table. Nadia asked that interested people let her know by 2/20/2013.
- Portland Adult Ed – EWB has been asked to sit on a panel to meet with immigrant engineers about obtaining qualifications to work in their fields in the US. Need up to 4 volunteers for Tuesday, March 5, 2013 roundtable discussion. Interested participants to contact Kathy Kern.
- School Science Fairs – The Gray-New Gloucester STEM program is reinstating their science fair and needs judges. Fair date to be announced. Interested participants need to contact Nadia Glucksberg or Will Haskell.
- Boy & Girl Scout Engineering Badge Day (2/16/2013) – Nadia noted that while EWB Portland has done so in the past, we didn't support the event in 2013.
- Mini EWB Northeastern Conference – UNH to host a free mini conference to get the New England EWB chapters to share chapter success stories and lessons learned. Conference scheduled for Saturday, February 23, 2013 at UNH in Durham, NH. Interested participants need to contact Nadia Glucksberg or Shanta Keller . Original RSVP date was 2/14/2013.
- UMO EWB Chapter – Nadia noted that the UMO chapter needs mentoring help with their project in Honduras. She asked that anyone interested in more information or possible mentoring should contact her.
- Membership – Nadia reminded folks that no membership is required to attend meetings, however she encouraged becoming a member and paying the fee. She also noted that anyone traveling for EWB must be a paid member.
- Professional Development Hours – Nadia thanked Stan Reed for bringing up the idea of getting credit for PDH's by attending EWB meeting presentations. PDH requirement is 30 hours per year for PEs. Sign-up for the 2/19/2013 meeting is available. She asked interested folks to see Stan Reed. Sign-up will be available for future meetings.
- Morenga Seed Filtration Project – Jill Roland's 7<sup>th</sup> grade class continues to work on a water filtration project using different amounts of moringa seeds to determine the optimum amount. Nadia suggested their work could be future presentation for the chapter.

## Potable Water Supply Project – Dorgobom, Ghana

Shanta Keller presented a video recap of prior trips to Dorgobom, Ghana to establish local village relationships and initiate development of a filtration system for the village water supply. There is also an ongoing effort to build a village library for children in grades 1 -8, as well as adults who are learning to read.

The next Ghana trip is scheduled for April 2013 and will consist of these major components:

- Rainwater Harvesting System (RHS) and Roughing Filter Pilot Test - Shanta Keller to lead the effort to monitor the RHS and to assess community support for continuing the roughing filters project. Major issues for the project are sustainability and maintenance, given the water, weather and erosion conditions as well as level of community support.
- 2013 Health Surveys – Emily Gervais is working on developing health surveys to be taken at the village school and in villagers’ homes to track the health status of community members and to evaluate the impacts of the RHS for the village. She noted the surveys will be used to identify trends rather than exact numbers. Additional work on the surveys is being done to identify appropriate questions, given any cultural sensitivities and language obstacles. Emily asked that anyone with further suggestions should contact her.
- Erosion Control – Caitlyn Abbott is leading the effort to understand what erosion is happening now around the water supply during the rainy seasons and develop options to deal with the turbidity it creates. She emphasized that solutions must be decided by the Dorgobom community in order to have their buy-in.
- Moringa Seed Pilot Treatment System – Matt Randall is leading the effort to develop a filtration system using crushed moringa seeds that release polyelectrolytes to bind with negatively charged particles in the water. The Dorgobom water supply has a large amount of suspended clay particles that are clogging the current sand filtration system. Once the clay particles are flocculated out of suspension (thus the crushed moringa seeds), the water is clarified enough to run through the sand filtration system.

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 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. For more information please visit the Chapter Meetings page at [www.ewbportlandmaine.org](http://www.ewbportlandmaine.org).