



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-USA
PORTLAND, MAINE PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

Woodard & Curran

October 12, 2010 6:00-7:30 PM

Attendees:	Brandon Newman	Matt Marshall	Tim Brandon
	Kathy Kern	Jake Jacobson	April Ye
	Althea Masterson	Mike Miclon	Sara Wright
	Karie Senus	Al Frick	Becca Saucier
	Kyle Coolidge	Will Haskell	

We had a great turnout this evening, and welcomed Matt Marshall, Mike Miclon, and April Ye to our group. Thanks to Woodard & Curran (W&C) for hosting and provision of sandwiches and beverages!

UMAINE STUDENT CHAPTER PROJECT PRESENTATION

April asked if a brief overview of the project could be provided. Kyle offered some background on how he got involved in EWB. After he graduated in 2004, he stayed in touch with Jean MacRae, a professor at UMaine and EWB-UM faculty advisor. She contacted him fall 2008 – the students had started a chapter and she thought he'd be a good fit as mentor as he has been doing wastewater work since joining W&C. Brandon added that he was a student member of EWB-UM, went to Dulce Vivir. The initial focus was drainage improvements and then on wastewater needs. He graduated in 2009 and moved to Portland; he helped get this chapter started.

Al Frick then provided an overview of the recent trip to Dulce Vivir. He said he's delighted to be involved with the students and on this project. There have been 4 assessment trips.

Project Summary

- Goals – be safe, stay healthy
- Project Objectives - built upon info from previous trips.
- Contacts – who are the real players in the community
- Scheduling - Hondurans are typically late for meetings. The students scheduled meetings a week ahead, front-loaded the early part of each week with reserve toward end for catch-up, rescheduling. Hondurans are typically late for meetings.

Impressions of the Community

Dulce Vivir is a subcommunity of Dolce Nombre, located a short walk's distance to the northwest. There are 28 homes plus one new one on the other side of the road. They had to work from old tax maps to develop a base map. Septic tanks flow to a cess pit that is not working. They went down during the rainy season so they could get a better understanding of the drainage. The drainage ditch is approximately 3-4 ft deep. August trip participants:



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Clarissa Livingston
Sean Higgins
Johanna Cairns
Karen Merritt - translator, mentor
Albert Frick - mentor

Community Involvement

Johanna is also a photojournalist...had kids draw pictures of what clean water means to them.

What Worked

Karen was an excellent translator. Good group chemistry; focused, committed, task oriented; evening debriefing and next day's schedule; involvement of community. The students were completely focused on this trip. Tremendous support based from Jean, Kyle, Brandon, Mark Jordan, Brendhan McGurl, Rita Cooper. Having a photojournalist helped them engage with the community, brought out the human side – Johanna worked with the children and mothers about what clean sanitation means to them.

What Did Not Work

Regulatory meetings in Santa Rosa: regulators lacking experience, authority, and/or expertise in larger community septic systems; they were late for mtgs. Site plans, base maps lacking good information, nature of setting. It was tough not having good base survey. The students used GPS and are piecing it together. April asked if they did a topo survey. Brandon and Kyle both responded affirmatively – a level run was performed.

Impressions of Community

The residents of Dulce Vivir are very interested, very thankful; this is a model project – there is a motivated group within the community. San Pedro Sula is a large city with approximately 200,000 people. This is where they will get supplies for a plastic tank. Schedule 35 and 40 PVC pipe is readily available.

Funding

Kyle's not really sure where they stand. Kathy has been coordinating with Rita to see how their letter campaign has been going, what donations have been received, etc.; no info to date. Kathy is following up. Brandon said they could use mileage donations for the March implementation trip.

ENGINEERING 101 WORKSHOP AT UMAINE

Brandon will be coordinating with Rita Cooper on this (EWB-UM president); will likely occur in early 2011. [This workshop will help students with basic field engineering and leadership skills.]



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EWB NORTHEAST REGION WORKSHOP

The workshop will be held on November 5-7 in Pittsburgh, PA. It's a 2.5-day workshop, great opportunity for networking. Brandon will be attending – anyone who's planning on attending and interested in carpooling and/or sharing accommodations, please contact Brandon.

[This annual workshop provides students and professionals from all over the Northeast Region an excellent opportunity to learn more about EWB-USA as an organization, share experiences and current projects with neighboring chapters, and learn about a wide range of topics in the fields of public health and international development through guest speakers and breakout training sessions. Information about the workshop's agenda, registration, rates, lodging, professional development hours, and so on, are available at the workshop's website: <http://www.ewb-northeast.org/Home/2010-workshop>]

DOGOBOM PROJECT UPDATE

Brandon summarized an email received from Nadia while in Ghana, as well as some photos. Information from her email is attached to these minutes. Highlights:

- Kwabena, our contact CDDF is very organized, well connected.
- The village is very welcoming and open minded to solutions.
- Major health concerns are malaria and hook worm.
- There are feasible options – rainwater harvesting, pumping/treating water from pond.

FUNDRAISING

We are participating in weekly fundraising calls – they are now held on Wednesdays from 5:00-5:30 PM. If you're interested in joining in, please contact Kathy.

THE EARLY SHOW - Sara Wright/Mike Miclon

Mike joined us this evening and provided a brief overview of his background. He is a professional entertainer and is very involved in humanitarian work. He has worked on three projects in northern India and has raised over \$200,000 in Rotary grants.

He is working on two shows for us – one in Portland, one in the Lewiston/Auburn area. These shows will take place in early 2011 and will feature info about our project and have jugglers, singers, etc. He sets up meetings with Rotary groups to raise awareness/interest in shows.

YARD SALE - Jake Jacobson

Goods: He's received a few loads from folks – some bigger donations are a kayak from Will Haskell and a dryer from Dave Adams. Others have indicated they will be bringing items.

Helpers: Those who have volunteered to help so far include Althea, Karie, Sara, Kathy, Karen Arnold, Brandon.



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Tasks: Advertisement in different papers - Falmouth Forecaster, etc., office-wide emails; pricing.

[OUTREACH CAMPAIGN – Karie Senus, Althea](#)

The letter is basically completed. She will be coordinating with Althea on the letter and flyer and how to handle signatures of board members. Kathy will be getting back to Karie regarding UMaine letters to firms/who donated so that we don't double dip. Karie asked folks to please identify the contact person at their firms and email the information to her.

[STONYFIELD CAFE – Kathy Kern](#)

This restaurant is the former O'Natural's in Falmouth (still same ownership). We have a date – Tuesday, November 9, 2010 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. 10% of proceeds to our Chapter. An email will be forthcoming with additional info; we will also discuss at our next meeting.

[THE LOCAL BUZZ – Kathy Kern](#)

Kathy was there last week, spoke with co-owner Dawn LaPointe. We have a tentative date – either Mon Dec 6th or Dec 13th from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. 10% of proceeds go to our Chapter, along with tip jar. More info to follow. [The date has been set for Monday, December 13th]

ACTION ITEMS

- Please provide your firm's contact person for the Outreach Campaign letter to Karie Senus at klsenus@mactec.com
- Kathy will follow up again with Rita Cooper regarding status of EWB-UM's letter campaign efforts, and get back to Karie.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, November 8, 2010 from 6:00- 7:30 PM at W&C; they have graciously allowed us to meet there again. Hugh Tozier who has worked with Konbit Sante to improve health care in Haiti will be our guest speaker.

I have prepared these meeting minutes to the best of my knowledge. If you have any comments or edits, please forward them to me.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kern
attachment



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To: EWB Portland Maine Chapter
From: Nadia Glucksberg
Date: October 11, 2010
Subj: Pre-Assessment Trip Highlights

Greetings from Ghana!

It's been wild here, with a bunch of stories, but for now - below is a quick recap of what we've learned so far.

Politics

Kwabena (or Prof or Boss) is very organized and smooth. He joined us to meet with every level of the health and education centers to get their 'blessing' and make sure everyone felt involved and notified. His group at the university deals with parasites so they are the perfect team for promoting clean water.

Village

Very welcoming, very kind and excited about our help. Shanta and I stayed in the village for two nights - HUGE SPIDERS but apparently they don't bite so there's no concern (yeah right). (Jake you were right - they have nothing on the GUA ones...and there were at least 6 in my room!!). the nearest hotel wasn't too much better, but at least they had western bathrooms (although no running water). Food- I'm a little tired of Fufu and other mush-like starches that are pounded into submission and served with stews of freshly 'harvested' guinea hens, fish, beef etc....and of course tomatoes and chilies,...but they were gracious and made us feel welcome.

Health

CDDF - this group is very well organized with ties and connections both in Dogobom and in the region. They have a strong understanding of the health issues and will a great lead for assessing the health concerns and be able to assess any improvement from safer water.

Malaria and hook worm are the primary issues. For the region they are very prevalent but in dogobom they are not screening 50% to 100% of hook worm infestation like other villages. That said, with the public latrines and outhouses, it may not be easy to see blood in urine/stools for diagnosis (for hook worm).

The people of Dogobom understand the importance of clean water and the dangers of animal waste and runoff on health. They have been educated to filter and then add alum to the water for purification, but the alum is expensive and can only be purchased in Kasseh (nearest town). Approx 1/3 of the village follows this suggestion. They want clean water but also are very poor and can't afford anything other than what they are doing.



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There are several test filters in the school that they use for the students to use during the day - but they were only installed recently and I did not get the sense that individual houses are looking to do the same. As for schools, Dogobom has a primary school, but high school (and maybe middle school) is in the next town or boarding school.

Physical Setting

Dry season lasts from Feb through April when the pond may actually dry up and then they [the villagers] have to walk to the next village in the heat and buy water. Village is about 500 people (approx) in 80 houses. Bedrock is a quartzite/argillite(ish) type rock that's heavily foliated and appears to be encountered at around 5 to 10 feet bgs. Overburden is fine sand, and fine silt, little clay. Lots of iron. No real data yet - but hoping to still talk with local geologists at the university or drillers (for costs and info).

Well is not used as it is saline and the pump is leaking (so it takes about 30 min to pump up water). Pond is relatively small and today the inlet tributary was already dry. Surrounding land is farmed for tomatoes, chilies and onions - that is also their main income. Eventually anything to help irrigation would be huge as it would continue their income. Pond is actually at the high point of the village so gravity (with treatment) may work. School is in the central area with four 'neighborhoods' or grouping of houses. Tanks and HDPE are avail here - but not in the closest area - but not too far away - we'll get prices tomorrow. No luck talking to drillers - but we'll be at the university tomorrow and will try to talk with the geology department and search out drillers (for information and quotes). We've GPS'd most of the key points and have a map (thanks for the GPS Jay) and measured out the roof area for the school. We'll collect water samples on Wed. and I think Katahdin Analytical may offer to run them for us....I'll work on when I get back.

Options for Help

- Rain water harvesting will be easy for the rainy season and can help. School is BIG with a metal roof - it is also just south of the pond so it is in the high point of the village.
- Pump/run water from the pond, treat to clean out the bio and solids - then into a central tank that can be later distributed to the other areas.
- Increase storage capacity of pond.
- Drill a second well to attempt to get clean groundwater
- Treat the groundwater and discharge to holding tank
- Sanitation - water near the latrines will help greatly. As the public latrines are near the school, storage tanks associated with rain water harvesting or pond treatment can also improve sanitation.
- Per our projects - They understand that the electric bills, upkeep, or misc costs will be funded by the village and that it is up to them to figure out costs/fees

We have ton of photos and stories, but that will wait until I've sifted through the rest of the e-mails. See everyone soon.