

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

5/19/2020 MEETING MINUTES

Chapter President Nadia Glucksberg welcomed everyone to our first virtual meeting via Zoom.

Updates included the following:

El Progreso, Ecuador: Although the pandemic has closed out travel, the project team is working toward the next phase of implementation, when we can travel once it is safe and EWB-USA approved to do so. Reach out to Baxter (baxterm419@gmail.com) or Julianne (jpage@woodardcurran.com) if you want to get involved. There is also a SLACK channel to keep the team informed.

EWB-US and Chapter outreach: We continue to support approximately seven other chapters with geology and rig support, both in the review of hydrogeological reports, travel (when that can happen) and other well/drilling based questions. Huge thanks to Helena and Matt for all the extra time and heavy lifting to help those chapters out. We have also recently supported filming quick episodes on drilling and water sampling. These were to be live at headquarters, but then became quick Zoom events. Final products should be on VV in the upcoming weeks/months where Nadia Glucksberg and Jay Peters will make their video debuts from the comfort of their offices. Finally, we have at least two presentations submitted to the national meeting that will also be virtual this year.....stay tuned for more on that as well.

Food Security Support, Ecuador: We have an opportunity to support a community in Cuenca, Ecuador during this pandemic. A friend of Maeve Carson's, Francisco Gonzalez, is partnering with the local municipality and the University Del Azuay (technical university in his province) to run a pilot project of a urban gardening/food security/ economic support project in a low income neighborhood in Cuenca (southern Ecuador). The goal is to have a combination of community gardens and at-home aquaponic systems for at risk community members to learn how to manage, with the ultimate goal that they would be able to provide their family with nutritious food and sell any extra produce for some income, since many in Ecuador are without work at the moment.

The funding for this project is through a U.S. Embassy & Consulate grant in Ecuador. However in order to qualify for the program, Francisco and his team need to demonstrate partnership with organizations and/or individuals within the U.S. that could provide "expertise, process, and/or personnel" to help with the project. Maeve has provided the attached letter of collaboration that her team has been sending out to organizations that explains this whole process. Also attached is a Letter of Intent. Maeve has requested that EWB-PMP chapter consider signing on in support of this project. We look forward to hearing more about this, and if you want to support, also feel free to contact Maeve directly ASAP (maeve.carlson@maine.edu) or let Nadia know (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com). **UPDATE:** Karen Merritt will lead this effort. If you're interested in participating, please contact Karen for more information - Kmerritt1@gmail.com.

New Project Opportunity - Project Leader(s) Needed! Our chapter is in a position to take on another project and an opportunity has presented itself! The UMaine student chapter has recently been approved by EWB-USA to begin a water distribution project in Ixtupil, Guatemala. The current major challenge for the student chapter is the estimated project cost and their ability to raise the funds in the timeline proposed initially by EWB-USA. In an effort to find a solution, the UMaine student chapter is proposing to partner with the PMP chapter to enhance UMaine's fundraising capability and develop a mentor/mentee relationship to move ahead with the project. EWB-USA is aware of UMaine's proposal to partner with our chapter and is supporting that effort. This could be a really great opportunity to lead a project closer to home than either Ethiopia or Ecuador and to work with a group of eager engineering students. Please consider stepping up to lead or co-lead this project in partnership with UMaine. Please contact Maeve Carlson (maeve.carlson@maine.edu) for more information. There is project info already available if you would like to review it. THANK YOU!!!! **UPDATE:** This project will be led by Braydon Norris (new EWB member and UMaine grad) with assistance from Maeve Carlson. Once a Slack or Teams channel is established, we'll get the word out to solicit more support.

MAY PRESENTATION

Sustainable Irrigation System for the Kara Tribe, Omo Valley, Ethiopia

Calley Bilgram of the Miyamoto Global Disaster Relief has been working in rural Ethiopia to help local tribes get water, after much of the river water has been diverted by dams. She presented "Return Water to Ethiopian Tribes to Save Lives, Livelihoods and Culture," and discussed potential ways to get involved. This is a unique project that utilizes engineering, project management, and humanitarian expertise to support forgotten tribes in Ethiopia's Omo Valley. It also comes at a critical time; without outside support and intervention, the tribe's traditional way of life and community will crumble. **Nadia Glucksberg offered to be the lead between the groups for anyone interested in supporting them. They also offered to set up a Slack or Teams channel to facilitate communications.**

A period of Q&A followed.

NEXT VIRTUAL PMP CHAPTER MEETING IS TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020 from 6:00PM – 7:00PM. PLEASE JOIN US!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary