

## EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

### 6/16/2020 MEETING MINUTES

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

Updates included the following:

**EWB Chapter Officers:** Nadia Glucksberg will step down as chapter President by September, therefore creating an opportunity for a new person to step into that role. She is willing to support the new president in whatever ways she can. Officer positions must be voted on by chapter members by the end of the summer; therefore anyone interested in becoming President, and/or becoming/remaining as Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary needs to let Nadia know as soon as possible.

([naglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com](mailto:naglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com))

**Food Security Support, Ecuador:** We have an opportunity to support a community in Cuenca, Ecuador during this pandemic. Karen Merritt, an environmental engineer, is leading the effort to get this food security program off the ground. Maeve Carson provided an overview of the project and reported there has been a grant application submitted to help support it. They are waiting for a response.

If you're interested in participating, please contact Karen for more information - [Kmerritt1@gmail.com](mailto:Kmerritt1@gmail.com).

**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](mailto:baxterm419@gmail.com)) or Julianne ([jpage@woodardcurran.com](mailto:jpage@woodardcurran.com)) if you want to get involved. There is also a SLACK channel to keep the team informed.

**Ecuador Hand Washing Kit Donations:** As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic Engineers In Action (EIA) has asked for help raising funds to create and deliver hand washing kits to the El Progreso, Ecuador community. The cost is about \$30 per kit. There are 45 households to whom kits would be delivered. Individuals can donate on a personal level. We discussed matching personal donations with chapter funds up to \$1,000, which would have to be approved by chapter members. We agreed to send a request to the PMP chapter to vote on whether to match individual donations with chapter funds.

**UPDATE: Over \$1000 has been donated and the matching \$1000 donation from our funds was approved. Working to receive the invoice from EIA, so that they can purchase the kits and provide the training. THANKYOU!!!**

**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 Hollauer and Matt Reynolds 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.

We have at least two presentations submitted to the national EWB meeting that will also be virtual this year.....stay tuned for more on that as well.

Nadia noted there would be a Zoom call on June 18, 2020 with the Boston EWB professional chapter. She invited anyone interested to join the call. Topic of discussion is mainly idea sharing for fundraising, etc.

**Sustainable Irrigation System for the Kara Tribe, Omo Valley, Ethiopia:** Nadia provided a brief review of this project, which was the May PMP chapter presentation, and reported that Calley Bilgram, the presenter, is looking for anyone interested in supporting this project. An email will be sent to the PMP distribution list requesting that interested folks contact Nadia to receive materials and information from Calley's group.

**Update:** a TEAMS channel has been set up, hosted by the NGO, anyone interested in joining is welcome.

**Ixtupil, Guatemala:** The UMaine student chapter has 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 partnering 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.

Braydon Norris ([Braydon.norris.15@gmail.com](mailto:Braydon.norris.15@gmail.com)) from the UMaine chapter will lead the project for PMP. The PMP chapter will mentor with regard to technical and design support as well as fundraising ideas. An MOU between the two chapters has been drafted and is in review. A Slack channel (or equivalent communication platform) also needs to be created for the project.

**Small Scale Humanitarian Engineering Projects Survey:** Nadia noted the email received from Margaret McCurdy, a graduate student at Drexel University and member of the EWB chapter there, requesting participation in a survey she is conducting as part of her research. Nadia asked that interested folks reply to the survey request. Margaret's email was distributed to the PMP chapter.

## **JUNE PRESENTATION**

Steve Laudage, a PMP member and the team leader of the most recent El Progreso trip, provided an excellent review of the January 2020 trip and next steps for the project. At this time design work continues, as well as regular contact with EIA, and we hope to travel again in 2021.

**NEXT VIRTUAL PMP CHAPTER MEETING IS TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020 from 6:00PM – 7:00PM. PLEASE JOIN US!**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary