

EWB PORTLAND MAINE MEETING MINUTES

**Woodard & Curran, Portland
April 5, 2010 6:00-7:30 PM**

Attendees: Marilyn Sinnet, Woodard & Curran
Kyle Coolidge, Woodard & Curran
Rebecca Saucier, Wright-Pierce
Andy Merrill, Wright-Pierce
Albert Frick, Albert Frick Associates
Will Haskell, Gorrill-Palmer
Althea Masterson, Woodard & Curran
Karen Arnold, Arcadis
Karie Senus, MACTEC
Nick Champagne, Woodard & Curran
Jay Peters, MACTEC
Nadia Glucksberg, Haley & Aldrich
Kathy Kern, TY Lin
Shanta Keller, TY Lin

OVERVIEW

At tonight's meeting, Kathy and Shanta made a brief presentation about the EWB International Conference held in Denver a few weeks ago. Other items for discussion were EWB-UM update, Ghana project status, election of officers, etc.

EWB 2010 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – DENVER, MARCH 18-21

Kathy and Shanta provided an overview of this year's annual conference. The key theme at this year's conference was "Building a Better World: Blurring the lines of professional disciplines to gain tools that affect change." They met numerous students and professionals who have ongoing projects in Ghana, Kenya, Honduras, Guatemala, and many other countries, and came back to Maine very pumped up about EWB and getting a project for our chapter.

At the conference, several presentations and discussion panels covered how a multi-disciplinary approach to sustainable development work and the changing field of engineering connect. By blurring the lines of disciplines and encouraging philanthropy and creative educational practices, a new professional can be developed and equipped with the capacity to make a significant and lasting difference in the lives of others. Effective communication was a common thread throughout the sessions. Some key topics:

- **Principles of Crucial Conversations** – both stateside and in-country;
know your motives – for you, for the other person, for the relationship

- **Corporate Social Responsibility** – get companies to become real partners rather than just signing on the dotted line
- **Clinton Climate Initiative** – let the villagers know you care about them – you both have a mutual purpose; what works in one village may not work in the next; need a finite exit strategy to leave a community sustainable, particularly financially; we at EWB need to share our lessons learned with each other more
- **Discussion with Rosemary Powers, Chapter Coordinator at EWB-USA**
 - Funds: Annual Dues have 20% to Chapter, 15% to Region, and 65% to National.
 - Fundraising: Donations go 100% to either Chapter or Project, none to National.
Corporations – inform Rosemary of the companies we want to target; National wants to make sure their major sponsors are not bothered by dozens of calls.
Grants are generally for \$2,000, \$5,000, etc. Helping students apply for grants is one of the best ways we can assist them in fundraising.
 - Project Initiation: 501 Application– identify project problem; usually due for review mid-month
Demonstrate that the project is in line with the vision and mission of EWB-USA
Non-denominational – this is key
Project Lead resume – need to submit

A highlight of the conference was seeing a trailer of a new video that features Nadia, Jay, and Jake working on their project in Abheypur, India. This video will be posted on the EWB-USA website this fall. Keep a lookout for it!

GHANA PROJECT STATUS

- **CDDF**
Shanta has continued communicating with the director of Community Directed Development Foundation (CDDF), an NGO that was created a few years ago to promote innovative partnerships for development in Africa. He hopes to soon have a list of a few projects from which we can choose.
- **Interim Meeting**
There was discussion about having an interim meeting of interested individuals to discuss the merits of the different projects provided, with the goal of providing a good summary to the chapter at our next meeting so we can vote on and select one. Once Shanta receives the project information, the date/time for the interim meeting will be established.

- **Timeline**
Shanta will be going over to Ghana in early October. On the one hand, it would be good if the Initial Assessment could be conducted during that trip, but some good, constructive advice obtained during the meeting was that there should be more than one person on the assessment trip even if it isn't an EWB requirement, and that we shouldn't rush this process or decision just to coincide well with Shanta's personal plans. Shanta and others duly acknowledged this approach.

Kathy has started looking at different websites which list US corporations that do business in Ghana – these will be great candidates to approach for some potentially significant and sustainable fundraising.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Kyle broached the subject of election of officers. Any and all are encouraged to run for President, Vice-president, Treasurer, and Secretary. Kathy encouraged everyone to consider running for one of these positions.

After those posts are officially filled, the Chapter will focus on other important Chair and Lead roles such as Fundraising Chair, Membership Chair, Project Lead, and Health and Safety Officer.

INTERESTS AND SKILLS OF OUR MEMBERS

We really need to gather this information – so we can learn about each other and we can choose activities that match the interests and skills of our members. We hope to be soon embarking on a project in Ghana. But as we have learned from the Northeast Region representatives and some of our members who have previous EWB project and chapter experience, we need to work together on local initiatives in our community in order to bond as a group and have long-term success as a chapter. Although local work is not part of the mission of EWB-USA, it will be a key component of our efforts.

Brandon will be sending out an email with a few brief questions about your interests, skills, ideas, etc. We look forward to your responses!

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, May 10, 2010 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM at MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. at 511 Congress Street in Portland.** The main lobby doors close at 6:00 PM; Karie Henning will be at the front door from approximately 5:50 to 6:10 to greet people and escort them up the elevator (which has card access only after 5:00) Parking options include on-street parking and garage parking. A reminder will be sent out one week beforehand.

ACTION ITEMS

- Obtain list of Ghana projects Shanta
- List of US companies doing work in Ghana to approach for sponsorship Kathy

Looking forward to seeing you on May 10th!

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,

Katherine Kern