

**EWB PORTLAND MAINE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**MACTEC, Portland  
May 10, 2010 6:00-7:30 PM**

<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Karen Arnold</b>	<b>Kevin McKee</b>
	<b>Tim Brandon</b>	<b>Kathy Kern</b>
	<b>Nick Champagne</b>	<b>Althea Masterson</b>
	<b>Kyle Coolidge</b>	<b>Brandon Newman</b>
	<b>Luke England</b>	<b>Jay Peters</b>
	<b>Nadia Glucksberg</b>	<b>Rebecca Saucier</b>
	<b>Will Haskell</b>	<b>Karie Senus</b>
	<b>Shanta Keller</b>	<b>Bill Walsh</b>

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## **OVERVIEW**

There were many agenda items covered at tonight's meeting including: election of officers; summer meeting schedule; skill sets/interests of our members; other chapter roles; Student Chapter update; participation with the Northeast Region; local community involvement; and our Ghana project selection.

Three new people attended our meeting this evening - John Walsh, Tim Brandon, and Luke England. Welcome to the EWB Portland Maine chapter!

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Open Roll Call Vote: Brandon conducted an open roll call vote to gather a more comprehensive tally of our chapter's support for new officers, rather than results from email ballots received from only official EWB Portland Maine members – particularly since many in our group are either EWB-USA members who haven't yet joined the chapter, or are interested in EWB Portland Maine but are not quite ready to commit.

Candidates: No new candidates came forward indicating interest in running for officer positions, so the candidates defaulted to the interim officers, with the exception of Nadia Glucksberg, who was nominated for Vice President by Interim VP Kyle Coolidge. Kyle wants to concentrate his time and efforts in continuing his role as a mentor to the student chapter.

Length of Terms: Kyle noted that these positions would take effect immediately, rather than on September 1<sup>st</sup> as stated in our bylaws; therefore, the 2010 officers will hold the positions for slightly more than one year.

The results were unanimous, and our 2010-2011 Officers are as follows:

President:	Brandon Newman
Vice President:	Nadia Glucksberg
Secretary:	Katherine Kern
Treasurer:	Shanta Keller

## **SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE**

Many professional organizations don't meet during the summer due to members' vacation schedules, etc. The board wants to continue to maintain and build on the momentum we've gathered during our first four months. Folks are encouraged to continue attending as their schedules allow!

## **SKILL SETS/INTERESTS OF OUR CHAPTER**

Brandon sent out an email to our mailing list requesting information of each individual so that we can capture our collective skill sets and interests – this is important information - we can learn more about each other and we can choose activities that match the interests and skills of our members. He said he has received a dozen or so responses.

## **ADDITIONAL CHAPTER ROLES**

Webmaster: Brandon mentioned that we are still looking for someone to be webmaster for our website – if anyone is interested or knows of someone, please let us know.

Membership Chair: This is an important chair position that we need to fill as well.

Fundraising Chair: A few people are interesting in assisting with fundraising. A chairperson has not yet been established.

Marketing Chair: Kyle said that he thought we should have a Marketing Chair, and nominated Althea. All were in favor. Althea said she would do it if she could share the position. Karie Senus said she would co-chair.

## **STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATE**

Kyle provided an update on the activities of the Student Chapter (EWB-UM).

- He has been very busy working with the students. He has conference calls with them 1-2 times per week.
- The students have been very busy with finals, finishing up their Capstone projects, etc.
- The next step is Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Review for their design. Kyle said he had emailed some people who he thought would be good candidates for this, and asked the group if anyone else was interested. Bill Walsh expressed interest.
- The students must travel with mentors. There is a possible trip in August.

Kathy briefly summarized her telephone conversation with Prof. Jean MacRae, faculty advisor for EWB-UM.

- Jean reference one of the previously expressed needs (grant writing, fundraising, and mentoring assistance). Grant writing - it's been difficult for the students to determine and select grants listed on the EWB-USA website which best fits their needs and project timelines.
- The students would really like some leadership training and guidance on implementation of work – a Field Engineering 101 for lack of a better name...how to put pipe together, basic surveying (most civil engineering students don't take surveying until their sophomore or junior year, and many other engineering disciplines and science programs don't offer surveying).
- Once the implementation trip is completed, they need to determine whether they will pursue more work within Dulce Vivir (without a non-governmental organization's NGO's assistance) or look for new projects in other areas of Honduras where NGOs have a presence.

Kathy suggested we do a combined leadership and field engineering training presentation up there this fall.

## **NORTHEAST REGION**

Brandon and Shanta participated in a Northeast Region conference call. Brandon said this has been a great way to understand the interests and issues of other student chapters in the region. UVM is facing some difficulties with a troublesome non-governmental organization (NGO) – there is a professor who obstructs the process. Both UNH and Norwich have experienced problems with turnover.

## **LOCAL INVOLVEMENT**

A great way to bond as a Chapter and give back to our own community is through local involvement. Several suggestions were offered this evening, including:

- Contacting/assisting USM/UNE in development of their own Student Chapters
- Middle/high school science fair judging
- Trail maintenance
- Community gardens/irrigation
- Parent/Kid Day – great education for the kids, networking/fundraising potential with parents
- Engineers Week (3<sup>rd</sup> week in Feb) – experiments, hands-on presentations at booth

Nadia said the University of Hartford chapter assisted police with the installation of surveillance cameras; sometimes there are unique opportunities available for us to provide assistance.

Local Involvement Committee: A committee was established this evening to spearhead evaluation and selection of options for our Chapter to consider. The committee will include Karen Arnold, Kevin McKee, Kathy Kern, and Brandon Newman.

Brochures/Stationery: Will suggested that it would be good to have a flyer to hand out. Althea offered to develop the brochure and stationery. She added that it would be good to have interaction between the Marketing Co-chairs and the Local Involvement Committee...fundraising as well.

## **GHANA PROJECT**

Summary: Shanta provided a brief review of his interest in Ghana. He has been there twice – his first trip was with his professor at UVM. His third trip will be this October when he attends a wedding. Through contacts provided from his professor, Shanta was introduced to Kwabena Bosompem, the Director of the Community Directed Development Foundation (CDDF), an NGO that was established in Africa to help poor communities connect with humanitarian organizations like EWB. Kwabena is also a professor at the University of Ghana and president of the Red Cross Society.

### CDDF Projects:

List of projects  
3 projects –

Project A- two sources of water – borehole really salty, dirty surface water – clay/orange 500 residents, 2 sq km too salty to drink, irritates skin.

Project B – on coast, water issue; erosion , 2 sq km,

Project C – urban project > 20,000 people. Drainage

Project A – Jay – maybe 2 assessment trips and 1 implementation trip

1<sup>st</sup> – get massive amt of info, go over when you get back. Then do a second assessment trip with more focused approach. Then come up w/design and do implementation.

EWB Ghana – may involve. U of Ghana – check out their eng program.

Kyle - 501 application team; would support moving forward.

Jay – we have 80% of the information you’re going to have. Project No. 1 is probably the one.

### **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.

### **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**

Will Haskell offered Gorrill-Palmer's office for our next meeting venue. He will check with folks and get back to us.

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