

**EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Woodard & Curran**

**November 8, 2010 6:00-7:30 PM**

**Attendees:    Brandon Newman            Scott Winchester  
                  Kathy Kern                        Jake Jacobson  
                  Shanta Keller                         Jay Peters  
                  Karie Senus                            Althea Masterson  
                  Kyle Coolidge                         Tim Brandon  
                  Matt Marshall**

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The highlight of tonight's meeting was Shanta's presentation on the recent Ghana trip. Nadia couldn't be here to participate, unfortunately, but she prepared the Powerpoint and provided several great pictures. Thanks to Woodard & Curran for hosting our meeting once again!

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Shanta said we now have an available balance of \$1,170 in our account.

### **STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATE**

Kyle said that the students will have a draft project manual of specs and drawings ready sometime next week for Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) review. They are all set with help right now.

### **ENGINEERING 101 WORKSHOP AT UMAINE**

Brandon has continued coordination with Rita Cooper on this workshop, which will provide information on surveying, connecting pipe, etc.

### **EWB AND USM**

Brandon recently met with the Student Engineering Extra Curricular Committee. Some of the senior are interested in forming a chapter. In late December, we will do a presentation – anyone who wants to join Brandon in presenting at USM, please send him an email.

### **GHANA PRE-ASSESSMENT TRIP PRESENTATION**

Shanta gave a presentation of his and Nadia's pre-assessment trip in late September/early October. Kwabena was a very gracious and knowledgeable host; they were warmly welcomed by the community and its leaders. They also met with the Water Research Institute.

Challenges: include turbid surface water and saline groundwater.

Village: The village of Dogobom has approximately 500 people who live in 70 homes. It is a farming community that grows tomatoes, peppers, and onions. There is a central elementary school in the village; upper grades go to local boarding schools. The village has electric power.

They understand that they will “own” any new water treatment systems and will pay for electricity and maintenance.

Assessment Work: Nadia and Shanta measured the pond source and the school roof area (possible rainwater harvesting), and obtained information on material availability and costs.

Assessment Findings: The drinking water source pond is higher in elevation than the village and it is near the school. The one existing well in the village produces saline water – hand pump is in disrepair. Bedrock is comprised of gneiss. The greater regional water supply is from the Volta River via underground distribution system.

Possible Solutions:

- the school roof could be used for rainwater harvesting
- surface water filtration system
- groundwater treatment
- increased storage capacity for surface water pond

Next Steps: After the presentation, there was a good group discussion about the next steps going forward. The project team was discussed: folks who have expressed interest in traveling on the next trip to Ghana include Jay, Scott, Nadia, Karen Merritt, Karen Arnold, and Scott Winchester. We will have two trips in 2011 – likely in March and September. The March trip will serve as the formal assessment trip and we could implement the rainwater harvesting system during this trip. We need to fill out the requisite paperwork for EWB for assessment trip, travel, etc. Brandon, Jay, and Shanta will meet to discuss specific next steps and development of task lists that can be delegated to Chapter members. Brandon said it would be good to involve the students with a task(s) – they would be good at doing research for us.

## **FUNDRAISING**

The yard sale was a huge success – we raised \$1,000! Special acknowledgement was made to Jake for his efforts in planning this event and really making it happen in a big way.

Kathy reminded everyone that the Stonyfield Café fundraiser is tomorrow night (Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>).

The Outreach Campaign letters will be finalized and sent out within the next couple of weeks.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- If you are interested in assisting Brandon with the USM presentation in December, please contact Brandon Newman.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, January 10, 2011 at Wright–Pierce at 75 Washington Avenue in Portland. Hugh Tozier, who has worked with Konbit Sante to improve health care in Haiti, is tentatively scheduled to 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  
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