



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-USA
PORTLAND, MAINE PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER

MEETING MINUTES

TY Lin International

March 14, 2011 6:00-7:30 PM

Attendees: **Brandon Newman** **Leo Larochele**
 Kathy Kern **Jake Jacobson**
 Shanta Keller **Jay Peters (via phone)**
 Scott Winchester
 Sara Wright
 Karen Arnold

The focus of tonight's meeting was the Ghana trip; the travel team is departing from Portland on Wednesday (3/16). Thanks to TY Lin for hosting our meeting and providing cookies and chips, and a special thanks to Bernie's Foreside for donating pizza!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Shanta said we now have an available balance of approx \$3,300 in our account; we will probably break even after this trip.

STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATE

The students got back from their implementation trip. Kyle went. They conducted their first phase of the implementation. They had a manual labor force of 14 people that they kept busy! They had the use of an excavator, were able to take shots. They are basically done except for the tank and leachfield design. They could go in May but need \$20,000 to complete the work, so they will likely go in December.

FUNDRAISING

Outreach Campaign - Ongoing: \$2,750 so far:

\$1,000 - Woodard & Curran (W&C)
\$ 250 - Credere Associates LLC
\$1,500 - Haley & Aldrich [plus employee match]

Upcoming Events/Fundraising Avenues – The Early Show (late winter), Flatbread event (Fall 2011), Moonlight Madness at Margarita's (4Q 2011), calendar raffle, golf tournament, potential event at Bayside Bowl, cover charges at bars/surcharges on glasses of wine

ENGINEERING EXPO

The Engineering Expo at the USM Field House in Gorham on February 19th was a great success! This event was sponsored by Maine Engineering Promotion Council. Several of Maine's top engineering firms, engineering schools, educators, government agencies, industry, and engineering societies had booths and exhibits. We co-exhibited with EWB-UM, and had lots of good foot traffic...saw kids ranging from toddlers to high school students with their parents. Nadia met a teacher from Gorham whose class wants to do some fundraising; Nadia gave her contact info. We're hoping to hear from them!

Thanks again to Will Haskell for spearheading this effort!!!

GHANA ASSESSMENT TRIP

Travel Team - Nadia, Scott, Jay, Sara, and Jake.

Mapping: Jake and Sara are working with coordinates gathered during the pre-assessment trip. They will be doing a lot of survey work on this upcoming trip.

Data Collection: The team will collect data to develop a system to filter and distribute pond water. The existing well pump isn't working, probably a leaky seal. It might be a quick fix to replace a seal, but we'll scratch it off the scope of work for this trip; the team will at least take a look at it.

Rainwater Harvesting System: On this trip, in addition to doing a lot of assessment and collecting data, a pilot rainwater harvesting system will be installed at the school, which has a large metal roof, 170-ft length along one leg. Scott and Jay will work together and will develop plan to use metal piping, do what they can with local materials.

Education/Monitoring: Brandon asked how we will monitor/measure success of rainwater system – potentially catalog quantity – usage for bathing, drinking, cooking? How are we going to control distribution. Maybe talk to them to see what they think? All agreed this captured rainwater will definitely be cleaner than pond.

CDDF's big thing is education. We've kind of sidestepped education to defer to CDDF's work/mission. We'll express our thoughts/concerns to CDDF to convey, maybe they'll have us talk to them. CDDF measures a lot of stuff.

Tools: Team members discussed what they will bring on the trip. Tools include 5-in cordless skillsaw, cordless drill, hacksaw, duct tape, fasteners, tie wire. Shanta suggested bringing headlamps – they were quite useful on the previous trip.

Logistics: Shanta handed out passports/visas and an envelope with two phone sim cards, numbers, etc. EWB has group insurance thru Seven Corners. He provided a good overview on logistics, transport, etc. Isaac (guide from previous trip) will be at the airport to meet the team. He's not sure if they'll have their own car; worst case scenario is that the team will take tro tros (vans) out of the village.

Schedule: Schedule is nailed down pretty well. After landing, the team will head out to the hotel on the first day. They will then spend Thursday through the weekend collecting info. On Monday and Tuesday, a couple of team members will go shopping for supplies. Shanta found

tons of plumbing stores, tank store – poly tanks everywhere...all are in the marketplace in Accra. Vendors can supply transportation of any size tanks.

Handling of money: Shanta said they will have local with them at all times, so they should be safe carrying cash, using ATMs. Shanta has taken \$400 out of an ATM, has used both Visa and Mastercard. There are several options – debit cards, money transfers, leave cash with NGO. Can exchange money at any bank.

Interactions: Karen's co-worker who did work in Ghana suggested contacting the Peace Corps – they love to help. Also suggested visiting homes - get to know the families, explain what we're doing. Relationship building. She also suggested we test for turbidity, think about seasonal aspects of results.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on **Monday, May 9, 2011 from 6:00-7:30 PM at TY Lin.**

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