

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

1-17-17 Meeting Minutes

President Nadia Glucksberg opened the meeting by asking for introductions of attendees and reviewed ongoing chapter activities and news, including:

MILEMBE SCHOOL Earlier this year, Pamela Dawes and Scott Teas shared their work at the Melimbe School in Tanzania. We are thrilled to hear that the students moved into the laboratory buildings last week. Some photos on their website at <http://scattergooddesign.com/contact/>. More important, check out the attached video; they can turn the spigot and have water come out!

HOLIDAY CHEER Thank you to all! Thanks to your truly amazing generosity, our chapter was able to support a local Iraqi family and their young triplets, who have found safe asylum in Maine (and if your firm is hiring, Ali has 10+ years om civil engineering and although currently working at LL Bean, we'd love to support his job search in his chosen field. If you're hiring, we can forward his resume - with permission.)

DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA- There is still much unrest in Ethiopia. Travel is still on hold, but we are ready to go as soon as we can. TCP is pushing forward within in country help with a goal of opening for 247 students this September. CEBs are being made, 10 lap tops have been donated by H&A for the school, and work is progressing. If you want to travel (when we can), get involved, or just be on the team email distribution list, please contact Nadia (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com) or Kevin (KRuss@haleyaldrich.com). Project team meetings occur separately from chapter meetings and all are welcome.

FUNDRAISING- Portland Uncorked! is gearing up. It will be held on **March 2** at the historic Custom House in Portland. **We need silent auction items**, so if you know creative people or connected people who can give gift certificates, nice objects, artistic pieces, etc., please pursue. Anything of value (generally greater than \$40) is welcome.....and can be as high as you like. Money is good. If you're interested in helping with planning and producing Portland Uncorked!, please contact Kathy Hillman Reed (khillmanreed@gmail.com).

STEM OUTREACH Local school outreach continues so we can present some of our work to middle and high school students. Presentation dates TBD between now and the end of May. You do not have to be involved with a travel team to teach middle school and high school kids. It's a blast, we have programs already set up, and welcome all new ideas. Contact Kathy Hillman Reed if you're interested (khillmanreed@gmail.com). We need presenters!

HAITI BRIDGE PROJECT – Dave Murphy has teamed up with Cashman Construction in Quincy, MA to transport bridge portions to a location in Haiti to repair damage to the existing bridge. Gabe Sullivan has been hired by Cashman Construction to manage the Haiti project and he's already working on their first project. Gabe joined us at our December Social and has agreed to come back for a formal update on

how Hurricane Matthew impacted the project, shifted priorities and the path forward (and how we can help). He'll be speaking at our February PMP meeting to update us on progress.

NEW PROJECTS- We received information from Jean MacRae at UMaine re: a potential water project for us in El Descanso, Ecuador. The UMaine EWB student chapter sent a team to Ecuador for an assessment trip. They found the project is more complex than they expected because of the need to pump water to the village and then treat it. Costs and community commitment are TDB. The immediate need is for expertise and mentoring. We need to discuss our participation as a chapter. Questions? Please contact Nadia Glucksberg (NGLucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).

January Presentation

Larry Adams, PA, and president of the Sandy Christman Foundation (a Portland, ME organization) presented the history of and an overview of a solar project at Biharaulo Hospital in Kagera, Tanzania, an isolated region near the western shore of Lake Victoria. He described some of the conditions in the village: malaria is prevalent in the area; there is little running water and none in the hospital; local "doctors" are not MD's; fewer than 10 hospital beds/10,000 in population; only .3 doctors/10,000 population; average life expectancy of 49 years.

The solar panels at the hospital were installed in the 1990's, so they're outdated and perhaps not as efficient as more recent panels would be. About 50% of the time there is no power in the area. Larry is looking for expertise and assistance with a formula to project power needs for the hospital and associated costs for updating/adding solar panels. He is also hoping to find someone who has contacts with a solar energy firm in Tanzania. A good discussion followed, including PMP's advice to obtain an in-country NGO in good standing and to develop a project MOU if one doesn't already exist.

A copy of Larry's presentation is attached, if anyone wants to share it with a potential solar energy contact.

Other Business

Judy Breunjes advised that waste water operators are needed around the state. She wondered if some of our immigrant contacts would be appropriate for applying for these jobs and if so how to facilitate the process. Contact Judy if you can help (judybruenjes@gmail.com).

Anyone needing PDH certificates should see or contact Stan Reed (sreed001@maine.rr.com).

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the event room at the Sea Dog Brew Pub, 125 Western Avenue, South Portland, ME.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Secretary