

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

2-21-17 Meeting Minutes

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

PORTLAND UNCORKED! Our major fundraising event is scheduled for Thursday, March 2 at the Custom House in Portland. Nadia encouraged everyone to buy a ticket for him/herself, family members and friends. Kevin Russ & Jim Landau were interviewed for a spot on WCSH "207" that aired 2/21/17. They're stars!! She also noted there will be an Engineers Week supplement in the Maine Sunday Telegram 2/26/17 that contains an article about the Debre Birhan project.

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.

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!

NEW PROJECTS- We're actively seeking a new water project to adopt. The key criteria are strength and organization of the NGO. If you have ideas or want to lead this effort, please let us know.

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).

Nadia reported the USM EWB student chapter will not be able to continue work at the Hogar orphanage because the Guatemalan government shut it down as part of an overall crackdown in the country. She noted the students are meeting with Larry Adams to possibly support his Biharaulo Hospital solar power project in Kagera, Tanzania.

Nadia reported the New Haven EWB PMP chapter is now looking into water projects, now that they have been approved to support water projects, thanks to mentoring help from our chapter.

February Presentation

Gabe Sullivan from Jay Cashman, Inc. in Quincy, MA is the Haiti bridge project manager. Gabe joined us at our December Social and agreed to come back for a formal update on how Hurricane Matthew (2016) impacted the bridge project, shifted priorities, and how his company determined the path forward (and how we can help).

Gabe provided an interesting historical overview of the island of Hispanola, which set the stage for the poor living conditions in Haiti today, which contribute to the hurricane damage. Haitian government land use policies helped create deforestation and in turn erosion is a major issue when big storms pummel the island. Gabe stated the damage to roads and bridges from Hurricane Matthew was significant.

He described the bridge project's goal is to move 3,000 linear feet of bridge from Quincy, MA to Perches, Haiti for reassembly. The bridge is modular, so can be disassembled for moving to Haiti. He described the actual process that will be used. Gabe noted that help is needed specifically for roadway design, structural design, and hydrology and geotechnical expertise. He asked that anyone on our chapter who is interested in helping can contact him for more information.

Other Business

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

Next Meeting

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 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