

## EWB Portland Maine Professionals

### 3-21-17 Meeting Minutes

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

**PORTLAND UNCORKED!** Our annual fundraiser was a **SUCCESS!** Thank you to all who attended, donated, and brought their friends and family. Donations are still coming in, and although we had lower attendance than previous years, we made more profit AND area well positioned to support this year's efforts. Thanks to Lina, Kathy Hillman Reed, Scott Winchester and Kathy Kern for heading up the effort.

**DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA-** This project has the goal of constructing a school for 1000 K-8 grades in Debre Birhan, Ethiopia. We have been on a travel hold for over 1 year and half, but our NGO (The Community Project: Ethiopia) is considering travel again, possibly as early as May. This would be huge, as the community the school design has been complete, the foundation of the first building completed and we would love for the first class to be held next September. For this project we are teaming with four other groups to cover all the complexities, and hopefully travel will resume. If you have an interest in joining the team (traveling, or supporting back home) let Nadia know (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).

Project team meetings occur separately from chapter meetings and all welcome.

**UPDATE:** The Ethiopian government extended the State of Emergency for another 4 months, even though the unrest seems to have subsided. Travels plans will be re-evaluated.

**HAITI BRIDGE TEAM** - Gabe Sullivan has been working with folks in our chapter to continue their project in building bridges (literally) in Haiti. There will be 16 – 18 bridges built. Structural, hydrological, and geotechnical evaluations are underway, with options for in-county and remote support. Gabe provided a great update at our February meeting and is working full time to make this happen. Although this is not a formal EWB project, our chapter is offering support and encourage everyone interested to get involved. if you want to learn more, let Nadia know.

**NEW PROJECTS-** We may have a lead on a water project in Haiti. The NGO is also connected to the bridge work, so we can share efforts and/or overlap travel support. More information to come.

If you know of other opportunities or projects, please let Nadia know (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).

Nadia also noted there is a water project in Nepal starting April through the Hartford Professionals' chapter. If there is any interest in traveling, please let Nadia know.

The New Haven EWB chapter has a project going with Unilever support and needs people with water expertise. They are in the process of choosing a project, but will need mentors with a minimum of 5 years' experience working in fields that work with construction or water (geologists, environmental or civil engineers, etc.).

**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. Contact Kathy Hillman Reed if you're interested ([khillmanreed@gmail.com](mailto:khillmanreed@gmail.com)). We need presenters!

### **March Presentation**

Kevin Russ, a geotechnical engineer at Haley & Aldrich, and a veteran of the school construction project in Debre Birhan, Ethiopia, gave an overview of the project's progress from September 2015 to present. The focus of his presentation was on building plans for the first school building, given the challenges of working with limited materials, tools, and equipment.

There was a good discussion with the audience about the immediate next steps another travel team might take. The major concerns are the lintels, roof beams, corners, and intersections of the building as planned and given the challenges of working higher up as the building takes shape. Kevin suggested that the next trip would focus on placing compressed earth blocks (CEBs) and tying additional rebar as needed for support.

### **Other Business**

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

### **Next Meeting**

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 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