

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

4/18/17 Meeting Minutes

President Nadia Glucksberg opened the meeting with a welcome to all and updates as follows:

- Baxter Miatke has been hired at AMWEFW and will be joining the PMP chapter. Congratulations to him!
- UMaine EWB student chapter is working on a water project in Ecuador. They need mentors. If anyone is interested, please let Nadia know (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).
- Nadia will attend a student chapter mentoring session at UMaine on Sunday, 4/23 to discuss project leadership.
- EWB Hartford Professionals chapter traveling to Nepal in April – last trip for the water project there.
- EWB New Haven Professionals chapter is looking for a water project and will need mentor support.

HAITI BRIDGE TEAM. The bridge location has been selected and site evaluations have started. Gabe Sullivan has created a central library for site documents and is evaluating the timing/schedule for some of the first trips. Team meetings are scheduled for the Wednesday following our chapter meetings. If you cannot be there in person, as the location varies, a call-in number is available. Nick Dempsey has stepped up to be the leader for our chapter on this project. Thank you, Nick!

STEM OUTREACH. Responses to our email blast have been HUGE. We have been asked to support several schools in the area with STEM fairs, presentations, and continued class room projects. Get involved!! Help us reach out to the next generation and have fun doing it! We've heard from Portland High School, Harrison Middle School (Yarmouth), Casco Bay High School (Portland), Cape Elizabeth Middle School. We've committed to support Cape Elizabeth's Middle School STEM Festival on June 2, so all ideas (and folks to staff it) are welcome!

WATER PROJECT WANTED. There are several options for a water project and we're looking for a PMP member to lead the charge. The key criteria are the strength and organization of the NGO and our drive to make a difference. We'd prefer the water project to be in Central America or South America, if possible.

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 school design and the foundation of the first building have been completed. 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 are welcome.

CHAPTER OFFICERS. Chapter officer elections will take place in late summer. If you are interested in serving, please let one of the current officers know!

APRIL PRESENTATION

We welcomed David Hawke, VP of the EWB NH Professional Chapter, to talk about their water supply project in Gwase, Uganda.

Highlights of David's presentation were:

- The chapter has a grant writing team to help with funding projects;
- The chapter has a defined process for creating a project team;
- The project has good support from the community in Uganda;
- They developed a community health assessment template to help determine how villagers got and used water.

David gave an overview of the October 2016 assessment trip, during which boreholes were made in 9 locations to determine things like ph, presence of e. coli, heavy metals, etc. Challenges included minimal electricity availability, good solar power availability if solar panel parts were not stolen, and need for trusted individuals and funding to maintain whatever solutions are used in the village.

There was really good Q & A interaction during David's presentation. He noted they hope to install 3 wells during their next trip – date is TBD.

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the SEA DOG BREWING CO., 125 WESTERN AVE., SO. PORTLAND, ME.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary