

EWB Portland Maine Professionals

8/18/17 Meeting Minutes

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

- We welcomed several new attendees and Dan Goettel, who joined us by phone.
- Chapter officer elections are coming up. Nadia encouraged anyone who is interested to step up. Elections will be held later in the summer. If you're not interested in an officer position (Pres., VP, Secretary, Treasurer), we are also looking for leads to write grants, do STEM outreach, and lead projects. Please let Nadia know if you're interested (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).
- EL PROGRESO: We have approval for a water project in the hills of western Ecuador. The first team meeting was held July 10. Project leaders are Neil Franklin (franklinn31@gmail.com) and Charlie Burnham (ceb@smemaine.com). If you want to get involved with the project, please let Neil or Charlie know. Of note: the UMaine student chapter has a team traveling to Ecuador for an assessment trip for their water project. A student representative shared an update on their project status.
- HAITI BRIDGE TEAM: Two initial bridge locations have 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. A team meeting was held July 12 to discuss next steps. If you want to participate but 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! Contact Nick at Nicholas.Dempsey@hdrinc.com.
- DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA: Angelique Kidd Smith traveled in May in Ethiopia, but it is unclear if it is safe for any group to travel to the country at present. No team will be going for the foreseeable future. For this project we are teaming with four other groups to cover all the complexities, and hopefully travel will resume later in the year. We would like to have the 1st school building completed for occupation by September 2018. 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.
- ANNUAL YARD SALE: The annual yard sale is coming up August 19 & 20 from 9AM – 3PM each day. Jake Jacobson is accepting donations to be stored in his garage in Cumberland. Set-up will occur Fri. 8/18 at 5:30 PM at Jake's, followed by a cook out on his deck. Bring something to share & BYOB. **We need VOLUNTEERS to help with set-up, selling, and take-down!!** Donated items can be picked up & delivered to Jake's garage. Please contact Kathy Hillman Reed (khillmanreed@gmail.com) or Jake (Richard.Jacobson@AMECFW.com) for pick-up or to volunteer.

- STEM presentations to area schools were very successful. Many thanks to those who volunteered to present. This was our best year ever and we look forward to continuing presentations in the coming school year.

JUNE PRESENTATION

We welcomed Pat McKeowan, a senior engineer at ECT2 (subsidiary of Haley & Aldrich) who has recently come back to the Portland area. Pat was formerly part of the EWB Hartford (CT) Professional Chapter. Pat provided a video of the water project he worked on in Ward 8, Nepal to deliver water to the village water tank. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97pLYIyJa9c>

(Of note: the project survived the massive earthquake in Nepal in April 2016 with no major structural damage or injuries.)

Villagers of Ward 8 were faced with a 1,000-foot climb to access water. The project involved using solar-powered pumps to deliver water. Challenges include sustainability, as solar power is variable and panels or pumps can be damaged by bad weather or earthquake events. Pat noted that ultimately electricity will need to come to the village to run the pump.

There was an excellent Q & A period following Pat's presentation.

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, August 15, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the SEA DOG BREWING CO., 125 WESTERN AVE., SO. PORTLAND, ME.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary