

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

5/21/2019 MEETING MINUTES

Chapter President Nadia Glucksberg welcomed everyone and, after introductions, provided the following updates:

Congratulations! New professional engineers (PE's) are: Baxter Miatke, Lina juozelskis, and Kendra Nash.

EWB Regional Camping Trip: The proposed camping trip for May 31 – June 2 has been cancelled due to lack of participation.

EWB PMP Website: Will Turner is graduating and looking for a job, which may take him out of the area. We are looking for someone to help with our chapter website maintenance, should Will move away. If you're able and willing, please let Nadia (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com) or Kathy Hillman Reed (khillmanreed@gmail.com) know.

EWB Chapter of the Year: We will be applying to be named EWB Chapter of the Year for 2019. Applications are anticipated to be available online in the summer via Volunteer Village. Anyone interested in supporting the application, please let us know. We were named Chapter of the Year in 2013. This honor is a huge boost for credibility and fundraising.

Fundraising: The annual EWB yard sale is coming up later in the summer – date is TBD. If you have items in **good** condition you'd like to move along, let us know! We NEED good stuff for our yard sale. Contact Kathy Hillman Reed (khillmanreed@gmail.com) for more information.

New Project: Our chapter has the capacity for a new project. We're actively looking for 1) a relevant project where we can make a difference and 2) someone within the chapter to lead it. The chapter will support the leader re: the project application and project management. Please let Nadia know if you are interested in project selection and/or jumping in (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).

El Progreso, Ecuador: This is a water project up in the cloud forest northwest of Quito. The team has just completed the first implementation. They are making great strides for the design of the distribution system. The team is planning now for a second trip in the spring/summer, however travel is delayed because the NGO is traveling throughout Ecuador. Travel is currently planned for August/September. The NGO is needed for the second implementation trip. The team continues planning meetings to complete EWB requirements and communicate on Slack. If you are interested in joining this team, contact Baxter Miatke at baxter.miatke@woodplc.com.

Debre Birhan, Ethiopia: While this project is officially off the chapter's books because we've completed our portion and the Denver, CO chapter is now leading it, some consulting by our chapter continues. We will continue to support the project only as/if needed.

Milembe School, Tanzania: Pamela Hawkes and Scott Teas have returned from Tanzania where they were working on the next phase of the Milembe School (also see intro to this month's speaker, Dr. Aimee Bessire) They are designing the campus for the girls school in coordination with the Africa Schoolhouse. This will be the prototype for a self-contained dormitory compound, offices and classrooms. There is a Slack channel for this effort that all are welcome to be part of. There was a meeting on 5/16/19 to discuss water management issues with Pamela and Scott. Let Nadia know if you are interested in this project (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com). The next team meeting will be during the week of June 25.

Haiti Bridge Team: As of this meeting, no updates. From the prior month: Cashman's project leads were in-country and work had started. Our chapter is supporting the project with geo-technical, structural and hydrology input. Let Nick Dempsey (Nichoals.Dempsey@hdrinc.com) know if you are interested in this project. There is a Slack channel for the project.

EWB Chapter Outreach: Matt Reynolds, Helena Hollauer, and Nadia have been working with several chapters providing geological and hydrogeologist support. We have been communicating with student chapters from Northeastern, Harvard, BU, and WPI as well as the Hartford Professionals Chapter. This started with presentations at the UConn Conference, the Harvard Failure Forum and more recently held a drilling expo with Northern Drill Services which provided hands on examples of drilling and well installations/development.

CHAPTER OFFICERS: Once again we welcome ANYONE who would like to support the chapter. Our board will welcome change and if you have energy and want to get more involved, please let us know. All positions are up for change (including chapter president – hint hint) so please join us and bring new ideas to our meetings. Please consider taking one of the officer roles – President, V. President, Treasurer or Secretary. If you have questions, please contact Nadia (ngluckberg@haleyaldrich.com).

STEM OUTREACH: If you like kids and being a role model (or like playing hooky) join us. Our chapter is STILL looking for a member to lead the school outreach and organize the presentations. They are easy, fun and only take a few hours. If we want to continue to support the local schools, we need someone to take on this effort. Thanks to Matt Reynolds and Nick Dempsey who joined the Falmouth Elementary School where they welcomed different geologists to discuss their careers and the different ways geologists can make a living.

MAY PRESENTATION

Dr. Aimee Bessire, founder of the Africa Schoolhouse project which is the NGO that funds and manages the construction of schools across Tanzania, presented an excellent overview of her work building schools in-country. Aimee is a professor of Arts and Visual Culture at Bates College in Lewiston, ME.

Dr. Bessire described the mission the Africa Shoolhouse, some of the challenges they've encountered, and the successes they've accomplished. Dr. Bessire has been working with Pamela Hawkes and Scott Teas of Scatttergood Design as they continue to team with folks in our chapter for engineering and

water management support for the Milembe School (see updates above). More information about the foundation and the projects can be found at <http://www.africaschoolhouse.org/>.

Dr. Bessire described some of the challenges in Tanzania that include language barriers (unwritten indigenous languages) and attitudes toward education for girls (making progress toward valuing education for girls). She described the major focal points of school projects : collaboration with the community; sustainability (build a “50-year” school); and using a new school model vs. a “colonial model”. Each focal point has challenges based on local culture, colonial history, and attitudes toward education.

A Q&A followed her presentation.

NEXT PMP CHAPTER MEETING IS TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2019 at SEA DOG BREWING CO. in SO. PORTLAND, ME from 6:00PM – 7:00PM. PLEASE JOIN US!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary