

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

9/24/2019 MEETING MINUTES

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

MILEMBE SCHOOL, TANZANIA: Pamela Hawkes and Scott Teas are working with the Africa School House to design and build Milembe School. This is not an official PMP chapter project, but we're helping them with structural engineering and water management. There is a Slack channel for this effort, and meetings as needed. Let Jay Peters know if you are interested in this project (jrpeters@haleyaldrich.com)

EL PROGRESO, ECUADOR: This is a water project up in the cloud forest northwest of Quito. We have completed the first implementation and the second implementation trip to run the lines from the source(s) to the tanks. This trip is scheduled for this October/November. If you want to get involved, please contact Baxter Miatke (baxterm419@gmail.com) as this team meets separately for planning and completing the EWB requirements. The team communicates on Slack, and if you would like to be included, just let Baxter know.

DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA: School is gearing up for this year, with 50 new student enrolled. Efforts are moving forward with the bamboo garden, new latrine design, and then new school buildings and now solar energy and help from Cultivaide. Recent rains have hit, and our support for storm water management were successful! Denver Professionals now have the lead but we are continuing to support.

HAITI BRIDGE TEAM: The Haiti Bridge continues to move forward and the first bridge was installed! Cashman's project leads were in-country and work as started. Our chapter is supporting the project with geo-technical, structural, and hydrology input. See the story in the Boston Globe.
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2019/08/19/section-former-fore-river-bridge-now-serving-new-bridge-haiti/Kta866YZHOieYMHDlrSE0l/story.html>

EWB CHAPTER OUTREACH: In addition to Hartford Professional Chapter (HPC), Harvard, Northeastern, and WPI, we have added Drexel to our list of chapters where we are supporting drilling efforts. Geologists are needed for the HPC's Trip to Tanzania this winter, and possibly to join Northeastern as well for their project in Uganda. Tufts University has approached PMP for help with a water treatment project specifically dealing with metals in the water. Tufts would like a point of contact within the PMP chapter. Thanks to Lars Whelan for stepping up as the point person! Contact Nadia (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com) if you want/have the time to offer support to any of these efforts.

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. We will be at the Portland Public Schools' STEM expo November 1 and need volunteers for that as well.

EWB NATIONAL CONFERENCE: The national conference will be held in Pittsburgh, PA in November. If you're interested in attending, please see the EWB-USA website – Volunteer Village – to sign up.

SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION

Benedicto Bonabana, a civil engineer from Uganda and Congo, presented a proposal for building a school in a village in the Watalinga region of Congo, near the Ugandan border. Benedicta explained the reasons for mass migrations to Eastern Congo, including mass killings by Islamic extremists. She also noted there had been major looting and damage to area school buildings and health clinics. Her father is the Executive Director of an organization (ESADER) that is leading rebuilding efforts in the area.

Benedicto's proposal is to collaborate with ESADER to select a site for an EWB-designed school building(s) in the town of Nobili. Currently children attend school outdoors, sitting on the ground, because there is no useable school building. She stated the area is safe, but she acknowledged there are safety concerns because of the proximity to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). She indicated the age group of children is mainly K – 8 and there are teachers already in the community.

After discussion, including the need for community financial commitment and the need for a reliable NGO, the next steps would be to 1) have a project leader step up, 2) apply for the project to be accepted by EWB-USA, and 3) determine whether there are travel limitations or a ban imposed by EWB-USA due to the ongoing violence in the DRC.

NEXT PMP CHAPTER MEETING IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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