

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

10/22/2019 MEETING MINUTES

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

FUNDRAISING: Planning work has begun for our annual Portland Uncorked! fundraiser. Tentative date is Thurs., February 27, 2020 at the Custom House in Portland. The date will be confirmed later in November. Initial contact with sponsors is starting. Need to acquire silent auction items – artwork, craft items, gift baskets, etc. If you're interested in helping with planning, please contact Kathy Hillman Reed (khillmanreed@gmail.com).

NEW CHAPTER PROJECT: The chapter has capacity to take on an additional project, assuming someone steps forward to lead it and there is a bonafide NGO in country. A potential project is the school construction project in Uganda described by Benedicto Bonabana at PMP's September 2019 meeting. Another option could be a water supply project in Manda, Tanzania that can be reviewed in Volunteer Village within the EWB-USA website. More to come.

MILEMBE SCHOOL, TANZANIA: Pamela Hawkes and Scott Teas continue work 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. The project is moving ahead with gray water planning. There is a Slack channel for this effort, and meetings as needed. Let Jay Peters know if you are interested in this project (jpeters@haleyaldrich.com)

EL PROGRESO, ECUADOR: This is a water project up in the cloud forest northwest of Quito. We have completed the first and the second implementation trips to run the lines from the source(s) to the tanks. The 3rd trip is scheduled for possibly January 2020, pending the status of civil unrest in Ecuador and naming the travel team. 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 has started for this year, with 101 new students 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. **UPDATE:** Angelique will be traveling to Debre Birhan in November where she hopes to get latrine excavation started. Before additional classrooms are built, a new latrine building must be constructed to accommodate the increased number of students at the school. Plans are done for dual vault composting and urine diversion. Colleen Kaleda is investigating possible sanitation grants. She has contacted the PMP chapter to see if we know of any sanitation-focused funders we think would be appropriate for us to approach. Please let Nadia know if you have any information, particularly a Rotary Club contact (nglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).

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. Stefanie Trice Gill will help the Hartford chapter with Spanish translation of documents for one of their projects. Geologists are needed for the HPC's Trip to Tanzania this winter – Matt Reynolds plans to travel there. Helena Hollauer plans to join Northeastern 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: We will be at the Portland Public Schools' STEM expo November . Volunteers are always welcome! Arne DeFosse will be helping out with STEM presentations as they become scheduled. Thank you, Arne! The Yarmouth High School STEM educator is looking for machine equipment of all kinds. If you have any or know of anyone willing to sell or donate things like a good drill mill or metal lathe, please let Arne know (Arne.Defosse@kla.com).

EWB NATIONAL CONFERENCE: The national conference will be held in Pittsburgh, PA November 7 - 9. If you're interested in attending, please see the EWB-USA website – Volunteer Village – to sign up.

OCTOBER PRESENTATION

Jay Peters, Risk Assessment Practice Leader at Haley & Aldrich, provided an excellent presentation on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs). This class of chemicals (some 3,000 compounds) is in the news and the subject of the soon-to-be released movie "Dark Waters".

PFAs , also known as "forever chemicals" , are pervasive in the environment. They repel oil and water and they are resistant to heat; therefore they are difficult to remove. They have been used since the 1940's in a broad array of industrial and consumer products, i.e. fire-fighting foam, Scotchguard, non-stick cookware, to name just a small fraction. Concern has been rising since the 1940's, when environmental and health concerns began to appear. There are *suggested* , but currently inconclusive, links between PFAs and several health effects including cancer, kidney disease, thyroid conditions, autoimmune disorders, elevated cholesterol, and hormone disruptions, among others.

Jay noted a local case involving PFAs: the York County, ME dairy farmer whose herd's milk was contaminated with PFAs. The problem was likely caused by PFA-contaminated sludge that was spread on his pastures to promote growth of grazing grass. Environmental pathways for PFAs need to be better understood in order to understand the consequences of these chemicals to humans and animals.

Jay discussed the challenges surrounding PFA investigating mechanisms and establishing regulatory levels for PFAs. In summary Jay noted where things are going with PFAs at this time:

- Need better idea of toxicity to humans - metrics
- More states need to develop regulations focused on PFAs
- May end up listing PFAs as hazardous substances

- Surface water standards are forthcoming
- Need to develop discharge limits for wastewater treatment plants

NEXT PMP CHAPTER MEETING IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 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