

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

12/16/2019 MEETING MINUTES

Chapter Treasurer Jay Peters welcomed everyone and, after introductions (including guests from Arcadis US, Inc.), provided the following updates:

HOLIDAY GIVING: Every year our chapter reaches out to help others in the community. For 2019 we've selected the Good Shepard Food Bank to receive donations. Any donations from chapter participants can go directly to Good Shepard Food Bank (www.gsfb.org).

FUNDRAISING: Planning work has begun for our annual Portland Uncorked! fund raiser. The date is **Thurs., March 12, 2020 at the Custom House in Portland.** **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). Planning meetings will start in late January 2020.

EL PROGRESO, ECUADOR: This is a water distribution project in the cloud forest northwest of Quito. The next team leaves January 14, 2020 to work on the 2nd phase of implementation. The major trip goals are 1) to install the piping between one stream catchment and the storage tank and 2) to conduct additional surveying for construction of the distribution line from the storage tanks along the main road to the households. The travel team includes two students from UMaine. This project team meets separately for planning and communicates on Slack. If you would like to become involved, please contact Baxter Miatke at baxterm419@gmail.com.

ST. ABLE, HAITI: We have the capacity to take on a new project and began working with Renan Pierre-Louis to get his family's community into the EWB project list. The community of St Able, Haiti has been recovering from Hurricane Matthew (October 2016) and has had to collect water. They have a solid community based organization (CBO) that has been working on recovery efforts on the houses, chapel and roads, following Hurricane Matthew. Renan Pierre-Louis, at Haley & Aldrich, has family in the community and with his brother, leads the CBO. They have asked EWB to consider a water project to convey water from a recently dug borehole to the community. Nadia Glucksberg has offered to lead the project and with Renan (and the CBO) will fill out the application.

MILEMBE SCHOOL, TANZANIA: No further updates. Pamela Hawkes and Scott Teas continue work with the Africa School House to design and build Milembé 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)

DEBRE BIRHAN, ETHIOPIA: School has started for this year, with 104 K-2 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. EWB is still involved through the Denver Professionals chapter. There is more than enough to do, so if you want to get involved, please let Nadia know (naglucksberg@haleyaldrich.com).

HAITI BRIDGE PROJECT: This project has been dormant, but progress is being made within Haiti. Thanks to everyone who has helped with the planning. There is the possibility of working with Cashman if they have another bridge project in Haiti.

EWB CHAPTER OUTREACH: In addition to Hartford Professional Chapter (HPC), Harvard, Northeastern, and WPI, we have added Drexel and Boston University 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 later in the spring of 2020 – Matt Reynolds plans to travel there. Helena Hollauer plans to join Northeastern for their project in Uganda in December. Tufts University has approached PMP for help with a water treatment project specifically dealing with metals in the water. Lars Whelan has offered to work with Tufts.

If you have interest in supporting any of these opportunities, please contact Nadia at ngluckberg@haleyaldrich.com.

STEM OUTREACH: We supported the Portland Public Schools' STEM expo November 1, which was a fun event for students in grade 1- 5. Arne DeFosse will be contacting area schools and hopefully scheduling STEM presentations for them. Thank you, Arne! If you are interested in helping with presentations, please contact Arne(Arne.Defosse@kla.com).

DECEMBER PRESENTATION

Baxter Miatke provided “part II” of the November presentation about PFAS – the “forever chemicals”, specifically treatment technologies and the developing world.

He reviewed the history of PFAS and the emerging concerns they present for human health. For example, in the US where public water supplies have been tested 5% or about 16.5 million people are affected by PFAS levels above 70 nanograms/liter (the current primary standard). Baxter gave an overview of the array of treatment technologies available for PFAS, then gave a detailed description of the two most commonly used technologies: granular activated carbon (GAC) and resin. He noted that Federal and state PFAS standard are not consistent and much more testing of water supplies is needed.

In the developing world there are no regulations regarding PFAS, though countries could develop them. Baxter described a specific case study that illustrates the spread of PFAS world-wide, so they are a global issue. He noted that EWB-USA has no concrete recommendations regarding PFAS, but suggested recommendation could be strengthened for EWB water projects across the world.

A robust Q&A period followed his presentation.

NEXT PMP CHAPTER MEETING IS TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020 at SEA DOG BREWING CO. in SO. PORTLAND, ME from 6:00PM – 7:00PM. PLEASE JOIN US!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary