

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

7/21/2020 MEETING MINUTES

Chapter President Nadia Glucksberg welcomed everyone to our virtual meeting via Zoom.

UPDATES:

New Leadership Team Needed !!!: It is happening! In September we will need at least a new chapter president. The current board has been in place for far too many years and change is good, and if you have interest, we will fully support the transition. Since no one has yet to volunteer, we'll now put out a call to volunteers, and if you'd like to volunteer someone other than yourself, please let us know. All nominations welcome!! Folks can be "voluntold", too, as change is needed and is only fair to the current officers (who have been in leadership roles for most of the tenure of our chapter). Help give them a break!

El Progreso, Ecuador: Although the pandemic has closed out travel, the project team is working toward the next phase of implementation, when we can travel once it is safe and EWB-USA approved to do so. Reach out to Baxter (baxterm419@gmail.com) or Julianne (jpage@woodardcurran.com) if you want to get involved. Thanks to the generosity of our chapter, we were able to successfully raise funds to supply the community with hand washing kits and provide EIA the funds to travel to the community to provide training. EIA will provide updates and photos once the training has occurred and donations are successfully brought to the community. Join the SLACK channel to keep informed!

EWB-US Short Courses and Chapter outreach: We continue to be contacted by EWB-US for geological and hydrogeological support. We have supported three video short courses, and this month were recorded with stories about implementations and travels. We have even recruited Mitiku (Debre Birhan PM) to join the project and share his side of working with EWB! Ongoing outreach is a great way to contribute while travel is still grounded. We are also actively supporting other EWB Chapters including UTC, Hartford Professionals, DC Professionals, UMaine Student chapter, as well as several other student chapters that have ongoing water projects (Northeastern, Drexel, Harvard), and all hoping to travel again once it is safe to do so.

Ixtupil, Guatemala: We are teaming with the UMaine student chapter to begin a water distribution project in Ixtupil, Guatemala. UMaine student chapter has proposed to partner with the PMP chapter to enhance UMaine's fundraising capability and develop a mentor/mentee relationship to move ahead with the project. Braydon Norris, a recent UMaine grad and new member to our chapter will lead up the effort for PMP. We look forward to hearing more about the project and ops for folks to help out. We are looking to get them to present in September.

Omo Tribe, Ethiopia: A Teams channel has been established and thanks to all the PMP folks that requested to be involved. There has not been much activity as of yet, but hopefully things will pick up. Although we are not leading this, there is support and hopefully will kick off soon. THANK YOU to all who

offered to get involved. NOTE: Recent posts to the TEAMS channel have been added. Please feel free to respond and get involved.

Other opportunities: Through Lars Whelan, we may have contacts with the folks involved with the movie HoneyLand, in northern Macedonia <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B27ORUHlp6E> If you need something safe to do inside, please watch it. It is an award winning film that is beautifully done and also provides an amazing op for a remote assessment, and far better documentation than our iPhone and cameras could do. If nothing else, it's just worth watching, and all the more exciting knowing that there may be future opportunities to help.

Student Survey Request: We have another survey request to support graduate research. Please support if you feel so inclined:

My name is Nick Perozzi, and I am a graduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where my group's thesis work revolves around the project structure of EWB-USA projects. Part of our research includes surveying and interviewing former members of EWB-USA projects, and it would be a tremendous help if you could pass this survey along to those who have been involved in past (or current) projects in your chapter. There is a chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card by taking the survey. It is our intent that the findings of this research will help improve the best practices of humanitarian engineering projects around the world and ultimately foster more successful projects.

The survey is embedded above and also here:

https://illinoisaces.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1RjdO4jxWOcpVWJ. It should take about ten minutes. Whether you were/are a project member, project manager/lead, a professional advisor, a REIC, the chapter administrator, or any other role in EWB-USA project(s), your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your continued support of our chapter and although I'm sure this group already knows this: wearing a mask is not a political statement; it just means you are protecting and respecting others.

JULY PRESENTATION

Our own Helena Hollauer stepped up to mentor the EWB Northeastern Chapter and traveled to Uganda in December 2019 to help drill and install a drinking water well for a remote community. She shared the challenges, the successes, and lessons learned from the implementation trip.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020 from 6:00PM to 7:00PM via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary