

## EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

### 8/18/2020 MEETING MINUTES

Chapter President Nadia Glucksberg welcomed everyone to our virtual meeting via Zoom. She introduced three new chapter members: Kristina Ertzner, Miles Schelling & Maeve Carlson.

#### 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, so if you have interest, we will fully support the transition. Since no one has yet to volunteer, if you'd like to volunteer someone other than yourself, please let us know. All nominations welcome!!

**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. Baxter Miatke reported that EIA is officially partnering with EWB-USA as of 10/1/2020 and will maintain an office in Quito. It is expected this partnership will improve project & partnership vetting as well as increase the efficiency of projects in Ecuador. Join the SLACK channel to keep informed!

**Ixtupil, Guatemala:** We are teaming with the UMaine student chapter to begin a water distribution project in Ixtupil, Guatemala. The 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 the effort for PMP. A MOU between the UMaine chapter and the PMP chapter is being drafted. We look forward to hearing more about the project from Braydon at the September chapter meeting.

**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.

**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.

## **AUGUST PRESENTATION**

New PMP chapter member Miles Schelling gave an overview of a water filtration system he designed and installed in Nersa, Kamataka, a rural village in southern India. This project was part of his Master's Degree program at the University of Rhode Island.

Miles calls his filtration system a Bank Filter (BF). It is gravity fed and uses sand/gravel and natural filtration processes to remove E. Coli. While similar to a slow sand or biosand filter, this system is optimized for small, rural communities. The project was conducted in close collaboration with the local community and involved an initial community health survey, testing pilot scale filters, community discussions, full scale filter construction, a diagram painted on the filter wall, and a filter completion ceremony. The 3.5km pipeline, which supplies water to the village, and filter were damaged by the 2019 monsoon and are badly in need of replacement. Miles hopes to return to Nersa to construct a new pipeline that will supply the village with water consistently.

There is the potential for this to become a PMP chapter project. Here is a link to photos from the project:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Br4aGNGhmHrsyzWG2I5iRFBatwQlgmL?usp=sharing>

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 from 6:00PM to 7:00PM via ZOOM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary