

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

9/15/2020 MEETING MINUTES

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

SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION

Braydon Norris, a new PMP chapter member, presented an overview of the UMaine water distribution project he is leading along with Kathryn Kleban (UMaine EWB student chapter president) and Casey Schatzabel (UMaine engineering student). The goal of the presentation was to begin to discuss areas where the PMP chapter can partner with the UMaine student chapter to advance the project, which is currently in the assessment stage.

Braydon reported that estimated total project costs are about \$70K from remote assessment trip planned in October 2020 to planned completion in 2022. One of the areas the PMP chapter can assist with is fund raising , i.e. UMaine participating in PMP fundraising events for a share of the net gain. It was noted that EWB USA's cost sharing program will help defray project costs as well.

Another role for the PMP chapter is as a mentor to the UMaine students as the design work begins. It was agreed that the PMP chapter would share the pre-assessment report from the El Progreso water distribution project with the UMaine students. The UMaine students would provide questions from the El Progreso document, since the Guatemala project appears to be quite similar, and the PMP chapter would provide responses.

An MOU between UMaine and the PMP chapter has been drafted. PMP provided some input for the draft. Braydon and the UMaine students will revise the MOU for further review by the PMP chapter.

UPDATES:

New Chapter Leadership Team In Place: Congratulations to Baxter Miatke and Steve Laudage who are the new President and Vice President, respectively! Since both have commitments other than their day jobs through year-end, Kathy Kern has graciously offered to step in for Baxter until the end of the year, at which time both Baxter and Steve will take on their respective roles.

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 reported the training has been completed for the hand washing kits provided in the previous months. Wilmer (EIA contact) will provide a report to the chapter. 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!

EWB-US Short Courses and Chapter outreach: We continue to be contacted by EWB-US for geological and hydrogeological support. We are also actively supporting other EWB Chapters including UTC, Hartford Professionals, UMaine Student chapter, as well as several other student chapters that have ongoing water projects (Northeastern, Drexel, Harvard), and just picked up support of an EWB US project and UPenn. We're always hoping to travel again once it is safe to do so. Recently filmed short courses have been edited and will be avail for viewing in the next few weeks. We will also be presenting at the EWB USA national conference.

Brad Roland noted that he is working with the New Haven professional chapter on a sanitation project in Guatemala. It involves installing bio-digesters in individual homes. He said translation help is needed. A source noted id Stefanie Trice Gill, a PMP chapter member.

School STEM Outreach: There will be a virtual STEM Expo for the Portland Schools on Friday, November 6, 2020. We have indicated the PMP chapter will participate, which means we need to come up with a virtual activity - we're thinking maybe a trivia game of sorts. More info to come from the STEM Expo folks. Anyone interested in this local challenge, please let Arne DeFosse know (Arne.DeFosse@kla.com).

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.

EWB Volunteer Village Updates: Baxter Miatke reminded everyone that EWB USA has made several updates to Volunteer Village and sent s notice of such via email. It was noted that we need to locate EWB-USA's list of PMP chapter members. K. Kern will follow up on this.

EWB USA State Rep Needed: Baxter stated he will step down as our state rep in 2021 for Regional calls. A replacement is needed. Maeve Carlson indicated she would check with the UMaine chapter or may be able to take on the role herself.

NEXT MEETING: UPDATE - The October meeting will be a tour of the Portland stormwater collection basin which will mitigate flooding and impacted storm water discharge to Back Cove. A site tour will be held from 4PM – 5PM. Details and PPE requirements to be provided prior to the tour. Registration will also be requested so that Sargent (contractor) can prepare for the size of our tour.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary