

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

1/19/2021 MEETING MINUTES

The January 2021 PMP chapter meeting did not include a guest speaker because the new Executive Committee felt it was a good time to reconnect – still virtually – and review what has gone on and what will go on for the chapter.

New chapter President Baxter Miatke introduced himself and asked the other officers to introduce themselves as well: VP Steve Laudage, Treasurer Jay Peters, Secretary Kathy Hillman Reed, and State Rep (ME/NH/VT) Maeve Carlson. This was followed by brief intros by those folks on the Zoom call.

Baxter thanked Kathy Kern for her write-up re: how to become a EWB-USA volunteer via Volunteer Village within the EWB-USA website. He encouraged any new folks to sign up in Volunteer Village, noting that there is no longer a fee to become a volunteer. Kathy Hillman Reed will re-send the write-up to the distribution list.

Baxter introduced the proposed amendments to the chapter by-laws. The main amendments are 1) to change to a calendar year for operating the chapter and 2) replace “member” with “volunteer” throughout the document to reflect the overall change per EWB-USA. Kathy Hillman Reed will send the draft by-laws to the chapter distribution list with a request to respond with a vote by January 31, 2021.

Kathy Kern took a moment to thank ex-officio President Nadia Glucksberg for her many years of outstanding leadership and service to the chapter. We will follow up with Nadia to present a gift in person at a later date.

Jay Peters reported the chapter has \$94K in its account, so is in a very healthy financial position. Baxter noted that we received over \$900 from the AmazonSmile program in addition to an annual disbursement from the Becton Foundation for \$1K.

Given that EWB-USA will eventually resume providing financial help for chapter projects, thus reducing some of the need to raise funds, there was discussion about thinking of ways to pay it forward in the meantime, perhaps in the form of a scholarship. This could be a chapter goal for 2021. We agreed that more discussion and information is needed to move forward. It was noted that chapter volunteers raised \$400 for the Good Shepherd Food Bank in 2020.

Project Updates

El Progreso, Ecuador – Julianne Page reported the project team continues to meet bi-weekly and is attempting to set goals for work on the project in 2021, since travel is still restricted by EWB-USA. Survey work for the west side distribution pipeline was completed remotely in December 2020. The team is waiting for the survey results. Julianne also noted the team is looking for someone with EPS SWMM experience in order to build a design for the distribution line from the survey results. Note that there is a Slack channel for this project and anyone interested in joining the team is welcome. Please contact Julianne at jmpage@udel.edu.

Ixtupil, Guatemala – Braydon Norris reported this water distribution project is essentially on hold by the community because a newly formed water committee was hesitant to move forward with water meters. Compounding the situation is significant damage in the area from a December storm. Braydon noted there is still design work going on, since this is a capstone project for the UMaine EWB chapter. Note that there is a Slack channel for this project. Please contact Braydon at Braydon.norris.15@gmail.com to participate in this project.

The MOU between the UMaine chapter and the PMP chapter for this project has not been finalized. Braydon will re-send the draft MOU to PMP for review and finalizing.

Debre Birhan, Ethiopia – EWB PMP's piece of this project (classroom building) has been completed, but individuals (from this chapter & other chapters) are still supporting additional pieces of the project, specifically solar panel installation on the existing school building, latrine construction, and an orchard cultivation project (CultivAid).

Nadia Glucksberg reported that our partners in Debre Birhan are looking for support for the college students to compete on a national level to build machines, specifically either a harvesting machine or a stone crushing machine. They need plans for one or both within the month. Stan Reed has been researching harvesting machine information, which he has sent to Angelique Kidd Smith, the project co-leader. She is willing to purchase design plans, if needed, for the students to work from.

Nersa, India – Miles Schelling reported he is continuing to move forward with his bio-sand filter project, even though EWB-USA is currently not supporting projects in India. He had hoped EWB-USA would approve his project and that our chapter would become involved in it. As part of his master's degree program, he designed and built a water pipeline and bio-sand filter for this village. These were damaged in the country's monsoons in 2020. Miles is now looking for individuals to support his project (est. costs \$14K) with contributions and expertise. We agreed to send his email address and project info out to our distribution list.

Other Business

Baxter noted the EWB-USA Northeast Regional Conference is scheduled for Sat., February 6, 2021 at 9:00 AM EST. The conference is virtual and is free to attend. The last day to register for the conference is February 1, 2021.

Nadia noted there is a "Talking About Tanzania" virtual mini conference hosted by the Greater Austin (TX) chapter scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 8:00 PM EST. Registration ends on Friday, January 22. The Hartford (CT) Professional Chapter and the Cornell student chapter will be presenting on their projects in Tanzania.

There was brief discussion about the potential to work with EWB-USA's Ecuador office to link up with other EWB projects in the country to take advantage of any synergy. This needs more discussion by the El Progreso team.

Congratulations to Sara Wright on the release of her fifth book "Otherworld: the Bloodfyre Chronicles". She's a published author as well as an engineer!

The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16 at 6:00PM.
Meeting info and Zoom link will be sent for this meeting.