

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

2/16/2021 MEETING MINUTES

Chapter President Baxter Miatke welcomed all to the virtual meeting and provided the following updates:

- Volunteer Village sign-ups have increased and he thanked those who have signed up. He reminded attendees to please sign up in Volunteer Village (EWB-USA website) in order to access information/training opportunities.
- The PMP chapter website has been updated to include current chapter information. Huge thanks to Steve Laudage for spear heading the changes and to Kathy Kern and Will Turner for implementing them!
- Our regional rep Maeve Carlson attended the Feb. 6 virtual NE Regional Conference and found it very interesting. She has reached out to other chapters to establish relationships. Baxter also attended and particularly enjoyed the ability to “move” from presentation to presentation via GatherTown.

Project Updates

El Progreso, Ecuador – Julianne Page reported remote survey work for the west side distribution pipeline was completed in December 2020. The team received the survey results and is in the process of working with them to design a model for the water distribution line. She also reported legal access to the east side water source was finally obtained, which will allow modeling for the entire water distribution line to move forward. There is a Slack channel for this project. 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. The UMaine project team is attempting to reach the community through the EWB Guatemala office to determine whether the project is a go/no go. The MOU between the UMaine chapter and the PMP chapter for this project has not been finalized. There is a Slack channel for this project. Please contact Braydon at Braydon.norris.15@gmail.com to participate in this project.

Debre Birhan, Ethiopia – EWB PMP’s piece of this project (classroom building) has been completed, but as N. Glucksberg reported, individuals (from this chapter & other chapters) are still supporting additional pieces of the project, specifically solar panel installation on the existing school building. Other parts of the overall project are

progressing, including latrine building construction and an orchard cultivation project (CultivAid).

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. Miles is moving forward with the project on his own, with individuals who are interested in helping him. There is a project meeting planned for 2/17/21 via Zoom. R. Givner shared the Zoom link. Miles can be reached at milesoschelling@gmail.com.

Nicaragua – Brad Roland has been mentoring the Hartford Professionals Chapter with their work in Nicaragua on a biodigestion septic system. He reported the project is moving toward remote implementation, once the implementation plan is approved, and will use only local resources.

Other items

Baxter noted that Engineers' Week is coming up 2/21/21 – 2/27/21. The PMP chapter will have an article in the 2/21/21 Maine Sunday Telegram insert. Many thanks to Nadia Glucksberg for writing the article and to various PM members for submitting project pictures.

Maeve Carlson reported that she was interviewed by the Boston Children's Museum for a project they are doing regarding what engineers do. The Museum obtained her name through volunteer work she does for another organization. She said she gave a shout out to EWB in the interview. Here's the link to the video if you're interested in watching: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87_atZuu5-Y...

Kathy Kern reported she had been in touch with EWB-USA re: information about how to create a scholarship, which is something the chapter would like to do. EWB-USA requires that any scholarships be project related. She noted we would need to create ours separately. She will reach out to other EWB chapters for more info about any scholarships they may have created.

Kathy Kern reported she is creating a "Sponsors" page on the PMP website that will contain links to each sponsor associated with Portland Uncorked!

We would like to redesign the chapter website. Kathy Kern will explore other chapter websites, especially their platforms, and work with Devon Miatke, Charlie Pollock, and other PMP members to move forward.

The 2020 revision of PMP chapter by-laws were approved. They are available for anyone who wants a copy.

February Presentation

Dan Bouchard and Peter Merfeld from the ASCE Maine Section provided a very interesting overview of the 2020 Report Card for Maine's Infrastructure, as well as an overview of the ASCE in general.

The 2020 report card reviewed 16 infrastructure categories for Maine and graded them from A – F based on 8 factors. It was noted that an “A” grade is not realistic for any category, so the goal is to achieve a “B” or “C” grade. Grades from the 2016 report card were shown for comparison.

Overall, Maine has a D- grade because some of its infrastructure is in poor shape. The 23,000 miles of roads in Maine are graded the lowest while other transportation sectors (aviation, for example) have relatively high grades. Worth noting is that Maine has the lowest funding/mile in the country. The major factor affecting grades in all categories is the lack of adequate funding for infrastructure projects.

A copy of the ASCE presentation is attached. Information/questions about the 2020 report card can be directed to ReportCard@asce.org. The report card website is infrastructurereportcard.org/maine.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary

