

## EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

### 3/16/2021 MEETING MINUTES

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

- He reminded attendees to please sign up in Volunteer Village (EWB-USA website) in order to access information/training opportunities;
- EWB-USA has extended the ban on international travel until Sept. 1, 2021;
- The PMP Executive Committee will meet following this evening's meeting.

VP Steve Laudage reported discussions will begin 3/17/21 for updating the EWB PMP website, including a new platform.

There were no other updates from the PMP Executive group.

#### **Project Updates**

Ixtupil, Guatemala – Braydon Norris reported this water distribution project is being closed because the community decided they do not want to install water meters, which is a project requirement. Project closeout was submitted 3/3/21. The UMaine students are in the process of looking for another project and will be in touch with the PMP chapter regarding status.

Chapter Outreach – Members of the PMP chapter continue to mentor and support other EWB student and professional chapters, particularly with geologists and drilling projects.

Steve Laudage has been appointed communications lead for the EWB-RXT Networking Group, which is part of Pratt-Whitney where he works. This is a great connection for Steve and potentially the PMP chapter.

El Progreso, Ecuador – Baxter (former project co-chair) reported the team is in the process of working with remote survey results to design a model for the water distribution line. Steve Laudage reported he is working on designs for the tap stand and Maeve Carlson is still working on options for addressing the silt issue. There is a Slack channel for this project. Anyone interested in joining the team is welcome. Please contact Julianne at [jmpage@udel.edu](mailto:jmpage@udel.edu).

Debre Birhan, Ethiopia – EWB PMP's piece of this project (classroom building) has been completed, but as Nadia 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). She noted that Mekdim, one of our main contacts in Debre Birhan, has successfully built himself an electric tricycle that includes parts PMP has supplied over the years.

Nersa, India – Baxter reported Miles Schellings' project continues on an individual basis and that the water filter he built seems to be working better based on the coliform bacteria testing. For more information about this project Miles can be reached at [milesoschelling@gmail.com](mailto:milesoschelling@gmail.com).

Paul Carlson Partnership – Dr. Eric Gonnoe, MD, a retired pediatrician, made a short presentation about his work with this partnership that provides medical clinics in the northwest area of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The clinics require a substantial upgrade of solar capacity so that oxygen concentrators and simple ventilators can run throughout the 12 hours of darkness. PMP member Will Turner, who works at Generac Clean Energy Systems, is working with his co-workers to develop a recommendation for a solar panel solution. Anyone interested in working with Will or Dr. Gunnoe can contact them at [williamfitchturner@gmail.com](mailto:williamfitchturner@gmail.com) or [ericgunnoe59@gmail.com](mailto:ericgunnoe59@gmail.com).

### **March Presentation**

Angelina Klouthis, manager of the Portland Professional Connections Program in the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) for the City of Portland, and Eammon Dundon, Director of Advocacy at the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce, discussed their partnership to develop ways for foreign-born professionals to network to find employment in their fields of expertise.

The program pairs foreign trained professionals with business and industry leaders, or “connectors”, in the greater Portland area to help find potential jobs in their fields. Angelina noted that engineering and health care are have been challenging areas to find connectors. She welcomes anyone in the PMP chapter to contact her about becoming a connector to help with networking. She noted there will be an hour-long virtual meeting for current and potential connectors on **Thursday, March 25, 2021 from 4:00PM- 5:00PM**. Please contact Angelina at [aklouthis@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:aklouthis@portlandmaine.gov) for more information or to become a connector.

A copy of Angelina's and Eammon's presentation is attached.

**The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20 at 6:00PM. Meeting info and Zoom link will be sent for this meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary