

EWB PORTLAND MAINE PROFESSIONALS

6/15/2021 MEETING MINUTES

Chapter President Baxter Miatke welcomed attendees and provided the following updates:

- He thanked Brad Roland for spearheading the May site visit to the Back Cove South Storage Facility and Steve Laudage for setting it up with Brad. Photos will be added to PMP's FaceBook page.
- There will be no meeting in July. We hope to meet in person in August.
- The PMP officers met 5/21 with Gerard Dalziel from EWB-USA to review chapter activities. Baxter will send minutes from this call to share with the chapter.
- Portland Uncorked! is returning in 2021! The tentative date is Thursday, October 14, 2021 at the Custom House in Portland. Volunteers are needed to plan and implement the event.
- A virtual discussion, "Talking Ecuador", is scheduled for Thursday, June 24. Several EWB chapters will be participating to discuss their water projects in Ecuador.

Other Officer & Project updates:

VP Steve Laudage:

- The Eastern RI Conservation District project found a local source of engineering support. Steve continues to hope the PMP chapter can find and support a local project.
- Will Turner is no longer our webmaster. We need someone to step into that role ASAP. K. Hillman Reed will send out an appeal to the PMP distribution list.
- Nadia Glucksberg will connect with the Hartford Professional Chapter to see whether they can help us with transitioning to a simpler website platform.

Treasurer Jay Peters:

- The PMP chapter has \$94,400 in our bank account. We are in good shape to resume travel for project work once the travel ban is lifted by EWB-USA.

Secretary K. Hillman Reed:

- We have added several new names to the PMP distribution list.

State Rep Maeve Carlson:

- The EWB regional call is scheduled for 6/16/21 and she will promote the “Talking Ecuador” event.

El Progreso, Ecuador: Design work continues for the distribution pipeline, the taps, and mitigating the silt issue. These items will be discussed during the “Talking Ecuador” event. Per our EIA contact, Ecuador is experiencing a Covid 19 surge, the country is in lockdown, and there have been 3 positive cases in the village of El Progreso.

Latrine Pit Removal Project: This is a request from Scott Teas for his school building project in Tanzania. He needs some expertise re: an issue with the composting latrines that have been built at the Mileembe girls’ school. J. Peters, S. Reed and B. Roland will discuss with Scott ASAP.

So. CT Professional Chapter: Brad Roland reported that remote implementation of a bio-digester septic system is moving forward for this project in Nicaragua.

Hartford Professional Chapter: Nadia Glucksberg, Helena Hollauer, and Matt Reynolds continue to support this chapter on a well project in Guatemala.

Nersa, India: Maeve Carlson reported EWB-USA’s travel insurance company is able to provide travel insurance to individuals separate from an EWB-USA-sanctioned project. Because projects in India are not in the top tiers of EWB-USA approved projects, our proposed work with Miles Schelling on his water project in Nersa is not approved by EWB-USA. However, given that travel insurance is available otherwise, it may increase our interest in supporting Miles’ project separate from EWB-USA.

JUNE PRESENTATION

Eunice Nuna, Founder and Executive Director, Wounded Healers International, presented her request for help to develop a shelter for women and girls who experience domestic and sexual abuse in Kenya. Eunice told her own story of escape from her village in Kenya to Nairobi, the capitol city. She noted that girls and women in her village are not encouraged to become educated or pursue dreams beyond the village and domestic abuse and sexual abuse are common. She fled to Nairobi only to experience sexual abuse, from which she successfully escaped (with her child). She now works to rescue girls and women from similar fates in Kenya, as well as offering her services to girls and women in the U.S.

Eunice expressed her hope of building a shelter outside Nairobi to provide housing, food, water, and safety for abused girls and women. She calls it a “Place of Hope” and envisions it to be similar to the “City of Joy” in Bukava in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

As a group we discussed next steps for Eunice that include:

- Developing a statement of needs, specifically including land for the building.
- Brad Roland and Eunice will meet the week of 6/21/21 to start the statement of needs and check with Habitat for Humanity re: any work they may be doing in Kenya.
- Baxter Miatke will work with Brad Roland to drive the initial portion of the project.

Eunice can be reached at nuna@woundedhealersintl.org. The Wounded Healers website is <https://woundedhealersintl.org>.

An Executive Committee meeting immediately followed the conclusion of the PMP chapter meeting.

The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17 at 6:00PM.
Meeting info will be sent for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hillman Reed, Chapter Secretary