

EWB MID-ATLANTIC PROFESSIONALS CHAPTER MEETING NOTES

Meeting Date: March 5, 2009
Meeting Time: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Place: CAT 240, Drexel University

1. News and Events

- A Cobbs Creek Park cleanup is scheduled for this Saturday, March from 10 a.m. to noon. There are 52 volunteers signed up.
- The Philadelphia Global Water Initiative (PGWI) is planning a conference April 3 (reception with refreshments in evening of April 3rd). Call ahead to register (cost \$25). A flyer with details is attached.

2. Local Projects and Outreach

- Tree planting and neighborhood cleanup event on Saturday, April 25 in Camden, NJ.
- May Fairmount Park Day scheduled for Saturday May 16.
- Clean Air Council annual 5 kilometer run is scheduled for April 18. (Web address - cleanair.org/5k).
- Franklin Institute sponsors summer camps. On April 16, Earth Day, in partnership with Philadelphia's Science High School, there will be a "Career Day" with tables for exhibitors set up. Would EWB-MAP want to participate?

3. Rwanda Project Update

Construction is expected to be complete by the end of April. Form 507 has been submitted for the follow-up inspection travel plan. A one week trip is planned April 25, 2009. Rwanda trip by Jefferson students will overlap.

4. Apatut, Philippines Project Update

- Subcommittee met last week. Justin submitted questions from that meeting to the local NGO (Rotary Club).
- Wiki page is up and running.
- 507 travel request form is being prepared.
- The group is waiting for definition of the rainy season. Generally it is reported that the locality is dry from November to February.
- The Assessment trip is tentatively planned for fall 2009 (dry period), with Implementation planned in early 2010.
- A fundraising group of three subcommittee members has formed. These three members will automatically be included in and coordinate with the EWB-MAP fundraising committee.

5. Financial Status Report

Rich Cairncross reported that there is a balance of approximately \$20,000 on the books now. There was little activity in February. After the money transfer confirmation of funds for the Rwanda project is received, there will be approximately \$10,000 remaining in the Chapter account. It was agreed that a written report of account status would be provided monthly.

3/19/09

6. PR/Fundraising

Separate fundraising meeting may be necessary to gather team and ideas.

6. Resources

There is a database available on the EWB-MAP Website that includes individual member training, experience and qualifications. Important information includes travel and language expertise. Walt Walker will distribute a spreadsheet form to members to provide data to update the information. The updated qualifications inventory will be available on our Website and will be supplied to Student Chapters in our vicinity.

7. Newsletter

Articles we have include: Philippines Project; Rwanda Project; Sustainability.

Articles needed include: Membership; How Non-engineers can be involved. We are looking for volunteers for input.

7. Presentation by Dave Haeussler; El Salvador Water Project

Dave Haeussler has been associated with a local Philadelphia religious-based program (Project FIAT) over the last five years working to improve life in a small town of approximately 8,000 people in and around Las Delicias, El Salvador. Dave gave a detailed overview of the residents, typical weather conditions of the locale and summarized the resources (which are substantial) of the organization he is part of (A Project FIAT Newsletter handout is attached).

There is a public water distribution system at Las Delicias consisting originally of collection reservoirs and a piped distribution network using gravity feed from the reservoirs. Another agency installed a well and groundwater pump that is piped in at the "low" end of the distribution system. The original gravity feed system was not compatible with this reverse feed concept, and has failed in more than one way.

Dave asked if there is interest in our group to provide technical assessment, feasibility study, and design support to find a solution to this problem. Possibly, the groundwater pump could be reconfigured through a new transmission line to supply water up to the existing water reservoirs, followed by repairs to and resumption of distribution through the existing gravity feed system.

There was significant interest among Chapter members in helping Dave. Walt offered to check with the Chapter Executive Board and be in touch with Dave.

6. Next Meeting

The next EWB-MAP Chapter meeting will convene on Thursday, April 2, 2009.