

EWB MID-ATLANTIC PROFESSIONALS CHAPTER MEETING NOTES

Meeting Date: February 5, 2009
Meeting Time: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Place: CAT 276, Drexel University

1. News and Events

The EWB-MAP Website has several announcements. Note that Google Calendar has been updated.

- Engineering for Sustainability training for teachers will be offered in July. More information to come.
- The EWB Lehigh University Chapter will host Village Earth Participatory Planning and Assessment Training for chapter members February 21 – 22.

March Volunteer Opportunities.

- A Cobbs Creek Park cleanup is scheduled for March 7th from 10 a.m. to noon (sponsored by Philadelphia Cares).

Engineer's Week.

- A screening of the video "Flow" will occur at Drexel University on February 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the Mitchell Auditorium on the first floor of the Bassone Research Enterprise Center (South side of Market Street between 31st and 32nd streets).

See the website announcement <http://www.drexel.edu/coe/eweek2009/FLOW.htm>

Drexel University EWB Student Chapter Presentation of Design Plan for their Miramar, El Salvador water project

- Status of the project will be presented in the Hill Conference room (Lebow 231 at Drexel University) on Monday February 23 (starting at noon). This will be an opportunity to learn more about the project and give feedback. EWB-MAP members are invited if they happen to be in the area.

Remember that the EWB-USA conference is scheduled for March 27 – 29 in Milwaukee. See the EWB – MAP Website for details.

2. Chapter Newsletter Status

Walt Walker sent an e-mail message asking for help in putting together the Newsletter. Interesting and informative articles are needed. There was interest from Chapter members. Walt will follow-up.

3. Philippines Project Update

The project application has been approved by EWB-USA. This is a water supply project in a village about 75 miles from Manila. The project team has been formed, has met, and will provide more information at future meetings.

4. Rwanda Project Update

Bob DiFilippo gave a brief update of project status. A post-implementation trip is planned for late April or May 2009.

5. Confirmation of Officer and Committee Positions

Each person present provided a brief self introduction that was followed by the Chapter Officer and Committee position selection process as follows. For each position, the current EWB-MAP president, Walt Walker, provided a description of the position and named those nominated by the Chapter members. Additional nominations were invited from those members present.

Executive Officers:

- President nominees include; Walt Walker (unopposed)
- Vice-President nominees include; Bob Difilippo (unopposed)
- Treasurer nominees include; Rich Cairncross (unopposed)
- Secretary nominees include; Russ Turner (unopposed)

Committee Positions:

- Public Relations/Fundraising committee members selected include; Lynn Scofield, Che Lee, and Michelle Lowry. The Chapter Treasurer is automatically a voting member. This committee should also include one person from each active project. Rich Cairncross will serve for the Rwanda project. One person will be named from the Philippines project. Tony Sauder will be the contact for the Philadelphia Global Water Initiative (note: conference pending April 4th).
- Local Projects and Outreach committee members selected include; Neil Yersak, Shawn Coughlan, Stacie Peterson, and Brian Hamill.
- Webmaster selected was Ryan Findley. Another person to share the responsibility for this position is needed.
- Student Chapter Coordinators selected included Juergan Lunkwitz (UPenn), Sal Palalay (Rowan), Tony Sauder (UPenn)

6. EWB-Rowan University Chapter Presentation: Gambia, Africa

Brian Fischer and Laura Thrall presented a summary of their project to improve transportation among several villages along a road that tends to flood and becomes deeply rutted by overweight vehicles. The road is approximately 4 kilometers and passes through marshland along a river. In places, the roadway can be up to 4 feet below water level at certain times of the year. The project has included preliminary data collection including a survey trip to the site. A feasibility study is underway. Construction is tentatively planned for one year from now. Contact Laura or Brian for more information (EWB@rowan.edu).

7. Next Meeting

The next EWB-MAP Chapter meeting will convene on Thursday, March 5, 2009.