

## Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Denver Professional Chapter

### December 8, 2009 Chapter Meeting Minutes

Chapter Vice-President Joe Blair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. There were 25 members and guests in attendance.

Jim Gusek reported on the Madagascar project, which involves improving the water supply for a remote village. Two engineers from the Chapter are there right now. Two or three observation wells have been completed.

Jim Root reported on the women's shelter project in Douglas County, Colorado. The building opens this week. Also, the Denver Chapter is involved with plan review of the Atlanta Chapter's road project in Jamaica.

Ben Mapes presented the Treasurer's report, and Jason Igo reported on the chapter website.

Jim Gusek demonstrated the Google Earth Flight Simulator; as a fund-raising activity in 2010, the Chapter is considering putting on a "flight school" to teach members of the public how to use the simulator, and ultimately hold a cyberspace air race, perhaps from Denver to Durango. Volunteers should contact Jim.

Blake Testa, Joe Blair, and Craig Essex (Rotary) presented on their November trip to Malingua Pamba, Ecuador, which is the Denver Chapter's oldest project. This trip focused on the potable water supply system for this mountainside community. Specific activities included water quality testing and investigation of problems with some previously-constructed pressure stabilization tanks. With the project 80% complete, greater focus is being placed on sustainability – how the Malingua Pamba community will maintain and expand the system once EWB's involvement ends. To date, the community has contributed much labor and some construction materials, but the project team believes some level of monetary contribution by the community will eventually be necessary. Another legacy of the project is the improvement of construction skills within the community, including greater delegation of responsibilities and more direct communication. The community is proud of its growing expertise, with skills that are in demand from other communities in their region.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Turnquist, P.E.  
Chapter Secretary