

Engineers Without Borders (EWB), Denver Professional Chapter

January 12, 2010 Chapter Meeting Minutes

Chapter President Amy Hui called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. There were 33 members and guests in attendance.

Eden Recor with Rotary provided an update on the Ecuador project. They are looking for other Rotary districts to partner with for funding of the water projects. There is no matching grant at this time. Rotary is also raising funds for the school in Malingua Pamba (non-EWB).

Jim Gusek announced that the inaugural Cyber Flight School fund-raiser will take place on January 21 at the Jefferson County Library in Lakewood.

Ben Mapes presented the Treasurer's report, and also noted that the EWB International Conference will be held in Denver from March 18 to 21. Jason Igo reported on the chapter website and provided a demonstration that illustrated where visitors are located – all over the world!

Chris Fahlin presented the "State of Togo 2010", an overview of the Denver Chapter's project in Agou Avedze, Togo. He covered the project's origins, accomplishments (four Arborloo latrines at a middle school; anecdotal evidence of improved health), performance metrics, goals for 2010 (additional latrines), and needs (financial, and volunteer participation).

Tom Rutkowski and Scott Allen presented on the Madagascar project, including a debrief of their trip in December 2009. They envision a long-term project.

Blake Testa, Tracy Owen, and Laura Backus presented on the Ecuador project (Malingua Pamba). 2010 goals for the potable water project include two trips; development of a memorandum of understanding with the community, and redesign of the collection tanks. There are material needs, financial needs, and personnel needs (Spanish translators, construction/plumbing, or just experienced travelers). The irrigation project hopes for one or two trips in 2010; designing and constructing additional tanks and engaging the community in discussions on sustainability. The newest aspect of the project is erosion control – the volcanic ash underlying the rain forest, once exposed, washes away very fast. There is potential collaboration with a group called Wildlands Restoration Volunteers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Turnquist, P.E.
Chapter Secretary