

In Attendance

Doug May, President
Sowmya Somnath, outgoing Secretary
Ty Morton, Treasurer
Anthony Avila, Secretary
Kiersten Wangsvick, EWB online manager
Ardys Lurtsema (Rotary guest)
Scott Beeson
Allan Ortega
Elisa Soto
Jennifer Dussor
John B. Lynch
Darlene Danehey

Meeting Time: 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. (followed by EWB-UA from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.)

Meeting Location: Room 214, Engineering Building, UA Campus

INTRODUCTION

Meeting is called into session.

The minutes for October meeting are approved. Anthony agrees to make sure the minutes are successfully posted on Yahoo! Group site.

STUDENT WEBSITE/ MEETING SCHEDULE

Doug says the EWB students' Web site www.ewb-ua.org, looks good. The professional group will follow the student's schedule posted on the site, except for December when the students don't meet.

Ty asks if 5:00 time is suitable? Would another time result in better turnout for professionals?

MENTORING STUDENTS

Doug brings up the goal of the pro chapter to mentor students. Previously they had discussed creating a database of each professional with their expertise. Professionals will fill in their hobbies/expertise and students will look at it. Doug says he will mention the idea later at student meeting.

SALAMENCA PROJECT UPDATE

Our application was submitted, and was one of eight applications. It could take 2 weeks or more to get results because they are overwhelmed. Ty says he thinks we have a good shot at it because of our advantages. For example, we had many bilingual people listed on application and local connections.

SERI INDIAN PROJECT

Doug introduces Ardys Lurtsema, who is here from Rotary.

Doug explains that we want to do our own project with Seri Indians. If we started our own project, there would be no competition.

Rotary is working on the refurbishing of a desalination plant for the Seri Indians. Rotary has raised funds for the project.

Background information: The habitants truck in water from Hermosillo, about 1 ½ gallons of water per person a day. There is a rudimentary distribution system that we don't know much about. Needs a metering system to see who is using what. They don't grow crops or animals. It's very hot and very dry climate. They can't drill wells because of sea water. They don't have any toilets. Desperate for education, they only have school up to the 6th grade. They do have electricity. The town is about one hour north of Kino Bay, also north of San Carlos. No transportation. The people speak Seri and Spanish.

The water is really hot because of the climate. They need training in parts and chemicals (periodic table). The government built the tanks and left it. They used to have access to a nearby island, but not any more. They are excellent carvers but have nothing to work with, nor a market to sell to.

The chief is worried about losing their culture. There is one person studying to be a doctor and wants to return.

Ardys says in Hermosillo, the government wants to be green and emulate U.S., so we can use this to the Seri Indians advantage.

DISCUSSION

We should have a metering / distribution system. Pipes run to 100 homes.

Ardys: Could we install solar panels to give shade and generate electricity? Or windmills?

The other problem is dealing with garbage disposal. They need to be educated about how to handle garbage, and they need to have a dump.

Chief said water was biggest problem. Second thing was education. There are 950 inhabitants in all.

Idea for education: Teachers from school could work with the community.

PLANNED ACTION

Doug proposes an assessment trip before we do real planning.

Doug suggests looking into Marine toilets that are saltwater compatible.

Ty: EWB has guidelines to start a project. Let's try to fill out a form first with the knowledge we have.

Ardys says Water Tech International president Consuelo knows about the project, she can help with application.

There are possibilities of Rotary grant or other fundraising available.

Question: Are there other NGOs there? They are very dependent on government. The government wants to stay away.

Allan: We should contact the National Indian Institute – someone who knows the language. We should focus on education, which is the most important for longevity.

AGREED ORDER OF ACTION:

- 1) Get in contact with National Indian Institute (Allan)
- 2) Start filling application
- 3) Assessment trip

OTHER ITEMS

Doug will speak with Mr. Valdez to coordinate possible Peru project.

NEXT MEETING

Everyone agrees to set next meeting to December 10, time and location to be determined.

Meeting is adjourned.