**Rotary District 5450 Water & Sanitation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 5, 2017**

**Kevin Andrezejewski** (pronounced “Andrew-Jetski”) updated the committee on the progress of the Malawi Project. Kevin is the Project Manager of the Engineering Service Corps division of Engineers Without Borders. He pursued and secured a grant from the Posner Center that allowed him to partner with a local NGO, Freshwater Project International <http://www.freshwaterintl.org/> to assess, evaluate and action plan for WASH capacity building in health centers.

Kevin spent 3 weeks in Malawi touring health centers with FPI Country Director Henrick Kunkeyani and found that none of the facilities had access to safe water, even though a significant amount of money had been spent to build water and sanitation infrastructure; no accountability measures were in place; and governance issues were rampant. On the bright side, Henrick has an effective community development process that he uses to transfer ownership. Kevin’s plan forward includes leveraging Henrick’s model along with engineering capacity building to foster knowledge transfer and rehabilitate existing infrastructure to allow for sustainable development. Sustainable access to clean water and effective sanitation will allow these health clinics to carry out their mission, fostering health and wellness among Malawians.

For more information on this exciting initiative, feel free to contact Kevin at kevin.andrezejewski@ewb-usa.org

**Bob Waltermire** of the Rotary Club of Fort Collins presented his Ethiopia WASH Project. Bob secured a global grant from Rotary International to fund a potable water project. Bob’s project took place in Aba-Reri, Bezabih Bayu and Channa – Southwest Ethiopia, a wetter area of the country compared to the Northeastern portion. It encompassed infrastructure development and training/education, and reached 8,000 people at a cost of $73,650. Infrastructure included a gravity system sourcing 3 springs, a spring cap, reservoir and distribution points.

Bob is looking to expand his project with a second global grant targeting the Shota, Tulama and Nakire region, and is within $4,000 of securing the necessary funding to kick off the project. Denver metro has a significant Ethiopian population, and Bob would like to recruit personnel here or in Ethiopia who would be interested in this initiative. Bob can be reached at bobw@totalspeed.com

**Carol Carper** provided attendees with powerful results from the Spring Protection project in Sigomre Ward. Carol is the co-founder of Sasa Harambee, an NGO fostering community development in Southwestern Kenya. Carol, along with Country Director George Oyeho has been working and residing part-time in the Sigomre Ward community for the past 10 years. Their most recent project was funded with monies raised from the community along with a $10,000 D5450 grant, $2,000 from Interact Clubs and $1,000 from a private donor. Monies were used to construct 12 Spring Protections impacting water serving 10,000+ people. The community also provided in-kind support of rocks for the project and food for the workers. EColi and Coliform levels were measured before and after, along with diarrhea and death rates.

Results to date are very encouraging: Ecoli and Coliform levels have been dramatically reduced and/or eliminated, and diarrhea and mortality have been reduced 67 and 63 percent, respectively. Clearly these spring protections have been a catalyst in improving the health and well-being of Kenyans in Sigomre Ward. It also underscores the importance of monitoring and evaluating your projects to determine if “service above self” produces positive and sustainable change to the human condition. Carol is planning to use this success story as a springboard for a global grant to construct more spring protections in the community. Carol is off to Kenya next month, but can always be reached at ccarper1337@gmail.com

**Mark your calendars!** The annual District WASH Symposium is scheduled for Saturday, October 7th. The theme is “Building Capacity and Sustainability in WASH”, and a number of exciting speakers have confirmed their participation:

* Incoming District Governor **Abbas Rajabi** will provide the welcome and his personal support of our WASH efforts
* Founder of Project CURE and genuinely happy guy **Dr James W Jackson** will inspire us with his take on “Cultural Economics: The Power of ‘Goodness’ in Human Development
* **Eddy Perez** has recently been tapped to lead the CU / USAID initiative on WASH sustainability and will help educate us on transforming projects into sustainable programs
* **Levan Metreveli** from the Republic of Georgia and our very own **Steve Werner** will conduct a live WASH intervention application exercise
* **Jeff Power** of Global Hope will outline a model of Transformational Community Development and share its success in the developing world
* To provide a powerful finish, **Tim Prewitt**, CEO of iDE will outline the path forward and teach us how to take the plan to the marketplace.

And these are just the keynote speakers! The afternoon will be filled with informative breakouts led by world-class WASH experts. Don’t miss it! Registration opens June 15th at [**www.WASHSymposium2017.com**](http://www.washsymposium2017.com/)

**Steve Werner**, fresh off a Peace Corps Response initiative in the Republic of Georgia, showed us how you can go off to volunteer in other disciplines, and still get roped into your area of expertise. He left with a commitment to the Ministry of Youth and Sport and returned with a commitment to the Ministry of Health and Science. Way to go, Steve (: His reputation as an international Water and Sanitation Consultant preceded him to Georgia, and the Director of Mission at USAID connected him with a member of the Georgia Medical Group, an NGO with aspirations to reduce the incidence of diarrheal disease in Georgia. Steve, ever the consummate connector, worked a meeting with the Minister of Education and Science (a high-ranking Georgian official), who asked the newly-formed coalition to submit a proposal to deliver clean water and adequate sanitation and hygiene to the entire Georgian school system!

Steve and his colleague Levan Metreveli are now tasked with figuring out how to make that happen. They have the support of the Georgian government (a critical component of any WASH initiative), but the Ministry is not an implementing group, so other NGOs will have to come alongside GMG to scale the initiative. The government in Georgia encourages innovation, but as an emerging nation simply does not have the financial resources to pull it off solo. With a robust needs assessment, effective community engagement, world-class collaboration, successful knowledge and ownership transfer and proper monitoring and evaluation, this initiative has the potential to provide a WASH case study for Rotarians worldwide to follow. Contact Steve at steve@stevewernerconsulting.com for more details.

The District 5450 WASH Committee will be dark in July and August to let members enjoy time with their families over the summer. Meetings will resume on September 11th. Thanks for all you do to bring safe water and effective sanitation and hygiene to a world in need!