



WATER ENGINEERS FOR THE AMERICAS

2013 YEAR END REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The non-governmental organization “Water Engineers for the Americas” (WEFTA), based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was officially created as a non-profit 501(c)(3) in 2002. Since that time the organization has been able to assist several rural communities in developing countries throughout Latin America with their water and sanitation needs.

We have been fortunate to receive ongoing support from the Wallace Genetic Foundation to help cover operational expenses of the organization. And we continue to count on the generous support provided via our sister NGO, Waterlines, as well as generous individuals committed to doing something about the lack of safe water supplies and proper sanitation in impoverished communities throughout Latin America.

With the ongoing support from Souder, Miller & Associate, the organization’s most significant corporate sponsor, as well as all the volunteer help from our supporters, WEFTA has been able to continue to send an increasing number of volunteers overseas to assess past, present and potential future projects, and provide the invaluable technical advice and recommendations needed to assure each project’s success.

WEFTA continues to grow as an organization, and has been fortunate to welcome some good, new partners in this work, both institutional and individuals. The enthusiasm and special talents and insights that these new partners bring are most welcome and we are confident that they will result in healthy development and sustainable growth of the organization. One of the most promising developments has been the good and effective networking with other NGO’s, especially local in-country NGO’s that can be WEFTA’s eyes and ears on the ground, and help voice our common vision of a better world that comes from the responsible sharing of the world’s abundant resources.

WEFTA also officially brought Holly Chapman on board as a public relations and external relations specialist. Holly brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the organization and we’re all convinced that she’ll be a tremendous resource for WEFTA for years to come while promoting the work of the organization and developing new funding sources.

At the special meeting held on December 17, 2012, it was agreed that 2013 would be a year in which we would focus on returning to past projects and evaluating the status of each. And, for the most part, this was really what 2013 was all about. An unprecedented number of site visits were made throughout the year as our volunteers visited almost every single one of our past projects.

The other major accomplishment of 2013 had to do with the shipping of the well drilling rig to Bolivia, clearing of customs, and bringing the rig online with follow up training from some of the well drillers that the Suma Jayma team trained with in Texas in 2012.

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SITE VISITS MADE BY WEFTA VOLUNTEERS IN 2013

The following are summaries of what our volunteers observed while in-country. A detailed trip report for each is available for viewing on the WEFTA website (www.WEFTA.net).

- ***Trip to Peru by Lou Harrington, John Lincoln and Jennifer McDowell***

The purpose of this trip was to meet with representatives of the various communities in the Urubamba River Valley in Peru to discuss their plans and/or issues that they had encountered in implementing wastewater treatment for their respective communities. The WEFTA attendees at these meetings were Lou Harrington, John Lincoln, and Jennifer McDowell. Linda Ochoa, who lives in Urubamba, served as facilitator and provided introductions to the representatives of the various communities. Linda was also present for many of the meetings. The site visit occurred between March 4 and March 8, 2013.

A common theme throughout most of this particular trip was the need for just the type of expertise that our volunteer engineers possess, in this case dealing with wastewater treatment. Each community official that the team met with, without exception, was eager to hear what WEFTA had to say about wastewater treatment technologies and processes, and was just as eager to create a strategic alliance with WEFTA in the development of the most viable option for achieving their goals. It was clear very early that the topic of wastewater treatment is not something that the local engineers are well versed in, to say the least.

The key challenge for our volunteer engineers will be to help the locals develop simple but effective solutions for treating their sewage waste, and not outpace the people we're committed to serve. It'll be important to ensure that the long term operation and maintenance of the suggested solutions are feasible and cost-effective, and that the capacity exists locally to assure proper O&M.

The related trip report is available on the WEFTA website.

- ***Multiple Trips to Bolivia:***

- ***Blanca Surgeon and Paul Kennedy***
- ***Scott McKittrick and Mariah Everett***
- ***Jason Gehrig and Dale White***

Clearly the majority of work funded via WEFTA since the founding of the organization has occurred in Bolivia where WEFTA has developed a close working relationship with the Bolivian NGO by the name of Suma Jayma. In order to cover all of the territory where the past projects were constructed, it was necessary to organize three separate trips to Bolivia during 2013. This was covered by the teams identified above. A coordinated effort was made to divide all of the projects constructed by Suma Jayma over the years into three geographic areas.

The Suma Jayma team made a monumental effort to bring our volunteers out to each of the communities that have benefited from support from WEFTA. The teams were able to confirm that all the systems are operational. The biggest issues discovered dealt with the need for expansion of the community water system and/or additional hand pumps or latrines. There were issues identified related to cracks in the concrete rings used for the walls of the hand dug wells which the



Suma Jayma team was made aware of and will work to eliminate and/or repair. Also, it was noted on a few occasions that community members need to be educated on proper grazing practices for their animals near wells and spring catchment areas, in other words, the need to keep the animals away from such areas.

During Jason and Dale's visit, they spent the majority of their time providing some follow up training on the use of the drill rig that WEFTA helped purchase and send to Suma Jayma. The related trip report which contains many of Dale White's observations during his first visit to Bolivia is available on the WEFTA website.

- ***Trip to Honduras by Andrew Robertson***

In the spring of 2013, Andrew was able to make a trip to Honduras to follow up on past projects and speak with representatives from Save the Children Honduras and other local community representatives about new projects on the horizon. He spent much of his time with Enrique Lozano, our local representative in Honduras playing the role of circuit rider there.

- ***Trip to Chiapas, Mexico by Ramon Lucero***

In April of 2013, Ramon made various site visits to communities in Chiapas where past projects were constructed. He came back with a very detailed report of the status of those as well as compilation of several potential new projects. Ramon spent much of his time with our key local representative, Kees Grootenboer, as well as Sabas Cruz of SYJAC (Skolta'el Yu'un Jlumaltic) while visiting past and potential future projects. For a complete trip report detailing his visits, please refer to the Mexico page of the WEFTA website. Kees also made several site visits on his own to evaluate past projects. His reporting is available on the WEFTA website also.

WEFTA PROJECTS OF 2013

The following projects were funded and completed in 2013. Detailed final reports and accounting for each are available upon request.

- ***Well Drill Rig Shipping to Bolivia***

One of the most significant accomplishments of 2013 was the successful shipping of the well drill rig to Bolivia. It was not without its drama along the way, but the rig eventually made its way to the Suma Jayma team in El Alto, Bolivia. This was the culmination of the enormous effort made the previous year to raise funds for the purchase of the rig, logistics related to training of the Suma Jayma team on the use of the rig while still in Texas, and raising much of the funding needed to ship the rig to South America. Thanks to the ongoing support from one of our key donors, the final amount of funding needed was secured and final shipping logistics were organized. Some materials were lost in transit, but the insurance policy in place and paid for by WEFTA prior to shipping, covered the cost of the loss.

The WEFTA team of volunteers, Jason Gehrig and Dale White, travelled to Bolivia in the spring of 2013 to provide some follow up training on the use of the rig and valuable lessons were learned on the proper use and maintenance required for the rig.



For a slide show of all the tremendous work associated with this project, please visit the WEFTA website, and see the trip report referenced earlier.

- ***Chum Cerro, Chiapas, Mexico Latrines***

A transfer of \$5,500 was made in early 2013 to fund the construction of additional latrines in the community of Chum Cerro, and to cover the cost of some repairs required on past projects in the region. The work was supervised by Kees Grootenboer, as usual, and the additional latrines were completed in April of 2013.

- ***Chacoma, Bolivia (community water system - manual hand pumps)***

This project consisted of individual hand pumps for the 17 families that lacked such services. The total population of the community served is 85 people. The families provided all of the unskilled manual labor needed to excavate the wells and install the equipment. The work was completed in September of 2013.

Contribution from Local Community:	\$ 491
In-kind contribution of labor/local materials:	\$ 1,720
<u>Funding from WEFTA:</u>	<u>\$ 6,319</u>
Total actual project cost:	\$ 8,530

- ***Munaypata, Bolivia (community water system - manual hand pumps)***

This project consisted of individual hand pumps for the 22 families that lacked such services. The total population of the community served is 110 people. As usual, the families provided all of the unskilled manual labor needed to excavate the wells and install the equipment.

Contribution from Local Community:	\$ 491
In-kind contribution of labor/local materials:	\$ 2,226
<u>Funding from WEFTA:</u>	<u>\$ 7,970</u>
Total actual project cost:	\$ 10,687

- ***Palcoco, Bolivia (community water system)***

This project was completed in late 2013 and benefited 90 families of the community, representing a total population of 450 people. The local municipal government provided the majority of funds needed to construct this gravity fed water distribution system.

Contribution from Local Community:	\$ 783
In-kind contribution of labor/local materials:	\$ 6,862
Funding from municipality:	\$ 19,345
<u>Funding from WEFTA:</u>	<u>\$ 14,832</u>
Total actual project cost:	\$ 41,822

- ***MOU with USAID-Acceso and Circuit Riding in Honduras by Enrique Lozano***

In October of 2013 an MOU was signed by USAID-Acceso and WEFTA laying the groundwork for an ongoing working relationship between the two organizations. One of the greatest benefits to



come of this initiative is the sharing of resources to make possible the construction of the much needed water systems for the most remote rural communities of Honduras.

Due to the increasing amount of work involved in coordinating this cooperation, WEFTA began to cover the expenses of our local in-country volunteer, Enrique Lozano. It was determined that the expenses associated with this work would be somewhere around \$1,500 every three months for the foreseeable future. Enrique continues to be an invaluable ally in the important work being done in Honduras.

UPCOMING WEFTA PROJECTS FOR 2013 AND BEYOND

BOLIVIA

The major effort regarding work in Bolivia will be to assure the viability of Suma Jayma as a sustainable NGO, and the development of skills with regard to well drilling and marketing this work will be a key element in that. It is the belief of the Suma Jayma staff that such well drilling services would be of tremendous service to communities throughout the region and have the added benefit of creating a sustainable work model for their organization, which is in the interest of everyone.

WEFTA intends to continue funding community water systems in partnership with Suma Jayma, and we'll be dedicating efforts to evaluating how we can best assist rural communities affected by mining activities in the Oruro region of Bolivia.

PERU

Representatives of WEFTA are in communication with local authorities in the Urubamba Valley. One challenge that WEFTA has encountered has to do with the nature of local politics and the wholesale changing and reorganization of public works department staff with the election of a new mayor in each municipality every few years. A challenge for WEFTA will be to find continuity in the process of sharing the expertise our volunteers have, and making sure the lessons learned are not lost after every election.

MEXICO

WEFTA intends to continue work in Chiapas, mostly in coordination with Kees Grootenboer, with whom we've coordinated successfully on several occasions. We also hope to open up channels of communication with Sabas Cruz of Skolta'el Yu'un Jlumaltic (SYJAC), a Mexican NGO based out of San Cristobal de las Casas.

HONDURAS

Thanks to a new source of funding, the work in Honduras is expected to pick up pace in 2014. WEFTA will have to rely on the support provided via the close ties developed with the staff of Save the Children Honduras, and especially with Mr. Enrique Lozano, a local engineer who has devoted countless volunteer hours to the success of a several projects in the Intibuca region of Honduras. This support will be essential in assuring effective and efficient completion of the much needed projects in this severely impoverished country.



SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2013

WEFTA has been fortunate over the last year to receive very generous donations from other organizations and individuals. The organization continues to be able to rely on the countless hours provided by our volunteer professionals that make the very important site visits each year to the communities where we work.

Banking Activity in 2013

Beginning Balance (1/1/2013)	\$ 91,668.24
Donations Received:	
individual donations received first quarter of 2013	\$ 6,750.00
individual donations received second quarter of 2013	\$ 1,500.00
individual donations received third quarter of 2013	\$ 6,000.00
individual donations received fourth quarter of 2013	\$ 173.00
Check from ACE Insurance for settlement on last materials	\$ 3,904.44
Pittsburgh Foundation grant	\$ 30,000.00
Wallace Genetic Foundation grant	\$ 50,000.00
Total of Donations Received:	\$ 98,327.44
Program Expenses:	
transfer to Suma Jayma (Palcoco)	\$ 14,886.09
transfer to Suma Jayma (Munaypata)	\$ 8,029.06
transfer to Suma Jayma (Chacomá)	\$ 6,378.49
transfer to Chiapas (Chum Cerro latrines)	\$ 5,554.09
travel expenses for WEFTA volunteers to Bolivia	\$ 7,280.77
travel expenses for WEFTA volunteer to Peru	\$ 2,447.08
travel expenses for WEFTA volunteer in Mexico	\$ 2,000.00
travel expenses for WEFTA volunteer to Honduras	\$ 631.80
well drilling equipment shipping	\$ 29,616.42
invoice from SMA for operational expenses (8/1/12 - 12/31/12)	\$ 9,673.26
invoice from SMA for operational expenses (1/1/13 - 6/30/13)	\$ 10,661.79
invoice from SMA for operational expenses (7/1/13 - 12/15/13)	\$ 10,132.71
external communications/PR support	\$ 7,979.99
circuit riding in Honduras	\$ 2,254.09
misc. expenses	\$ 574.00
Total of Program Expenses:	\$ 118,099.64
Ending Balance (12/31/2012)	\$ 71,896.04

Below is a list of key contributions followed by a cash flow summary for 2013.

- *Grant from the Wallace Genetic Foundation*

The Wallace Genetic Foundation has continued to provide ongoing support to cover the operational expenses related to running WEFTA, especially the costs of site visits as well as the administrative support for tracking budgets and donations, and coordinating with our partner organizations, donors, and the beneficiary communities who ultimately receive the assistance they need to meet their water and sanitation needs. A grant of \$50,000 was received in September of 2013.



- ***Contribution from the Pittsburgh Foundation***

In June of 2013 WEFTA received a generous donation from the Pittsburgh Foundation, thanks to the support of one of our long-standing and most generous donors. This donation has been used to support direct project expenses of the organization.

- ***Contribution from individuals and matching grants***

Throughout 2013 WEFTA received several donations from individuals, philanthropic groups, and a new online donation system set up by Holly Chapman. There have been some significant additional donations made toward the well drilling efforts in Bolivia that continue to arrive.

- ***Contribution from Souder, Miller & Associates***

In addition to the time donated by a number of individuals, Souder, Miller & Associates (SMA) has provided the administrative personnel and material necessary for the operation of WEFTA. SMA has invoiced WEFTA for the direct costs of such services, but has covered all the associated indirect costs such as benefits for personnel, all equipment and materials such as computers, office space, and infrastructure required by the organization. The success of WEFTA is due in large part to the continued commitment on the part SMA to support the work of WEFTA.

WEFTA Board of Directors:

- Peter Fant, PE
- Lou Harrington
- Scott Rogers, PE
- Blanca Surgeon
- Jason Gehrig, PE

