

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
August 3rd, 2022

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met in the Leventhal Map Center Conference Room located in the Central Branch of the Boston Public Library at 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA. The Executive Director electronically distributed the meeting notice and agenda to the City Clerk at Boston City Hall in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Open Meeting Law.

Mr. Robert Whitney, co-chair, read the following statement:

"I, Robert Whitney, co-chair of the Boston Groundwater Trust, am calling this meeting to order at 4:10 pm. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, we are conducting this meeting on-line. To ensure public access to the deliberations of the BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST, the public may access this meeting through telephone and video conferencing. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide public comment. To do so please, "raise your hand" in the application via the Zoom meeting platform. If you are calling in and cannot use the platform, you can send your questions to staff via email at csimonelli@bgwt.org or via Twitter by tagging the Twitter handle @BOSTONGWT and using the hashtag #AUG2022MTG."

The following trustees were present at the Leventhal Map Center Conference Room:

Mr. Robert Whitney, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Gary Saunders, Back Bay Association
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Leah Camhi, Fenway Community Development Corporation
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay

The following trustee was present virtually:

Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board

Also present at the Leventhal Map Center Conference Room were:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Mr. Garrett Dash Nelson, President & Head Curator Leventhal Map & Education Center; Mr. Daniel Kool, Metro/Local correspondent for the Boston Globe; Ms. Kenzie Bok, City Councilor District 8; Christopher Kelley, Councilor Bok's Office; Mr. Rick Smith, Vicinity Energy, Mr. Matthew O'Malley, Vicinity Energy; Ms. Jessica Rodriguez, Vicinity Energy; Mrs. Meg Mainzer-Cohen, Executive Director Back Bay Association; Mr. Richard Pien; Ward 5 Republican Committee

Also present virtually were:

Mr. John Sullivan, Chief Engineer Boston Water & Sewer Commission; Mr. Rory Cud-dyer, Chief of Staff, City of Boston, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space; Ms. Katherine England, City of Boston, Director of Green Infrastructure; Ms. Alison Frazee, Executive Director of the Boston Preservation Alliance

1. **Adoption of May 12th, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes & Executive Session minutes from November 18th, 2021**

Board Meeting & Executive Session minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, moved to adopt both sets of minutes. Ms. Camhi, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the Board Meeting & Executive Session minutes.

2. **Financial Report**

Mr. Whitney and Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's financials. Discussion followed.

3. **Garrett Dash Nelson Presentation**

Garrett Dash Nelson, President & Head Curator Leventhal Map & Education Center, reviewed his article: "Making Water into Gold." Discussion followed.

4. **Vicinity Energy Presentation**

Matthew O'Malley and Rick Smith of Vicinity Energy reviewed their proposal for using steam condensate for groundwater recharge. Discussion followed.

5. **2022 City-Wide Groundwater Forum Discussion**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed a draft outline for the forum. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli will revise the outline based on the comments and work with the co-chairs moving forward. Discussion followed.

6. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report August 3rd, 2022*, for a complete list of activities. Discussion followed.

Mr. Saunders, co-chair, moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:48p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 15th, 2022 @ 4:00 pm, at the Lenox Hotel with a virtual attendance option.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, 8/4/2022.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 3rd, 2022

1. **Readings** - Completed our fourth set of readings of 2022 and revamp of our data collection methods for readings. Started our fifth set of readings last week.
2. **Meetings and Calls** -
 - a. Attended the Mayors Coffee Hour in the Fenway. (5/18)
 - b. Met GZA field engineers to adjust flow rates in the Appleton and Saint Charles Street recharge systems. (5/19)
 - c. Zoomed with Abigail Chatfield, Project Manager, Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and members of the Saski team to review the Copley Square redesign and discuss the preservation of existing observation wells around the square. (5/19)
 - d. Attended the Mayors Coffee Hour in the Back Bay. (5/25)
 - e. Along with co-chair Robert Whitney Zoomed with Fidelity representative James McCann to review the Trust investment portfolio and purchase the next set of bonds. (6/2)
 - f. Met with Ralph Kurpeski, ISD Building Inspector Ward 5B, to review locations of potential sump pumps in the South End. (6/3)
 - g. Zoomed with members of the Trust Technical Advisory Committee. (6/7)
 - h. Virtually attended the Boston Society of Civil Engineers webinar on stormwater recharge in densely developed urban areas. (6/8)
 - i. Met with Garrett Dash Nelson, President & Head Curator Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library Central Library, to review his presentation to the Trustees at the August Board meeting. (6/8)
 - j. Had coffee with Noel DiCarlo, Warshaw & DiCarlo & Associates, to review the 2022 Groundwater Forum. (6/14)
 - k. Attended the Mayors Coffee Hour in the North End. (6/15)
 - l. Met with Meg Mainzer-Cohen, President, and Executive Director of the Back Bay Association, to discuss 2022 Groundwater Forum. (6/16)
 - m. Virtually participated in the 1400 Boylston Street (Fenway Star Market) Scoping Session. (6/22)
 - n. Met with Adrienne Benton, 558 Committee Chair for the League of Women for Community Service (LWCS), and Gina Gomes Cruz, Executive Director LWCS, to review the building at 558 Massachusetts Avenue and discuss next steps involved in determining if the building is supported on wood piles. (6/22)
 - o. Met with Irene McSweeney, Chief of Operations, BWSC and Demetri Vidalis, Superintendent of Asset Management and CMOM Director, BWSC to discuss status of various repairs throughout the city. (6/23)
 - p. Zoomed with members of the development team to discuss GCOD requirements for the project located at 705-711 Boylston Street in Back Bay. (6/27)
 - q. Virtually participated in the Parcel 13 (Back Bay/South End) Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. (6/27)
 - r. Spoke with Susan Williams, Graphic Designer, about designing an invitation and digital content for 2022 Groundwater Forum. (6/28)
 - s. Spoke with Christina Attaway, Graphic Designer, about digital content for 2022 Groundwater Forum. (7/7)
 - t. Zoomed with Alison Frazee, Executive Director, Boston Preservation Alliance, about the Trust's activities and serving as a Board member. (7/12)
 - u. Virtually participated in the 65 Wareham Street (South End) Scoping Session. (7/15)

- v. Google met with Daniel McCormack and Justin Comeau of BluCloud to review performance of the 5 remote reading devices currently deployed. See summary under item #3 for the details. (7/15)
 - w. Met with Cara Spalla, General Manager of the College Club of Boston located at 44 Commonwealth Avenue, to review the groundwater levels in the area and review the steps required to have a test pit dug to evaluate the condition of the wood piles. (7/19)
 - x. Zoomed with members of the development team to discuss GCOD requirements for the project located at 244-284 A Street in Fort Point Channel. (7/19)
 - y. Zoomed with all members of the City-State Groundwater Working Group. (7/21) Agency updates are below.
 - z. Testified via Zoom the Zoning Board of Appeals hearings in May, June, and July.
 - aa. Communicated with residents, engineers, attorneys, & developers throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to submit to meet the GCOD zoning.
3. **BluCloud Remote Monitoring Solution** - The 5 units have been transmitting readings daily since the beginning of March. 3 of the 5 units were slightly higher than our manual readings. BluCloud is in the process of revising the formula to reflect accurate readings in those 3 units. The plan moving forward is evaluate the performance of these units over the following months.
 4. **BWSC** - An update on the following:
 - BWSC is in the process of designing repairs to address the spots where groundwater infiltration has been observed in the North End, Back Bay, and the South End.
 - In Lower Beacon Hill, investigations continue at Brimmer and Beacon Streets. Catch basins were cleaned and no signs of infiltration were observed.
 - Back Bay
 - The contract has been awarded and construction is set for this August to repair a deep CSO on Fairfield Street, in the Beacon-Back Street block.
 - At Exeter and Boylston Street, a low spot is still being investigated where seepage was observed in an adjacent manhole. Additional video investigations showed no additional signs in other infrastructure. Investigations continue.
 - Low area along Beacon St., Fairfield-Hereford St. blocks, is scheduled to be televised this Summer.
 - Repairs for the Blagden Street sewer and laterals are currently in design phase.
 - In the South End, investigations at a low spot along Harrison Avenue, in the East Concord Street – Worcester Square blocks, revealed groundwater infiltration in an adjacent manhole. Will either be lined or rehabbed this Summer.
 5. In the Fenway a low area along Hemenway Street was investigated and a 24" drain line and manhole in alley 807 revealed minor infiltration. Scheduled be repaired this Fall.
 6. **MBTA** - Approximately 32 gpm is being injected into recharge wells in the South End Ellis Neighborhood area along Appleton, Berkeley, Saint Charles, Cazenove, and Clarendon Streets.
 - a. In addition to our manual monitoring, we have 4 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min.
 - b. We've been working the MBTA and their consultant to review the viability of reducing flow in some of the systems in effort to maintain operational costs.
 - c. The design flow rate for the recharge system located at the end of Saint Charles St. was decreased from 11 gpm to 9 gpm on May 19th.
 - d. The design flow rate for the recharge system located at 5 Appleton St. was decreased from 8 gpm to 6 gpm on May 19th.

- e. The impact of the drought is being felt on Cazenove Street where levels have dropped slightly below El. 5' BCB. We're working with the MBTA, and their consultant increase the flow in the Cazenove St. Recharge system.
- 7. **DCR** - Storrow Drive Tunnel Pump Station, recharge galleys, and flood control pumps working without any issues.
- 8. **MWRA** - Continue working with BWSC on sewer separation and CSO improvements in East Boston.
- 9. **DOT** - Rick McCullough, Director of Environmental Engineering has retired. DOT is in the process of finding a replacement.