

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
March 24, 2011

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Heritage meeting room, which is located in the Lenox Hotel. The Executive Director posted a meeting notice at City Hall in accordance with provision of the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law. Mr. Saunders called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. The following trustees were present, and the Chairman declared that there was a quorum:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Molly Sherden, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Peter Sherin, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC)
Mr. Aaron Michlewitz, North End Neighborhood Council

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator; Stuart Rosenberg, City Councilor Felix Arroyo's Office; John Kastrinos, Haley & Aldrich, Anne M. Pistorio, North End Water Front Residents Association (NEWRA) Groundwater Working Group;

1. Adoption of the minutes of the January 27, 2011 Meeting

Minutes were previously electronically distributed to board members for review. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Sherin, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the January 27, 2011 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Ms. Sherden reviewed the BGwT *Financial Report and Reconciliation Detail*. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden noted that the Trust's Salem 5 CD matured on March 11, 2011. Ms. Sherden investigated several banks in the area for a new CD with a competitive rate. She settled on a 14 month account at Salem 5 for a rate of 1.1% and renewed the CD. Discussion followed.

3. Draft FY 2012 Budget

Mr. Laffer distributed a draft FY 2012 budget to the Trustees for review. Discussion followed.

4. 2011 Well Installation Program

Mr. Laffer informed the Trustees of a proposed 10 well installation program for FY2012. He noted that final locations will be determined when the Technical Advisory Committee meets on Tuesday, March 29th. He requested the Trustees authorize him to submit bids for the 10 well installation contract. Discussion followed.

Ms. Gilbert, Trustee, moved to authorize Mr. Laffer to solicit bids for the 10 well installation contract. Ms. Sherden, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To authorize Mr. Laffer to solicit bids for the 10 well installation contract.

5. Low Groundwater Areas Review

Mr. Simonelli presented his analysis of 9 areas deemed low groundwater throughout the city.

Mr. Simonelli focused on groundwater elevations for specific observation wells in each hot spot over the past two years. Mr. Simonelli also made note of repairs made to existing infrastructure in each hot spot, in addition to repairs that are scheduled to be made. Board members and other attendees actively participated in the presentation. Discussion followed.

Multiple trustees expressed their concerns about the lack of progress in solving the low groundwater that has existed along Dartmouth Street for over three years and noted that low groundwater levels had also existed in that area before a 2004 BWSC repair and may have left many buildings with already weakened pilings.

6. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: March 24, 2011* for a complete list of all activities.

7. Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Report

BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli presented his activities since last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Update BGwT Meeting: March 24, 2011* for a complete list of all activities.

8. Other Business

Mr. Gilbert asked Mr. Laffer if a press release was issued following the presentation of the Tufts report on the impact of GCOD. Mr. Laffer noted that a press release was issued and that it is posted on the BGwT site.

Mr. Gilbert and Trustees further discussed the findings in the Tufts report and additional ways the BGwT can work with various entities in the city to help encourage recharge. Discussion followed.

Mr. Saunders, Co-chair, asked Mr. Simonelli to check with various entities within the city and see what they are doing help promote recharge. He requested that an update be given at the next board meeting. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 26, 2011 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator, on 3/25/11.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Galen Gilbert".

Galen Gilbert, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
March 24, 2011

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again on April 28.
2. **Well Readings** – We had our well reader work extra hours so that we could get back on track as the snow melted. He completed one set of well readings on March 1 and a second, more complete set on March 20. As always, all readings are posted on our site shortly after they are taken.
3. **MBTA** – The MBTA remains in final negotiations with GZA for their tunnel repair design contract that includes the work on the long term solution for the low groundwater levels in the South End near Back Bay Station. They expect to have signed a contract by mid-April.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC repairs continue to be backlogged because of the harsh winter. They are working with us and DCR to try to understand why some of the groundwater levels under the embankment along Back Street have dropped in spite of continued recharge coming from the Storrow Drive Tunnel. They have not yet designed repairs that might address the low levels along Dartmouth Street.
5. **MassDOT** – As part of a paving project in the Prudential tunnel on the Turnpike, MassDOT this summer will clean a drain line servicing the tunnel. This will allow inspection of the drain line (which has not been cleaned out since the Turnpike extension was built in the 1960's) to see if there are leaks there that could be contributing to low groundwater levels in the Back Bay and Bay Village near the Turnpike. MassDOT continues to look at potential recharge applications for storm water from the Central Artery.
6. **East Boston** – Groundwater levels in wells along near Porter Street and Visconti Road have risen as much as six feet since MWRA completed their new sewer system in the area and filled in the old sewer pipe under Porter Street in September.
7. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD remains excellent. We have now seen over 200 cases go through the Board of Appeals, with only three very justified variances granted. The BRA has made sure that projects in the GCOD area that were approved prior to its adoption but require modified zoning because of project changes in light of the changed economy meet GCOD requirements. The BRA has also made sure that those projects that are part of Institutional Master Plans or Planned Development Areas and don't go before the Board of Appeals still meet all of the requirements of the GCOD. Project proponents now understand the importance of compliance and have been generally very cooperative.
8. **Website** – Traffic to the website has remained high. We are investigating ways to make the site more user friendly for those utilizing tablet computers without a mouse.
9. **Meetings** – I attended scoping sessions for the GrandMarc at Northeastern and Berklee College of Music 168 Massachusetts Avenue projects.
10. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on the GrandMarc and Berklee projects. As always, they are posted on our website.
11. **Vacation** – I will be on vacation the week of April 18.

**TECHNICAL & RECHARGE
COORDINATOR'S UPDATE
BGwT Meeting: March 24th, 2011**

WELL MONITORING

Our well network was last read from Mar. 2nd-20th. We will start a new set of readings on Monday Mar. 28th.

CO-OP/PART-TIMER

Our current co-op, Ryan Morrison is doing an excellent job. After he completes his co-op with us, Ryan will be staying on with the BGwT as a part-timer this summer.

DATA LOGGERS

All 24 of our data loggers are deployed throughout the west zone. I upload the following loggers on a weekly basis:

- 5 along Storrow Drive from Embankment Rd. - Clarendon St.
- 8 along Dartmouth Street from Beacon St. – Commonwealth Ave.
- 3 on Plympton, East Brookline, and East Concord Streets in the South End New Market area
- 1 on Saint Charles St. and 2 on Cazenove St.
- 2 adjacent to the Southwest Corridor Alignment on Berkeley St.

The remaining loggers have been placed in the Fenway and Back Bay.

CONTOURS

We continue to generate contours for all areas of our well network. Elliott and I have reviewed them with our technical committee. We continue to receive contours from BWSC.

RECHARGE

We have added new information to our Recharge tab on the BGWT site. Titled, “Other Recharge Systems” information is provided to assist the property owner (or contractor) in selecting the most efficient system. There are examples of recharge systems that property owners (and Contractors) have used to comply with the Article 32 Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD). Each type is site specific and was designed based upon storage capacity that is calculated during design.

Examples of different types of Porous Pavements have also been added under the Recharge tab. A description of Porous Pavement, how it works, and the advantages and disadvantages of it are listed.

I’m looking into Google Earth Pro to map and integrate the city’s greenspace in our own database and also adding it into our CAD and GIS maps.

MISCELLANEOUS

Elliott and I met with Chris Sayers from BWSC and a member from DCR regarding the low levels around the Storrow Drive underpass. With the use of BWSC’s camera equipment we opened most of the sewer and recharge manhole covers on Back Street, running from Clarendon St. – Embankment Rd. There was no standing water in the recharge galleys but there was some minor infiltration in one of the sewers we opened. BWSC grouted that sewer on March 8th and we

noticed a minimal bump in the loggers along Storrow. However, levels are still low and we continue to work with BWSC and DCR to figure out why.

I attended some scoping sessions with Elliott and also attended the city's 2nd Symposium on Greening Government Center.