

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
March 21, 2013

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. Mitchell, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB)
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (FCDC)
Mr. Brian Swett, Chief of Environment & Energy
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board (GBREB)
Ms. Stephanie Krueel, Executive Secretary Boston Conservation Commission
Mr. Greg Galer, The Boston Preservation Alliance

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator; Athena Laines, City Councilor Arroyo's Office; Jacob Glickel, Chief of Staff of Environment & Energy; Paul Nelson, Resident of 100 Fulton Street

1. Adoption of the minutes of the January 17, 2013 Meeting

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

Mr. Shilland, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes Ms. Krueel, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the January 17, 2013 meeting.

2. Financial Report

In light of Ms. Sherden's, Trustee, absence Mr. Laffer reviewed the BGwT financial reports. Discussion followed.

3. FY 14 Well Installation Contract

Mr. Simonelli reviewed his analysis of the bids submitted by three drilling contractors. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli recommended that the 11 well installation contract be awarded to the low bidder which was New Hampshire Boring, Inc. Discussion followed.

Ms. Gilbert, Trustee, moved to award the contract to New Hampshire Boring, Inc. in the amount of \$23, 871. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, seconded the motion.

Voted: To award the contract to New Hampshire Boring, Inc. in the amount of \$23, 871.

4. Implementation of Investment Policy

In light of Ms. Sherden's absence Mr. Laffer reviewed the steps that have been taken to implement the Investment Policy for Reserves . Discussion followed.

5. FY 2014 Budget: Initial Discussion

In light of Ms. Sherden's absence Mr. Laffer also reviewed the draft FY 2014 Budget. Discussion followed.

The board will review the budget and bring it to a vote at the May 16th Board meeting. Discussion followed.

6. Green Alley Project Contract

Mr. Laffer reviewed the detail of the Green Alley project planned to be undertaken by the Trust, the City, and the Charles River Watershed Association, Inc. and the Memorandum of Agreement describing each entity's role in the implementation. Discussion followed. Mr. Laffer reviewed the Trust's role in the project and the financial commitment that the Trust would be required make. Discussion followed. Mr. Mitchell inquired about the timing of the installation of the two (2) Trust wells to be installed as part of this project and the start of the Trusts own well installation contract. Ms. Commerford, Trustee, also expressed concern over the timing of the contract. Mr. Laffer noted that a public meeting will take place in April with the abutters of the Alley and that the identity of the Alley to be used will be known by the beginning of July, 2013. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert moved to authorize Mr. Laffer to sign the Memorandum of Agreement and release \$4,700 from the Trusts reserves for the cash outlay based on the contract bid for wells. Mr. Saunders seconded the motion.

Voted: To authorize signing of the M of A and release \$4,700 from the Trust's reserves for the cash outlay based on the contract bid for wells.

7. MBTA Plans for Ellis Neighborhood

Mr. Laffer updated the board on the MBTA's plans for raising the groundwater levels in the Ellis Neighborhood area. Mr. Laffer noted that the preferred solution appears to be additional structured recharge in the area. Discussion followed. Mr. Glickel noted that the MBTA's consultants are looking at all potential solutions and will have a resolution by the next meeting of the City/State Groundwater Technical Review Committee on April 4th. Discussion followed.

8. Dartmouth Street Update

Mr. Laffer updated the board on the efforts of BWSC along Dartmouth St. Mr. Laffer noted that BWSC has repaired 9 manholes along Dartmouth St. from Newbury – Beacon Street and has previously completed lining of the 36 inch sewer under Dartmouth Street. Mr. Laffer noted that levels along Dartmouth Street between Commonwealth Avenue and Marlborough Street had largely returned to where they were in 2007 before they had dropped significantly. However, levels between Marlborough and Beacon Streets, while up about half a foot from their lowest point, remain well below where they were in 2007 and well below the levels needed to protect pilings. Mr. Laffer has asked BWSC what steps they plan to take next. Mr. Swett confirmed that the City remained committed to solving the problem.

9. Underpinning/Foundation Repairs Update

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the current method in which buildings are underpinned. Mr. Simonelli also looked at potential alternatives to the current method and whether or not those would be feasible. Discussion followed.

10. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: March 21, 2013* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed

Mr. Laffer also reviewed a case about enforcement of GCOD requirements after a building permit was issued. He will review a violation that was detected with ISD.

11. Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Report

BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli reviewed his activities since last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Update BGwT Meeting: March 21, 2013* for a complete list of all activities.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 16, 2013 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator, on 3/22/13.

Respectfully submitted,



Galen Gilbert, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
March 21, 2013

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met in January. Information from reporting groups is below.
2. **MBTA** – The Technical Advisory Committee to the City-State Groundwater Working Group met with the T and its consultants to review the most recent update to their plans for increasing groundwater levels in the area of the South End near Back Bay Station. There was a good interchange with consensus developing around most points. The group is to meet again in early April to review the T's response before its late April presentation to the Working Group.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC has just completed repairs to the manholes on Dartmouth Street. Levels seem to have consistently increased between Commonwealth Ave and Marlborough Street but remain significantly depressed between Marlborough and Beacon Streets. We will continue to monitor this closely; some members of our Technical Advisory Committee feel that it could take some time before some of BWSC's repairs can have an impact. Work on Blagden Street will take place in the Spring. BWSC continues to look for the cause of low groundwater levels near the intersection of Richmond and Commercial Streets in the North End.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT has identified several additional leaks in the Turnpike drain line and hopes to make repairs by April 1.
5. **DCR** – Our data loggers showed an unexpected drop in some of the levels along Back Street. After receipt of that data, DCR discovered that one of the pumps that direct water from the Storrow Drive Tunnel to recharge galleys under Back Street was not functioning properly. They have ordered a new pump and related components and expect to install them soon.
6. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. There have now been 182 recharge systems installed and inspected to meet GCOD standards. We continue to work with project proponents to help them develop the most cost effective ways to meet GCOD requirements.
7. **GCOD Process** - We have discovered a potential problem in the GCOD process that we are working with ISD to fix. One of the criteria that a project must demonstrate is that it won't have a negative impact on groundwater levels. In one case, there was a relatively minor change in project design after zoning approval that could have a significant impact on groundwater levels and changes the basis on which the zoning was approved. The change did not get picked up in any review process and was discovered in correspondence between BGwT and one of the project's consultants after we discovered that nearby groundwater levels had dropped unexpectedly. We hope to get a procedure in place that will assure that any changes that would modify the basis of GCOD approval get reviewed before they are implemented.
8. **Green Alley** – We are close to completing the details on a Memorandum of Agreement among the Trust, the City, and Charles River Watershed Association for the construction of a Green Alley project in the South End. This is a demonstration project, partially funded by the U S EPA through the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection, aimed at documenting the impact of porous pavement on both increases in groundwater level and improvements in water quality. Our involvement is strictly with changes in water levels. Depending on how smoothly the project advances, it will be installed either this Fall or next Spring.
9. **Recharge from Sidewalks** – We are participating in planning sessions led by the Public Works Department for an initiative to recharge stormwater from sidewalks city-wide. In addition to providing recharge to preserve wood piling foundations, this initiative will reduce pollution.
10. **Website** – Traffic to our website remains solid, and I continue to get compliments on the information on the site.

11. Technical Advisory Committee – Christian and I met with our Technical Advisory Committee last week. As always, they offered helpful insights into potential causes and solutions for some of our significant groundwater issues.

<p style="text-align: center;">TECHNICAL & RECHARGE COORDINATOR'S UPDATE BGwT Meeting: March 21ST, 2013</p>
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TECHNICAL COORDINATOR DUTIES

WELL MONITORING

I completed the first set of readings for 2013 on February 20th. I started a new set of readings on February 21st and should be wrapping this set up by the beginning of April.

I updated Bldg. Data tab on website. I Completed ISD searches for underpinning and pile cutoff information for Bay Village, BU/Audubon Circle, and Fort Point Channel neighborhoods.

I continue to coordinate with Matthew Gagnon of Lee Kennedy Construction to reimburse the Trust for a well destroyed in front of 368 Congress Street.

I met with representatives from Flett Construction Company to discuss dewatering activities at 10 Newbury St. and to incorporate a new well installed at the rear of the property.

RECHARGE COORDINATOR DUTIES

SITE VISITS

- Visited with Paul Nelson of 100 Fulton Street in the North End to discuss the groundwater levels, piling cutoffs, and recharge configuration
- Visited with Jack Gregg of 330 Dartmouth Street in the Back Bay to discuss the groundwater levels, piling cutoffs, and recharge options

MEETINGS

- Joined Elliott while he presented & updated the Beacon Hill Civic Association on the Trust's efforts
- Elliott & I met with representatives from 315 Dartmouth Street in regards to Article 32 compliance
- Elliott & I attended a BRA meeting for Boylston Street sidewalk improvements in the Dartmouth-Exeter Street block
- Elliott & I attended a DPW meeting for potential Stormwater Infiltration Solutions in an Alley in the South End
- Continued to look at potential configurations to capture runoff from sidewalks before it hits the street.

- Spoke with residents about the installation of different types of recharge systems that can be installed
- Continued to write comment letter drafts on past projects and review them with Elliott

DATA LOGGER LOCATIONS

Ellis Neighborhood (4)

- 1 at the corner of Berkley & Chandler St.
- 1 on Saint Charles St.
- 2 on Cazenove St.

South End (4)

- 1 at 35 Milford St.
- 1 at 17 Bond St.
- 1 at 88 Waltham St.
- 1 at 27 Union Park

Dartmouth Street (8)

- 8 from Beacon St. – Commonwealth Ave.

Bay Village (4)

- 3 on Cortes St.
- 1 on Marginal Road from Arlington – Fayette St.

Blagden Street (3)

- 2 from the Exeter – Dartmouth St.

Fairfield Street (4)

- 4 from Beacon – Marlborough St.

Newbury Street (1)

- 1 at 10 Newbury St.

Storrow Drive (3)

- 3 from Embankment Rd. - Clarendon St.

North End: Commercial Street (4)

- 1 at the corner of Richmond and Commercial St.
- 1 on Commercial St. in front of 145 Commercial St.
- 1 at 106 Commercial St.
- 1 at 88 Commercial St.

Alignment Loggers (5 Uploaded on a Monthly basis)

- 1 Adjacent to the alignment, at the rear of 95 Berkeley St.
- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Clarendon Street Bridge, between Columbus Avenue and Stanhope Street (CURRENTLY NOT FUNCTIONING)

- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Berkeley St. Bridge
- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Columbus Ave. Bridge, between Berkeley and Clarendon Streets (CURRENTLY NOT FUNCTIONING)
- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Arlington St. Bridge (CURRENTLY NOT FUNCTIONING)