

**BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met in the Heritage Room at the Lenox Hotel located at 710 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](mailto:csimonelli@bgwt.org) or via Twitter by tagging the Twitter handle @BOSTONGWT and using the hashtag #MAY2022MTG."

The following trustees were present at the Lenox Hotel:

Mr. Robert Whitney, Beacon Hill Civic Association  
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay

The following trustees were present virtually via the Zoom meeting platform:

Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board  
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association  
Ms. Leah Camhi, Fenway Community Development Corporation

Also present at the Lenox Hotel were:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; John Chute, Cambridge, MA resident; J. Bart Foster, South End resident  
Mr. Carl Nysten, City Sector Team - Senior Account Manager at Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) attended virtually

**1. Adoption of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes**

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

Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, moved to adopt the board meeting minutes. Mr. Shilland, Trustee, seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To accept the Board Meeting minutes from March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

**2. Financial Report & FY23 Budget Review**

Mr. Whitney and Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's financials. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli reviewed the proposed FY23 budget. Mr. Simonelli stated that he drafted and reviewed a funding increase letter with co-chairs Whitney & Saunders. That letter was finalized and sent to City Councilor Kenzie Bok. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell, moved to adopt the FY23 budget; Ms. Camhi, Trustee, seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To adopt the FY23 budget.

**3. City Legal Representation Update**

Mr. Simonelli stated that he continues to work with the City of Boston's law department regarding implementation of the ordinance passed by the City Council, which provides for legal representation by the City for the Trust. Discussion followed.

**4. Map Upgrade Update**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the progress made with representatives from Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) on the map upgrade. He outlined the new data-collection method for manual observation well readings, and the new public-facing observation well and building foundation data map. Discussion followed.

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

Mr. Simonelli reviewed a draft outline for the forum. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli will work with Mr. Whitney and other Trustees on revising the outline, selecting speakers, and establishing groups for the forum. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli will finalize the date with the Mayor's office for either Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

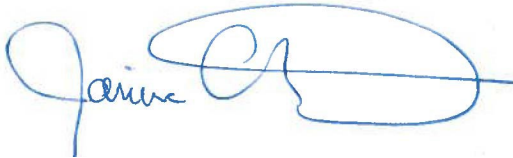
**6. Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022*, for a complete list of activities. Discussion followed.

**Mr. Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:58p.m.  
NEXT MEETING: July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 4:00 pm, location TBD with a virtual attendance option.**

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, 5/18/2022.

Approved 28 July, 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Commerford", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

J. Commerford, Secretary

# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

## **May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

1. **Readings** - Completed our second set of readings of 2022 and revamp of our data collection methods for readings. Started our third set of readings last week.
2. **Meetings and Calls** -
  - a. Virtually participated in the 10th Annual Massachusetts Water Forum: Making the Invisible Visible (3/24)
  - b. Wrote comment letter for 80 East Berkeley Street Project in the South End. (3/28)
  - c. Microsoft Teams met with representatives from Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) for working sessions and knowledge transfer for map upgrade. (3/31, 4/5, 4/14, 4/22, & 4/28)
  - d. Along with co-chairs Saunders and Whitney I Google met with the City's Environment Chief Mariama White-Hammond and Environment Commissioner Dr. Alison Brizius. (4/6)
  - e. Microsoft Teams met with representatives from Vicinity Energy and Nitsch Engineering to prep for meeting with Mass DEP for recharging steam condensate in areas of the GCOD. (4/19)
  - f. Wrote comment letter for 415 Newbury Street Project in the Back Bay. (4/20)
  - g. Microsoft Teams met with representatives from Vicinity Energy, Nitsch Engineering, and Mass DEP to discuss the potential for recharging steam condensate in areas of the GCOD. (4/21)
  - h. Zoomed with all members of the City-State Groundwater Working Group. (4/21) Agency updates are below.
  - i. Zoomed the groundwater issue to the Tiger Home Inspection, Inc. 2022 seminar. (4/26)
  - j. Google met with BluCloud representatives to discuss the performance of 5 remote sensing units that are deployed. See update below. (4/28)
  - k. Attended scoping session via Zoom for the Stanhope Hotel Project in the Back Bay. (5/2)
  - l. Attended the impact advisory group meeting via Zoom for the Stanhope Hotel Project in the Back Bay. (5/3)
  - m. Attended the BWSC commission April meeting via Zoom. (5/6)
  - n. Testified via Zoom Zoning Board of Appeals hearings in March, April & May.
  - o. 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 new units have been transmitting readings daily since the beginning of March. The plan moving forward is evaluate the performance of these units over the next six 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 Spring 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 Spring.
  - 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.
  - In the Fenway a low area along Hemenway Street was investigated and a 24” drain line in alley 807 revealed minor infiltration. Waiting on additional video from contractor to review.
5. **MBTA** - Approximately 37gpm is being injected into recharge wells in the South End Ellis Neighborhood area along Appleton, Berkeley, Saint Charles, Cazenove, and Clarendon Streets. In addition to our manual monitoring, we have 4 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min. MBTA and their consultant will review the viability of reducing flow in some of the systems in effort to maintain operational costs.
  6. **DCR** - Storrow Drive Tunnel Pump Station, recharge galleys, and flood control pumps working without any issues.
  7. **MWRA** - Continue working with BWSC on sewer separation and CSO improvements in East Boston.
  8. **DOT** - Cleaning and lining of the Prudential tunnel eastbound stormwater drainage system is scheduled to occur this Spring. Plan to inspect infrastructure in the vicinity of the former 1000 Boylston St. project in the Back Bay/Fenway.