

**BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. The Executive Director electronically distributed the meeting notice and agenda to the City Clerk at Boston City Hall. Mr. Whitney, co-chair, read the following statement:

“I, Robert Whitney, co-chair of the Boston Groundwater Trust, am calling this meeting to order at 3:05 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](https://twitter.com/BOSTONGWT) and using the hashtag #MAY2021MTG.”

The following trustees were present:

Mr. Robert Whitney, Beacon Hill Civic Association  
Mr. Gary Saunders, Back Bay Association  
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay  
Ms. Angie Liou, Asian Community Development Corporation  
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board  
Mr. Greg Galer, Boston Preservation Alliance  
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association  
Ms. Leah Camhi, Fenway Community Development Corporation (Joined at 3:48 pm)

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director

**1. Adoption of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Meeting minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Galer, Trustee, seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To accept the Board Meeting minutes of the March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting.

**2. Financial Report & Investment Update**

Mr. Whitney & Mr. Simonelli updated the Board on their Zoom conference with Mr. James McCann & Mr. Nick Hedge of Fidelity Investments and reviewed the process for purchasing bonds for the Trust's portfolio. Discussion followed.

**3. FY22 Budget Review**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the proposed FY22 budget. He noted that based on discussions with Mr. Carl Spector, Commissioner for the City of Boston Environment Department, he expects that the Trust's annual appropriation from the City of Boston will be reduced by \$10K compared to previous years. Mr. Simonelli also noted that the Trust has received their annual contribution of \$25K from the Boston Water & Sewer Commission. Discussion followed.

Mr. Galer, moved to adopt the FY22 budget; Mr. Saunders, co-chair, seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To adopt the FY22 budget.

**4. Authorization to Award Well Installation Contract**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the attached analysis of the two bids submitted for installation of monitoring wells. He stated that three of the five vendors from whom he solicited bids did not submit bids due to their current workload and full commitment/booking through the Fall. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell suggested that Mr. Simonelli put out future bids earlier in the calendar year to allow for more bids from potential contractors. Discussion followed.

Mr. Simonelli recommended that the Trust's 2021 observation well installation contract be awarded to New England Boring Contractors, Inc. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell moved to award the contract to New England Boring Contractors, Inc. not to exceed the amount of \$84,000. Ms. Liou, Trustee, seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To award the contract to New England Boring Contractors, Inc. for a not-to-exceed-amount of \$84,000.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: Update on Annual Personnel Review Process**

Ms. Liou moved that the Board enter Executive Session for the purpose of providing an update on the annual personnel review process for the Executive Director and reconvene in open session for the Board meeting upon adjournment of the Executive Session. Trustee Galer seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To enter Executive Session, for the purpose of providing an update on the annual personnel review process for the Executive Director and reconvene in open session for the Board meeting upon adjournment of the Executive Session.

Mr. Simonelli turned over Zoom hosting responsibilities to Mr. Whitney, who placed Mr. Simonelli in a virtual waiting room for the duration of the Executive Session.

6. **Draft Ordinance for Legal Representation Update**

Mr. Whitney & Mr. Simonelli updated the Board on their virtual meeting with City Councilor Kenzie Bok and Kennedy Avery, Director of Constituent Services for Councilor Bok. Discussion followed. At the request of Councilor Bok, Mr. Whitney and Mr. Simonelli provided documentation on funding and legal positions taken by the City's Law Department. Discussion followed. Mr. Whitney & Mr. Simonelli expect to provide a further update at the next Trustee's meeting.

7. **GCOD Amendments Update**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the timeline for the proposed amendments to the GCOD zoning. Discussion followed. Mr. Mitchell noted that a link to the presentation given by Mr. Simonelli to the BPDA Board is posted on the Trust website. Discussion followed.

8. **Executive Director's Report**

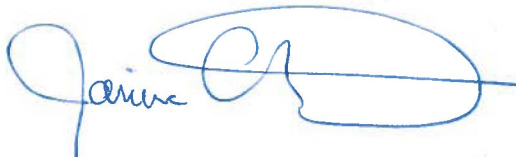
BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021* for a complete list of activities. Discussion followed.

**The meeting adjourned at 4:15p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 4:00 pm, via Zoom Meeting platform.**

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 5/17/2021.

Approved 3 June 2021



J. Commerford, Secretary

# Boston Groundwater Trust

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## Board of Trustees

Gary L. Saunders  
Robert Whitney  
Co-Chairs

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Greg Galer  
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Aaron Michlewitz  
Angie Liou  
Ed Flynn  
Leah Camhi  
Edward McGuire

## Executive Director

Christian Simonelli

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Subject:** Review of bids received for the installation of 21 observation wells and recommendation to award the contract

### **Trustees:**

This memorandum presents a summary of the bid process used in determining a drilling contractor to install 21 observation wells for the Trust's ongoing program to monitor the groundwater levels in the filled land areas of Boston.

Bids were sent out to five drilling contractors, refer to attached Table I. Each is a 'known entity' and is familiar with working in Boston. Two of the five contractors provided a bid and certified by the submitted bid that they; can meet the contract requirements, obtain the required insurance, provide the necessary drilling (1 rig) and vacuum truck (1 truck), and install the wells in accordance with the Technical Provisions of the bid documents. Three of the contractors did not submit a bid for this project. All three responded stating a commitment to other projects over the next several months.

The bids received are summarized in the attached Table II. New England Boring Contractors, Inc., NEBC, (formerly New Hampshire Boring, Inc.) was the low bidder for the 21 observation well bid. Their bid was priced at \$83,833.

The bid estimate is based on all wells being a maximum depth of 24', with wells installed 1' into the organic silt stratum. Depending on the depth of fill some wells may be shallower than others. For comparison in 2018 the bid estimate was \$27,910 however the final cost was \$21,712.50 due to the average well depth being 19' instead of the estimated 24'.


In looking at the cost per well basis, the estimated amount of \$3,968 per well is \$480 more per well than it was in 2018. The list below is a breakdown from 2003-present of the Trust's cost per installed well.

2003 = \$2,212/well (NHB)  
2004 = \$1,817/well (NHB)  
2005 = \$2,226/well (NHB)  
2006 = \$2,149/well (NHB)  
2007 = \$2,401/well (NHB)  
2010 = \$2,508/well (NHB)  
2011 = \$2,224/well (Geo-Logic)  
2013 = \$2,170/well (NHB)  
2014 = \$2,430/well (NHB)  
2017 = \$3,169/well (NEBC, formerly NHB)  
2018 = \$3,488/well (NEBC, formerly NHB)  
2021 = \$3,968/well (NEBC, formerly NHB)

*NOTE: No wells installed in years 2008, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2019, and 2020.*

New England Boring Contractors, Inc. has installed over 600 observation wells for the Trust. I recommend that the Trust award the contract for the next 21 observation wells to be installed to New England Boring Contractors, Inc.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Christian Simonelli  
Executive Director

Attachments:

Table I: List of Contractors Bid was submitted.

Table II: Schedule of estimated quantities and contract unit prices for observation well installations.

**TABLE I:  
LIST CONTRCATORS BID WAS SUBMITTED**

<b>CONTRACTOR</b>	<b>BID FOR 21 WELLS</b>
<p align="center"><b>New England Boring Contractors, Inc.</b> 40 Fordway Street Derry, NH 03038 steven.garside@neboring.com</p>	<p align="center">\$83,833</p>
<p align="center"><b>Geo-Logic Earth Exploration, Inc.</b> 7 Sherwood Drive Norfolk, MA 02056 deb@geologicinc.com</p>	<p align="center">\$120,805</p>
<p align="center"><b>Northern Drilling Service, Inc.</b> 130 East Main Street, Bldg. A Northborough, MA 01532 chris@northerndrillservice.com</p>	<p align="center">DID NOT BID</p>
<p align="center"><b>Carr-Dee Corp.</b> 37 Linden Street Medford, MA 02155 carrdee@comcast.net</p>	<p align="center">DID NOT BID</p>
<p align="center"><b>G&amp;M Subsurface</b> 1861 Wheeler Street North Dighton, MA 02764 scott@GMSubsurface.com</p>	<p align="center">DID NOT BID</p>

**2021 UNIT PRICE ANALYSIS OF 21 OBSERVATION WELL BID**  
**SCHEDULE OF ESTIMATED QUANTITIES AND CONTRACT UNIT PRICES FOR**  
**OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE FOLLOWING DRILLERS**  
*(Based on 21 New Wells to 15-25 ft., averaging 24' per Well)*

**New England Boring Contractors, Inc.**

No.	Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
<b>I MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION</b>					
1	Mob/Demob of 2 Truck rig(s) w/ OSHA-trained crews	LS	1	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
<b>II DRILLING - FOOTAGE RATE</b>					
2	Water flush cleaning of plugged existing observation wells (1 1/2 inch diameter PVC pipe)	ea	0	\$ 750.00	
3	4-in. dia. cased overburden drilling (0-25 ft.) w/ specified 3 split-spoon sampling depths	lf	504	\$ 105.00	\$ 52,920.00
4	Standby Time for rig and crew (only for delays caused by BGwT)	hr	0	\$ 225.00	
<b>III OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLATION</b>					
5	2-in. dia. well (Sch 40 PVC) installed	lf	504	\$ 14.50	\$ 7,308.00
6	6-in. dia. Buffalo roadway box (cast iron with mechanical locking cover) and installation	ea	21	\$ 205.00	\$ 4,305.00
<b>IV OPTIONAL ITEMS</b>					
7	Utility Clearance & No Parking Signs	LS	1	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,750.00
8	Premium for Weekend or Night Work (If required by BTD)	LS	1	\$ 950.00	\$ 950.00
9	Police Detail	hr	168	\$ 75.00	\$ 12,600.00
				<b>Total</b>	\$ 83,333.00

**Geologic-Earth Exploration, Inc.**

No.	Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
<b>I MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION</b>					
1	Mob/Demob of 2 Truck rig(s) w/ OSHA-trained crews	LS	1	\$ 18,675.00	\$ 18,675.00
<b>II DRILLING - FOOTAGE RATE</b>					
2	Water flush cleaning of plugged existing observation wells (1 1/2 inch diameter PVC pipe)	ea	0	-	
3	4-in. dia. cased overburden drilling (0-25 ft.) w/ specified 3 split-spoon sampling depths	lf	504	\$ 130.00	\$ 65,520.00
4	Standby Time for rig and crew (only for delays caused by BGwT)	hr	0	\$ 295.00	-
<b>III OBSERVATION WELL INSTALLATION</b>					
5	2-in. dia. well (Sch 40 PVC) installed	lf	504	\$ 22.50	\$ 11,340.00
6	6-in. dia. Buffalo roadway box (cast iron with mechanical locking cover) and installation	ea	21	\$ 350.00	\$ 7,350.00
<b>IV OPTIONAL ITEMS</b>					
7	Utility Clearance & No Parking Signs	LS	1	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 6,300.00
8	Premium for Weekend or Night Work (If required by BTD)	LS	1	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
9	Police Detail	hr	168	\$ 65.00	\$ 10,920.00
				<b>Total</b>	\$ 120,805.00

**Northern Drill Service, Inc. DID NOT BID**

**Carr-Dee Corp. DID NOT BID**

**G&M Subsurface DID NOT BID**

# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

## **May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

1. **Readings** – Started our third set of readings for 2021 and have hired a new part-time field engineer.
2. **Meetings and Calls**–
  - a. Zoomed proposed GCOD amendments to the East Boston Gove Street Citizens Association. (3/22)
  - b. Zoomed with Hannah Lyons-Galante, MBTA Climate Change Resiliency Specialist, about wells located in the vicinity of Aquarium Station. (3/23)
  - c. Participated via Zoom in the second of three Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) meetings. (3/26)
  - d. Met with Hannah Lyons-Galante to review wells MBTA installed around Aquarium Station. (3/26)
  - e. Attended scoping session via Zoom and wrote a comment letter for the proposed 791-793 Boylston Street project in the Back Bay. (3/29)
  - f. Zoomed with Hannah Lyons-Galante and Rick McCullough, DOT, to review infrastructure around Aquarium Station. (3/31)
  - g. Google met with Trust co-chair Robert Whitney, City Councilor Kenzie Bok, and Kennedy Avery, Constituent Services Fellow, to review the Trust's proposed draft ordinance for City legal representation. (4/13)
  - h. Attended scoping session via Zoom and wrote a comment letter for the proposed 25 Isabella Street project in Bay Village. (4/14)
  - i. Zoomed with all members of the City-State Groundwater Working Group. (4/15)  
Please see agency updates below.
  - j. Zoomed proposed GCOD amendments to the Boston Planning & Development Agency Board. (4/15)
  - k. Zoomed proposed GCOD map amendments with Bryan Glascock, BPDA, Alla Ziskin, BPDA, and Carolyn Bennett, BPDA. (4/16)
  - l. Attended scoping session via Zoom for the Boston University Fenway (formerly Wheelock College) Institutional Master Plan. (4/20)
  - m. Zoomed with Katelyn Tripp, Senior Project Manager at Haley & Aldrich, to discuss water levels and foundation information for buildings in the Fenway. (4/21)
  - n. Zoomed proposed GCOD amendments to the East Boston Maverick Central Neighborhood Association. (4/21)
  - o. Participated via Zoom in the third and final Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) meeting. (4/22)
  - p. Google met with Bryan Glascock, BPDA and Jeffrey Hampton, Senior Zoning Planner Executive Secretary, Boston Zoning Commission, to finalize language for the GCOD amendments. (5/7)
  - q. Testified via WebEx Zoning Board of Appeals hearings in March, April, and May.
  - r. Communicated with residents, engineers, & 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 were manufactured and deployed. All units are transmitting consistent readings. We have coordinated with BWSC to plot rainfall data vs. groundwater elevations.



4. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
  - a. In the South End, significant repairs were completed Dartmouth & Montgomery Streets area and water levels have come up a bit. Pipes and laterals at Clarendon & Gray Streets will be repaired as part of Capital Improvement Projects. Investigations along Tremont Street, from the West Canton to Herald Street corridor have been completed. Three, point repairs were made and the well by East Berkeley Street recorded its highest level ever.
  - b. In the North End, additional CCTV inspections in Richmond & Commercial Streets revealed leaking joints. Repairs are slated under the Capital Improvement Project with the timeline to be determined. The storm drain within Christopher Columbus Park is scheduled to be televised this Spring.
  - c. In Lower Beacon Hill, investigations continue at Brimmer and Beacon Streets.
  - d. In the Back Bay, a deep sewer on Berkeley Street, between Beacon & Back Street, revealed leaks at the crown (top) of the pipe which is at approximately El. 5', where current groundwater levels have been measured. Additional inspections and repairs are scheduled.
5. **MBTA** - Approximately 48 gpm 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.
  - a. The flow in well at the end of Saint Charles Street unexpectedly spiked in mid-April. The cause was a leak on the service for the recharge well. The service was shut off and repaired.
  - b. The MBTA has committed to continue funding the current recharge well solution for the next 10 years.
  - c. In an effort to conserve water and limit operational costs, flow rates are slowly being reduced.
6. **DCR** – Dataloggers are installed in 3 wells to monitor the levels along the Storrow Drive tunnel pump station groundwater recharge system.
  - a. Storrow Drive Tunnel Pump Station, recharge galleys, and flood control pumps operating normally with no anomalies.
  - b. The DCR will be putting in a new fence and repairing the seawall which runs adjacent to Storrow Drive in the Clarendon Street to Massachusetts Avenue section.