

**BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**NOTE:** A quorum of the Trustees was not present at 4:10pm. The Boston Groundwater Trust (BGwT) met as a committee of the whole. 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. The Committee met in the Patriot meeting room at the Lenox Hotel located at 710 Boylston Street, Boston, MA.

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

"I, Robert Whitney, co-chair of the Boston Groundwater Trust, am calling this meeting of the committee of the whole 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 #MAY23MTG."

The trustees present at the Lenox Hotel were:

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

The following trustees were present virtually:

Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board

Also present at the Lenox Hotel were:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Ms. Gretchen Gallagher, resident of the North End; Mr. Stanley Wong, resident of the Back Bay

Also present virtually was:

Ms. Katherine Eshel, Chief of Staff, Environment, Energy and Open Space City of Boston

1. **Adoption of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes**

ADOPTION TABLED.

2. **Financial Report & Budget Adoption for FY24**

Mr. Whitney, co-chair, and Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's financials. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli reviewed the revised FY24 budget. Discussion followed.

ADOPTION TABLED.

3. **Executive Director Review and Contract**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the status of his contract with the Trust. Discussion followed. Mr. Whitney stated that he will follow up with the Trustees via email to begin the review process. Discussion followed.

4. **Future Trustee Meetings and Remote Participation**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the existing format for Trustee meetings. Discussion followed. Ms. Camhi, Trustee, suggested Mr. Simonelli send out a survey to Trustees to gauge their interest for meeting in-person and/or remotely. Discussion followed.

5. **Review of SkyGeo REVISED Proposal for Pilot Project using InSAR**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the revised proposal to perform a pilot project using standard-resolution and high-resolution InSAR (Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite imagery over a select location in the Back Bay. InSAR images can be used to provide millimeter-accurate displacement data for ground and building movement. Discussion followed. The Trustees requested that Mr. Simonelli explore sources for a grant to fund the pilot project. 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 May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023*, for a complete list of activities. Discussion followed.

7. **Other Business**

The Board instructed Mr. Simonelli to survey the Trustees for a remote meeting date in June. Discussion followed.

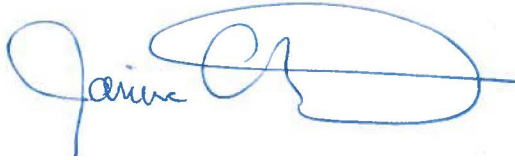
**Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:45p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: TO BE DETERMINED**

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, 6/1/2023.

Approved 9 June 2023

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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

1. **Readings** - Completed first set of readings in 2023. Started 2<sup>nd</sup> set of readings and hired a new field engineer for the Spring/Summer readings period.
2. **Meetings and Calls – (Virtual Via Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams)**
  - a. Virtually met with the City's Green Infrastructure (GI) Working Groups on the following dates:
    - i. GI Coordination/Maintenance: 3/24,4/7,4/21
    - ii. GI Policy: 3/17,3/31,4/14,4/28
    - iii. GI Working Group: 4/13
  - b. Wrote comment letter for the 1033-1055 Washington Street Project located in the Ink Block section of the South End. (3/15)
  - c. Conducted phone interview the Boston Guardian for an article on Groundwater. (3/20)
  - d. Virtually met with Jagrat Jariwala and Jacqueline Salzer of SkyGeo to discuss their presentation at the January Trustees meeting and review the outline for a revised proposal. (3/21)
  - e. Virtually met with Daniel McCormack and Justin Comeau of BluCloud to review the performance of the 7 units deployed and the next steps on purchasing 25 additional remote reading units. (3/21)
  - f. Met with Sean Kingsley, Property Manager for 112 Pinckney Street to assess the current state of the building and review on-site groundwater observation wells. (3/24)
  - g. Virtually attended the Boston Water & Sewer Commission meeting. (3/24)
  - h. Virtually attended the IAG meeting for the 415 Newbury Street project located in the Back Bay. (3/27)
  - i. Virtually met with James Tulli, VP Software Development/Technical Services, Alpha Omega Solutions, to discuss email migration from the Socialaw email server. (4/4)
  - j. Virtually attended the Simpson, Gumpertz, & Heger sponsored Sub-Slab Drainage Systems: Design and Construction Considerations webinar. (4/7)
  - k. Spoke with Maya Getter, Policy Advisor Office of Mayor Wu, about current Board composition and filling the vacant seats. (4/13)
  - l. Met with Trustee Leah Camhi, Executive Director Fenway CDC, and Nick Pittman, Senior Real Estate Project Manager Fenway CDC to review the Trust's efforts and transition of Fenway CDC representation on the Board. (4/19)
  - m. Virtually met with Michael Petrucci, Project Manager at Northeastern University, and his consultants to review the University's new steam pipe distribution system and confirm locations of area groundwater wells. (4/19)

- n. Virtually met with Sarah Ebaugh, PE, Senior Project Engineer, VHB, to review Eva White Apartments (440 & 450 Tremont Street) GCOD requirements. (4/19)
  - o. Virtually met with Gavin Schrock, Washington State Reference Network Engineering & Technical Services Division, to discuss his experience with SkyGeo and how he uses InSAR technology. (4/26)
  - p. Virtually met with all members of the City-State Groundwater Working Group. (4/27) Agency updates are below.
  - q. Met with Carlos Velasquez, Assistant Project Manager MassDOT, Rail & Transit Division, to discuss groundwater levels and pore pressure variability during drought periods in areas of Cape Cod and how it can impact infrastructure. (4/27)
  - r. Attended the Fenway CDC's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. (4/27)
  - s. Attended Communicate and Connect meeting at the Boston Public Library. (5/1)
  - t. Virtually attended Wentworth Institute of Technology 2023-2033 IMP Scoping Session. (5/3)
  - u. Virtually met with James Tulli, VP Software Development/Technical Services, Alpha Omega Solutions, to perform email migration from the Sociallaw email server. (5/4)
  - v. Met with Jean-Luc Teixeira, Superintendent of Asset Management/Director of CMOM at BWSC, to review and prioritize areas with low groundwater. (5/12)
  - w. Virtually testified, at the Zoning Board of Appeals hearings in March, April, and May.
  - x. 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. **BWSC** - An update on the following:
- In the process of designing repairs to address the spots where groundwater infiltration has been observed in the Fenway, North End, Back Bay, and the South End.
    - Hemenway St., in the Fenway, in the vicinity of Alley No. 807
      - Signs of infiltration at some of the joints in the 24" drain line. Scheduled to grout the joints this month.
    - Blagden St. in the Back Bay
      - Infiltration entering around laterals of BPL. Laterals will be grouted this month.
    - Lenox Hotel along Boylston St. in the Back Bay
      - Siphon chamber, just in from the corner of Exeter and Boylston streets by the BPL is scheduled to be flushed/cleaned. This will allow the sewer to flow and enable the pipes to be televised.

- Additional review of manhole #24 in Boylston Street indicated either a lateral coming in above the invert of the pipe or infiltration. Pole cameras will be used to see if there is infiltration at the lateral or if water is gushing in through the brick.
  - North End, Columbus Park/Commercial Street
    - 4/27/23 update: Multiple laterals along Commercial St. will be grouted this month.
  - Saint James Ave., Providence St., Arlington-Berkeley St. block in the Back Bay
    - Investigated 36” sewer line in Saint James Ave. and 15” sewer line in Providence Street. Investigations showed failed liners and BWSC will look to repair them as soon as possible.
- 4. **MBTA** - Approximately 39 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. Systems are functioning as intended. Will follow up with MBTA on reducing flow rate in the Appleton recharge system.
- 5. **DCR** – Approx. 93 million gallons of water have been delivered to the recharge galleys in back street since 2009. There was an electrical failure because of a breaker failure on 3/4/23 in which an estimated 9,000 gallons of water was pumped to the river. Followed-up with Eversource but everything seems to be working fine.
- 6. **MWRA** – Continue to work with BWSC on support and funding for sewer separation and CSO improvements in East Boston.
- 7. **DOT** – Ryan McNeil, DOT, has met with operations & maintenance and a contractor to review the work required to line the turnpike pipe drain line. Will coordinate with BWSC to review their inspections of lines in the area of Exeter, Blagden, & Boylston Streets, also the intersection of Exeter Street and Huntington Avenue. Will confirm the invert elevations of the pipe and compare it to the groundwater levels in the area. He will follow-up with BGwT once he has the appropriate information.
- 8. **VACATION** – I’ll be away from May 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>.