

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)  
BOARD MEETING  
May 24, 2012

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Patriot 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. In the absence of the co-chair's Mr. Gilbert, Trustee called the meeting to order at 4:09 pm. Upon the arrival of Mr. Saunders, co-chair, Mr. Gilbert turned control of the meeting over to Mr. Saunders at 4:39 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association  
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC)  
Mr. Jim Hunt, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association  
Ms. Molly Sherden, Beacon Hill Civic Association  
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator; Wesley Stimpson, East India Row Resident; Maria Puopolo, Legislative Aide from State Representative Aaron Michlewitz's Office

**1. Adoption of the minutes of the April 2, 2012 Meeting**

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

Mr. Hunt, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Ms. Sherden, Trustee, seconded the motion. Ms. Commerford, Trustee, suggested some minor corrections to the minutes.

**Voted:** To accept the minutes of the April 2, 2012 meeting as amended.

**2. Financial Report**

Ms. Sherden reviewed the custom transaction detail report and balance sheet detail. Discussion followed. Ms. Sherden noted that based on feedback received from the board members these two reports have been separated. Discussion followed.

**3. Adoption of FY 2013 Budget**

Ms. Sherden reviewed the proposed FY 2013 budget. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden highlighted the following line items in the FY 2012 budget review:

1. The elimination of the part-time employee (well reader)
2. Extra pay period based upon the falling of the calendar
3. Office move
4. Website
5. Dataloggers
6. Recharge Pilot Project

Discussion followed.

Mr. Hunt suggested that the operating and reserves budget should be voted separately. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hunt moved to adopt the FY 2013 budget provided that the dataloggers line item is moved to capital expenses from operating expenses. Mr. Saunders, co-chair, seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden suggested that Future purchases of dataloggers be included under capital expenses, but that the FY2012 results should not be changed. Mr. Hunt withdrew his motion and moved to adopt the FY2013 operating budget as proposed. Ms. Commerford seconded.

**Voted:** To adopt the FY 2013 operating budget.

Mr. Saunders moved to adopt the FY 2013 reserves budget with the addition of \$25,000 for the alley recharge evaluation project proposed by the Charles River Watershed Association with the support of the City. Ms. Sherden seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To adopt the FY 2013 reserves budget.

#### **4. Support of Alley Recharge Evaluation Project**

Mr. Hunt discussed the Trust's potential role in the alley recharge pilot project proposed by Charles River Watershed Association with the active support of the City. He noted that in addition to this project he would like to see the Trust participate in future projects of this nature. Discussion followed. Mr. Hunt noted that the Trust would be required to contribute \$25K to the project's estimated budget of \$500K, to be substantially funded using a grant from the Commonwealth. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Saunders expressed interest in the Trust participating in this and future projects of this type. Mr. Saunders indicated that the Trust should be at the table for these projects. Discussion followed. Mr. Laffer noted that the Trust has met with the City's Department of Public Works and they are interested by the idea of recharge; particularly in the City's sidewalks. Discussion followed. Mr. Shilland, Trustee, inquired about the Trust's actual role in the project. Mr. Hunt indicated that he envisioned the Trust monitoring the efficacy of the project. Discussion followed.

#### **5. Discussion on Changing Investment Policy for Reserves**

Mr. Saunders reviewed the Trust's investment policy on reserve funds. Mr. Saunders suggested the Trust look into engaging a professional investment firm for advice on how to best invest the Trust's reserve funds to maximize interest earned. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden noted that the current yield on CD's is 0.2% and that the Trust has an obligation to look at other forms of investments that have a higher rate of return. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert noted that it will become increasing harder in the future for the Trust to have reserve funds. Discussion followed. Mr. Gilbert suggested Ms. Sherden look into placing all reserve funds into one account. Discussion followed.

Mr. Shilland questioned if there is a fee for engaging an investment firm. Mr. Saunders noted that there is no fee. Discussion followed.

Mr. Saunders and Ms. Sherden will work at finding appropriate forms of investing the reserve funds and report back to the board at the next meeting.

**6. Groundwater Contour Maps**

Mr. Simonelli presented Groundwater contour maps provided by the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) to the Trust. Mr. Simonelli noted that the Trust provides BWSC with readings for all of the wells read in the network after each reading period. He also noted that BWSC uses this data to generate the contour maps for each area of the City. Discussion followed.

**7. Executive Director’s Report**

BGWT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director’s Report: May 24, 2012* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

**8. 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: May 24, 2012* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: July 19, 2012 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.**

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGWT Technical & Recharge Coordinator, on 5/25/12.

				<b>FY 2012 END ANALYSIS AND FY 2013 BUDG- ET AS ADOPTED 24-May-12 All Figures in \$000</b>	
	FY12 Budg- et	FY12 To Date	FY12 Projected Fi- nal	FY13 Budget	Comments
<b>Income</b>					
City Appropriation	169	169.4	169.4	169.4	
BWSC	25	25	25	25	
Well Installation	7	3.5	3.5	0	

Interest	10	15.7	15.8	7	Based on CD rates and due dates
Transfer from Reserves	25	0	13.7	8.6	See Note 2; for well maintenance, field website, and research by recharge coord
PruPAC Benefit	0	25	25	0	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>238.6</b>	<b>252.4</b>	<b>210</b>	
<b>Expense</b>					
Salaries	150	104.3	157.3	154	One extra pay period in FY12
Hourly Wages	10	5.1	5.1	0	Part-time job eliminated
Retirement	5	4.5	4.5	4.7	
FICA + Unemployment	14	8.9	13.4	13	
Health & Dental Insurance	7	4.6	6.9	7.2	
Workers Comp	1	0.7	0.7	0.8	
Paid Well Installation	10	7	7	0	
Well Maintenance	4	1.1	3.7	1.5	
Rent	12	7.2	11.1	11.6	
Electric	1	0	0.7	0.2	FY12 includes partial from FY11
Telephone	1	1.3	1.8	2	Additional line, includes internet
Misc Office and Field Exp	2	2.2	3.1	2	
Website	11	10.5	10.5	3	Update complete
Continuing Education	2	0	0	0	
Accounting	6	6	6	6	
Office Move	0	3.6	3.6	0	
Contingency	0	0	0	4	
New Data Loggers	0	0	17	0	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>252.4</b>	<b>210</b>	
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

**RESERVES BUDGET**

	FY12 Budget	FY12 Projected Final	FY13 Budget
Opening Balance	734	734	700.6
<b>Expense</b>			
Well Installation	28	19.7	0
Recharge Pilot Project	0	0	15
Green Alley Pilot Project	0	0	25
Transfer to Operating	25	13.7	8.6
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>48.6</b>

Ending Balance	684	700.6	652	Note 1
----------------	-----	-------	-----	--------

#### Notes

1. Balances maintained in certificates of deposit and money market fund, all 100% FDIC insured
2. On March 26, 2009, the trustees voted to set aside and group the reserve funds into an unrestricted fund for the following uses: Groundwater Research Fund; Network Upgrading Fund; and Contingency for Technical Assistance Fund, with no designation of specific funding for any of the categories. FY13 transfer, to be used only if necessary after contingency, will cover costs associated with technical assistance and groundwater recharge research.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT May 24, 2012

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in July.
2. **MBTA** – The T and their consultant GZA have replaced two of the data loggers originally installed by the Columbus Center project which had failed after a few months of operation. They are awaiting permission from AMTRAK to replace two additional data loggers and are also awaiting City permission to install several new observation wells near the Southwest Corridor. After these are installed, they plan to shut down the recharge wells for 30 days to help develop their water flow model. This is all part of their plan to develop a final strategy for raising groundwater levels in the area of the South End near Back Bay Station.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC has completed repairs to the sewer line near Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End. They have signed a contract and scheduled repairs on the line under Blagdon Street behind the Boston Public Library for September. They continue to pump

water into the recharge well near the corner of Beacon and Dartmouth Streets in Back Bay and will continue to do so until the relining of the sewer, still scheduled to take place soon.

4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT completed repairs to the drain line from the Turnpike, repairing 10 leaks. Water levels there continued to rise significantly after the recent rains.
5. **East Boston** – We have seen some significant drop back in the increased levels in parts of the Paris Flats section of East Boston, although levels are still generally well above those seen before the MWRA repairs. The geography seems to be a little different than what we had seen previously, and we are trying to determine a potential cause.
6. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. We supported one more well justified variance; there have still been less than five variances in nearly 300 cases before the Board of Appeals.
7. **Website** – Traffic to the website has dropped somewhat so far this month. We continue to get compliments on the usefulness of the information posted.
8. **Meetings** – Christian and I spoke about groundwater issues at a membership meeting of the Pilot Block Neighborhood Association. I spoke about the issue to the student body and faculty of the Commonwealth School and also spoke about groundwater with students at the Career Day of the Boston Green Academy. Christian and I are scheduled to discuss groundwater with the board of the Neighborhood Association of Back Bay in July.
9. **Letters** – I filed a comment letter on the proposed project at 477-481 Harrison Avenue. As always, it is posted on our website.

**TECHNICAL & RECHARGE  
COORDINATOR'S UPDATE  
BGwT Meeting: May 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

**TECHNICAL COORDINATOR DUTIES**

**WELL MONITORING**

Our well network was most recently read from Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup>. We will begin a new set of readings next week after Memorial Day.

## **DATA LOGGERS**

### Solinst Units

We received our 25 Dataloggers and 1 Barologger from Solinst Canada, Ltd. I have deployed the Barologger and 2 of the Dataloggers in wells over in the North End.

#### Commercial Street

- 1 at the corner of Richmond and Commercial Street
- 1 on Commercial Street in front of 145 Commercial Street

I upload the following loggers on a weekly basis:

#### Alignment Loggers

- 1 Adjacent to the alignment, at the rear of 95 Berkeley St.
- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Berkeley St. Bridge

Coordinated efforts between the BGwT, GZA, MBTA, and CSX allowed GZA to gain access to these wells listed below and replace defective dataloggers with new units. GZA verified the wells operability and inserted the new loggers. I was responsible for setting up the instruments from the roadway access boxes. The access boxes (which had their locks vandalized and removed) were replaced with new locks by GZA and copies of keys were provided to the BGwT.

- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Clarendon Street Bridge, between Columbus Avenue and Stanhope Street
- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Columbus Ave. Bridge, between Berkeley and Clarendon Streets

In addition GZA is coordinating with the MBTA & Amtrak to gain access to the 1 well Between the Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Berkeley St. Bridge and the 1 well Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Arlington St. Bridge.

### In-Situ Units

16 of our 21 In-Situ Dataloggers are deployed throughout the west zone. I upload the following loggers on a weekly basis:

#### Storrow Drive

- 4 from Embankment Rd. - Clarendon St.
- Levels in all four of these wells are over elev. 4'

#### Dartmouth Street

- 8 from Beacon St. – Commonwealth Ave.
- BWSC has made repairs to the leaky manhole and additional repairs to sewer lines are scheduled for early spring 2012
- BWSC continues to inject water at a rate of 8 gpm
- We will keep these loggers in place until the repairs have been made and the levels in this area come back up to where they were

#### Ellis Neighborhood

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

### **RECHARGE COORDINATOR DUTIES**

- Elliott & I met with William Eagan and David Mallen from DPW to discuss infiltration ideas for the Marlborough Street sidewalk reconstruction in the Berkeley – Clarendon St block.
- Elliott & I met with Larry Hayes of Hayes and Associates to discuss GCOD cases in the Back Bay and the South End.
- Elliott & I attended the Pilot Block Neighborhood Association Spring Meeting. Elliott provided the association with an update on the efforts of the BGWT and I helped answer some questions from the audience.
- Attended the first community meeting for **proposed** drainage and pathway improvements to Boston Common, the Public Garden and Commonwealth Avenue Mall. I provided comments on the installation of permeable surfaces and other water harvesting structures that could possibly be installed in these areas.
- Continued to write comment letter drafts on past projects and review them with Elliott.
- Continued work on a Recharge presentation that can be made to the public which illustrates different types of recharge and the benefits to the homeowner. I am scheduled to present this at the July 18, 2012 NABB board meeting.
- Attended the Metropolitan Area Planning Council & Boston Hazard Mitigation Collaboration Infrastructure Focus Group Meeting. Worked with members of the BWSC, DCR, and MWRA to discuss developing protocol for response to hazards and natural disasters.
- Conducted phone interview with reporter Mich Cardin of the Boston Courant and commented on the benefits of Recharge Wells in the South End.