

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
November 29, 2007
The Lenox Hotel – Patriot Room

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust was called order at 4:11 pm in the Copley meeting room. The meeting notice was posted at City Hall in accordance with provision of the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law.

Trustees in attendance, comprising a quorum, were:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association
Mr. Peter Sherin, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Nikko Mendoza, Mayor's office

Also present were:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator; James Lambrechts, Wentworth Institute of Technology; Representative Marty Waltz, 8th Suffolk district; Elisabeth Hunt, Representative Byron Rushing's Office; Anne M. Pistorio, North End Water Front Residents Association (NEWRA) Groundwater Working Group; Gordon Richardson, Citywide Groundwater Emergency Task Force (GET); Susan Scott, Citywide Groundwater Emergency Task Force (GET); Marc Laderman, Citywide Groundwater Emergency Task Force (GET) & Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC); Courtney Queen, Dewitt Lebuff; Karin Mathiesen, Councilor Michael Ross' Office

1. Adoption of the minutes of the September 27, 2007 Meeting

Minutes were distributed to board members for review.

Trustee Sherin moved to adopt the minutes. Trustee Mendoza seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the September 27, 2007 meeting.

2. Finance Report

Trustee Sherin reviewed the BGwT *Financial Report and Reconciliation Detail*.

He noted that the reports reflect 2 months of financial activity. Discussion followed.

Trustee Sherin also noted the BGwT is operating at a cost of approximately \$18,000/month and that is a credit to the Executive Director's and the Technical Coordinator's fiscal responsibility. Discussion followed.

3. Meeting Dates

Mr. Laffer reviewed the proposed meeting dates for 2008. Discussion followed.

The board reviewed and accepted the proposed dates of January 31, March 27, May 29, July 31, September 25, and November 20.

4. Presentation by Gordon Richardson, Citywide GET

Mr. Laffer introduced Gordon Richardson of Citywide GET.

Mr. Richardson presented and discussed GET's progress in establishing a Groundwater Protection Act. He reviewed the concepts included in the proposal as it has evolved. He noted that good progress has been made but, they still have a ways to go. Discussion followed.

5. Storrow Drive Update

Mr. Laffer updated the BGwT on Storrow Drive project. He noted that DCR will perform interim repairs. Discussion followed. Mr. Laffer also noted that an interim recharge project is tentatively included in the plans. This project would pump the water that is draining from the existing tunnel to the recharge galleries recently installed in Back Street by BWSC. Discussion followed.

6. Research Projects

Mr. Laffer updated the BGwT on the status of the project for using radar or acoustic technology to remotely sense the elevation of pile caps. While the researchers have indicated an intention to do additional lab testing, the work so far has not identified a successful technology that would justify a field test.

Mr. Laffer also updated the BGwT on the status of the project to develop an alternative method of repairing building foundations. The City has identified a site for a potential test. Designs and specifications are being developed by Wentworth under the guidance of Professor Lambrechts. The Trust will likely receive a contract from the City to fund actual installation of the repairs. 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: November 29, 2007*, for a complete list of all activities.

8. Technical Coordinator's Report

BGwT Technical Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli presented his activities of the past month. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical Coordinator's Well Monitoring Update BGwT Meeting: November 29, 2007* for a complete list of all activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 31, 2008 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator, on 11/30/07.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Galen Gilbert". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned between the phrase "Respectfully submitted," and the typed name "Galen Gilbert, Secretary".

Galen Gilbert, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
November 29, 2007

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group is scheduled to meet again on January 24.
2. **DCR** – The DCR continues to study the issues surrounding the Storrow Drive tunnel reconstruction along with those involving other DCR bridges and roadways in the Charles River Basin area. We have been told that the budget for interim repairs at the Storrow Drive tunnel includes funding for the interim recharge system, but its inclusion will not be committed until the budget and funding is clearer.
3. **MBTA** – The engineers have filed their letter recommending the steps to be taken for the long term solution to low groundwater levels in the area of the South End near Back Bay Station. The plan includes installation of a multipoint recharge system fed by the water currently being pumped away from the Follen Street Pump Station, along with design and cost estimate for a barrier wall cutting off groundwater flow heading toward the low point under the tracks near the end of Chandler Street. The barrier wall would be installed if the recharge system does not adequately raise groundwater levels in the designated zone. The proposal will soon be brought to a combined meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee to the City-State Groundwater Working Group and the project's Action Team. If those groups concur, it will then be presented at a public meeting. This will be followed by a formal presentation to the MBTA's General Manager. After his approval, a design engineer will be selected.
4. **BWSC** – The two wells that were damaged during installation of the Back Street sewer project have been replaced by BWSC. Unfortunately, the first readings from the new wells, taken this week, do not show any significant benefit from the recharge system to which they are almost adjacent. However, based on the extended period before there was any apparent benefit from the recharge system installed in the alley behind Hemenway Street, we may need to be patient.
5. **MTA** – The Turnpike is still awaiting turnover of the remaining groundwater equalization systems along the Artery. They may want our assistance in surveying elevations of the system inlets.
6. **GCOD** – The Board of Appeal and BRA continue to require complete compliance with the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District rules. Only one variance has been granted in the nearly two years since the GCOD was adopted, and it was clearly justified (and well documented) by specific conditions that would not allow recharge. We are in discussions with BWSC on the best way to develop a clear set of ground rules for the information that applicants must provide them to allow BWSC to confirm that the recharge system is properly sized and designed. We hope to have something that can be posted on both our and their websites.
7. **North End** – We have encountered some unanticipated delays in the installation of the injection well in the parking lot at Fulton Street. Our first attempt literally struck an underground brick wall. Christian identified a nearby site which was vacuumed yesterday. The injection well is scheduled to be installed tomorrow.
8. **Prudential Center** – It appears that the only feasible location for recharge associated with the two new buildings proposed for the Prudential Center is in Exeter Street. As the project proceeds, there will likely be a meeting including the proponents and their engineers, BWSC, DPW, BGwT, and possibly BTD to work out the issues involved.
9. **New Well** – The new well on Exeter Street near the Lenox Hotel, to be paid for by the hotel, has been installed.
10. **Website** – Traffic to the website has declined substantially since the summer. It's not clear what has caused this. One group of IP addresses that had accounted for many of the visits in previous months has been absent for the last few. Since the addresses are unidentifiable, it is impossible to understand what caused the change.
11. **Research Projects** – We continue to work with DND, the designated developer, and his architects to define exactly how we will proceed on the alternative foundation repair project in East Boston. The design continues to be developed by Jim Lambrechts and

has team at Wentworth. We will be working with the Environment Department on a contract to fund the Trust for the installation work. We are still awaiting a formal report from Northeastern on the remote sensing project; it doesn't look like there has been any additional indication of success.

- 12. Comment Letters** – I have filed comment letters on the Boston East, Oxford Ping On Affordable Housing, and Boston Conservancy projects. I expect to file additional projects shortly on the 120 Kingston Street project. We have just received filings for projects at the Gardner Museum, 585 Commercial Street, and Bulfinch Triangle Parcel 1 projects, all of which may require comments. As always, comment letters are posted on our website.

<p style="text-align: center;">TECHNICAL COORDINATOR'S WELL MONITORING UPDATE BGwT Meeting: November 29, 2007</p>
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WELL MONITORING

The BGwT's latest set of readings are indicated below.

There are currently 707 wells in the West network. Wells were read between September 27 – November 1, 2007. Of the 707 wells read:

- 130 wells @ elevation >7'
- 282 wells @ elevation 5'- 7'
- 205 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 52 wells @ elevation <3'
- 3 wells @ Dry
- 35 wells @ no reading

We have read 85 wells in the East network (East Boston Area). Wells were read in East Boston on September 26 & 27, 2007. Of the 85 wells read:

- 40 wells @ elevation >7'
- 16 wells @ elevation 5'- 7'
- 9 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 10 wells @ elevation <3'
- 10 wells @ Dry

NOTE: We are continuously reading the well network.

LEVELLOGGERS

- As per agreement with GEI Consultants Inc., loggers (there are a total of 5) installed in and around Cazenove St. continue to be uploaded once a week and sent to GEI Consultants Inc. The purpose is to observe the water levels in the area where the recharge systems have been installed.
- 4 dataloggers have been installed on Beacon St., in the Berkeley to Clarendon St. block. This area (historically) shows a wide range of high and low elevations. We are looking for any trends that may explain this.
- 3 dataloggers have been installed in the North End around Fulton and Commercial streets. We have inherited a well from CA/T in public Alley No. 101 which is at elevation 7.2'. The levels in this area range from elevation 5.6' to 9.4'. Again, we are looking for any trends that may help explain the wide range of elevations over a short distance.

ISD REASEARCH

- We continue to look for any underpinned buildings. Data continues to be scarce up to this point.

NEW PART-TIMER

- Jessica Gormley from Wentworth Institute of Technology will begin reading our well network on a part-time basis in January. This will be Jessica's 3rd tour of duty with us.