

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
November 18, 2010

The meeting of 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. Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm. The following trustees were present, and the Chairman declared that there was a quorum:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC)
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Nancy Grilk, Mayor's Office

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator; Karen Madsen; Environmental Engineer Groundwater Go LLC.; Ashley Evans; Northeastern University; Matthew McCarty; Northeastern University

1. Adoption of the minutes of the September 16, 2010 Meeting

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

Ms. Grilk, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Shilland, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the September 16, 2010 meeting.

2. Financial Report

In lieu of Ms. Sherden, Trustee, Mr. Laffer reviewed the BGwT *Financial Report and Reconciliation Detail*. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer noted under cash inflows the BGwT received their annual operating funds from the city of Boston. Discussion followed. Mr. Laffer also noted the well installation line item under cash inflows for money received from destroyed OW's. He noted that the BGwT had installed one of the OW's and will install the other OW in 2011 during the next phase of BGwT installations. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer also noted under cash outflows the executive director's expenses reflected the purchase of a new office computer, software, and paper. Discussion followed.

3. City/State Groundwater Working Group Report

Mr. Laffer reported on the latest City/State Groundwater Working Group meeting. Discussion followed.

Refer item numbers 1,2,3,4, and 5 of the attached *Executive Director's Report: November 18, 2010* for a summary of that meeting.

4. Annual Report on Groundwater Levels by Zone

Mr. Simonelli presented his annual analysis of 21 OW reading zones throughout the city. Discussion followed.

Discussion focused on average annual groundwater levels per reading period in each zone vs. rainfall during each reading period. Discussion followed.

5. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: November 18, 2010* for a complete list of all activities.

6. Technical Coordinator's Report

BGwT Technical Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli presented his activities since last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Well Monitoring Update BGwT Meeting: November 18, 2010* for a complete list of all activities.

7. Other Business

Mr. Laffer noted the attached BGwT 2011 Trustees Meeting Schedule and that this was the final meeting of 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 27, 2011 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator, on 11/19/10.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
November 18, 2010

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met on October 28. As always, attendance was excellent and there was a really good exchange of information. Details from the agencies reporting are listed below.
2. **MBTA** – The MBTA hopes to have an engineering team for their Tunnel Repair Project, which prominently includes the long term solution for the low groundwater levels near Back Bay Station in the South End, selected by the end of November. Investigation and design work is expected to take 6-8 months after the engineering contract is awarded.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC has completed repairs to the leaking sewer line in Richmond Street; they have found another leak under Commercial Street that is likely contributing to low groundwater levels in that area of the North End and expect to complete repairs shortly. They have completed lining work on a section of leaking pipe under Atlantic Avenue. While the combined sewer overflow lining completed on Dartmouth Street between Back and Beacon Streets has helped raise groundwater levels along the north side of Beacon Street in that area, BWSC will have to go back to continue to investigate possible causes of low groundwater extending along Dartmouth Street south of Beacon Street. Sewer lining work in the damaged sewer along Blagdon Street behind the Boston Public Library is scheduled to take place in late November or early December. BWSC will conduct further television inspections of sewers near Albany Street and Union Park and near Fairfield and Beacon Streets to try again to determine the cause of low groundwater levels at those locations. BWSC will soon repair leaks in a sewer line on Hemenway Street near Norway Street in the Fenway. BWSC is beginning a pilot project focused on lining or replacing private sewer laterals citywide that could be beneficial in overcoming low groundwater levels in some areas.
4. **MWRA** – MWRA has completed their replumbing of the sewer system in East Boston. The pipe along Porter Street was removed from service and filled in during September. We have seen substantial increases in the very low groundwater levels along Porter Street and Visconti Road, especially west of Berman Street.
5. **MassDOT** – As part of a paving project in the Prudential tunnel on the Turnpike, MassDOT will clean a drain line servicing the tunnel. This will allow inspection of the drain line (which has not been cleaned out since the Turnpike extension was built in the 1960's) to see if there are leaks there that could be contributing to low groundwater levels in the Back Bay and Bay Village near the Turnpike.
6. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD remains excellent. We have now seen over 200 cases go through the Board of Appeals, with only three very justified variances granted. The BRA has made sure that projects in the GCOD area that were approved prior to its adoption but require modified zoning because of project changes in light of the changed economy meet GCOD requirements.
7. **Research Project** – The Tufts researchers are finalizing their report from our funded research project on recharge related changes in groundwater levels. Professor Vogel expects to present his findings to the trustees at the January meeting.
8. **Website** – Traffic to the website has continued strong. There have been many hits on our relatively new recharge tab. We continue to receive positive comments on the site.
9. **Meetings** – I met with Councilor Arroyo to update him on the groundwater issue. I met with the proponents of projects at 368 Congress Street and 5 Channel Center Street, both in the Fort Point Channel section of South Boston, to help them better understand GCOD requirements in that area.
10. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on projects at 368 Congress Street, 5 Channel Center Street, and the Kensington. As always, all of the comment letters are posted on our website.

2011 TRUSTEES MEETING SCHEDULE

January 27
March 24
May 26
July 21
September 22
November 17

All meetings are on Thursdays at 4:00 at the Lenox Hotel.

TECHNICAL & RECHARGE COORDINATOR'S UPDATE BGwT Meeting: November 18th, 2010

WELL MONITORING

The BGwT's latest set of readings are indicated below.
Wells were read from Oct. 5th – 22nd, 2010

There are currently 720 wells in the West network. Of the 720 wells read:

- 54 wells @ elevation >9'
- 120 wells @ elevation 7'-9'
- 320 wells @ elevation 5'-7'
- 188 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 25 wells @ elevation <3'
- 0 wells @ Dry
- 13 wells @ no reading
- 106 Recharge Locations

We have read 84 wells in the East network (East Boston Area).
Wells were read in East Boston on Oct. 27th & 28th, 2010. Of the 84 wells read:

- 23 wells @ elevation >9'
- 21 wells @ elevation 7'-9'
- 17 wells @ elevation 5'-7'

- 10 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 13 wells @ elevation <3'
- 0 wells @ Dry
- 0 wells @ no reading

NOTE: We are continuously reading the well network and started a new set of readings on Wednesday October 27th, 2010 with our returning co-op employee Robert Tully from Wentworth Institute of Technology.

This will be Robert's last semester with us. I am currently reviewing Resumes for a replacement.

LEVELLOGGERS

- We continue to upload dataloggers at the following locations on a weekly basis:
 - 1 on Saint Charles St. and 2 on Cazenove St.
 - 2 Adjacent to the Southwest Corridor Alignment on Berkeley St.
 - 5 along the Storrow Drive Underpass from Embankment Rd. Clarendon St.
 - 3 on Plympton, East Brookline, and East Concord Street's in the South End New Market area
- 4 loggers have been placed in wells in Back Bay closest to the alleys that BWSC has replaced lines and installed recharge systems
- Additional loggers have been placed in the Fenway, South End, and Back Bay. Data for these loggers were uploaded this week and will be reviewed by our Technical Committee at our next meeting in December.

CONTOURS

- We continue to generate contours for all areas of our well network. Elliott and I have reviewed them with our technical committee.

- We will continue to receive the contours from BWSC and will be sending them our contours for comparison.

RECHARGE

- Continue to look at different types of recharge systems that could be installed in the city. Tanks, point source, trenches, pipe, etc.
- Continue using Google Earth Pro to map and integrate the city's greenspace in our own database. Working to add it into our CAD and GIS maps.
- Met with a resident of Back Bay and provided her with information on how she could improve recharging at her property.

MISCELLEANEOUS

- Provided Public Works all of our well locations. This will help protect our network by showing the wells on the maps that are given to contractors showing utilities.
- Gave a presentation to Suffolk University students about the BGWT and how our observation wells are read.