

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
November 18th, 2021

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met in the Executive Room at the Lenox Hotel located at 710 Boylston Street, Boston, MA. 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. Mr. Whitney, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.

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
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association

The following trustees were present virtually via the Zoom meeting platform:

Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Ms. Leah Camhi, Fenway Community Development Corporation

Also present in person were:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director

1. Adoption of September 9th, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Discussion followed.

Mr. Shilland, Trustee, moved to adopt the board meeting minutes. Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the Board Meeting minutes from September 9th, 2021.

2. **Financial Report**

Mr. Whitney, co-chair, and Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's financials. Mr. Simonelli noted that the Trust transferred money from the Citizens Money Market to the Fidelity Investment Account. Mr. Whiney stated that new securities will be purchased when the next bond comes due. Discussion followed.

3. **2022 Meeting dates & Times**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the meeting dates for the 2022 Board meetings. Mr. Simonelli stated that meetings will be in person with the option for virtual attendance. Discussion followed.

4. **City Council Hearing for Legal Representation Update**

Mr. Whitney and Mr. Simonelli reviewed their testimony on November 15th, 2021, before the Committee on Government Operations regarding *Docket #0900, ordinance to provide for legal representation of the Boston Groundwater Trust by the City of Boston Law Department*, sponsored by City Councilors Kenzie Bok, Michael Flaherty, Lydia Edwards, and Edward Flynn. Discussion followed.

Mr. Simonelli stated that the ordinance was unanimously approved at the City Council meeting on November 17th, 2021, effective immediately. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli and Mr. Whitney will follow up with the legal department to establish a point of contact in the City's Law Department. Discussion followed.

5. **Map Upgrade Proposal Update**

Mr. Simonelli stated that he followed up with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) to request a firmer timeline and adjusted (lower) rates, which they subsequently provided. At Mr. Mitchell's suggestion, Mr. Simonelli contacted Gradient Corp, a local engineering firm, for a second opinion on the ESRI proposal. Gradient Corp. submitted a competing proposal. Discussion followed.

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the proposals provided by ESRI, and Gradient Corp. ESRI's revised cost proposal was based on lower "ESRI Non-Profit Program" rates. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell moved to authorize the expenditure for the ESRI map upgrade contingent upon the Trust's acceptance into the ESRI Non-profit Program. Mr. Saunders, co-chair seconded the motion.

Voted: To authorize the expenditure for the ESRI map upgrade contingent upon the Trust's acceptance into the ESRI Non-profit Program.

6. **2022 City-Wide Groundwater Update**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed a draft outline and his ideas for the update. Discussion followed. The Board provided suggestions and additional talking points for the update. Mr. Simonelli will revise his outline and report back to the Board at the January 2022 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-Annual Personnel Review Matter

Mr. Saunders, Co-Chair, moved that the Board enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Executive Director compensation, and reconvene in open session following adjournment of the Executive Session. Peter Shilland, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To enter Executive Session, for the purpose of discussing Executive Director compensation. and reconvene in open session upon adjournment of the Executive Session.

Mr. Whitney, Co-chair, moved to exit Executive Session and reconvene in open session. Gary Saunders, Co-chair, seconded the motion.

Voted: To exit Executive Session and reconvene in open session.

7. **Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report November 18th, 2021*, for a complete list of activities. Discussion followed.

Mr. Whitney moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Saunders seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 19th, 2022 @ 4:00 pm, at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, 11/19/2021.

Approved 13 January 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Commerford". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

J. Commerford, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 18th, 2021

1. **Readings** – Started our sixth and final set of readings for 2021.
2. **Meetings and Calls**
 - a. Met with Trustee Mitchell and Manu Sharma of Gradient Corp to review observation well readings and remote readings pilot project. (9/15)
 - b. Met with Rick Smith, Donald Silvia, Michael McDevitt of Vicinity Energy, and Jack Harrington of New Boston Strategies to discuss exploring water sustainability programs where the company may assist with groundwater recharge. (10/7)
 - c. Microsoft Teams met with Manu Sharma and Matthew Mayo of Gradient Corp to review map upgrade proposal. (10/7)
 - d. Microsoft Teams met with Jared Walsh of Bohler Engineering to review 40 Channel Street project and GCOD requirements. (10/14)
 - e. Microsoft Teams met with Christopher Tracy, Andrew Paven of O'Neill & Associates and Brian Sweeney of Haley and Aldrich to review the proposed project at 415 Newbury Street. (10/19)
 - f. Presented via Zoom to the Beacon Hill Seminar Class of Inundated: Greater Boston's Water Challenges. (10/20)
 - g. Attended via Zoom, Keys to Investigating Existing Foundation Conditions hosted by Simpson, Gumphertz and Heger. (10/22)
 - h. Attended scoping session via Zoom (10/25) wrote a comment letter (10/26) for the 775 Huntington Avenue Project in Mission Hill.
 - i. Zoomed with Sanjay Seth, Climate Resilience Program Manager and Nicholas Moreno, Executive Director, Boston Conservation Commission to discuss the Trust and the possibility of being ex-officio Trustees. (10/27)
 - j. Zoomed with all members of the City-State Groundwater Working Group. (10/28)
Agency updates are below.
 - k. Met with Trust co-chairs Gary Saunders and Robert Whitney for my annual review. (10/28)
 - l. Zoomed with Bob Mulcahy and Eric DiTommaso from Friends of the Public Garden to review their ESRI map training. (11/2)
 - m. Zoomed with members of our Technical Advisory Committee to review latest groundwater levels and revisions to the GCOD zoning. (11/3)
 - n. Microsoft Teams met with Matthew Mayo of Gradient Corp to review the parameters for a map upgrade proposal. (11/10)
 - o. Testified via WebEx Zoning Board of Appeals hearings in September, October, & November.
 - p. 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. **BluCloud Remote Monitoring Solution** – 5 new units have been deployed with mixed results. 3 of 5 are working and transmitting data. 2 worked at the start but have not been functioning since the middle of October.
4. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
 - a. BWSC is in the process of distributing bids to address the spots where groundwater infiltration has been observed in East Boston, North End, Back Bay, South End, and the Fenway.

- b. In Lower Beacon Hill, investigations continue at Brimmer and Beacon Streets where catch basins need to be cleaned. Once cleaned the laterals will be televised.
 - c. 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.
 - d. Also in the Back Bay, at Exeter and Boylston Street, a low spot is being investigated with groundwater infiltration already observed in an adjacent manhole during initial investigations.
 - e. In the South End, a low spot along Harrison Avenue, in the East Concord Street – Worcester Square blocks, is being investigated.
5. **MBTA** - Approximately 37gpm 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.
- The 37gpm is down from the 48gpm I reported in September. This is the result of an effort to conserve water and limit operational costs by slowly reducing the flow rates.
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.
7. **Vacation** – I'll be away Thanksgiving and Christmas week.