

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGWT)  
BOARD MEETING  
October 26, 2006  
The Lenox Hotel – Patriot Room

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust was called order at 4:13 pm in the Patriot 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  
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC)  
Ms. Nancy Grilk, Mayor's office  
Ms. Nikko Mendoza, Mayor's office  
Mr. Bill Moy, Chinatown Neighborhood Council  
Mr. Michael Nairne, Ellis Neighborhood Association

Also present were:

Elliott Laffer, BGWT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGWT Technical Coordinator

**1. Adoption of the minutes of the September 20, 2006 Meeting**

Minutes were distributed to board members for review.

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

**Voted:** To accept the minutes of the September 20, 2006.

**2. Finance Report**

Trustee Sherin reviewed the BGWT *Financial Report and reconciliation detail*. Discussion followed.

**3. Retirement Savings Plan**

Mr. Laffer reviewed the Retirement Contribution Plan. The plan calls for the establishment of a Simplified Employee Pension Plan (SEP-IRA) for BGWT employees. Refer to the Retirement Contribution Plan attached for complete details. Mr. Laffer noted that the current thresholds outlined in the plan were adopted from the IRS standard SEP guidelines. Discussion followed.

Trustee Saunders suggested that the board consider two motions: that the BGwT approve implementation of the SEP-IRA plan for all eligible BGwT employees for 2006; and, that the BGwT authorize funding of SEP's for 2006. Trustee Mitchell made the motions and Trustee Sherin seconded. Discussion followed. Trustee Gilbert moved that the motion be amended to approve only the first two paragraphs of the plan, leaving other items for later consideration. The Amendment was agreeable to the mover and to the second.

**Voted: To approve the motion.**

Trustee Saunders moved to fund the Retirement Contribution Plan at 3% of eligible employees gross earnings for the calendar year 2006. Trustee Grilk seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To approve the motion.

**4. Silver Line Phase III**

Mr. Laffer reviewed the proposed comment letter on the MBTA Silver Line Phase III. Trustee Gilbert expressed concern over the BGwT's role in the project. He feels that it's the role of BGwT to find cut off elevations, not the MBTA. Discussion followed among the Trustees.

Trustee Mitchell moved to accept Mr. Laffer's comment letter on the MBTA Silver Line Phase III as is. Trustee Grilk seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To accept the Mr. Laffer's comment letter on the MBTA Silver Line Phase III. (vote 7-1)

**5. Network Completion Ceremony**

Mr. Laffer noted that the network completion ceremony was well received and has all positive feedback on the day. Discussion followed.

**6. Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD)**

Mr. Laffer updated the BGwT on the workings of GCOD. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: October 26, 2006*, for a summary of the meeting.

**7. Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report and reviewed his activities since the last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: October 26, 2006*, 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. Mr. Simonelli presented his results on recent findings in building permits with regards to pile cut off elevations. He noted that many versions of the form exist from year to year and that he and his co-op are sorting through records online in the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) database. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical Coordinator's Well Monitoring & Installation Report BGwT Meeting: October 26, 2006* for a complete list of what was presented.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: November 30, 2006 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.**

**Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator, on 10/27/06.**

Respectfully submitted,



Galen Gilbert, Secretary

**RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTION PLAN**

The Boston Groundwater Trust will establish a Simplified Employee Pension – Individual Retirement Accounts (SEP IRA) Contribution Agreement. The plan will be established on IRS Form 5305-SEP and meet IRS requirements.

The plan will call for discretionary contributions in each calendar year to all employees who are at least 21 years old and have performed services for the Trust in at least 3 years of the preceding five years. The plan covers only direct employees of the Trust and not those working as independent contractors.

While the annual contribution is discretionary, it is the current intention of the Trust that the contribution equal 3% of the gross earnings of each eligible employee in the calendar year prior to the contribution, with the contribution to be paid out in the first quarter of the year. Based on current payroll, that contribution will be approximately \$3700. While this amount is not included in the FY07 budget, it can be more than covered by the reduction in workman's compensation costs with the completion of our well installation program. These costs will drop to less than \$1000 from the budgeted \$9000, starting in December.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**October 26, 2006**

1. **Ceremony** – The ceremonial reading of our final well under the EBB contract was a great success. Coverage was good in the local papers, and I have received several unsolicited comments from people who were there about how good it was. Even a few people who could not attend have told me that they heard it was really nice.
2. **Zoning** – Applicants continue to consistently meet the GCOD requirements as they come before the Board of Appeals. The Board looks to us for input on these cases. The City remains on track to decide on whether to recommend extending the GCOD to East Boston, the North End, and/or the Fort Point Channel area before the end of the year.
3. **BWSC** – Relining of the West Side Interceptor is complete. The Back Street sewer repair/replacement project has been bid. BWSC has rejected the low bidder because of performance concerns; there may be a delay while a challenge is resolved. BWSC has begun the video inspection of all of their sewer lines below Elevation 5; this will be a time consuming process that will help in the process of finding leaks while documenting the condition of these critical lines.
4. **DCR** – The timing on the Storrow Drive tunnel replacement is now even more up in the air as DCR coordinates the project with major work on the Longfellow and Boston University Bridges. At the City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting DCR was asked to look into an interim recharge system if the project will be long delayed.
5. **MBTA** – The T is attempting to get two recharge wells in the St. Charles Street area installed before the City's winter construction moratorium. They plan to recommend a permanent solution to the T General Manager in March. The T will also be installing new groundwater observation wells in conjunction with the projects at Arlington and Copley Stations; I met with them last week to detail the location of the two new wells at Arlington. We will be filing comments on the latest environmental filing on Silver Line Phase III this week.
6. **MTA** – MTA has repaired the small leak in the connector from I-93 to the Sumner and Callahan Tunnels. They have issued a contract for repairs to a leak in their drain line near Herald Street. They plan to include recharge in their roof drain repair project at the East Boston vent buildings for the Sumner and Callahan Tunnels. In conjunction with the Columbus Center project, they plan a major inspection of the drain line running inbound from the Prudential Center to look for any leakage.
7. **MWRA** – The MWRA has gotten pricing to repair the two leaks in their 18" line along Porter Street in East Boston. They will be using different technologies at the two leaks, but repairs should be under way fairly soon.
8. **East Boston** – While the MWRA repairs above will hopefully lead to increased groundwater levels in the area around Porter Street, we are still trying to find a potential cause for the low readings on Maverick Street. We are also trying to determine the reason why readings south of Porter Street stay below Elevation 3 until they reach a line about a block or two south. Beyond there the readings jump dramatically to generally over Elevation 7.
9. **North End** – Along with Jim Hunt, I met with a City Councilor LaMattina and a delegation of North End residents to go over the groundwater situation in the neighborhood and to discuss the considerations about whether to extend the GCOD into that area. We agreed to meet again soon as the City got closer to making a decision to make sure that there would be adequate neighborhood input.

10. **Well Installation** – We have completed the installation of the wells called for under the EBB contract. The contract was completed under budget and well below our Not To Exceed maximum.
11. **303 Columbus Avenue** – I met with the contractor for the project to agree on the location of an observation well that they will install in front of the neighboring building at 321 Columbus Avenue. Many of the neighbors have expressed concern about the possibility of piling damage from construction of this new building. The hope is that that the well will be in before they begin dewatering for construction.
12. **Website** – Traffic on our website has been high in October, recovering from the summer lull. Last week, I added a section of Frequently Asked Questions.
13. **Neighborhood Association Presentations** – I will be making a presentation on the groundwater situation to the St. Botolph Neighborhood Association on November 1. I expect to make a similar presentation to the Ellis South End Neighborhood Association, possibly in January.
14. **Potential Research Project** – I've had some additional contact with Northeastern University on the potential research project to develop a method of determining piling cutoffs without digging test pits. They are optimistic that there is technology that can be adapted and expect to get back soon with more details. Jim Lambrechts is also going to develop a proposal for a project to investigate a potentially less expensive method of foundation repair for lighter buildings like those in East Boston.
15. **Press** – There are new articles from the Boston Courant, the South End News, and the Back Bay Sun posted on our website.
16. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on projects at Jacob Wirth's and the new Apple Computer store. In addition to those for the Silver Line, I expect to file comments shortly on a project at Wheelock College.
17. **Build Boston** – Our team for the panel at Build Boston has met and is developing materials for our presentation. I think that this will be an excellent summary of the groundwater situation including the reason for the problem, the steps being taken to alleviate it, the GCOD zoning, and the effect of all this on a real project.

*TECHNICAL COORDINATOR'S  
WELL MONITORING & INSTALLATION  
UPDATE  
BGwT Meeting: October 26, 2006*

WELL MONITORING

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

There are currently 709 wells in the West network. Wells were read between Sept. 14 – Oct. 4, 2006. Of the 709 wells read:

- 148 Wells @ elevation >7'
- 319 wells @ elevation 5'- 7'
- 193 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 40 wells @ elevation <3'
- 9 wells @ no reading

We have read 89 wells in the East network (East Boston Area). Wells were read in East Boston on September 14, 2006. Of the 89 wells read:

- 45 wells @ elevation >7'
- 14 wells @ elevation 5'- 7'
- 11 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 19 wells @ elevation <3'
- 0 wells @ no reading

INSTALLATIONS

- 180 Contract was completed on 9/25/06. 179 of the proposed 180 wells were installed.

#### LEVELOGGERS

- Group 4 dataloggers have been installed in 20 wells. Data is scheduled to be uploaded the second week in December.