

**BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met in the Copley 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. Robert Whitney, co-chair, read the following statement:

"I, Robert Whitney, co-chair of the Boston Groundwater Trust, am calling this meeting to order at 4:11 pm. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, we are conducting this meeting on-line. To ensure public access to the deliberations of the BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST, the public may access this meeting through telephone and video conferencing. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide public comment. To do so please, "raise your hand" in the application via the Zoom meeting platform. If you are calling in and cannot use the platform, you can send your questions to staff via email at [csimonelli@bgwt.org](mailto:csimonelli@bgwt.org) or via Twitter by tagging the Twitter handle @BOSTONGWT and using the hashtag #SEP22MTG."

The following trustees were present at the Lenox Hotel:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Back Bay Association  
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association  
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay

The following trustees were present virtually:

Mr. Robert Whitney, Beacon Hill Civic Association  
Ms. Leah Camhi, Fenway Community Development Corporation  
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board

Also present at the Lenox Hotel were:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Ms. Alison Pultinas, The Fenway News

Also present virtually were:

Ms. Audrey Herrmann, for Representative Jay Livingstone; Beatrice Nessen, Boston Preservation Alliance; Leonard Lyons; Stephanie O'Leary

**1. Adoption of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Discussion followed. Mr. Saunders, co-chair, noted his name was omitted from the listed attendees. Mr. Simonelli will add his name and post the minutes on the Trust website.

Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To accept the Board meeting minutes.

**2. Financial Report**

Mr. Whitney and Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's financials. Discussion followed.

**3. 2022 City-Wide Groundwater Forum Discussion**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the program outline and updated the Board on his activities related to the forum since the last meeting. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli will meet with the co-chairs prior to Tuesday's forum to review talking points. Discussion followed.

**4. Website Information Center Review**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the observation well and building foundation information center on the Trust website. Discussion followed. Based on the comments provided by the Board members and public, Mr. Simonelli will modify the information center and report back to the Board in November.

**5. Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report September 15th, 2022*, for a complete list of activities. Discussion followed.

**Mr. Saunders, co-chair, moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Whitney seconded the motion.**

**The meeting adjourned at 5:19p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 4:00 pm, at the Lenox Hotel with a virtual attendance option.**

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, 9/16/2022.

Approved 11 November, 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**

### **September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

1. **Readings** - Completed our fifth set of readings of 2022. Currently interviewing field engineers for this Fall.
2. **Meetings and Calls** -
  - a. Zoomed with Councilor Kenzie Bok and her staff about the upcoming hearing on green stormwater infrastructure. (8/4)
  - b. Met MBTA officials at the corner of Clarendon & Appleton Streets to investigate MBTA electrical manhole. (8/10)
  - c. Google met with Daniel McCormack and Justin Comeau of BluCloud to review performance of the 5 remote reading devices currently deployed. (8/11)
  - d. Zoomed with Giuliana Zelada-Tumialan and members of InSAR (Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar). InSAR's technology is used for mapping ground deformation using radar images of the Earth's surface that are collected from orbiting satellites. We discussed its potential use on roads and wood pile supported buildings to detect settlement. (8/11)
  - e. Zoomed with Kristin Motte, Programs Librarian/Central Library Boston Public Library, and Jay Hamilton, BPL's AV manager, about 2022 Groundwater Forum logistics. (8/19)
  - f. Spoke and provided comments to Sabrina Shankman of the Boston Globe for story about drought and groundwater. (8/24)
  - g. Zoomed with co-chair Robert Whitney and members of the forum climate panel for a planning session. (8/29)
  - h. Met with Katherine England, Director of Green Infrastructure for the City. We discussed the City's vision for green infrastructure in the public way and potential future partnerships on pilot projects. (8/31)
  - i. Microsoft Teams met with Wilko Koning, Senior Project Leader at Waternet in the Netherlands, to review his presentation for our upcoming forum. (9/6)
  - j. I was interviewed by reporter David Bienick of WCVB Channel 5 about the current drought and its potential effect on woodpiles (9/8).
  - k. Met with Kristin Mott and Jay Hamilton at Rabb Hall to review the forum setup. (9/8/)
  - l. Met with Sammy Nabulsi, Rose Law Partners, to discuss the City's Environment department draft regulations for the enactment of the local wetland's protection ordinance. We discussed draft regulations for phase III in regard to inland and coastal flood zones as well as climate resilience and what areas of the GCOD may be impacted. (9/9)
  - m. Spoke with Daniel McCormack of BluCloud to review performance of the 5 remote reading devices currently deployed. See summary under item #3 for the details. (9/12)
  - n. Testified via Zoom the Zoning Board of Appeals hearings in August & September.
  - o. 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** - The 5 units have been transmitting readings daily since the beginning of March. 3 of the 5 units were slightly higher than our manual readings. BluCloud is in the process of revising the formula to reflect accurate readings in those 3 units. The plan moving forward is evaluate the performance of these units over the following months and have BluCloud update the Board at the November meeting.
4. **BWSC** - An update on the following:
  - BWSC is in the process of designing repairs to address the spots where groundwater infiltration has been observed in the North End, Back Bay, and the South End.
  - In Lower Beacon Hill, investigations continue at Brimmer and Beacon Streets. Catch basins were cleaned and no signs of infiltration were observed.
  - Back Bay
    - The contract has been awarded and construction has commenced to repair a deep CSO on Fairfield Street, in the Beacon-Back Street block. We have installed dataloggers in the two wells closest to this repair.
    - At Exeter and Boylston Street, a low spot is still being investigated where seepage was observed in an adjacent manhole. Additional video investigations showed no additional signs in other infrastructure. Investigations, along with dye testing will continue.
    - Low area along Beacon St., Fairfield-Hereford St. blocks, is scheduled to be televised this Fall.
    - Repairs for the Blagden Street sewer and laterals are currently in design phase.
  - In the South End, investigations at a low spot along Harrison Avenue, in the East Concord Street – Worcester Square blocks, revealed groundwater infiltration in an adjacent manhole. Will either be lined or rehabbed this Fall.

In the Fenway a low area along Hemenway Street was investigated and a 24” drain line and manhole in alley 807 revealed minor infiltration. Scheduled be repaired this Fall.
5. **MBTA** - Approximately 36.7 gpm is being injected into recharge wells in the South End Ellis Neighborhood area along Appleton, Berkeley, Saint Charles, Cazenove, and Clarendon Streets.
  - a. In addition to our manual monitoring, we have 4 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min.
  - b. The impact of the drought is being felt on Cazenove Street where levels have dropped slightly below El. 5’ BCB. The Cazenove St. recharge systems are at their maximum flow rate of 7.1 gpm. We worked with the MBTA, and their consultant to increase the flow in the Saint Charles St. recharge system from 9.0 gpm to 12.8 gpm.
6. **DCR** - Storrow Drive Tunnel Pump Station, recharge galleys, and flood control pumps working without any issues.
7. **MWRA** - Continue working with BWSC on sewer separation and CSO improvements in East Boston.
8. **DOT** – Rick McCullough, Director of Environmental Engineering has retired. DOT is in the process of finding a replacement.