

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
September 17th, 2020

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. The Executive Director electronically distributed the meeting notice and agenda to the City Clerk at Boston City Hall. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, read the following statement:

I, Tim Mitchell, co-chair of the Boston Groundwater Trust, am calling this meeting to order at 3:06 pm. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, we are conducting this meeting online. 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 or via Twitter by tagging the Twitter handle @BOSTONGWT and using the hashtag #SEPT2020MTG.

The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Back Bay Association
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Christopher Cook, City of Boston, Chief of Environment, Energy, & Open Space
Ms. Angie Liou, Asian Community Development Corporation
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Mr. Greg Galer, Boston Preservation Alliance
Mr. Robert Whitney, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Leah Camhi, Fenway Community Development Corporation

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Mr. Galen Gilbert, Gilbert & O’Bryan, PC; Mr. James McCann, Fidelity Investments

1. Adoption of July 9th, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Discussion followed. Mr. Peter Shilland, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Ms. Liou, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the Board Meeting minutes of the July 9th, 2020 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Mr. Whitney, Treasurer, updated the Trustees on his follow-up with Fidelity Investments. Discussion followed. Mr. Whitney introduced Mr. James McCann of Fidelity Investments, who then provided an overview of the Trust’s existing portfolio and investment structure. Discussion followed. Moving forward, Mr. Whitney will work with Mr. McCann to purchase suitable

investment instruments that are in line with the Trust's adopted investment portfolio policy. Discussion followed.

3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION re: Discussion on Legal Analysis Regarding Relationship with the City of Boston and Trust Leadership**

Mr. Saunders, Co-Chair, moved that the Board enter Executive Session, for the purpose of discussing legal analysis regarding relationship between the City of Boston and Trust Leadership, and reconvene in open session for the Board meeting upon adjournment of the Executive Session. Trustee Camhi, seconded the motion.

Voted: To enter Executive Session, for the purpose of discussing legal analysis regarding relationship with the City of Boston and Trust Leadership, and reconvene in open session for the Board meeting upon adjournment of the Executive Session.

Mr. Whitney moved to exit Executive Session and reconvene in open session. Trustee Saunders, seconded the motion.

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

4. **Remote Monitoring Proposal Update**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the revised proposal from Ayyeka, Inc. for purchase of two (2) remote monitoring devices. Discussion followed.

Mr. Simonelli stated that BluCloud Technologies, the company that first approached the Trust with a remote monitoring proposal, is working on new, custom devices. Additional in-house testing is being conducted over the next few weeks and if all goes well, they will deploy a new test unit in one of our wells to test signal strength and operational viability. Discussion followed.

5. **BPDA GCOD Revision Update**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed his Zoom meeting with BPDA and ISD officials regarding the Trust's proposed GCOD revision. Discussion followed.

6. **Executive Director's Report**

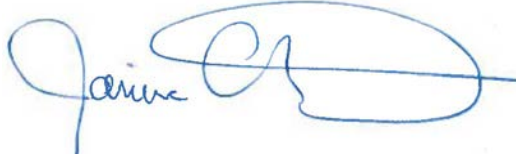
BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report September 17th, 2020* for a complete list of activities.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 12th, 2020 @ 4:00 pm, location to be determined.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 9/18/2020.

Approved 30 September 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janine", followed by a large, stylized flourish that loops back to the left and then extends to the right.

Janine Commerford

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 17th, 2020

1. **Readings** – Completed our fifth set of readings for 2020. Overall levels remain lower than usual due to lack of rainfall.
2. **Virtual Meetings and Calls**–
 - a. Spoke with Tal Avrahami, Ayyeka Technologies, about a revised remote monitoring solution for observation wells. (7/13)
 - b. Zoomed with all members of the City-State Groundwater Working Group. (7/16)
Please see agency updates below.
 - c. Spoke with Martha Frahm, Goulston & Storrs, to review founding documents of the Trust. (7/17)
 - d. Spoke with Brad Bedingfield, Hemenway & Barnes, to review founding documents of the Trust. (7/20)
 - e. Spoke with James Heiss, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences at Umass Lowell, to discuss his proposal for sea level rise and the potential tidal and biological effect on groundwater. (7/21)
 - f. Zoomed with Giuliana Zelada-Tumialan and Tony Khoury of Simpson, Gumpertz, & Heger to discuss a potential website well map upgrade. (7/29)
 - g. Spoke with Russell Paul, Lawyers Clearinghouse, to review the process for obtaining a pro-bono legal counsel. (8/14)
 - h. Spoke with Barbara Boylan, Vice President The Druker Company, Ltd., David Proch Wilson, Project Manager for The Druker Company, and Mike Atwood of Haley & Aldrich, to discuss recharge requirements and adjacent building inventory analysis for 350 Boylston Street project. (8/20)
 - i. Spoke with Alan Perkins, Foley & Lardner, LLP, to review founding documents of the Trust and provide a legal analysis of potential personal liability of the Trustees and employees to third parties. (9/2)
 - j. Zoomed with Trust co-chairs Tim Mitchell & Gary Saunders to review legal analysis of potential personal liability of the Trustees and employees to third parties provided by Alan Perkins, Foley & Lardner, LLP. (9/9)
 - k. Attended and testified at Zoning Board of Appeals WebEx hearings in July, August, and September.
 - l. Communicated with residents, engineers, & 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** –A new, custom device from their partner company has been connected and making successful readings in their BluCloud platform. Additional in house testing is being conducted over the next few weeks and if all goes well, they will deploy a new test unit in one of our wells to test signal strength and operational viability.
4. **MBTA** - Approximately 45.7 gpm 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.
 - a. The MBTA has committed to continue funding the current recharge well solution for the next 10 years.

- b. In an effort to conserve water and limit operational costs, flow rates are slowly being reduced.
 - c. MBTA consultant has provided a proposal for installing a jet grout barrier wall as discussed at the April, 2019 MBTA technical advisory committee meeting. The proposal was reviewed and commented by City-State members. It was determined that the feasibility of the proposal would be a long shot and implementation outweighs the cost-benefit analysis for ultimate goal of saving water and reducing flow rates.
5. **DCR** – Dataloggers are installed in 3 wells to monitor the levels along the Storrow Drive tunnel pump station groundwater recharge system.
- a. The DCR and their consultants continue to work with the DOT on traffic studies in support of a redesign effort for the underpass. Recharge will be part of that redesign and is targeted for upgrade. Potential for a DCR and DOT partnership for repairs. DOT would do construction and then give back to DCR upon completion.
 - b. Along with team members from the DCR and BWSC we visually inspected the recharge galleys along Back Street and verified that both recharge pumps were operational.
 - c. BWSC will be cleaning these galleys since some sediment has built up in the bottom of the galleys.
6. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
- a. In the South End, plans to repair leaks along Clarendon & Gray Streets and Dartmouth and Montgomery Streets are in design. A manhole in Warren Avenue is scheduled to be rehabilitated this month.
 - b. In the North End, at the corner of Richmond and Commercial Streets, repairs were made to manholes but no bump in water levels has been observed. Additional CCTV inspections in Richmond & Commercial Streets & Columbus Park are scheduled.
 - c. In Lower Beacon Hill a leaking manhole at Brimmer and Beacon Streets is scheduled to be rehabilitated later this month.

MWRA – CCTV inspections indicated infiltration at the intersection of Breman and Porter streets in East Boston. MWRA is working with BWSC on a design to replace the regulator at this intersection where low groundwater levels have been observed.