

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
September 9th, 2021

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met in the Heritage 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 4:05 pm.

The following trustees were present:

Mr. Robert Whitney, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Gary Saunders, Back Bay Association
Ms. Angie Liou, Asian Community Development Corporation
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Mr. Greg Galer, Boston Preservation Alliance

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; Mr. Carl Nylén, City Sector Team - Senior Account Manager at Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)

1. Map Upgrade Proposal with Representative from ESRI Inc.

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's current data collection methods, analysis, and posting of groundwater observation well data. Discussion followed. Mr. Carl Nylén then described his company's expertise in GIS/mapping/visualization and went over ESRI's proposal for upgrades to the Trust's data collection methods and described the ESRI groundwater observation well visualization platform. Discussion followed.

Below is an overview of the information presented by Mr. Nylan:

- All Trust groundwater-level and foundation data would be stored in a single repository
- Use of the ESRI environment would allow the BGwT to tap seamlessly into additional City of Boston information for buildings, permits, etc.
- Implementing the ESRI proposal would improve workflow for Trust staff
- Mr. Nylan and his team would work with Mr. Simonelli to migrate existing Trust data into the ESRI environment

Mr. Nylan took questions after the presentation. Discussion followed.

Mr. Saunders, co-chair, moved to authorize the expenditure for the ESRI map upgrade. Ms. Liou, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Discussion followed. The Trustees requested that Mr. Nylan provide a refined start date and project schedule to Mr. Simonelli.

Mr. Galer, Trustee, moved to table Mr. Saunders' motion until the next Trustee's meeting. Mr. Whitney, co-chair, seconded the motion.

Voted: To table the Mr. Saunders' motion until the next Trustee's meeting.

2. **Adoption of July 15th, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Meeting minutes were previously emailed to Board members for review. Mr. Galer noted a misspelling on page 1 of Mr. Saunders' name. Discussion followed.

Mr. Galer moved to adopt the board meeting minutes with the correction to Mr. Saunders' name. Ms. Liou seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the Board Meeting minutes of the July 15th, 2021, meeting.

3. **Financial Report**

Mr. Whitney and Mr. Simonelli reviewed the Trust's financials. Mr. Simonelli noted that the Trust has received its annual funding from the city. Discussion followed.

4. **Draft Ordinance for Legal Representation Update**

Mr. Whitney reviewed the status of the proposed ordinance for Trust legal representation by the City of Boston. Councilors Kenzie Bok, Michael Flaherty, Lydia Edwards, and many others, have joined as co-sponsors of the draft ordinance. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli will update the Board on the Council's next actions on the proposed ordinance.

5. **NABB Amicus Brief Update**

Mr. Whitney reviewed the decision of the Appeals Court in the Perry v. Board of Appeal of Boston case. He stated that it was a pretty good result with respect to the interpretation of Article 32-6. Discussion followed.

6. **City-wide Groundwater Update for Spring/Summer 2022**

Mr. Simonelli expressed his desire to have a City-wide groundwater update sometime next year. He noted the last update was in 2005 at the central branch of the Boston Public Library in Copley Square. Discussion followed.

7. **Executive Director Review Update**

Mr. Whitney stated that all Trustees have been sent review requests. Discussion followed. He stated that along with Mr. Saunders he will follow up with Mr. Simonelli and schedule a review meeting. Discussion followed.

8. **Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report September 9th, 2021*, for a complete list of activities. Discussion followed.

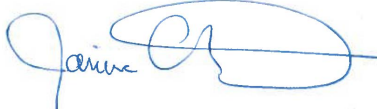
Mr. Galer moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Liou seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 18th, 2021 @ 4:00 pm, at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, 9/10/2021.

Approved 30 September, 2021

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

Janine Commerford, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
September 9th, 2021

1. **Readings** – Started our fifth set of readings for 2021.
2. **Meetings and Calls**–
 - a. Zoomed with proponent for Kenmore and Commonwealth Buildings project. (7/16)
 - b. Attended scoping session via Zoom and wrote a comment letter for the proposed 819 Beacon Street project in Audubon Circle. (7/19)
 - c. Zoomed with proponent for 648 Beacon Street project in Kenmore Square. (7/21)
 - d. Zoomed with all members of the City-State Groundwater Working Group. (7/22) Agency updates are below.
 - e. Attended scoping session (7/14) and public meeting (7/27) via Zoom for the 380 Stuart Street project in the Back Bay.
 - f. Google met with the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) Plans Examiners to review the efforts of the Trust and the revised GCOD zoning established in June. (7/28)
 - g. Google met with the Inspectional Services Department (ISD) Legal and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) personnel to review the efforts of the Trust and the revised GCOD zoning established in June. (7/30)
 - h. Microsoft Teams met with members of the project team for the 380 Stuart Street project in the Back Bay. (7/30)
 - i. I attended the Mayors Coffee Hour in the Back Bay. (8/16)
 - j. Testified via WebEx Zoning Board of Appeals hearings in July and August.
 - k. 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 new units were manufactured and deployed. The units have been removed for maintenance and to standardize the cable length. The plan is to redeploy these units the week of 9/6.
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, Back Bay, South End, and the Fenway.
 - b. In the North End, additional CCTV inspections in Richmond & Commercial Streets revealed leaking joints. Repairs are slated under the Capital Improvement Project with the timeline to be determined. The storm drain within Christopher Columbus Park has been televised and is under review.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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.
5. **MBTA** - Approximately 48 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.
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 from September 18th-28th.