

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
January 21, 2010

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Heritage meeting room, which is located in the Lenox Hotel. The Executive Director posted a meeting notice at City Hall in accordance with provision of the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law. Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm. The following trustees were present, and the Chairman declared that there was a quorum:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC)
Mr. Peter Sherin, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Molly Sherden, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Mr. William Moy, Chinatown Neighborhood Council
Ms. Nancy Grilk, Mayor's office
Ms. Mary Hall, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Mr. Aaron Michlewitz, North End Neighborhood Council

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator; Mr. Matthew Thall, Treasurer of Fensgate Co-op

1. Adoption of the minutes of the November 19, 2009 Meeting

Minutes were distributed to board members for review. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Sherin, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the November 19, 2009 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Ms. Sherden reviewed the BGwT *Financial Report and Reconciliation Detail*. Discussion followed. Ms. Sherden noted that the reports indicate 2 months of finances.

Ms. Sherden noted that the BGwT has money divided into 3 CD's at 24 months, 18 months, and 6 months duration, as indicted under Note 1 of the report. Also, that the interest for each is payable when the CD's mature. Discussion followed.

3. 2009 SEP-IRA Contributions

Mr. Laffer reviewed the BGwT SEP-IRA program for its eligible employees and the Trust's history of contributing 3% of the employees' earnings as stated in their W-2 forms. He also reviewed the amount that a 3% contribution would require and the amount set aside in BGwT's FY2010 budget for retirement contributions.

Ms. Sherden moved to adopt a 3% contribution. Mr. Moy, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To approve the 3% contribution to the Trust employees' SEP-IRA.

4. 2010 Well Installation Program

Mr. Laffer reviewed the 16 Observation Well replacement/installation proposed list. Mr. Laffer noted that 9 of the 16 wells would be replacing older existing wells that the BGwT inherited from various projects at the beginning of the monitoring program. Also, that 2 of the 16 would replace wells previously installed by BGwT that had been damaged or destroyed by unknown parties. The remaining five wells would be new installations in areas where more well density would be helpful in better understanding groundwater levels. The proposed list is attached. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer presented a quote from New Hampshire Boring, Inc. (NHB) to install the wells. Discussion followed. Mr. Laffer also presented a quote received from NHB for the installation of lower cost Geo-probe wells. Discussion followed.

Mr. Shilland, Trustee, suggested the BGwT send out bids to other drillers for this round of well installations. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, moved that the BGwT obtain bids from various drillers for the installation of 16 wells. Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To have the BGwT obtain bids from various drillers for the installation of 16 wells.

5. Focus on Fenway with Updated Piling Cutoff Data

Mr. Simonelli presented what he had found so far in his researching of piling cutoff data and groundwater levels in the Fenway. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert gave an historical background of the Fenway. Discussion followed. Mr. Thall explained his role as Treasurer of the Fensgate Co-op and also provided some historical and current background about the Fenway. Discussion followed.

6. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: January 21, 2010* for a complete list of all activities.

7. Technical Coordinator's Report

BGwT Technical Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli presented his activities since last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical Coordinator's Well Monitoring Update BGwT Meeting: January 21, 2010* for a complete list of all activities.

8. Other Business

Mr. Simonelli noted that he had discovered a statute which indicated what elevation wood piles should be cutoff. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert indicated that he did some research on the reference Mr. Simonelli had found. Discussion followed. Mr. Gilbert suggested the statute be sent to the BGwT Technical Advisory Committee to see if it's still practical to use for present day wooden pile construction. Discussion followed and Mr. Simonelli will send the 1918 statute to the committee for review. He will also post it on the website as a historical document.

Ms. Griik, Trustee, updated the BGwT board on the status of the groundwater brochure that will be sent out to homeowner's in the spring. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 18, 2010 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator, on 1/22/10.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Galen Gilbert".

Galen Gilbert, Secretary

BGwT: Spring 2010 Replacement/Proposed OW's

Clearway St. (2)
Replacements for 22I-1879 and 22I-2615A

Worcester St. (1)
Replacing dry well 21J-1584

Blagden St. (1)
Replacing destroyed well 22J-0217

Corner Berkeley St. & St. James Ave. (1)
Replacing plugged well 23J-2563

Corner Berkeley St. & Boylston St. (1)
Replacing inconsistent 23J-1894

Arlington St. (1)
Replacing inconsistent 22J-0624

Corner Arlington St. & Columbus Ave. (1)
New OW

Corner Berkeley St. & Boylston St. (1)
New OW

Union Park (1)
Replacing plugged 21J-2155

Albany St. (1)
Replacing destroyed 21K-2273

Corner of Tufts St. and South St. (1)
Replacing plugged 23K-2041 and 23K-2042

Lincoln St. (1)
Replacing plugged 23K-1955

Kneeland St. (2)
New OW's

Newbury St., Arlington St. – Berkeley St. Block (1)
New OW

A total of 16 OW's

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
January 21, 2010

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Group will meet again on January 28.
2. **MBTA** – The T is trying to determine the cause of a reduction in groundwater level at their Copley Station construction site in front of the Boston Public Library. The level at an observation well monitored by their contractor has dropped below 3 BCB.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC is working on repairs to a drain line in Commercial Street to attempt to raise levels in that part of the North End. They are continuing investigative work in a CSO line in Dartmouth Street to try to determine the cause of low groundwater levels centering on the intersection of Dartmouth and Beacon Streets. BWSC has begun repairs to sewers in four alleys in the residential section of Back Bay; the repairs will also include recharge systems similar to those installed in the Fenway and under Back Street.
4. **GCOD** – GCOD compliance continues to be excellent. The Board of Appeals has ruled on over 160 applications, with only two not being able to completely comply with recharge requirements. Over 80 recharge systems are installed and operating.
5. **Research Project** – Professor Vogel at Tufts reported that they are making some good progress in their efforts to evaluate the impact of groundwater recharge. He expects to get us an interim report by the end of January. Final results are expected this summer.
6. **Website** – Traffic to the website continues high. Our consultant has repaired the glitches that interrupted availability of the interactive map. All minutes of trustees' meetings since I joined the Trust in August 2004 are now posted. We are also posting the agenda of the upcoming trustees' meeting about a week in advance.
7. **Meetings** – I attended the BWSC public meeting on the Back Bay alley sewer work. I also met with the consultants for Boston Medical Center about the best locations for the recharge system and new observation well to be installed in connection with their new power plant project.
8. **Comment Letters** – I commented to both the BRA and MEPA on the DPIR/DEIR for the Seaport Square project in South Boston. The comments are posted on our website.
9. **Vacation** – I will be out of the office February 15-19. I will periodically check voicemail and email during that period.

**TECHNICAL & RECHARGE
COORDINATOR'S UPDATE
BGwT Meeting: January 21, 2010**

WELL MONITORING

The BGwT's latest set of readings are indicated below.
In lieu of the termination of our co-op Xavier D'Ambrosio I took over well readings.

Wells were read from Nov. 9 – Dec. 3, 2009

There are currently 703 wells in the West network. Of the 703 wells read:

- 52 wells @ elevation >9'
- 119 wells @ elevation 7'-9'
- 286 wells @ elevation 5'- 7'
- 191 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 29 wells @ elevation <3'
- 2 wells @ Dry
- 24 wells @ no reading
- 69 Recharge Locations

We have read 85 wells in the East network (East Boston Area).
Wells were read in East Boston on Nov. 9, 2009. Of the 85 wells read:

- 19 wells @ elevation >9'
- 24 wells @ elevation 7'-9'
- 12 wells @ elevation 5'- 7'
- 7 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 7 wells @ elevation <3'
- 12 wells @ Dry
- 4 wells @ no reading

NOTE: We are continuously reading the well network and started a new set of readings on Tuesday January 12, 2010 with our new co-op Robert Tully from Wentworth Institute of Technology.

LEVELLOGGERS

- We continue to upload dataloggers at the following locations on a weekly basis:
 - 1 on Saint Charles St. and 2 on Cazenove St.
 - 5 on Beacon St., in the Berkeley to Clarendon St. block
 - 4 along the Storrow Drive Underpass
- 4 out the 5 loggers on Beacon St. will be removed and placed in wells in Back Bay closest to the alleys that BWSC are replacing lines and installing recharge systems

CONTOURS

- We continue to generate contours for all areas of our well network. Elliott and I have reviewed them with our technical committee.
- We will continue to receive the contours from BWSC and will be sending them our contours for comparison.

ISD RESEARCH

- We continue to look for building permits and any underpinned buildings.
- I continue working on the Fenway and South End.

RECHARGE

- I have been looking at permeable pavers. The BGwT has received information and samples about a product called Permapave. I am currently comparing Permapave to KBI Flexi-Pave and will have a comparison of the two up on the site. Elliott and I also shared this information with our technical committee and we received good input from them.
- I'm also working introduction for our new Recharge tab on the site. It will explain my role with the BGwT, how I am here to assist homeowners, and what the benefit of Recharge is for the homeowner.