

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)  
BOARD MEETING  
January 19, 2012

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, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay  
Mr. Peter Sherin, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce  
Mr. Jim Hunt, Mayor's Office  
Ms. Nancy Grilk, City of Boston  
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association  
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC)

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator; Stuart Rosenberg, City Councilor Felix Arroyo's Office; Elizabeth Dello Russo, Esq., City of Boston Law Department; Catherine Lizotte, Esq., City of Boston Law Department

**1. Adoption of the minutes of the November 17, 2012 Meeting**

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

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

**Voted:** To accept the minutes of the November 17, 2012 meeting.

**2. Financial Report**

In lieu of Ms. Sherden, Trustee, absence Mr. Laffer reviewed the BGwT *Balance Sheet Detail*. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer noted that a 9 month CD earning 1.3% was purchased at Hingham Savings Bank by Ms. Sherden. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sherin noted that he had some difficulty following the new format of the financial report. Discussion followed.

**3. Potential Recharge Demonstration Project**

Mr. Hunt distributed a final draft copy of the City's Groundwater Brochure that is set to be mailed to over 25,000 of the City's residents. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hunt, Trustee discussed the possibility of the City installing a pervious brick sidewalk as a pilot project. Mr. Hunt expressed interest in the City partnering with the Trust on this project. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, (along with the other board members present) expressed interest in participating in this potential demonstration project. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hunt also noted that in addition to the pervious Brick sidewalk, the Trust could also potentially participate in the City Green Alley project at some point. Discussion followed.

**4. Change of Office Location in By-Laws**

Mr. Laffer noted that the address of the Trust office needed to be updated in the by-laws to reflect the correct current location of 229 Berkeley Street Suite 410. Discussion followed.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize updating the address in the by-laws.

**Voted:** To authorize updating the address in the by-laws.

**5. 2011 SEP-IRA Contribution**

Mr. Laffer reviewed the annual contribution to the Trust employees SEP-IRA accounts. He noted that the budgeted amount was \$4,000. In the past the Trust has voted to contribute 3% of eligible employee earnings as included in their W-2 forms; for 2011, that would amount \$4,478.42. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sherin moved to contribute 3% of earnings to the SEP-IRA accounts. Mr. Hunt seconded the motion.

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

**6. Conflict of Interest Policy/Special Municipal Employee Status**

Mrs. Elizabeth Dello Russo, Esq., and Ms. Catherine Lizotte, Esq., reviewed the state conflict of interest law, M.G.L. c. 268A with members of the board. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Dello Russo, Esq., and Ms. Lizotte, Esq, highlighted the following:

- The law as it applies to Special Municipal Employees (which the board members have been designated). Discussion followed.
- Trust employees are not Special Municipal Employees and therefore are not subject to this law. Discussion followed.
- Two new requirements of the law. 1.) Annual summary of the law must be distributed to all covered employees. 2.) Every two years a 25 question online conflict of interest training & test must be taken by the covered employees. Discussion followed.
- The law and how it applies to members of the Trust's Technical Advisory Committee. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Dello Russo, Esq., and Ms. Lizotte Esq., also answered a number of questions asked by various board members.

It was decided that Mrs. Dello Russo, Esq., will meet with Mr. Laffer to further review the law and how it applies to the Trust. Discussion followed.

**7. New Interactive Map Demonstration**

Mr. Simonelli demonstrated the Trust's new well location and readings map to the board. The new map is Google Maps based and was launched on Friday, January 13, 2012. Discussion followed.

**8. Executive Director's Report**

BGWT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: January 19, 2012* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

**9. Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Report**

BGWT Technical & Recharge Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli reviewed his activities since last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Update BGWT Meeting: January 19, 2012* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

**10. Other Business**

Mr. Gilbert, Trustee mentioned that he observed a pile driver on the new Berklee College of Music project site located at 168 Massachusetts Avenue. He wondered if the project was driving wood piles. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli stated that he will investigate and get back to the board.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: March 22, 2012 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.**

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGWT Technical & Recharge Coordinator, on 1/20/12.

Respectfully submitted,



Galen Gilbert

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**January 19, 2012**

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in January.
2. **MBTA** – Jim Lambrechts of our Technical Advisory Committee, Christian, and I met with the T's consultants to review their progress on studies that are to lead to a long term plan for addressing low groundwater levels in the South End near Back Bay Station. They have developed a lot of information about the likely causes of low groundwater levels and are hoping to add a few more pieces before developing plans to address the problem.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC has discontinued recharge on Dartmouth Street because of the advent of freezing weather. The repair project is out for bid, with the work anticipated to take place this spring.
4. **MassDOT** – Rick McCullough of MassDOT personally inspected a long section of the drain pipe from the Prudential tunnel along with one of the MBTA's consultants. They discovered three significant leaks in the pipe and MassDOT has committed to a rapid repair. It is very possible that these leaks influenced the low groundwater levels in sections of Bay Village near the Turnpike.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. At least 148 recharge systems are in, have been inspected by BWSC, and are operating.
6. **Website** – The new interactive map went live on Jan. 13. We have received several compliments on the improved presentation. Christian has already had occasion to use the version for smartphones while taking well readings.
7. **Meetings** – Christian and I met with consultants for projects at the New England Conservatory and at the main YMCA on Huntington Avenue. We also attended a scoping session on the New England Conservatory.

**TECHNICAL & RECHARGE  
COORDINATOR'S UPDATE  
BGwT Meeting: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**WELL MONITORING**

Our well network was last read from November 4<sup>th</sup> - December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We started new set of readings on Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**WELL READER**

I have taken over reading the well network. In discussions with Elliott I felt that I will be able to incorporate this into my weekly tasks. Elliott and I will see how it goes and make any adjustments to this new protocol going forward.

**DATA LOGGERS**

16 of our 22 of our data loggers are deployed throughout the west zone. I upload the following loggers on a weekly basis:

**Storrow Drive**

- 5 from Embankment Rd. - Clarendon St.
- Levels in these well are the highest they been since 2001 when we started monitoring them

**Dartmouth Street**

- 8 from Beacon St. – Commonwealth Ave.
- BWSC has made repairs to the leaky manhole and ceased injecting water.
- Additional repairs are scheduled for early spring 2012
- We will keep these loggers in place until the levels in this area come back up

**Ellis Neighborhood**

- 1 on Saint Charles St. and 2 on Cazenove St.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Elliott & I met with Terese Kwiatkowski, GZA, Michael Powers, GZA, Robert Palermo, GZA, Bashir Madamidola, MBTA (part-time), and James Lambrechts, Wentworth Institute of Technology. We discussed and reviewed information about the area by Back Bay Station.
- Elliott & I met with the members of the Technical Advisory Committee. We reviewed a number of items. Most notably Dartmouth St and the MBTA's efforts in Ellis Neighborhood.
- Elliott & I met with Hayes and Associates to review a couple of proposed rehabs that triggered GCOD.
- Elliott & I met with developers representing the New England Conservatory of Music to discuss their plans for two new buildings. Additionally we attended a scoping session for the project.
- Elliott & I met with a representative for the project at 316 Huntington Avenue.
- Continued to write comment letter drafts on past projects and review them with Elliott.
- Along with John Kastrinos of Haley & Aldrich, Elliott and I presented to members of H&A's staff and updated them on the Trust's efforts. Elliott focused on GCOD while I focused on the BGWT's website and well network.
- Continued work on a Recharge presentation that can be made to the public which illustrates different types of recharge and the benefits to the homeowner. It will be ready to present at the next trustees board meeting.
- Elliott and I coordinated with Jessica Zichichi on setting up the new version of the BGWT map. The map is Google maps based and now has the ability to be viewed on Tablets and smartphones as well as traditional desktops.
- In the process of obtaining quotes from two vendors on the purchase of 25 new dataloggers.