

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
July 21, 2011

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. Saunders, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:09 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Ms. Molly Sherden, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC)
Mr. Jim Hunt, Mayor's Office
Ms. Nancy Grilk, City of Boston

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator; Anne M. Pistorio, North End Water Front Residents Association (NEWRA) Groundwater Working Group; Lee Humphrey; 169 Commonwealth Avenue, Jerry Nuzzo; 169 Commonwealth Avenue

1. Adoption of the minutes of the May 26, 2011 Meeting

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

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

Voted: To accept the minutes of the May 26, 2011 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Ms. Sherden reviewed the BGwT *Financial Report and Reconciliation Detail*. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, inquired about computer equipment that was purchased by Mr. Laffer and asked if it was working properly. Mr. Laffer noted that the equipment has been working just fine. He also noted that one datalogger has been sent out for evaluation since it was not functioning.

Mr. Hunt noted that one of the CD's is set to expire in November. Ms. Sherden noted that she has contacted 5 different financial institutions about CD's but that all of the rates are below 1%. The board suggested Ms. Sherden check with some new financial institutions that are opening in the Back Bay. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, inquired about the Trust putting money into the annuity market. Mr. Saunders noted that annuities are not insured by the FDIC and values are based upon market fluctuations. Discussion followed.

3. **2011 Well Installation Program**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the installation of the 12 wells. He also noted that 13 wells were proposed for installation. However, one well could not be installed due to contamination at the site. Mr. Simonelli noted that he contacted the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and filed a report. Mr. Hunt noted that Mr. Simonelli should also notify the Public Improvements Commission (PIC) of the contamination. Mr. Simonelli will notify PIC. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached *Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Update BGwT Meeting: July 21, 2011* for a description of the 2011 well installation program.

4. **Dartmouth Street Update**

Mr. Laffer reviewed the ongoing efforts of BWSC to address the low levels on Dartmouth Street. Mr. Laffer highlighted the following;

- Dye tests have been ongoing but the dye has not showed up in any BWSC infrastructure yet
- Two new injection wells will be installed on Monday July 25, 2011. One replacing BGwT 23J-0826 @ Dartmouth St. & Alley 419. The second will be replacing OW 23J-0812; adjacent to 330 Dartmouth St.
- BWSC used BGwT OW 23J-0826 for dye testing. The well silted up and BWSC will be installing an injection well in its place that later can serve as an observation well for the BGwT
- Mr. Laffer noted that this will be discussed at next week's City-State Groundwater Working Group

Mr. Mitchell, co-chair inquired about BWSC blocking flow to check for leaks in the bottom of the pipes. Mr. Laffer indicated that BWSC would have a very difficult time doing this so they are opting for the injections wells with subsequent dye tests. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hunt asked how long the Dartmouth Street area has been low. Mr. Laffer noted that it has been low twice, once, just before he arrived in 2004, and then again since 2007. He noted that a manhole was fixed in 2004 and the levels came back up. The levels dropped again in 2007 and haven't recovered since despite several repairs by BWSC. Discussion followed. Mr. Hunt indicated that he would not be at next week's City/State meeting but that he would reach out to BWSC before then. Discussion followed.

Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Nuzzo inquired about the rate of decay in piles. Discussion followed.

5. Executive Director's Report

BGWT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: July 21, 2011* for a complete list of all activities.

6. Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Report

BGWT Technical & Recharge Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli presented his activities since last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Update BGWT Meeting: July 21, 2011* for a complete list of all activities.

7. Other Business

Mr. Hunt noted the city is looking into tree pit installations as a means of recharge. He passed around a picture and spec of a possible design. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert suggested that Mr. Simonelli look into the amount of recharging going into the ground and greenspace that precipitation can infiltrate. He asked that we seek ways of quantifying recharging efforts other than amount of time worked.

Mr. Gilbert asked the staff to arrange a walking tour of East Boston for the Trustees.

Upon completion of other business the BGWT board entered into an Executive Session.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session the board resumed business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 21, 2011 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGWT Technical Coordinator, on 7/22/11.

Respectfully submitted



Galen Gilbert, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
July 21, 2011

1. **Well Installation** – We have completed our well installations for 2011. We were able to install 12 of the projected 13 wells. We were pleased with the new contractor that we used this year. The wells will be read for the first time in the cycle now under way.
2. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again next week.
3. **MBTA** – The MBTA has given GZA Environmental authorization to proceed on the Tunnel Repair design contract. Design of the long term solution for low groundwater levels in the South End near Back Bay Station will be one of the first items to be addressed.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC is continuing intensive efforts to isolate the cause of low groundwater in the area of Dartmouth Street in the Back Bay. They will be installing two new injection wells next week to allow them to put more dye into the ground and have purchased additional equipment to allow them to observe dye in low light conditions.
5. **MassDOT** – MassDOT plans to begin the cleaning and inspection of the drain line serving the Prudential Tunnel of the Turnpike shortly. This will be the first cleanout of the drain line since the extension was built over 50 years ago. It may well reveal potential causes of low groundwater levels in several areas adjacent to the Turnpike and its ramps.
6. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD remains excellent. We continue to work with project proponents to help them meet the requirements in the most economical way. The support of the Board of Appeals, ISD, the Mayor's Office, and the BRA has been critical in making this an important part of the approval process for projects. There has been a very small number of projects that have been granted variances, all for very good technical reasons.
7. **Technical Advisory Committee** – The Technical Advisory Committee will be meeting this summer to take a fresh look at those hot spots where we have been unable to pinpoint a likely cause. BWSC has provided us with additional information and drawings to let the group better understand infrastructure details in the hot spot areas.
8. **Website** – We will be working on an upgrade to the interactive map that will be designed to make it easier to use and also allow easier upgrading in the future. We also hope to make the map more user friendly for those with tablet computers and no mouse. This should be in place early in the fall.
9. **Meetings** – I attended a meeting at the PIC on the recharge system that will be installed as part of the construction of the Avalon Bay Exeter Street tower at the Prudential Center.
10. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on the Institutional Master plan Notification Form for Emmanuel College. As always, these are posted on our website.

**TECHNICAL & RECHARGE
COORDINATOR'S UPDATE
BGwT Meeting: July 21st, 2011**

WELL MONITORING

Our well network was last read from June 16th–July 12th. We started new set of readings on Friday July 15th.

WELL INSTALLATIONS

I cleared for utilities and installed wells from June 15th–July 7th. Below are the specifics:

- 12 of the 13 proposed wells were installed
- The one well not installed was by 30 Embankment Road (proposed OW #24J-0515). Our driller encountered oil at 18' and we abandoned the location. I notified the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of our discovery and they documented the incident.
- Overall Geo-Logic performed excellent work. Their vac and drilling crews were well schooled in drilling and were conscientious of working in an urban environment.
- In addition to having their vac truck Geo-Logic also provides a mobile drill rig. We used this rig for 4 wells that were in an alley and on narrow sidewalks/streets.
- I'm waiting on an invoice from Geo-Logic. According to the footage and police detail hours I have, we installed the 12 wells for around \$32K. Our contract estimate was for just over \$38K. Therefore, I see the final number somewhere in between these two.

DATA LOGGERS

16 of our 24 of our data loggers are deployed throughout the west zone. I upload the following loggers on a weekly basis:

- 5 along Storrow Drive from Embankment Rd. - Clarendon St.
- 8 along Dartmouth Street from Beacon St. – Commonwealth Ave.
- 1 on Saint Charles St. and 2 on Cazenove St.
- 2 adjacent to the Southwest Corridor Alignment on Berkeley St.

The remaining loggers have been shut down. We do have an issue with one logger and that has been sent out for evaluation.

MISCELLANEOUS

Elliott and I met with Para Jayasinghe and Amy Cording of public works. We discussed providing the city our well locations in order to prevent contractors from destroying wells when sidewalk work is executed. I will coordinate with Ms. Cording on this.

While Elliott was away I attended board of appeals on Tuesday July 14th. I testified that we received the Article 32 Compliance letter from BWSC for #14 Brimmer Street.

BWSC will be installing two injection wells on Dartmouth Street. I reviewed the specifics with Chris Sayers of BWSC.

CONTOURS

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