

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
May 14th, 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 4:08 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 caimonelli@bgwt.org or via Twitter by tagging the Twitter handle @BOSTONGWT and using the hashtag #MAY2020MTG.

The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Back Bay Association
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Ms. Amelia Croteau, City of Boston, Conservation Commission
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Mr. Greg Galer, Boston Preservation Alliance
Ms. Leah Camhi, Fenway Community Development Corporation
Mr. Robert Whitney, Beacon Hill Civic Association

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director

1. Adoption of January 16th, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

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

Voted: To accept the Board Meeting minutes of the January 16th, 2020 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the latest financial reconciliations and noted that the Trust received its annual funding contribution from the Boston Water & Sewer Commission. Discussion followed. Mr. Whitney, Treasurer, provided a summary of the Trust’s investment portfolio and performance since 2016. Discussion followed. The Board suggested that Mr. Whitney review the investment structure with the Trust’s portfolio’s advisor and report back to the Board in July. Discussion followed.

3. FY 2021 Budget Review

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the proposed FY 2021 budget. He noted that based on discussions with Mr. Rory Cuddyer, Chief of Staff for the City of Boston Environment Department, he expects that the Trust will receive a level-funding appropriation from the City of Boston. Ms. Croteau, Trustee, stated that she confirmed this appropriation as well. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli reviewed the proposed technical research, public awareness and automated readings projects that may be considered for funding in the upcoming fiscal year (FY2021) under the draft reserves budget. Discussion followed. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, noted that financial commitment to any of the projects would need to be brought to the Board for review and approval. Discussion followed.

Mr. Whitney, Treasurer, moved to adopt the FY 2021 budget; Mr. Saunders, co-chair, seconded the motion.

Voted: To adopt the FY 2021 budget.

4. Well Readings Update

Mr. Simonelli updated the Board on when observation well readings would resume. He stated that the plan is to resume readings once the stay-at-home advisory for Covid-19 is lifted. He noted that Field Engineer(s) will be equipped with the appropriate safety equipment and follow the required protocol for well readings and social distancing guidelines set by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Discussion followed.

5. Development of BGwT Operating Manual

Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, provided background on the development of an operating manual for the Trust, to ensure that the organization's documents, processes, methods, etc. are catalogued and documented. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that he initially contacted consultant Ann Donner in mid-February for a cost and scope proposal for development of an operating manual. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli reviewed the draft of Ms. Donner's proposed operating manual with the Board. Discussion followed. The Board provided comments and suggested Mr. Simonelli complete the operating manual.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Update on Annual Personnel Review Process

Co-Chair Saunders moved that the Board enter Executive Session for the purpose of providing an update on the annual personnel process for the Executive Director, and reconvene in open session for the Board meeting upon adjournment of the Executive Session. Trustee Shilland, seconded the motion.

Voted: To enter Executive Session, for the purpose of providing an update on the annual personnel process for the Executive Director, and reconvene in open session for the Board meeting upon adjournment of the Executive Session.

Mr. Simonelli turned over Zoom hosting responsibilities to Ms. Croteau, Trustee, who placed Mr. Simonelli in a virtual waiting room for the duration of the executive session.

7. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report May 14th, 2020* for a complete list of activities.

8. Other Business

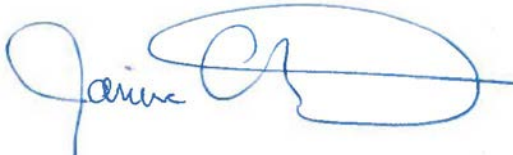
Mr. Simonelli asked if the Trustees had comments on the meeting packet he had distributed to them via email in March. Mr. Galer, Trustee, indicated the organizational timeline of the Trust was helpful and suggested that the next meeting have an agenda item dedicated to discussion regarding the establishment of the Trust and its current relationship with the City of Boston. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 9th, 2020 @ 4:00 pm, location to be determined.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 5/19/2020.

Approved 5 June 2020



J. Commerford, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 14th, 2020

1. **Readings** – Currently on pause until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
2. **In Person and Virtual Meetings** –
 - a. Met with Luke Gray, MIT BS '18 MS '20 PhD Candidate, to discuss researching a potential alternative to underpinning. (3/11)
 - b. Met with James Heiss, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences at Umass Lowell, to discuss sea level rise and the potential tidal and biological effect on groundwater. (3/12)
 - c. Zoomed with Ann Donner, Ann Donner Consulting, to review draft outline of business contingency plan. (3/25)
 - d. Spoke with Mike Atwood of Haley & Aldrich about projects located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD). (3/27)
 - e. Spoke with Johanna Margaretha Engels, graduate student at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, about researching and comparing building structures in Boston to the Netherlands. (3/30)
 - f. Spoke with Bryan Glascock, Deputy Director for Regulatory Planning and Zoning at the BPDA, about the Boylston Street Overlay district and rehab concept in the Fenway. (4/1)
 - g. Zoomed with Luke Gray, to review his draft of a potential alternative to underpinning. (4/1)
 - h. Spoke with Trustee Croteau about hosting Zoom meetings. (4/16)
 - i. Spoke with Giuliana Zelada-Tumialan and Steven Keppel of Simpson, Gumpertz, & Heger to discuss an October, 2020 presentation to the company and establishment of a universal foundation information database. (4/23)
 - j. Spoke with Daniel McCormack, Justin Comeau, & Ashu Pathak of BluCloud, Inc. to discuss the abandonment of their remote monitoring solution. (4/24)
 - k. Zoomed with co-chair's Tim Mitchell and Gary Saunders to review draft of business contingency plan. (4/27)
 - l. Spoke with Tal Avrahami, Ayyeka Technologies, about a potential remote monitoring solution for observation wells. (5/4 & 5/7)
 - m. Spoke with Barbara Boylan, Vice President The Druker Company, Ltd., about 350 Boylston Street project. (5/4)
 - n. Spoke with residents, engineers, & developers throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to provide us to meet the zoning.
3. **BluCloud** – After a promising start, our 5 unit automated readings project has been terminated. Several technical difficulties and the company shuttering its doors resulted in the project ending.
4. **MBTA** - Approximately 45.4 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 is currently in a comment period.
- 5. **DCR** – Dataloggers are installed in 3 wells to monitor the levels along the Storrow Drive tunnel pump station groundwater recharge system and assure that they remain in their usual range. 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.
- 6. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
 - a. In the South End, additional CCTV inspections have shown new areas of infiltration in sewers, manholes, and laterals. They have submitted these findings to their internal engineering design team and to include the repairs in their 2019-2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
 - b. In the North End, at the corner of Richmond and Commercial Streets, repairs were made to manholes but so far no bump in water levels. Additional CCTV inspections in Richmond & Commercial Streets & Columbus Park are planned.
 - c. In the Stuart Street area of the Back Bay, between Berkeley and Dartmouth Streets, sewers and manholes indicated areas of infiltration. Repairs were made in mid-June but no change has been observed in the groundwater levels. BWSC to follow-up with additional CCTV inspections. In addition, they will coordinate with building owners in the area to conduct on-site inspections.
 - d. In the Fenway, at Boylston and Kilmarnock Streets, infiltration was observed. BWSC to has filed change work order to current construction contract to push up the repair and have it included in their 2019-2021 CIP.
- 7. **MWRA** – CCTV inspections indicated infiltration at the intersection of Breman and Porter streets in East Boston. MWRA is coordinating with BWSC on the next steps to divert flow and inspect the entire regulating structure at this intersection.