

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
April 27, 2006
The Lenox Hotel – Patriot Room

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust was called order at 4:04pm in the Patriot Room at The Lenox Hotel. The meeting notice was posted at City Hall in accordance with provision of the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law.

Trustees in attendance, comprising a quorum, were:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corp.
Mr. James Stetson, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Paul Chan, Greater Boston Real Estate Board
Ms. Nancy Grilk, Mayor's office

Also present were:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator; Irene Burns; resident of 49 Winchester St; Susan Burns; resident of 49 Winchester St.

1. Adoption of the minutes of the March 22, 2006 Meeting

Minutes were distributed to board members for review.

Trustee Stetson moved to adopt the minutes. Trustee Gilbert seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the March 22, 2006.

2. Finance Report

With the absence of Trustee Sherin, BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer reviewed the BGwT *Financial Report and reconciliation detail*. Discussion followed.

3. City-State Groundwater Working Group

Mr. Laffer reviewed the meeting of the city-state groundwater working group that took place on April 13, 2006. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: April 27, 2006*, for a summary of the various topics covered at the meeting.

4. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report and reviewed his activities since the last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: April 27, 2006*, for a complete list of all activities.

5. Technical Coordinator's Report

BGWT Technical Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli presented his activities of the past month. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical Coordinator's Well Monitoring & Installation Report BGWT Meeting: April 27, 2006* for a complete list of what was distributed and presented.

6. **Technical Outreach Committee Report**

Mr. Laffer reported on the meeting of the committee. Discussion followed.

7. **Chestnut Street/DCR Litigation**

Trustee Gilbert asked Trustee Stetson to elaborate on the [status](#) of the Chestnut Street/DCR litigation. Discussion followed.

Trustee Mitchell noted the agreement that the BGWT has with the DCR with regards to prohibiting discussion about this litigation. Trustee Mitchell suggested the board cease discussion on this topic. Discussion ended.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday June 8, 2006 @ 4:00pm in the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGWT Technical Coordinator, on 04/28/06.

Respectfully Submitted

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

Galen Gilbert, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 27, 2006

1. **City/State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met on April 13. The attendance remains excellent, with all parties engaged in open and serious discussion of the issues. Specific agency reports are included below.
2. **Andrew Gottlieb** – The Governor has appointed Andrew Gottlieb as the new Secretary of Commonwealth Development, replacing Doug Foy. Andrew cochairs the City-State Groundwater Working Group with Jim Hunt and has been instrumental in getting the state agencies to focus on groundwater issues. This appointment will assure that groundwater issues continue to get high level focus from the Romney Administration.
3. **Funding** – The BWSC Board has approved a \$25,000 contribution to BGwT for 2006. We should receive the check within a week. The City Council has received the Mayor's budget that includes full funding for our request for FY2007; as of now, it does not look like any of the Environment Dept requests will be subject to a hearing, and there should be no problem with the request at the Council.
4. **Zoning** – I will be meeting with Jim Hunt, Nancy Grilk, ISD, and ZBA next week to discuss how we can best expedite those projects that require no other zoning relief besides the conditional use permit under GCOD so that they don't have to face the regular wait for a ZBA hearing, now 4-6 months. Jim Hunt and I presented information about GCOD and the decision process on its potential extension to the study areas at a meeting in East Boston on April 10; we will be doing the same in the North End on May 4.
5. **BWSC** – Final repairs to the new sewer and recharge installation in the alley behind Hemenway Street were completed in early April and should show results in our next readings. The Back Street project, which will include relining some sections and rebuilding others, with a recharge system for the rebuilt sections, should be advertised for construction later this spring. The West Side Interceptor will be relined between the Dartmouth/Beacon and Charles/Revere intersections from June through August; the contract has been awarded. They have discovered additional leaks in the St. James Avenue sewer beyond the end of the recent work and will be repairing these as well, including a significant leak in a cross connection near Clarendon Street. They expected to get authorization at last week's board meeting for a contract to inspect all sewers in areas where groundwater is below 5 feet, generally a television inspection except for a walkthrough in a few larger sewers.
6. **DCR** – DCR has filed the Environmental Notification Form for the Storrow Drive underpass project. They have committed to the installation of a system to recharge any water that would be drained from a tunnel structure or any drains under it to the land side of the seawall. One study alternative is a surface road, in which case there would be neither drains nor recharge system. DCR also held a public meeting on the underpass on March 27 at which they discussed the various alternatives they have been looking at and again stated their commitment that the

new construction would be designed so that it could not worsen the groundwater situation. Comment on the ENF is due in June.

7. **MBTA** – The T offered a detailed plan for a process to design the system to attempt to raise groundwater levels in the St. Charles St area. They have engaged Steve Poulos as their engineer to consult on the system; he has been tasked with offering ideas to a technical subcommittee of the Working Group by its next meeting in July. Mr. Poulos has begun his investigations and will be installing an additional monitoring well and doing geotechnical studies on Chandler Street near the MBTA structure to help in his studies. We will get the use of the new well after the T has completed using it. The T Board has approved the Capital Improvement Plan that includes \$2.97 million for groundwater related work; the bulk of this money is scheduled to be spent in FY08, but they are trying to expedite some of the funds to allow work to proceed more quickly.
8. **MTA** – The MTA found a small leak (about 1 gallon/minute) in a Callahan Tunnel abutment near North Street; it should be repaired within 4-6 weeks. There were no leaks around Sumner Tunnel connections in the North End. They expect to take bids for repair of the leak in the drain near Herald Street within four weeks.
9. **Chandler Street** – A substantial reduction in well readings in the Chandler/Tremont Street area was revealed by our data loggers in February. Both MTA and MBTA have done some investigation and have not found a cause. Investigation will continue.
10. **East Boston** – MWRA investigated their pipes near the low point on Porter Street. Their large pipe was recently relined and found to be tight. They have an 18 inch clay pipe that shows some cracks near the crown; they have not yet been able to determine the condition near the bottom. The elevations of their pipes line up pretty closely with the groundwater levels that we have measured, so they will continue their investigation.
11. **St. Charles St** – It is unclear whether the money in the MBTA budget will be in addition to that planned for the supplemental budget. The budget remains on hold behind other legislative business.
12. **Well Installation** – We are beginning the installation process for the remaining 137 wells this week. Christian, Jim Lambrechts and I met with Jim Hunt and Nancy Grilks to discuss changes we should make in the original layout to accommodate the need for data to help in decisions on extending the GCOD. Nancy then coordinated a meeting for Christian and me with BTM and MTA to discuss some locations where we asked to hold off on installations last year. Modifications to the planned installations were made after those meetings. We will complete our work in the North End/Waterfront area first, then proceed back to East Boston, and finally wrap up with fill in locations in Back Bay, Fenway, and finally the South End.
13. **City Council Hearing** – The City Council has scheduled a hearing on groundwater issues for 6:00 PM on May 18 at the Council Chambers. This is a follow up to last fall's hearing at the BPL and responds to the request from Citywide GET that the Council hold hearings every six months to keep track of the efforts around the groundwater issue.

- 14. Website** – Traffic on the website in April has continued at a high level, with visits trailing only March. We will be posting the results of our data logger readings shortly. They will be separate from the regular map readings.
- 15. EPA Grant** – Nancy Grilk is finalizing the details of the grant application, which should be completed shortly. I've been working with her. It is still the City's intention that the Trust will implement projects funded by the grant.
- 16. Press** – There were no new press articles this month.
- 17. Comment Letters** – I filed comments on projects at 79 Chandler Street and 285 Columbus Avenue. They are posted on the website. I expect to file comments shortly on the South Station Air Rights project, as well as additional comments on Lovejoy Wharf and new comments on a project at 316-322 Summer Street.
- 18. 501(c)3** – We are still waiting for approval from the IRS on our filing. There has been no comment since we filed our return.
- 19. Funding** – The BWSC Board voted last week to approve a \$25,000 donation to the Trust. We should receive the check within a week. Funding from the Columbus Center and Clarendon projects will pass through the BRA after the projects get their building permits.

*TECHNICAL COORDINATOR'S
WELL MONITORING & INSTALLATION
UPDATE*

BGwT Meeting: April 27, 2006

WELL MONITORING

The BGwT's latest set of readings were taken from March 27 - April 10, 2006. There are currently 650 wells in the BGwT's network.

Of the 650 wells read:

- 115 Wells @ elevation >7'
- 285 wells @ elevation 5'- 7'
- 156 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 70 wells @ elevation <3'
- 24 wells @ no reading

LEVELOGGERS

Data that was collected from Group 1 wells from January 11 - March 1, 2006 has been sent to the webmaster to be posted.

The loggers have been removed from Group 1 well locations and were placed into Group 2 well locations on March 10, 2006. Data will be uploaded from these well locations beginning the week of May 1, 2006.

Groups are created from the evaluation of data by the BGwT Technical Committee.

(NOTE: To see which wells are included in the Groups refer to the attached list at the end of this report)

The Levelogger unit that was sent out to Geotech for service has been replaced. The product was under warranty and we should be receiving it shortly.

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INSTALLATIONS

180 Contract resumed on 4/26/06 with the Vac Truck clearing locations. We will begin installing wells on 5/3/06.

137 wells are left to be installed. We have started in the North End/Fanueil Hall area. We will then move into East Boston and finish out in the Back Bay/South End/Fenway area's.

GROUPS OF LEVELOGGERS

<u>GROUP 1</u>	<u>GROUP 2</u>
24J-2528	24J-2389
23J-0255	24J-2475
23J-0264	24J-2542
23J-0324	24J-2554
23J-0888	24J-2651
23J-2448	24J-2712
22J-0365	23J-0213
22J-0685	23J-1996
22J-1349	23J-2020
22J-1365	23J-2693
22J-1911	23J-2754
21J-0482	22J-0586
21J-1054	22J-0674
22I-0899	22J-1883
22I-2726	22J-2716
22I-2771	21J-0564

22I-2778	21J-0576
22I-2859	21J-0582
22I-2867	21I-2196
22I-2899	22I-1879
21I-0534	22I-2359
21I-0681G	22I-2485
22K-2212	21I-0277
21I-0451	21I-0896