

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)  
BOARD MEETING  
April 2, 2012

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Patriot 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. In the absence of the co-chairs Mr. Gilbert, Trustee called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. Upon the arrival of Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, Mr. Gilbert turned control of the meeting over to Mr. Mitchell at 4:09 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay  
Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association  
Mr. William Moy, Chinatown Neighborhood Council  
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)  
Ms. Molly Sherden, Beacon Hill Civic Association  
Mr. Keith Williams, Mayor's Office  
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator; Stuart Rosenberg, City Councilor Felix Arroyo's Office

**1. Adoption of the minutes of the January 19, 2012 Meeting**

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

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

**Voted:** To accept the minutes of the January 19, 2012 meeting.

**2. Financial Report**

In Ms. Sherden's, Trustee, absence Mr. Laffer reviewed the BGwT Balance Sheet Detail. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer reviewed the new format of both the Balance Sheet and Custom Transaction Detail Report. He also noted that the budget for FY 2012 is on target. Discussion followed.

Upon the arrival of Ms. Sherden, she discussed the new formats of both as well. Discussion followed.

**3. Purchase of Dataloggers from PruPAC Grant**

Mr. Laffer provided background information on the purchase of the original 25 dataloggers back in 2005. He noted that the current logger's lifespan is at an end and referred to the staff's recommendation letter for the purchasing of 25 new dataloggers. Mr. Laffer also noted that the funds for purchasing this set of dataloggers come via PruPAC grant in the amount of \$25,000. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert suggested the BGwT not purchase the 25 additional dataloggers. Discussion followed. Mr. Laffer, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Shilland, and Mr. Moy suggested the BGwT purchase the 25 dataloggers. Discussion followed.

Mr. Moy moved to accept staff's recommendation letter for the purchasing of 25 new dataloggers. Mr. Hunt seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To accept staff's recommendation letter for the purchasing of 25 new dataloggers by a 9-1 margin.

**4. FY 2013 Budget Preliminary Discussion**

Mr. Laffer presented the First Cut FY 2012 End Analysis and FY 2013 Budget. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer highlighted the following:

1. The elimination of the part-time employee (well reader)
2. Additional interest earned through CD's
3. Extra pay period based upon the falling of the calendar
4. Funding from the City
5. Contingency line item

Discussion followed.

**5. Recharge PowerPoint Presentation**

Mr. Simonelli presented his Recharge PowerPoint to the board. 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: April 2, 2012* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

**7. 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: April 2,, 2012* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: May 24, 2012 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.**

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator, on 4/3/12.  
Respectfully submitted,

  
Galen Gilbert, Secretary

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**April 2, 2012**

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again on April 26.
2. **MBTA** – The T and their consultant, GZA, plan a series of tests in the very near future to determine exactly how several of the Southwest Corridor pumping stations are operating and how their interaction affects groundwater levels. They continue to work to gain us access to the data loggers along the trackbed that were installed by the Columbus Center project and are not operating properly. These are planned to be part of the network that will be monitored during the tests.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC is once again recharging water from the hydrant on Dartmouth Street near Beacon Street in the Back Bay and plans to continue until they begin the relining project. This project, along with the relining project on Richmond Street in the North End and the reconstruction project on Blagdon Street behind the Boston Public Library, is scheduled for April.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT completed repairs to the drain line from the Turnpike, repairing multiple leaks. We found significantly higher groundwater levels in the Bay Village area just north of the Turnpike when we read them just after repairs in that area were completed; hopefully, we will see continued increases in the area when we read it this month.
5. **East Boston** – We have seen some significant drop back in the increased levels in parts of the Paris Flats section of East Boston, although levels are still generally well above those seen before the MWRA repairs. The geography seems to be a little different than what we had seen previously, and we are trying to determine a potential cause.
6. **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. For the first time, an applicant appeared recently with a recharge system that we felt was unlikely to meet the standards; the Board deferred action until they could design a system that would be approved by BWSC.
7. **Website** – Traffic on the website in March was at the highest level in over a year. Of particular interest have been many hits on the newly posted map of the colonial shoreline.
8. **Meetings** – I did a well-received presentation on groundwater to members of the Greater Boston Real Estate Board. I also met with the new Neighborhood Services rep for Back Bay/Beacon Hill, Shaina Aubourg to go over the groundwater issue. I met with the engineer for Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center to go over a small project that triggered GCOD recharge, as well as with another civil engineer to go over several projects.
9. **Comment Letters** – We filed comments on projects at Ink Block, Emmanuel College, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston Conservatory, and Wheelock College. All of which are (or soon will be) posted on our website.
10. **Vacation** – I will be on vacation the week of April 16. I will be checking email during that time, and Christian will be covering the office.

**TECHNICAL & RECHARGE  
COORDINATOR'S UPDATE  
BGwT Meeting: April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**

**TECHNICAL COORDINATOR DUTIES**

**WELL MONITORING**

Our well network has been read twice so far this year.  
January 3<sup>rd</sup> - February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup> – March 9<sup>th</sup>.  
We started new set of readings on Monday March 19<sup>th</sup>.

I have taken over reading the well network. So far I have had no scheduling issues.

**DATA LOGGERS**

16 of our 21 of our data loggers are deployed throughout the west zone. I upload the following loggers on a weekly basis:

Storrow Drive

- 4 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 additional repairs to sewer lines are scheduled for early spring 2012
- BWSC started injecting water again on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at a rate of 8 gpm
- We will keep these loggers in place until the levels in this area come back up

Ellis Neighborhood

- 1 at the corner of Berkley & Chandler St.
  - 1 on Saint Charles St.
  - 2 on Cazenove St.
- Elliott & I met with the members of the Technical Advisory Committee. We reviewed a number of items. Most notably the committee's recommendation on what type of dataloggers would be best for the BGwT to purchase.

## **RECHARGE COORDINATOR DUTIES**

- Elliott & I met with Bob Astrella, William Eagan, and Charlotte Fleetwood to discuss potential locations for the city's Green Alley's proposal.
- Elliott & I met with Larry Hayes of Hayes and Associates to discuss a GCOD case in the South End.
- Elliott & I attended a scoping session on the proposed 300 Harrison Avenue site (old Boston Herald building).
- Met with a resident of Marlborough St. to discuss the BGwT and how he could go about installing recharge on his property.
- Met with a resident of Pembroke St. to discuss the repaving and installation of drywells in an alley at the rear of his building. Discussed how roof leaders should be directed and how GCOD would apply.
- Met with a property manager of a Beach St. building in the Leather District to discuss the BGwT and the possibility of installing recharge on the property.
- Continued to write comment letter drafts on past projects and review them with Elliott.
- 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 April 2<sup>nd</sup> trustees meeting.
- Attended the Metropolitan Area Planning Council & Boston Hazard Mitigation Collaboration Infrastructure Focus Group Meeting. Worked with members of the BWSC, DCR, and MWRA to discuss developing protocol for response to hazards and natural disasters.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Elliott & I met with Senator William Brownsberger and his legislative Council & Policy Advisor Michael Buckley, Esq. to discuss the issue of groundwater and the BGwT's role.
- Attended Elliott's presentation about the BGwT and GCOD to the Greater Boston Real Estate Board.