

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
July 18, 2013

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. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB)
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC)
Ms. Molly Sherden, Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA)
Ms. Stephanie Krueel, Executive Secretary Boston Conservation Commission
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Janine Commerford, Greater Boston Real Estate Board (GBREB)

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Re-charge Coordinator; André Lima, City Councilor Arroyo's Office; Mr. Jacob Glickel, Chief of Staff of Environment & Energy

1. Adoption of the minutes of the May 16, 2013 Meeting

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

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

Voted: To accept the minutes of the May 16, 2013 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Ms. Sherden reviewed the custom transaction detail report and balance sheet detail. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden noted the checking account number will be changed since the Trust will be switching over to a new account that will not have any monthly fees. The existing checking account now has a \$25 monthly fee for features that the Trust would not be using a regular basis. Discussion followed.

3. Implementation of Investment Policy

Ms. Sherden reviewed the Investment Policy for Reserves Detail. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden noted that the Trust has had discussions with account Raphael and Raphael on how to properly post profits that are made from these investments in the transaction detail. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, asked who currently holds the bonds that the Trust has investments with. Ms. Sherden noted that Fidelity holds the actual bonds. Discussion followed.

4. Green Alley Project

Mr. Laffer reviewed the detail of the Green Alley project agreement between the Trust, the City, and the Charles River Watershed Association, Inc. Mr. Laffer noted that the project will commence in 2014 and that the Trust has installed two wells as part of this project. Mr. Laffer also noted that a public meeting will occur sometime in September. Discussion followed.

Mr. Shilland noted that at the last board meeting Public Alley No. 701 was the choice for the project location and now it was Public Alley No. 543. Mr. Laffer explained that utility interference and garden level apartments in Alley No. 701 forced the team to find alternate alley. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, posed the question of naming the Alley as part of a ceremony in touting the project. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: July 18, 2013* for additional details.

5. MBTA Plans for Ellis Neighborhood

Mr. Laffer updated the board on the T's long-term action plan for raising and maintaining the groundwater levels in the Ellis Neighborhood area. Mr. Laffer noted that the T remains committed to the project and that the new recharge wells will be installed and in operation by this Fall. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: July 18, 2013* for additional details.

6. Dartmouth Street Update

Mr. Laffer updated the board on the efforts of BWSC along Dartmouth St. Mr. Laffer noted that BWSC fixed leaks in the 72" CSO that runs down Dartmouth Street and that groundwater levels had risen and stayed at the higher levels. Discussion followed.

Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: July 18, 2013* for additional details.

7. **New Website**

Mr. Simonelli presented the new website he created using Weebly, Inc. website builder. Discussion followed.

Multiple recommendations and comments made by the board members were noted by Mr. Simonelli. Mr. Simonelli will edit the site and send the board members, as well as members of the technical Advisory Committee, an updated link to review the changes made. Launch of the new website is expected to be sometime in early September.

8. **Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: July 18, 2013* 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: July 18, 2013* for a complete list of all activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: September 19th, 2013 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator, on 7/22/13.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
July 18, 2013

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again on July 25.
2. **MBTA** – The T held a public meeting on June 4 to detail its recommended solution to add more recharge wells and increase flows in order to raise groundwater levels in additional portions of the area of the South End near Back Bay Station. They will continue to evaluate potential alternative solutions while the new system is in operation. There was positive reaction at the meeting, and the T has moved the process forward. They expect that the new wells will be in operation this Fall.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC repaired the observed leak in the 72” combined sewer overflow under Dartmouth Street. Groundwater levels at wells along Dartmouth Street increased to about where they were before the sudden dropoff several years ago. Repairs are scheduled to start soon on the line on Blagdon Street behind the Boston Public Library.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT has identified several additional leaks in the Turnpike drain line and hopes to make repairs this Spring.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. I met with Brian Swett, Chief of the Mayor’s Office of Energy and Environment, and ISD Commissioner Bryan Glascock to discuss ways that the process can be streamlined without removing the protections in the GCOD or modifying the Zoning Code.
6. **Green Alley** – On June 26, I signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Public Works Commissioner Joanne Massaro and Charles River Watershed Association Executive Director Robert Zimmerman to initiate a green alley project in the South End. We will be monitoring groundwater levels before and after installation of the pervious surface to see how much of a benefit there is and how long after rainfall it lasts compared to the existing condition. CRWA will be doing additional studies related to water quality benefits.
7. **Recharge from Sidewalks** – The Public Works Department is working on an initiative to develop a standard design for recharge through portions of sidewalks. This will be implemented citywide as sidewalks are upgraded, reducing the load on the BWSC system and, in areas where buildings are supported on wood pilings, helping to raise groundwater levels.
8. **Website** – Our Technical and recharge Coordinator, Christian Simonelli, has developed a new website that will update the look and feel of our existing one while improving the arrangement of material and allowing us to update more quickly. The new site should be operational in the next month or two.
9. **Meetings** – I met with several candidates for City office or their staffs to update them on groundwater issues. I also attended a scoping session on the Boston East project.
10. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on the Fenway Point project, as well as on master plans for Fisher College and Northeastern University. They are posted, as always, on www.bostongroundwater.org.

<p>TECHNICAL & RECHARGE COORDINATOR'S UPDATE BGwT Meeting: July 18TH, 2013</p>

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR DUTIES

Using website builder Weebly I have re-designed the Trust website. All content from the old website has been reformatted and added to the new website. I'd like to thank Stephanie and Jake for their help on this. Meeting with them and discussing the best ways to post data we have was very helpful. Their suggestions and insight have been invaluable.

MEETINGS

- Attended Pre PNF meeting for Christian Science Plaza Buildings
- Attended MBTA public meeting on their long-term solution for Ellis Neighborhood at the Boston Public Library
- Elliott and I met with Jay Livingstone who is the new State Rep for 8th Suffolk district
- Attended Fisher College Task Force meeting at 116 Beacon Street
- Substituting for Elliott I attended the BRA scoping session for Fisher College.

WELL MONITORING

I completed the installation of 7 wells in Fort Point Channel, Financial District, the North End, and the South End. Our contract initially had 11 wells proposed for installation. However, 4 of the 11 locations had major utility interference in the dig-safe pre-markings and the locations were abandoned. We'll move these locations and try them again during our next set of well installations.

I completed the fourth set of readings on July 2nd. I'll begin the fifth set of readings towards the end of July once this set of well installations has been completed.

I invoiced Matthew Gagnon of Lee Kennedy Construction to reimburse the Trust for a well destroyed in front of 368 Congress Street. We received a payment of \$3,500 for the destroyed well on June 28th. This well will be replaced in this set of well installations.

RECHARGE COORDINATOR DUTIES

MEETINGS

- Attended Nitsch Engineering sponsored Building Resiliency: From Gray to Green seminar at the Omni Parker House
- Met with members of the City, the Charles River Watershed Association, and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin to discuss the best location for a proposed Green Alley Project. Public Alley No. 543 in South End was selected. As part of this project the Trust has installed two wells in this alley during this set of well installations. The Trust will also place dataloggers in these wells and four additional wells surrounding the alley to document water levels pre and post porous pavement installation.
- Continued to look at potential configurations to capture runoff from sidewalks before it hits the street.
- Spoke with residents about the installation of different types of recharge systems that can be installed.
- Continued to write comment letter drafts on past projects and review them with Elliott.

DATA LOGGER LOCATIONS

Ellis Neighborhood (4)

- 1 at the corner of Berkley & Chandler St.
- 1 on Saint Charles St.
- 2 on Cazenove St.

Dartmouth Street (8)

- 8 from Beacon St. – Commonwealth Ave.

Blagden Street (3)

- 2 from the Exeter – Dartmouth St.
- 1 in front of the Copley Square Hotel

Newbury Street (1)

- 1 at 10 Newbury St.

Boylston Street (1)

- 1 in front of the Arlington St. Church

Storrow Drive (3)

- 3 from Embankment Rd. - Clarendon St.

North End: Commercial Street (3)

- 1 at the corner of Richmond and Commercial St.
- 1 on Commercial St. in front of 145 Commercial St.
- 1 on Atlantic Ave., in front of 103 Atlantic Ave.

Alignment Loggers (3 Uploaded on a Monthly basis)

- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Arlington St. Bridge
- 1 Adjacent to the alignment, at the rear of 95 Berkeley St.
- 1 Between Turnpike Crash Wall and the Railroad alignment, underneath the Berkeley St. Bridge