

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
March 26, 2009

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met 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 called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM. The following trustees were present, and the Chairman declared that there was a quorum:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
Mr. Peter Sherin, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC)
Mr. Jim Hunt, Mayor's Office
Ms. Molly Sherden, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Bill Linehan, City Council District 2
Mr. Peter Schilling, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Mr. William Moy, Chinatown Neighborhood Council
Ms. Mary Hall, Greater Boston Real Estate Board

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator; Anne M. Pistorio, North End Water Front Residents Association (NEWRA) Groundwater Working Group; Paul Nelson, Resident North End: Fulton Street; Sarah Jones, Emerson College

1. Adoption of the minutes of the January 29, 2009 Meeting

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

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

Voted: To accept the minutes of the January 29, 2009 meeting.

2. Finance Report

Mr. Sherin, Trustee, reviewed the BGwT *Financial Report and Reconciliation Detail*. Discussion followed. Mr. Sherin noted that the reports indicate 2 months of finances. Discussion followed.

3. FY 2010 Budget

Mr. Laffer reviewed the revised proposal for the FY 2010 budget. Mr. Laffer noted that the budget included a 7% reduction in funds received from the City. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, asked if Mr. Simonelli was no longer at Haley & Aldrich, Inc., would the Clarendon St. office be able to support him. Mr. Laffer noted that the office probably could but would change location if necessary. Mr. Laffer also noted that there would be a requirement for over \$18,000 in hardware and software to replace

that provided by Haley and Aldrich at no charge for the Trust's use. No discussion followed.

Mr. Hunt, Trustee, noted that the City's budget is not yet fixed. Mr. Hunt indicated that this proposed budget by the BGWT is great and indicates good faith. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hunt moved to adopt the BGWT FY 2010 budget as presented. Mr. Sherin seconded the motion.

Voted: To adopt the BGWT FY 2010 budget.

4. Establishment of Dedicated Reserve Funds

Mr. Laffer reviewed the BGWT Proposed Dedicated Reserve Fund Designations. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden, Trustee, suggested that these funds not be restricted. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert indicated that he wants to build on this list and have the BGWT take a look at fund raising. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sherin likes the idea of fund raising but when the BGWT should look at it is something the board needs to think about. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hunt noted that it's hard to raise funds for a non-specific use. Mr. Hunt also feels that part of these funds should serve as reserve operating funds. Discussion followed.

Mr. Saunders, Trustee, noted that the reason for generating this list was to open up this type of discussion. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hunt moved that the BGWT set aside and group the reserve funds into an unrestricted fund for the following uses:

1. Groundwater Research Fund
2. Network Upgrading Fund
3. Contingency for Technical Assistance Fund

With no designation of specific funding for any of the categories listed above.

Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion.

Voted: To adopt the above motion by Mr. Trustee.

5. Pending Legislation

Mr. Laffer discussed the two bills that have been filed with the Legislature which address aspects of the groundwater issue. One bill was filed on behalf of the City by Senator Petrucelli with most of the Boston delegation as cosponsors. This bill proposes tax credits to encourage property owners to install test pits and to put in innovative recharge systems. The other bill was filed by Rep. Walz based on the legislation developed by Citywide GET and previously presented to the Trust.

Mr. Gilbert suggested that a study committee should be formed to help the Trust understand the implications of the proposed legislation. Discussion followed. Ms. Hall, Trustee, and Mr. Schilling, Trustee, agreed to be part of that committee along with Mr. Gilbert. Mr. Laffer will serve on the committee as well and will keep trustees updated on the status of both bills.

6. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: March 26, 2009* for a complete list of all activities.

Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, noted underpinning that has been done in the vicinity of 5-7 Commonwealth Ave. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert asked for a progress report on pumping abatement. Mr. Laffer explained progress in obtaining information from several state agencies about the locations of their pumps. He will work further on this issue at the City-State Working Group.

7. Technical Coordinator's Report

BGwT Technical Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli presented his activities since last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical Coordinator's Well Monitoring Update BGwT Meeting: March 26, 2009* for a complete list of all activities.

Mr. Simonelli and Mr. Laffer suggested that the BGwT become a member of Dig-Safe System, Inc. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that the BGwT would become a non-utility member. As a non-utility member the BGwT would be billed \$75/quarter and \$1/notice. Discussion followed.

The board agreed that it is definitely worth it for the BGwT to become a member of Dig-Safe System, Inc. and recommended Mr. Simonelli go ahead with applying for membership.

Mr. Gilbert noted on the map of wells there were stars for the locations of recharge systems, but there was no star on the Hemenway Street alley where there was a very expensive recharge system. Mr. Laffer explained the existing data was from GCOD applications, but that he would certainly add the data points from other sources, such as BW&SC. He noted there was another such system on Back Street.

8. Other Business

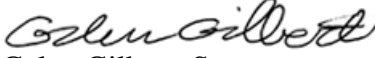
Mr. Gilbert noted that the BGwT received plans of existing underground infrastructure from BWSC for the Hemenway St. area of the Fenway. Mr. Gilbert noted that the information will be plotted as a 3-D model by students at Wentworth Institute of Technology, under the direction of Professor Lambrechts. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 28, 2009 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator, on 3/27/09.

Respectfully submitted,


Galen Gilbert, Secretary

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST FY 2010 BUDGET

All amounts in \$000

	FY09 Budget	FY09 Projected Total	FY10 Budget	FY10 Budget Rev
Income				
City Appropriation	169	169	174	157
BWSC	25	25	25	25
Project Mgt Fees	0	0	0	0
Well Installation	0	0	0	0
Interest	30	24	20	20
Columbus Center Grant	25	0	0	0
Total Income	249	218	219	202
Expense				
Salaries	142	137	141	137
Hourly Wages	11	11	11	11
Retirement	4	4	4	4
FICA + Unemp	13	12	12	12
Health + Dental Ins	6	6	7	7
Workers Comp	1	1	1	1
Well Repl/Inst	12	12	0	0
Well Maintenance	2	2	2	2
Rent	12	13	15	15
Electric	1	1	1	1
Telephone	1	1	1	1
Misc Office & Field Exp	2	2	2	2
Website	5	5	5	5
Continuing Education	2	0	2	2
Accounting	7	6	6	6
Strategic Planning	5	3	0	0
Contingency	15	15	15	5
Total Expense	241	231	225	211
Surplus/Deficit	8	-13	-6	-9
ONE TIME EXPENSE				
Research Project	20	0	20	20

NOTES

1. Income reduction reflects city appropriation reduced 7% from FY09.
2. Expense reduction reflects salary freeze for FY10 and reduction of contingency account.
3. Well replacement/installation has been removed from the operating budget and will be funded from a designated long term reserve account.
4. Projected FY09 income has been reduced because Columbus Center grant will not be received and lower interest rates have reduced interest income. FY10 Budget reflects these reductions with interest rates further reduced.
5. The Trust receives rent free use of space and telephone and computer resources for the Technical Coordinator from Haley & Aldrich. Estimated capital cost to replace the hardware and software is \$18,150. The Trust would incur additional operating costs to replace the free rent and utilities.
6. The Trust receives rent free use of meeting facilities at the Lenox Hotel for trustees meetings.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
March 26, 2009

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Group will meet again in April.
2. **MBTA** – The MBTA has sent a letter to the Commonwealth requesting that the \$2,000,000 in state funds for construction of a potential solution to low groundwater levels near Back Bay Station be redirected to a maintenance fund for the long term solution to be installed by the T. Both Jim Hunt and I signed the letter, indicating our agreement.
3. **DCR** – DCR should be able to complete the connection that will allow any water handled by the west pumping station of the Storrow Drive Tunnel to be recharged into the galleys installed under Back Street by BWSC early this spring.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC expects to have divers conducting the repairs to leaks on Commercial Street in the North End and Beacon Street in Back Bay shortly. Repairs to a leaking sewer line in Blagdon Street behind the Boston Public Library are more complex, but they are expected to be completed within about six months. BWSC will be lining sewer lines in the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and South End this spring and summer; many of these sections are in areas of low groundwater and showed defects during the BWSC's television inspection of its low sewers last year. BWSC will be repairing leaking sewer lines in several locations in Back Bay and the Flat of Beacon Hill in the next year; repairs will include the installation of recharge systems.
5. **MTA** – The MTA expects to complete the repairs to leaks in a drain line near Clarendon Street in the near future.
6. **MWRA** – Construction has begun on their project to replace their sewer system in East Boston. As part of this work, they will deactivate and fill the sewer along Porter Street that is in the area of consistently very low readings; the pipe should be filled before the end of 2009.
7. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD remains excellent. Although applications to the Board of Appeals seem to have dropped because of the slowing economy, there continue to be several recharge systems approved under GCOD almost every hearing session.
8. **Legislation** – There have been two bills filed with the Legislature that address aspects of the groundwater issue. They have been assigned to committee, and hearings are likely in the Spring.
9. **Meeting** – I met, along with Gordon Richardson and Susan Scott of Citywide GET, with Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz to brief her on groundwater issues.
10. **Public Meeting** – NABB will be hosting a public meeting on groundwater at the Boston Public Library on April 26. Both Tim and I will be involved in the presentation.
11. **Website** – By most indicators, traffic at our website in March has been at its highest levels in a year or more. I continue to get positive feedback on the site.
12. **Project Comments** – I attended the scoping session at the BRA for the proposed Government Center Garage Redevelopment. I filed comments this week; as always, they have been posted on our website.

**TECHNICAL COORDINATOR'S
WELL MONITORING UPDATE
BGwT Meeting: March 26, 2009**

WELL MONITORING

- We are approximately three-quarters of the way through this set of readings which should be completed by the middle of next week

LEVELOGGERS

- We continue to upload dataloggers at the following locations on a weekly basis:
 - 2 on and around Saint Charles St. and 2 on Cazenove Street
 - 5 on Beacon St., in the Berkeley to Clarendon St. block
- 10 dataloggers have also been installed in the Back Bay, South End, and the Fenway
- We are experiencing difficulty accessing 3 of the 5 wells along the alignment we received from Columbus Center and are in discussions with the MBTA to resolve the access issue.

ISD RESEARCH

- We continue to look for building permits and any underpinned buildings
- Back Bay has been the main area of focus and the information on Underpinned is far and few between