

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
May 20, 2010

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Patriot meeting room, of 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 4:02 pm. The following trustees were present, and the Chairman declared that there was a quorum:

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

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator; William Onuoha, Mayor's Office; Anne M. Pistorio, North End Water Front Residents Association (NEWRA) Groundwater Working Group; John Curran, New England College of Optometry

1. Adoption of the minutes of the March 18, 2010 Meeting

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

Mr. Laffer noted that there is no signature on the minutes. Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, was not present at the last meeting. Discussion followed.

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

Voted: To accept the minutes of the March 18, 2010 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Ms. Sherden reviewed the BGwT *Financial Report and Reconciliation Detail*. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sherin, Trustee, questioned the banking expense line item in the amount of \$80. Ms. Sherden noted that it is the bank's policy to charge \$20 for reviewing a check that has a double signature on it. Ms. Sherden noted that BGwT policy dictates that any check in amount of \$5K and greater requires two signatures, (the Treasurer and one of the co-chairs.) Discussion followed.

3. Adoption of FY 2011 Budget

Mr. Laffer reviewed the proposed FY 2011 budget. Discussion followed. Mr. Gilbert noted the reserve funds the BGwT has and suggested that the board look into ways of allocating some of the funds to further publicize the BGwT's efforts. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer noted that the budget filed by the Mayor has again included level funding for the BGwT in FY2011. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hunt, Trustee, moved to adopt the BGwT FY 2011 budget as presented. Mr. Linehan, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To adopt the BGwT FY 2011 budget as presented.

See the attached Boston Groundwater Trust FY11 Draft Budget.

4. Office Move

Mr. Laffer noted that the new owners of 234 Clarendon St. are renovating the building and are planning to raise the rent. Mr. Laffer referred to his five year rent projection that indicates a \$25K difference between 234 Clarendon St. and the new office location at 229 Berkeley St. The BGwT will remain a subtenant of the Back Bay Association at the new location. Discussion followed.

5. Meeting with the MBTA General Manager

Mr. Laffer reviewed the meeting he has the MBTA's new general manager, Rich Davey, who is also a resident of Back Bay. Discussion followed. Refer to item #2 in the attached *Executive Director's Report: May 20, 2010*.

Mr. Gilbert expressed concern over MBTA's ability to solve the groundwater problems of houses without improving the impermeability of the wall. Mr. Laffer noted that the MBTA is very confident they can fix the leak. Discussion followed.

6. Neighborhood Focus: South End with Updated Piling Cutoff Data

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the current dynamics of the South End. Topics reviewed were pile cut-off elevations, buildings found to be underpinned, composition of the fill, existing infrastructure, observation well levels and coverage, and recharge. Discussion followed. There seems to be an area on Tremont Street with low levels of groundwater for many decades, and yet no obvious signs of distress in the buildings. Also the low levels on Tremont Street are unexplained. Christian will investigate records of storm storm sewers and other underground structures. The Technical Advisory Committee is considering this issue.

7. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: May 20, 2010* for a complete list of all activities.

8. 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: May 20, 2010* for a complete list of all activities.

9. Other Business

Mr. Mitchell, Trustee, noted that Nikko Mendoza has resigned from the Mayor's Office and that Mr. William Onuoha will be taking her place on the BGWT board. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell also noted that Ms. Hall, Trustee, will no longer be serving on the BGWT board. The Trustees thanked Ms. Hall for her service. The Mayor's office will be contacting the Greater Boston Real Estate Board to ask them to nominate a successor. Discussion followed.

Ms Grilk distributed the City's new booklet on environment and global warming.

Ms. Grilk told the Trustees that they each would be re-appointed to service from June, 2010 for two years, and that the Clerk's office would be contacting each trustee to come to take an oath.

Mr. Gilbert noted that the residents will be monitoring any signs of settlement in lieu of digging test pits at their Fensgate building located on Hemenway St. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 29, 2010 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGWT Technical Coordinator, on 5/21/10.

Respectfully submitted,



Galen Gilbert, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
May 20, 2010

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet next on July 22.
2. **MBTA** – On April 29, I met with Rich Davey, the new General Manager of the T, and members of his staff. The meeting was primarily devoted to a discussion of the new approach planned to raising groundwater levels in the South End near Back Bay Station. The T will be engaging a new consultant to design multiple tunnel repair projects, high on the list of which is repairing the leak that has led to low groundwater problems in the area. The consultant is likely to be under contract in October. They will then determine the feasibility of the new approach. The T believes that the new approach may be less costly to install and eliminate long term maintenance issues. The short term solution of continuous recharge will remain in place until a longer term solution is complete. The T is planning a public meeting in June to discuss the changed approach.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC plans a public meeting this month to kick off construction on repairs to the sewer under Richmond Street in the North End. They will be repairing a portion of the combined sewer overflow (CSO) on Dartmouth Street between Beacon and Back Streets that is a likely cause of low groundwater levels experienced along Dartmouth Street in that area. They are most likely to reline that section of pipe; this could happen in a few months. BWSC has completed repairs to the portion of the CSO on Fairfield Street between Beacon and Back Streets; this grouting work took place in a section of wood sewer.
4. **MWRA** – MWRA will complete the East Boston sewer replacement project this summer. At that point, the possibly leaking old sewer pipe along Porter Street will be discontinued and filled in. Recent groundwater readings in areas where MWRA has completed its work have been encouraging. We will be watching this closely this summer. They have discovered a leak in the siphon under the Blue Line at Breman Street. They will be lining the two pipes as an add to the sewer project, with completion of this expected this summer as well.
5. **MassDOT** – They are continuing with design work for modifications to the drainage system from the Central Artery. The decision on whether and where to introduce recharge awaits completion of some of BWSC's repair projects and a determination of whether the recharge would be a benefit in the areas into which it can be introduced. Decisions should be made in the summer. As part of the repaving project scheduled for the Prudential tunnel, the drain lines around the tunnel will be video inspected and any necessary repairs made.
6. **GCOD** – Projects in the GCOD area continue to come before the Board of Appeals at a fairly steady pace. Cooperation among the Board, ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Trust has assured that virtually all projects have completely met the recharge and no negative impact standards of Article 32.
7. **Website** – We continue to work with our consultant to remedy some availability issues that we have had recently with our interactive map. The short term problems have been resolved. We anticipate moving the map to a new server at a different host in the near future. In the meantime, traffic to the site remains steady, with a significant number of hits on our new recharge tab.
8. **Meetings** – In addition to my meeting with the MBTA, I had meetings with project teams from 282 Beacon Street, the Christian Science Church project, and the planned new Liberty Mutual building. I attended a scoping session this morning on a new student center at Boston University and will attend one on Liberty Mutual in June.

TECHNICAL & RECHARGE COORDINATOR'S UPDATE BGwT Meeting: May 20th, 2010

WELL MONITORING

The BGwT's latest set of readings are indicated below.
Wells were read from Apr. 15th – May 10th, 2010

There are currently 705 wells in the West network. Of the 705 wells read:

- 57 wells @ elevation >9'
- 146 wells @ elevation 7'-9'
- 292 wells @ elevation 5'-7'
- 162 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 25 wells @ elevation <3'
- 0 wells @ Dry
- 23 wells @ no reading
- 85 Recharge Locations

We have read 85 wells in the East network (East Boston Area).
Wells were read in East Boston on Apr. 13th & 14th, 2010. Of the 85 wells read:

- 24 wells @ elevation >9'
- 25 wells @ elevation 7'-9'
- 14 wells @ elevation 5'-7'
- 7 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 14 wells @ elevation <3'
- 0 wells @ Dry
- 1 wells @ no reading

NOTE: We are continuously reading the well network and started a new set of readings on Tuesday May 11, 2010 with our returning part-timer Robert Tully from Wentworth Institute of Technology. Robert worked out extremely well for us during his co-op and we have decided to re-hire him on a part-time basis for the summer semester.

LEVELLOGGERS

- We continue to upload dataloggers at the following locations on a weekly basis:
 - 1 on Saint Charles St. and 2 on Cazenove St.
 - 5 along the Storrow Drive Underpass from Embankment Rd. Clarendon St.
- 4 loggers have been placed in wells in Back Bay closest to the alleys that BWSC are replacing lines and installing recharge systems
- Additional loggers have been placed in the Fenway, South End, and Back Bay.

CONTOURS

- We continue to generate contours for all areas of our well network. Elliott and I have reviewed them with our technical committee.
- We will continue to receive the contours from BWSC and will be sending them our contours for comparison.

ISD RESEARCH

- We continue to look for building permits and any underpinned buildings.
- I continue working on the South End.

RECHARGE TAB

- A new tab for Recharge is now posted on the BGwT website. It describes my role as Recharge Coordinator and provides examples of different types of Recharge.

WELL INSTALLATION

- We have a signed contract for our 17 OW Installation. We are awaiting approval from PIC to proceed with scheduling the installations.

**BOSTON
GROUNDWATER
TRUST FY11
DRAFT BUDGET**
20-May-10
All amounts in
\$000

	FY10 Budget	FY10 Projected Final	FY 11 Budget	Comments
Income				
City Appropriation	169	169	169	
BWSC	25	25	25	
Project Mgt Fees	0	0	0	
Well Installation	0	0	0	
Interest	9	15	15	See Note1
Total Income	203	209	209	
Expense				
Salaries	142	142	146	
Hourly Wages	11	9	11	
Retirement	4	4	4	
FICA + Unemp	12	13	13	
Health + Dental Ins	7	6	7	
Workers Comp	1	1	1	
Well Rep/Inst	0	0	0	
Well Maintenance	5	2	2	
Rent	15	14	12	
Electric	1	1	1	
Telephone	1	1	1	
Misc Office & Field Exp	2	2	2	
Website	5	6	4	
Continuing Education	2	0	0	
Accounting	6	6	6	
Strategic Planning	0	0	0	
Contingency	0	0	5	
Total Expense	214	207	215	
Surplus/Deficit	-11	2	-6	
One time expenses				
Research Project	29	29	0	See Note 2
Well Installation	0	53	30	

Notes
1. Interest represents accruals on CD's and actual on Money Market
2. One time expenses are paid from long term funds.