

**BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Copley Room at the Lenox Hotel located at 710 Boylston Street. The Executive Director posted a meeting notice at Boston City Hall in accordance with provisions of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Open Meeting Law. Co-chairs Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Saunders called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. The following trustees were present:

Mr. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association  
Mr. Tim Mitchell, Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay  
Mr. Greg Galer, the Boston Preservation Alliance  
Ms. Charlotte Moffat, Boston Conservation Commission  
Mr. Peter Shilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association  
Mr. Patrick Lyons, North End/Waterfront Neighborhood Council  
Mr. Austin Blackmon, Chief, Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space

Also present:

Mr. Christian Simonelli, Executive Director; Ms. Mohona Siddique, Neighborhood Liaison at the Office of Boston City Councilor Josh Zakim; Ms. Michelle Laboy, Mr. Joshua Fielder, and Mr. Seth Wiseman, all from Project Team LightWell; Ms. Katie Friedman, Conservation Assistant Boston Conservation Commission

**1. Adoption of the minutes of the March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Meeting**

Minutes were previously electronically distributed to Board members for review. Discussion followed. Mr. Galer, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Saunders, co-chair, seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To accept the minutes of the March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting.

**2. Re-Election of Trust Officers**

Mr. Saunders noted that along with Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Commerford, and Mr. Hemenway that they would like to continue to serve at the pleasure of the Board in their respective positions as Board Officers. Discussion followed.

Mr. Galer moved that the following individuals continue to serve as Board Officers as described: Gary Saunders, Co-Chairman, Tim Mitchell, Co-Chairman, Janine Commerford, Secretary, and John Hemenway, Treasurer. Mr. Lyons, Trustee, seconded the motion.

**Voted:** That Gary Saunders, Co-Chairman, Tim Mitchell, Co-Chairman, Janine Commerford, Secretary, and John Hemenway, Treasurer continue to serve as Board Officers.

**3. Financial Report**

In Mr. Hemenway's absence, Mr. Simonelli reviewed the BGwT's financial reports. Discussion followed. Mr. Simonelli noted that the Trust has received its annual contribution of \$25K from the Boston Water & Sewer Commission. Discussion followed. Mr. Galer inquired about the funds in the Balance Sheet report and how they originated. Discussion followed.

**4. Adoption of the FY 2017 Budget**

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the proposed FY 2017 budget. He noted that the only significant differences from the preliminary FY 2017 budget distributed at the March meeting were a reduction in rent for shared office space with the Back Bay Association, and a 3% reduction in the projected 2017 appropriation from the City of Boston. Discussion followed. Mr. Blackmon noted that the 3% reduction is an across-the-board measure being applied to all 2017 contracts to be issued by the City of Boston City Office of Environment, Energy, & Open Space. Mr. Blackmon also noted that while the reduction is not definitive, it is prudent to account for it. Discussion followed.

Mr. Blackmon moved to adopt the FY 2017 budget; Mr. Galer seconded the motion.

**Voted:** To adopt the FY 2017 budget.

**5. Presentation by Michelle Laboy on the LightWell Project**

Michelle Laboy, along with Mr. Joshua Fielder and Mr. Seth Wiseman, presented project LightWell to the Board. Project LightWell seeks to raise public awareness on the issue of stormwater runoff, storage & recharge in Boston historic neighborhoods by placing a series of illuminated objects into the visible urban landscape. These objects are designed to vary in color depending on the level of groundwater beneath them. Highlights of the presentation were as follows:

- LightWell was selected a winner in Boston's Public Space Invitational in 2014
- Funding has come from the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics, Northeastern University, and the Autodesk Foundation
- Trial installation of two illuminated LightWells is on display in the park of the Boston Public Library South End Branch
- Met with Trust Executive Director in January to discuss the idea of the Trust participating in the project

- Explored using Trust well covers as sources for LightWell technology
- Illuminated well covers would display groundwater elevation of well on a scroll
- New well covers would be made of a clear Corian fiber and retrofitted into existing Trust observations wells
- Proposed total Trust contribution is estimated to be \$20,000
- Refer to the attached presentation for additional details

Upon completion and a subsequent discussion the project team from LightWell left the meeting. Discussion followed.

**6. Executive Director's Report**

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Christian Simonelli distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016* for a complete list of activities.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING: July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.**

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Executive Director, on 5/17/2016.

Approved by:



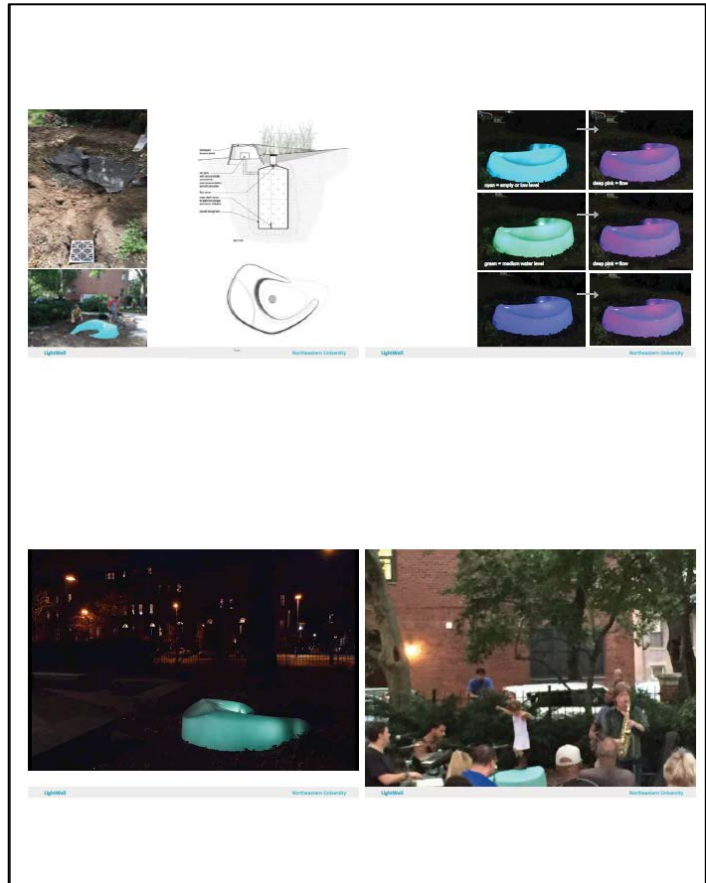
Janine Commerford, Secretary

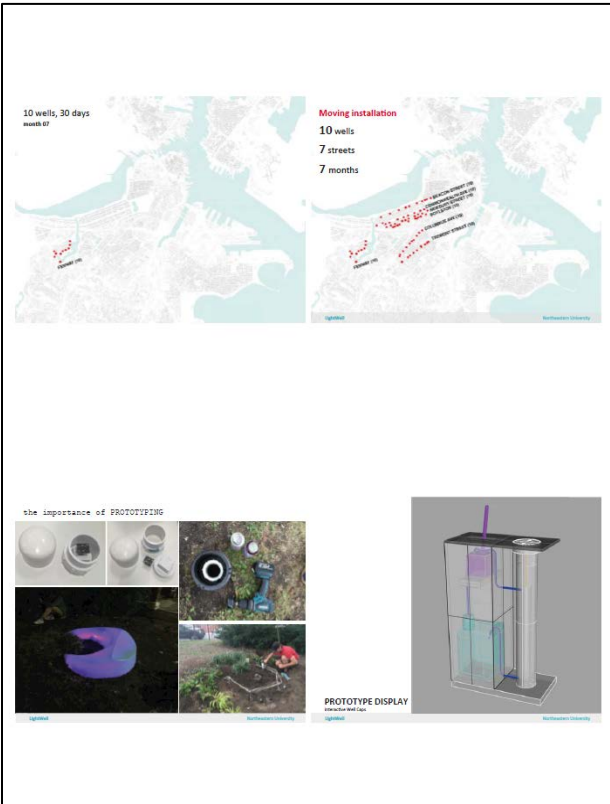
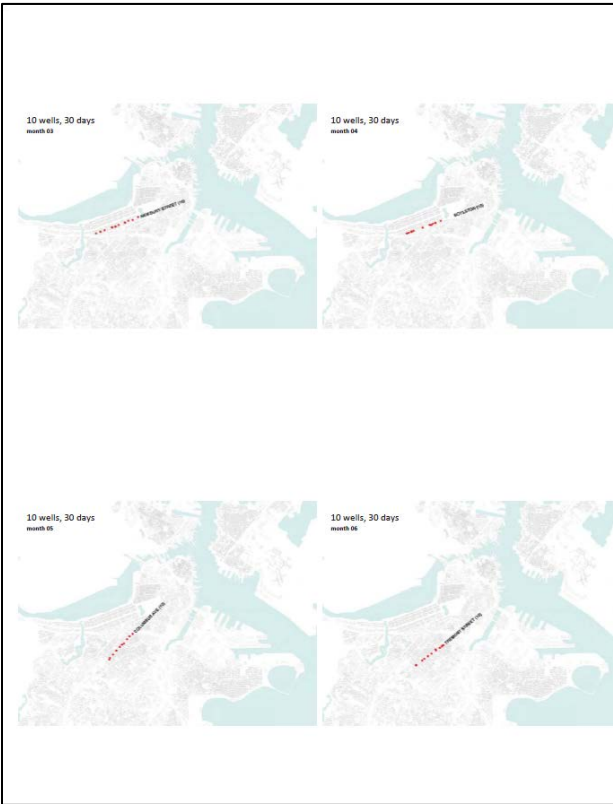
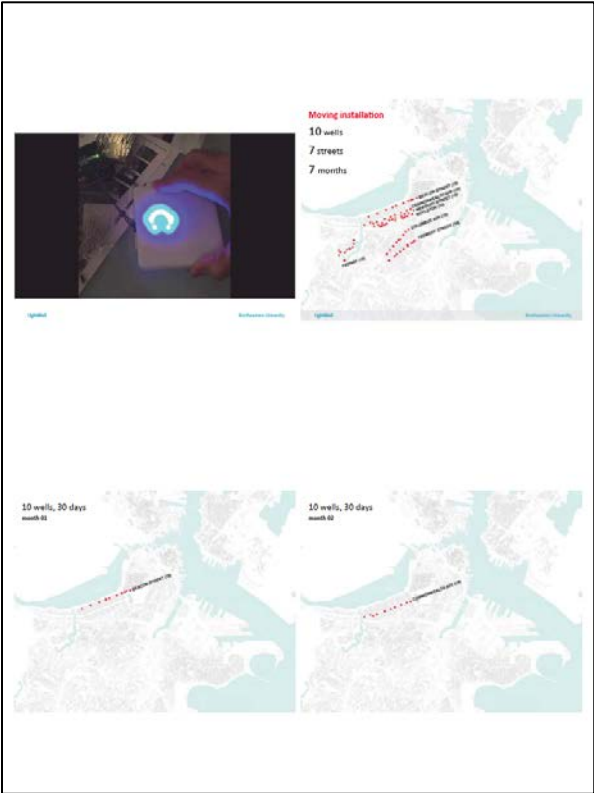
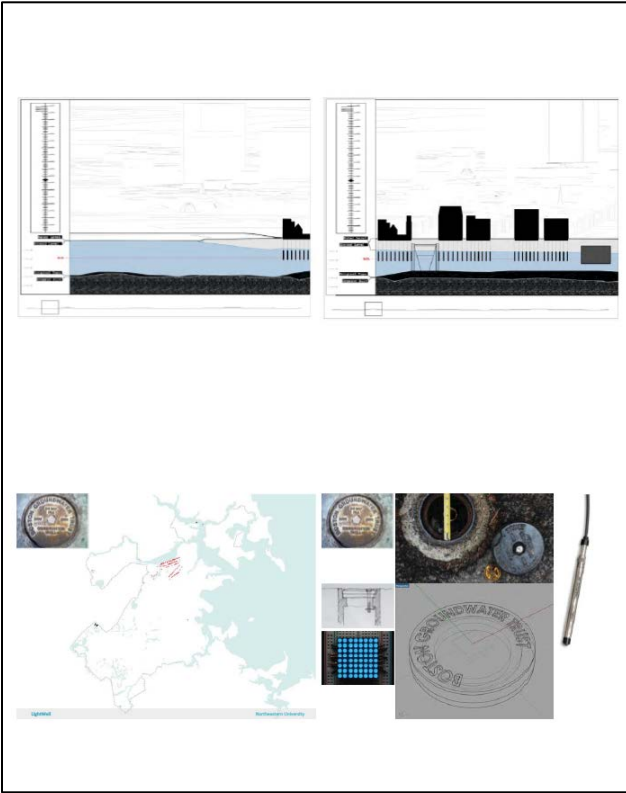
## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

1. **Readings** – We just wrapped up our 4<sup>th</sup> set of readings of the year and started our 5<sup>th</sup> set of readings this past weekend.
2. **Meetings** –
  - a. I met with Kate Bowditch and Bethany Eisenberg of the Charles River Watershed Association to participate in an interview and review the performance of porous Alley 543. (4/13).
  - b. I attended the scoping session for the Harrison Albany Block project (4/12), the 370-380 Harrison Avenue project (4/20), and the Back Bay/South End Gateway Project (5/11).
  - c. I wrote comment letters for The Cosmopolitan @ 771 Harrison Avenue, 88 North Washington Street, Harrison Albany Block, and 370-380 Harrison Avenue projects.
  - d. I was interviewed by Tanner Stening of the new weekly publication the Boston Guardian. Part of my interview appeared in the inaugural issue of the newspaper.
  - e. I spoke and met with residents throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to provide us to satisfy the zoning.
3. **MBTA** - Approximately 50.5 gpm is being injected into recharge wells in the area. In addition to our manual monitoring we have 4 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min. Levels in the Appleton & Tremont Street area are lower than what was projected. The MBTA's Engineer is coordinating with BWSC and ISD for entry to buildings in the vicinity. The entities will update us at the July City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting.
4. **Porous Alley 543** - We continue to datalog two wells in Porous Alley No. 543. A summary of the report from CRWA stated the following:
  - a. Adequate storage has been provided for all storm events
  - b. Water depth below the porous pavement has not exceeded more than 8"; which is almost a foot below the overflow pipe
  - c. Other than the need for additional vacuum sweeping the alley is effectively infiltrating stormwater
  - d. Alley's performance is comparable to other porous asphalt systems in New England
5. **DCR** – The Storrow Drive Tunnel pump station system is operating as anticipated. Discharges in both pumps to the east and west have equal run times and are showing no anomalies. However, there have been low levels to the west of Berkeley Street along the Back Street. DCR is coordinating with BWSC and will inspect the infrastructure in this area. Internally within the next 6 months the DCR will look at underpass repairs and start to form a plan for what's next. Recharge will be part of the plan and will be looked for possible upgrade.
6. **BWSC** – Investigation into the Callahan Tunnel does not appear to be groundwater related. Entry into the North End buildings along Commercial Street is being coordinated with ISD. BWSC will accompany ISD personnel to inspect buildings and check for sump pumps and laterals. A TV inspection of pipe along Richmond Street revealed a leak by the low well (25L-1586) at the corner of Richmond and Commercial. BWSC will continue to investigate. Pipe in question is at a low level elevation. BWSC noted that nothing was seen in manholes along Clarendon and Gray Streets. However, they still need to access some manholes in Clarendon as they were covered by parked cars. There may be lateral leak at the corner of Gray and Clarendon Street. Alley No. 430 work is setup to design and a contract will be bid in the Autumn of 2016, with construction is anticipated to occur in mid-2017. In the Stuart Street area between Berkeley and Dartmouth Streets steam lines are causing an issue for inspections. BWSC will coordinate with Veolia to help in accessing lines. Manholes along Fairfield Street by Beacon Street were inspected but no infiltration seen. Back Street manholes were also inspected and there may be some infiltration. BWSC will continue to look into manholes in Back Street. DCR recently inspected their storm drain line in Back Street and no infiltration was seen.

7. **MassDOT** - Additional inspection and repairs of the 30" portion of the Prudential Tunnel drain line is scheduled for later this month. So far wells in the area have shown a slight increase in response to the previous repairs that were made in early January.
8. **Veolia Energy** - The Copley Square Public Library and other smaller steam customers are still being investigated as possible locations. Veolia submitted data to DEP on discharge content. The permitting process was vetted and will be completed without any issues.
9. **Eliot Hotel** - The Eliot Hotel on Commonwealth Avenue has had water seeping in through their elevator pits. The problem first sprung up last May and occurred again this past December. BWSC tested the water and the results indicated that it was groundwater. The Hotel is in the process of sealing their elevator pits to avoid additional issues.
10. **Website** - I have added some new content to our website. The most recent items are posted under our "Newest" tab on our homepage. As always, I would appreciate any feedback you may have.





# Proposed Budget

| Team Funding    |  | Boston Groundwater Trust |  |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| \$13,000        | Research staff – prototype and installation    | \$13,000                 | 10x In-Situ instruments (BGwT keeps them)                                      |
| \$1,000         | Micro-controllers purchased for prototyping    | \$1,300                  | 1x In-Situ instrument donated to team for prototype, display and testing       |
| \$4,000         | Corian, rubber material & well cap fabrication | \$5,000                  | 10x micro-controllers (BGwT keeps them)  |
| \$6,000         | Exhibit: Prototype and digital model displays  | \$700                    | LED lights, batteries, including spare batteries                               |
| <b>\$24,000</b> | <b>Estimated total covered</b>                 | <b>\$20,000</b>          | <b>Proposed Total BGwT support (Sensors to keep = net \$7,000 for display)</b> |

LightWell

Northeastern University