

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
May 16, 2013

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust held its meeting in the Heritage 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. Saunders, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:06 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 & Recharge Coordinator; Athena Laines, City Councilor Arroyo's Office; Jacob Glickel; Chief of Staff of Environment & Energy; Maria Puopolo; Legislative Aide to State Representative Aaron Michlewitz

1. Adoption of the minutes of the March 21, 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 March 21, 2013 meeting.

2. Financial Report

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

3. Implementation of Investment Policy

Ms. Sherden reviewed the implementation of the Investment Policy for Reserves . Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden reviewed the Trust's options that the Trust had on selecting appropriate bonds as potential investments and distributed a list of the bonds that had been purchased. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, noted he would like a chance to review the list of companies that Ms. Sherden handed out. Mr. Mitchell, co-chair, inquired about generation of reports on the performance of the bonds. Ms. Sherden noted that reports are generated daily online and can be made available to the Trustees for review at any time. Discussion followed.

4. FY 2014 Budget Adoption

Ms. Sherden reviewed the proposed FY 2014 budget. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer noted that BWSC's annual contribution of \$25K for FY13 has not yet been received but he expects that it will be shortly. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell inquired about the \$22K allocated for the Green Alley project line item. Discussion followed. Mr. Laffer noted that \$4.7K is the amount from the reserves budget and is part of the \$22K. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell suggested the following amendment to the budget with the following note added under note 3.

"Of which \$4.7K is well installation from the reserves budget and \$17.3K is included in kind from the operating budget." Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden moved to adopt the FY 2014 with Mr. Mitchell suggested amendment Mr. Saunders, co-chair seconded the motion.

Voted: To adopt the FY 2014 budget. The budget as adopted is attached.

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 presented their suggested plan of additional recharge in the area to the City-State Groundwater Working Group. Discussion followed. Mr. Laffer also noted that the T plans to hold a public meeting to explain the plan and provide a forum for comments. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert noted that he attended the Working Group meeting. Discussion followed on the T's suggested plan of additional recharge to the area.

Mr. Saunders moved to support immediate action to implement additional recharge in the area of Ellis Neighborhood; however we request the T's commitment to continue their investigations of permanent solutions. Ms. Sherden seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Voted: 6-1 to support immediate action to implement additional recharge in the area of Ellis Neighborhood; however we request the T's commitment to continue their investigations of permanent solutions.

6. Green Alley Project Contract

Mr. Laffer reviewed the detail of the Green Alley project contract between the Trust, the City, and the Charles River Watershed Association, Inc. Mr. Laffer noted that the project construction will commence in 2014 and that the Trust plans to install two observation wells committed to the project this summer. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: May 16, 2013* for additional details.

7. Dartmouth Street Update

Mr. Laffer updated the board on the efforts of BWSC along Dartmouth St. Mr. Laffer noted that BWSC is in the process of identifying leaks in the 72" CSO that runs down Dartmouth Street. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: May 16, 2013* for additional details.

8. Potential Website Improvement

Mr. Simonelli reviewed the current layout of the Trust's website and potential new layouts provided by the BGwT's webmaster. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden suggested the Trust add the address and contact information to the homepage. Ms. Commerford, Trustee, suggested the board find a mechanism to publicize the success that the Trust has had in identifying problems as a result of the monitoring well monitoring we do. Discussion followed.

Ms. Kruel, Trustee, and Mr. Glickel suggested the Trust staff look at alternative ways manage the website. Discussion followed.

9. Transitions

Mr. Laffer noted the many upcoming political races that will be occurring in the coming months. Mr. Laffer also noted that Trust needs to be aware of potential changes that may occur as a result of a new Mayor, City-Councilors, State Representatives, and down the road a new Governor. Discussion followed.

10. Other Business

Mr. Laffer noted that a public hearing will take place at the Board of Appeals on Tuesday May 21st for the 4-6 Newbury Street project change. Discussion followed.

Ms. Commerford noted that upon her late arrival to the meeting she missed the review of the meeting minutes from the 3/21/13 meeting. She noted that word *contact* be changed to *contract* in the sentence in paragraph 1, under the Green Alley Project header; *Ms. Commerford, Trustee, also expressed concern over the timing of the contact.*

11. Executive Director's Report

BGwT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: May 16, 2013* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

12. 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: May 16, 2013* for a complete list of all activities.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 18th, 2013 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator, on 5/17/13.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Galen Gilbert". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned between the phrase "Respectfully submitted" and the typed name "Galen Gilbert Secretary".

Galen Gilbert Secretary

FY2014 BUDGET
DRAFT
3-May-13
OPERATING BUDGET

	FY13 Budget	FY13 Projected Final	FY14 Budget	Note
Income				
City Appropriation	169.4	169.4	169.4	
BWSC	25	25	25	
Well Installation	0	3.5	0	Replacement
Interest	7	6	9	Fidelity & m
Transfer from Reserves	8.6	2.8	14.2	
Total Income	210	206.7	217.6	

Expense

Salaries	154	156.6	159.3	Extra pay p FY13
Retirement	4.7	4.6	4.9	
FICA + Unemployment	13	12.6	13	
Health & Dental Insurance	7.2	7.3	7.5	
Workers Comp	0.8	0.7	0.7	
Paid Well Installation	0	0	3.5	Reimb recv
Well Maintenance	1.5	1	1.5	
Rent	11.6	10.8	11.5	
Electric	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Telephone	2	1.9	2	
Misc Office & Field Expense	2	2.7	2.5	Projector in
Website	3	1.5	2	
Continuing Education	0	0	1	
Accounting	6	6.8	6	Consulting
Contingency	4	0	2	
Total Expense	210	206.7	217.6	

RESERVES BUDGET

Opening Balance	700.6	700.6	697.8	
Well Installation	0	0	15	Normal wel
Recharge Pilot Project	15	0	0	
Green Alley Pilot Project	25	0	4.7	Well install
Website Update	0	0	2	

Transfer to Operating	8.6	2.8	14.2
Total Expenses	48.6	2.8	35.9
Ending Balance	652	697.8	661.9

Notes:

1. Balances maintained in accounts in accordance with the Boston groundwater trust Investment Policy Statement
2. On Mar 26, 2009, the trustees voted to set aside and group the reserve funds into an unrestricted fund for the following: Groundwater Research Fund; Network Upgrading Fund; and Contingency for Technical Assistance Fund, with no designation of specific funding for any of the categories. FY14 transfer, to be used only if necessary after contingency, will cover costs associated with technical assistance and groundwater recharge research.
3. Green Alley Project includes a commitment of \$22,000 to be met by installing 2 wells and services as described in the project plan, of which \$4,700 is well installation from the reserves budget and \$17,300 is included in kind from the operating budget.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
May 16, 2013

1. **The Marathon** – The terrible events of Patriots Day took place in the heart of the area we work in every day. In fact Christian was scheduled to read the wells in our Back Bay Central zone, which includes the site of the second bomb, the next day. The loss of life and severe injuries that day remind us that, as important as our efforts are, they pale next to those who risked their lives working to save those who were hurt and protect the rest of us.
2. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met on April 30. This was the last meeting for co-chair Phil Griffiths, who is leaving state government. His guidance and interest have been important to the success of the group. Details of reports from individual agencies are below.
3. **MBTA** – The T presented its report and recommendations for raising groundwater levels in the area of the South End near Back Bay Station. Based on substantial study, and in agreement with the technical advisory committee to the Working Group, the T is recommending a continuation of the continuous recharge with BWSC water including the addition of more injection wells and more water to expand the area where levels are raised. The T plans a public meeting in late May or early June to explain the plan and the basis for the decision. BGWT will be a participant, as we have been throughout the process.
4. **BWSC** – Still working to overcome the low groundwater situation near the corner of Dartmouth and Beacon Streets in Back Bay, BWSC is installing a temporary sandbag dam to raise water levels in the 72" combined sewer overflow pipe; if this leads to increased groundwater levels, it will be an indicator that a leak in that pipe may be causing the drawdown, and the pipe will be repaired. Repair work is about to begin on the sewer I Blagdon Street behind the Boston Public Library that may be a cause of low groundwater levels in that area. BWSC will be doing additional television inspection as it tries to find the cause of low groundwater levels in the area near Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End.
5. **MassDOT** – MassDOT has identified several additional leaks in the Turnpike drain line and hopes to make repairs this Spring.
6. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. There have now been 182 recharge systems installed and inspected to meet GCOD standards. We continue to work with project proponents to help them develop the most cost effective ways to meet GCOD requirements.
7. **Green Alley** – We are about to sign a Memorandum of Agreement among the Trust, the City, and Charles River Watershed Association for the construction of a Green Alley project, likely in the South End. This is a demonstration project, partially funded by the U S EPA through the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection, aimed at documenting the impact of porous pavement on both increases in groundwater level and improvements in water quality. Our involvement is strictly with changes in water levels. The project will be installed in 2014, but we plan to install the observation wells that are part of our contribution this year so that we can have substantial data on groundwater levels and how they respond to precipitation before installation of the porous pavement to compare with post-construction results.
8. **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.
9. **Website** – Traffic to our website remains solid, and I continue to get compliments on the information on the site.
10. **Meetings** – Christian and I attended two meetings at Public Works about the sidewalk recharge project. We also met with Public Works to discuss best practices when, because of site conditions, portions of the GCOD-mandated recharge system must be under a public sidewalk. I attended an update at the BRA on the project at 399 Summer St in South Boston. Christian and I met with the proponent of a project in the South End to discuss ways to approach recharge requirements for a multi-building project.

TECHNICAL & RECHARGE COORDINATOR'S UPDATE
BGwT Meeting: May 16TH, 2013

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR DUTIES

I attended a Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling Tune-Up class at the Boston Center for Adult Education.

I participated in the Boston Green Academy's Green Jobs Fair.

WELL MONITORING

I completed the second set of readings on April 1st and the third set of readings on May 14th. I'll begin the fourth set of readings on May 20th.

I invoiced Matthew Gagnon of Lee Kennedy Construction to reimburse the Trust for a well destroyed in front of 368 Congress Street.

Met with representatives from Haley & Aldrich (H&A) & Flett Construction to read the dozen wells located in the area around 4-6 Newbury Street.

I Coordinated with Bill Gode of the DCR to protect the nine wells along the east bound side of the Storrow Drive underpass from the Fieldler footbridge to Clarendon Street. DCR is resurfacing the area and all of the well locations were marked and staked.

RECHARGE COORDINATOR DUTIES

MEETINGS

- Attended Pembroke & West Newton Street alley restoration meeting at the South End Library.
- Elliott & I participated in the City-State Groundwater Technical Review Committee of the MBTA's long-term action plan for Ellis Neighborhood.
- Elliott & I met with representatives from 160-174 West Springfield Street to discuss potential Recharge configuration.
- Elliott & I met with John Kastrinos of H&A to discuss the upcoming Bay State Groundwater Forum Conference and the Trust's participation in the submittal of an abstract.
- Elliott & I attended a Capstone final presentation on Porous pavement treatment for sidewalks at PWD.

- Elliott & I attended a meeting with Amy Cording and Todd Liming of PWD to discuss locations of future recharge systems installed through the GCOD.
- Elliott & I attended a presentation on Stormcrete. Stormcrete is a Porous Concrete technology that may be installed in a section of public sidewalks.
- 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.

South End (4)

- 1 at 35 Milford St.
- 1 at 17 Bond St.
- 1 at 88 Waltham St.
- 1 at 27 Union Park
- 1 at the corner of Tremont and West Brookline St.

Dartmouth Street (8)

- 8 from Beacon St. – Commonwealth Ave.

Bay Village (4)

- 3 on Cortes St.
- 1 on Marginal Road from Arlington – Fayette St.

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.

Storrow Drive (3)

- 3 from Embankment Rd. - Clarendon St.

North End: Commercial Street (4)

- 1 at the corner of Richmond and Commercial St.
- 1 on Commercial St. in front of 145 Commercial St.
- 1 at 106 Commercial St.
- 1 at 88 Commercial St.

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