

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
September 23, 2011

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 4:04 pm. The following trustees were present:

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. Jim Hunt, Mayor's Office
Mr. William Moy, Chinatown Neighborhood Council

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical & Recharge Coordinator; Stuart Rosenberg, City Councilor Felix Arroyo's Office

1. Adoption of the minutes of the July 21, 2011 Meeting

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

Mr. Hunt, Trustee, moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion.

Voted: To accept the minutes of the July 21, 2011 meeting.

2. Financial Report

Ms. Sherden reviewed the BGwT *Financial Report and Reconciliation Detail*. Ms. Sherden noted that she reviewed the 2011 annual operating report and was pleased to see the Trust continues to operate in a fiscally responsible manner. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, suggested the BGwT explore alternate avenues (other than CD's) of investing the Trust's funds. Perhaps setting up a fund for homeowners who need money to underpin or comply with GCOD requirements. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden and Mr. Hunt noted that the financial risk would be too great and that the BGwT has a fiduciary responsibility to allocate those funds in a proper manner. Mr. Hunt noted that he did like Mr. Gilbert's idea and that the Trust should be thinking along the lines of alternate investments for the funds. Discussion followed.

3. Move of Technical and Recharge Coordinator

Mr. Laffer noted that Haley & Aldrich (H&A) will no longer be able to host Mr. Simonelli at their Charlestown offices. H&A has recently renovated their space and as a result unused space is now at a premium. As a result the plan is the move Mr. Simonelli into the Trust offices located at 229 Berkeley Street. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer noted that Mr. Simonelli has been at H&A for over 12 years. During that time Mr. Simonelli has been able to use their computers, printers, and software at no cost to the Trust. Mr. Laffer expressed the Trust's appreciation for H&A's contribution. Discussion followed.

Mr. Laffer reviewed the one-time costs and annual cost increases (see attached) associated with moving Mr. Simonelli to 229 Berkeley Street. Mr. Laffer noted the bulk of the costs are centered on the hardware and software needed to run the mapping programs Mr. Simonelli uses. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert move to spend up to \$7,000 over the next month and to spend money for outside vendors to print large maps. Ms. Sherden seconded the motion.

Voted: To spend up to \$7,000 over the next month for the office move and to spend the additional operating funds for outside vendors to print large maps.

4. Dartmouth Street Update

Mr. Laffer reviewed the ongoing efforts of BWSC to address the low levels on Dartmouth Street. Mr. Laffer highlighted the following;

- BWSC has discovered substantial infiltration in their 36" line along Dartmouth Street
- BWSC will continue to inspect the pipe and develop a repair plan based on their findings
- BWSC will continue to recharge water until repairs can be made

Discussion followed.

Mr. Sherin, Trustee, noted that without the Trust's extensive well network and the City/State Groundwater Working group's efforts, this problem most likely would never have been discovered. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert noted that the idea behind installing wells was to identify particular problems such as the low levels on Dartmouth Street that currently exist. Discussion followed.

5. Conflict of Interest Policy including Trustee "Special Employee" Status

Mr. Mitchell noted that the issue of potential conflict of interest arose with the meeting the Trust's Technical Advisory Committee. Discussion followed.

The board suggested that Mr. Gilbert draft a supplement to strengthen the Trust's current conflict of interest policy. Discussion followed. Mr. Gilbert agreed to work with Mr. Laffer on drafting a supplement and to clearly identify the role of the Technical Advisory Committee. Discussion followed.

Mr. Mitchell inquired about the Trustees being designated (or not designated) as "special municipal employees" and what impact that may have. Discussion followed. Mr. Hunt suggested that the Trust meet with the city's in-house counsel who can shed light and provide guidance on potential conflicts of interest. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert noted that he would prefer this issue be resolved as quickly as possible. Discussion followed. Mr. Hunt and Mr. Laffer noted that discussions would be scheduled and take place early next week. Discussion followed.

6. Executive Director's Report

BGWT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: September 22, 2011* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

7. Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Report

BGWT Technical & Recharge Coordinator Mr. Christian Simonelli presented his activities since last meeting. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Technical & Recharge Coordinator's Update BGWT Meeting: September 22, 2011* for a complete list of all activities. Discussion followed.

Mr. Simonelli noted that Article 8 in the Trust's by-laws still has the old office address of 234 Clarendon St. listed as the principal office. Discussion followed. Mr. Gilbert noted that this should be listed as an agenda item for next meeting and is something that will need to be voted on in order to change to the current address of 229 Berkeley Street. Mr. Laffer will add this item to November 17th agenda list.

8. Other Business

Mr. Laffer noted that he will be expanding upon his public outreach to various city neighborhood groups. He noted that he has already contacted several of them and is in the process of setting up presentation dates. Discussion followed. Mr. Laffer noted that he is coordinating with Mr. Moy, Trustee, on making a presentation to the Chinatown Neighborhood Council on October 13. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 17, 2011 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGWT Technical & Recharge Coordinator, on 9/23/11.

Respectfully submitted,



Galen Gilbert, Secretary

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR MOVE COSTS

ONE TIME COSTS

Computer	2200
Printer	300
AutoCAD	1400
ArcView GIS	1500
Adpbe X Pro Writer	200
Telephones	200
Office Furniture	500
Contingency	400

TOTAL ONE TIME COSTS 6700

ANNUAL COST INCREASES

Software Support	600
Printing	1500
Second phone line	400

TOTAL ANNUAL COST INCREASE 2500

NOTES

1. Costs do not reflect potential rebates
2. Large format printing now done on H&A equipment

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
September 22, 2011

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again on October 27.
2. **MBTA** – We continue to provide information to GZA as they proceed with their design work for the MBTA. In addition to their work on the long term solution to low groundwater levels near Back Bay Station in the South End, they will be looking into the possibility that the low groundwater levels near Breman and Porter Streets in East Boston might be MBTA related.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC expects to award the contract for sewer repairs on Commercial Street in the North End this month. They repaired two small water lines in the North End that might have been causing some high fluctuations in groundwater levels. In Back Bay, BWSC has diverted the flow from the 36" sewer line that was the suspected cause of low groundwater levels along Dartmouth Street. They have found some significant areas of infiltration in the bottom section of the line at a manhole near Alley 418. They are reviewing the tv tapes to make sure if there are other sources of leakage, then will devise a repair program.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT's contractors have begun the work of cleaning the Turnpike drain pipe from the Prudential Tunnel for the first time since it was constructed almost a half century ago. They hope to have a report within a few weeks of any leaks that may have been obscured by sediment that could be causing reductions in groundwater levels.
5. **DPW** – Christian and I met with City Engineer Para Jayasinghe and his staff to review potential solutions to the problem of damage to our observation wells during sidewalk construction projects. We have worked out a system that we believe will enable us to prevent the vast majority of the damage caused by contractor's not knowing to protect our wells. We believe that the plan will not put any significant strain on City or State agencies or on contractors (or the Trust).
6. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD remains excellent. There have been over 130 recharge systems installed to meet GCOD requirements, with over 120 more approved but not yet installed because projects have yet to be completed. The work of ISD, the Board of Appeals, and the BRA has assured that all projects address the GCOD requirements; the very few variances granted have been for very valid technical reasons.
7. **Website** – Our consultant has begun work on an upgrade to our interactive map that will allow it to work better with tablet computers while retaining full existing functionality for computers using a mouse. We are planning to switch to a Google Maps based system that should assure improved functionality and reduce some of the availability issues that we have occasionally had with our existing map. In the meantime, traffic to the site remains steady, with nearly 200 daily visits.
8. **Finances** – We have received our FY12 funding from the City. Thanks to the Environment Department for making sure that everything happened smoothly.
9. **Meetings** – Christian and I met with the proponents for the new residential tower planned for Copley Place to review their planned recharge system and other groundwater related issues. We met with DPW to discuss ways to assure that our well locations are highlighted so that they are protected from damage by DPW contractors. I met with a journalism student from Emerson for an interview.
10. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on the Copley Place residential tower and retail expansion project. As always, these are posted on our website.

**TECHNICAL & RECHARGE
COORDINATOR'S UPDATE
BGwT Meeting: September 22nd, 2011**

WELL MONITORING

Our well network was last read from July 15th - August 6th. We started new set of readings on Monday August 21st.

NEW CO-OP

Our new co-op, Thomas Lantz started on Aug. 21st. Thomas is a senior at Wentworth and is in their Civil Engineering program. He will be with us until the end of December.

DATA LOGGERS

16 of our 23 of our data loggers are deployed throughout the west zone. I upload the following loggers on a weekly basis:

Storrow Drive

- 5 from Embankment Rd. - Clarendon St.
- Levels in these well are the highest they been since 2001 when we started monitoring them

Dartmouth Street

- 8 from Beacon St. – Commonwealth Ave.
- Levels have come up a bit. BWSC continues to injecting water and dye into the area find possible leak(s)

Ellis Neighborhood

- 1 on Saint Charles St. and 2 on Cazenove St.
- Levels in all three wells have steadily above elev. 5'

Southwest Corridor Alignment

- 2 adjacent to the Southwest Corridor Alignment on Berkeley St.
- Levels in these two wells remain low

We now have 23 datalogger's in our inventory; down 2 from our original purchase of 25. A logger that we could not connect to was sent out for evaluation. It was determined that the internal battery was dead and was

un-repairable. The logger was out of its five-year warranty period and was not replaced.

Southwest Corridor Alignment

- 1 on Braddock Park and 1 on West Newton St.
- Levels in these two wells fluctuated quite a bit in recent readings

Christian Science

- 2 on Huntington Ave. side
- Levels in these two wells also fluctuated quite a bit in recent readings

MISCELLANEOUS

- Elliott and I met with Para Jayasinghe and Amy Cording of public works on June 9th and again on September 21st. We discussed providing the city our well locations in order to prevent contractors from destroying wells when sidewalk work is performed. The City will provide the BGwT with the following:
 - 1.) Set plans of projects that come through the public works department. Bill Eagan (Chief Civil Engineer) for the department will send me plans to review to see if any of BGwT's wells are impacted.
 - 2.) The Public Improvements Commission (PIC) agenda list. Amy Cording has added the BGwT to the distribution list. It is an address based list of work to be done. Again, I will review to see if any of the BGwT's wells will be impacted.
 - 3.) A meeting with Michael Summers from the public works department to discuss adding the BGwT's well locations to the city's system. That meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday September 28, 2011.
- Elliott, Trustee Shilland, & I met with representatives from the MBTA and GZA. The purpose of the meeting was to inform GZA (the MBTA's selected contractor for the long-term solution in Ellis Neighborhood) of work that has been done in the area by others. I have provided GZA with all of our logger data in the area, well in-

stallation reports for wells in the area, and lat/long coordinates for wells in the area. I have also provided GZA with various maps and follow-up information to their field engineers.

- Elliott & I met with the members of the Technical Advisory Committee and reviewed a number of as-built drawings provided to us by BWSC.
- Elliott & I met with representatives of the proposed Copley Project. We reviewed and commented on the proposed groundwater recharge system.
- Elliott & I had a follow-up meeting with the representatives of the proposed 126 Brookline Street project. We reviewed and commented on the proposed groundwater recharge system.
- Reviewed locations of proposed tree infiltration pits along Hemenway and Clearway Streets, and Huntington Ave. I forwarded my comments for potential conflicts with the locations of our observation wells to Elliott.
- Sent to our webmaster four articles to post. They were:
 - 1.) Hydraulic Design of Permeable Pavements Factsheet
 - 2.) Porous Asphalt Factsheet
 - 3.) Part 1 of "Biodegradation of Untreated Wood Foundation Piles in Existing Buildings"
 - 4.) Porous Pavement: Recharge groundwater, reduce runoff and save on building costs with a porous system
- Sent an update of all our latest logger data for posting.
- Commented on MassDOT's Symphony Hall Area construction and its potential impacts to our observation wells in the area. I forwarded my comments to Elliott.
- Attended a webinar on the Design, Construction, & Maintenance of Permeable Pavement.

CONTOURS

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