

BOSTON GROUNDWATER TRUST (BGwT)
BOARD MEETING
September 24, 2009

The Board of Trustees of the Boston Groundwater Trust met 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. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 4:08 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. Gary Saunders, Boston Back Bay Association
Mr. Galen Gilbert, Fenway Community Development Corporation (CDC)
Mr. William Moy, Chinatown Neighborhood Council
Mr. Peter Sherin, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Peter Schilland, Ellis Neighborhood Association
Ms. Molly Sherden, Beacon Hill Civic Association
Mr. Bill Linehan, City Council District 2
Ms. Nancy Grilk, Mayor's office

Also present:

Elliott Laffer, BGwT Executive Director; Christian Simonelli, BGwT Technical Coordinator

1. Adoption of the minutes of the July 30, 2009 Meeting

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

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

Voted: To accept the minutes of the July 30, 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.

Mr. Sherin noted that this would be his last report as Treasurer of the Trust. He will be stepping aside but will remain as a Trustee with the Trust. Discussion followed.

3. Election of Treasurer

BGwT co-chairs Mr. Mitchell, Trustee and Mr. Saunders, Trustee suggested Ms. Sherden to replace Mr. Sherin as Treasurer of the Trust. Discussion followed.

Mr. Sherin noted that he would work with Ms. Sherden to ensure a smooth transition into the position. He also noted that Mr. Laffer's professionalism and efficiency makes life easier for the Treasurer. Discussion followed.

Ms. Grilk, Trustee, moved to elect Ms. Sherden Treasurer of the Trust. Mr. Moy, Trustee, seconded the motion.

Voted: To elect Ms. Sherden Treasurer of the Trust.

4. Posting of Meeting Minutes Agendas and Minutes

Mr. Laffer noted the Trust website is set up to post meeting minutes. Discussion followed.

Ms. Sherden expressed reservations over disseminating personal information such as BGWT employee salaries. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert, Trustee, views the Trust as similar to a state authority and should post all items related even those related to salaries since the Trust Annual reports are already posted on the site. Discussion followed.

Ms. Gilbert moved to post all meeting agendas and minutes without attachments from past, present, and future meetings. Ms. Sherden seconded the motion.

Voted: To post all meeting agendas and minutes, without attachments, from past, present, and future meetings.

5. Budget Update to Reflect Final FY10 City Funding

Mr. Laffer noted that the budget has been revised to reflect level funding from the city for FY10 rather than the lower level of funding that had been reflected in the budget adopted March 26, 2009. Discussion followed.

Mr. Moy moved to adopt the revised budget for FY10 as presented. Mr. Sherin seconded the motion.

Voted: To adopt the revised budget for FY10.

6. Tufts Research Project

Mr. Laffer noted that the contract for the research project has been signed. He and Mr. Simonelli along with members of the Technical Advisory Committee met with Professor Richard Vogel and Brian Thomas of Tufts to kick off the project. Discussion followed.

Mr. Shilland, Trustee, noted that he sees most of the work on the project starting around the beginning of 2010 since Professor Vogel and Mr. Thomas are currently pulling together all the information. Mr. Laffer noted that there will be an additional meeting at that time. Discussion followed.

7. Focus on Chinatown with Updated Piling Cutoff Data

Mr. Moy gave some historical background for the Chinatown area. He noted 4 buildings that were demolished on Hudson St. in the 1980's due to rotted piles. Discussion followed.

Mr. Simonelli presented his findings for underpinning and piling cutoff data for Chinatown. He noted average cutoffs are at 5' but that some vary. Discussion followed.

Mr. Simonelli reviewed current groundwater levels in Chinatown. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gilbert suggested Mr. Simonelli work on finding areas for Recharge in Chinatown. Discussion followed.

8. Executive Director's Report

BGWT Executive Director Mr. Elliott Laffer distributed his report. Discussion followed. Refer to the attached *Executive Director's Report: September 24, 2009* for a complete list of all activities.

9. 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: September 24 2009* for a complete list of all activities.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2009 @ 4:00 pm at the Lenox Hotel.

Notes submitted by Christian Simonelli, BGWT Technical Coordinator, on 9/25/09.

Respectfully submitted,



Galen Gilbert, Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
September 24, 2009

1. **Elevation Correction** – We have spot checked elevations in other neighborhoods and found no additional surveying errors.
2. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The group will meet again in October.
3. **MBTA** – The T has identified a location for a second recharge well on Cazenove Street. The existing recharge does not appear to be operating properly, with the well overflowing while levels at the nearby observation wells are dropping.
4. **DCR** – The connection between the Storrow Drive West Pumping Station and the recharge galleys under Back Street was completed on July 9. DCR is studying the operation and its impact to make sure that it is operating properly. Groundwater levels along Back Street have been higher than normal during our most recent observations.
5. **BWSC** – While repairs have been completed to the leaking sewer line near the corner of Beacon and Dartmouth Streets, we have not yet seen any significant increase in groundwater levels there. We will continue to monitor this closely.
6. **MTA** – Repairs to the leak near the corner of Clarendon Street and Columbus Avenue were completed in early September.
7. **MWRA** – MWRA construction work on replacing their sewer system in East Boston continues. They will be doing some open cut work near the intersection of Breman and Porter Streets that will allow further inspection and possible repair to any leaking infrastructure near that very low groundwater area. The old sewer along Porter Street will be discontinued next spring. They will be inspecting connections along the Boston Marginal Conduit in Back Bay to check for possible leaks.
8. **GCOD** – The number of GCOD cases before the Board of Appeals seems to be increasing. Compliance with the zoning continues to be excellent.
9. **Website** – Traffic to the website has been high this month, particularly in the last week. We have now posted a diagram, courtesy of Haley & Aldrich, that illustrates the effect of low groundwater levels on wooden pilings; it is accessed through the explanation of the effect of piling elevations under the “wells” tab.
10. **Research Project** – We had an excellent kickoff meeting with Professor Richard Vogel and Brian Thomas of Tufts. Thanks to Peter Shilland, Mike Paster, John Kastrinos, and Bruce Fairless of our Technical Advisory Committee who attended.
11. **Meetings** – I met with engineers for a rehab project at Castle Square in the South End to discuss how they could most effectively meet groundwater recharge requirements under GCOD.
12. **Comment Letter** – I filed comments on a project at 691 Massachusetts Avenue. They will be posted on our website shortly.
13. **Budget** – The Mayor has approved our FY10 contract. We should receive the funding imminently.

**TECHNICAL COORDINATOR'S
WELL MONITORING UPDATE
BGwT Meeting: September 24, 2009**

WELL MONITORING

The BGwT's latest set of readings are indicated below.

There are currently 714 wells in the West network. Wells were read from Aug. 18 – Sept. 13, 2009. Of the 714 wells read:

- 49 wells @ elevation >9'
- 113 wells @ elevation 7'-9'
- 284 wells @ elevation 5'- 7'
- 213 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 31 wells @ elevation <3'
- 3 wells @ Dry
- 21 wells @ no reading
- 69 Recharge Locations

We have read 85 wells in the East network (East Boston Area). Wells were read in East Boston on Aug. 9, 11, & 14, 2009. Of the 85 wells read:

- 24 wells @ elevation >9'
- 23 wells @ elevation 7'-9'
- 11 wells @ elevation 5'- 7'
- 10 wells @ elevation 3'-5'
- 6 wells @ elevation <3'
- 10 wells @ Dry
- 1 wells @ no reading

NOTE: We are continuously reading the well network and started a new set of readings on Friday September 18, 2009.

LEVELLOGGERS

- We continue to upload dataloggers at the following locations on a weekly basis:
 - 1 on and around Saint Charles St. and 2 on Cazenove Street
 - 5 on Beacon St., in the Berkeley to Clarendon St. block
- 12 dataloggers have also been installed in the Back Bay, South End, and the Fenway
- The MBTA has agreed to send me down on their tracks with a couple of their flagmen for me to access the OW's adjacent to the alignment. I'm in contact with Terrence McCarthy of the MBTA and hope to gain access soon.

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 have completed all of Back Bay, Lower Beacon Hill, Chinatown/Leather District, and Bulfinch Triangle. I continue working on the Fenway.