

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
February 19th, 2015

1. **Readings/Field Engineer** – I have hired a new field engineer for the Jan-Apr 2015 semester. He started reading the well network on January 2nd. However, due to the Snow we're roughly halfway through this reading set. Hopefully this weather pattern lets up and we can get be back out there soon.
2. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met on January 22nd. Reports from individual agencies are described below.
3. **MBTA** – The T along with their consultant GZA GeoEnvironmental adjusted the flowrates of the recharge systems in the Ellis Neighborhood area. Approximately 52.2 gpm is being injected into recharge wells in the area. In addition to our manual monitoring we have 2 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min. Levels are up a bit and once we can get at the wells we hope that this upward trend continues.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC continues to investigate the cause of low groundwater levels near the corner of Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End. No substantial infiltration was observed. They have used new robot technology to look at the lines in the area and are in the process of reviewing the video that was taken. On Blagden Street, point repairs were made at the corner of Blagden St. and Huntington Ave. They re-inspected the repairs made and the line in Blagden St. and no new infiltration points have been discovered. Inspections have started on Clarendon St. in the South End by Gray St. BWSC will conduct video and dye test to if any points of infiltration are present.
5. **MassDOT** – MassDOT was unable to get out and inspect the drainage line over on Huntington Ave. by the Prudential building due to weather. MassDOT will attempt to measure flow in pipe during dry weather using a new low flow device. Previous investigations in the line revealed some leakage in the ceiling of the Prudential tunnel. MassDOT has attempted to coordinate with the Simon property group but has been unsuccessful. MassDOT will continue to try to coordinate with them.
6. **DCR** – DCR replaced one of the recharge pumps in November for failing to perform as designed. DCR also jettted (cleaned out) pipes that carry the water to the recharge galleys in Back Street. The pump controller and both recharge pumps are now operating as designed.
7. **MWRA** – The MWRA will be notifying us by email of permits that are submitted for dewatering. This is helpful to us if we see a sudden drop in an area that we cannot explain. I instruct our well readers to make note of construction activities that may have potential negative effects groundwater levels. However, this additional notification will be yet another piece to the puzzle in assisting us in identifying groundwater level trends. We received our first report this month.

- 8. Veolia Energy** – Veolia Energy investigated the abnormally high temperatures in observation wells located on Blagden St. They discovered that the wells are approximately 10’ away from their lines and the wells close proximity to their lines is causing the abnormally high groundwater temperatures. Their infrastructure along Huntington Ave. is in good shape and is high enough to not cause any effect on groundwater levels in that area. They are also investigating their line at the corner of Blagden and Exeter St. for a potential leak. I met with Veolia and discussed locations where steam discharge can be reintroduced as groundwater recharge. A handful of potential locations were selected and Veolia will report back to us on the feasibility of these locations.
- 9. Exeter St/Huntington Ave Area** – Although still very low, levels in this area have rebounded significantly. A nearby underpinning project may have had an effect on levels in the nearby wells since last April. We have three dataloggers in the area and will keep these in place until the nearby underpinning work has been completed.
- 10. GCOD** – Efforts are being made to streamline the GCOD process and potentially remove compliant projects that only trigger GCOD requirements because of substantial renovations from the Board of Appeals process. The special session for GCOD only requests that was implemented by the Board of Appeals this past summer has reduced the wait for these projects by as much as two months and has worked very well. Elliott and I met with ISD & BWSC at the beginning of the month to discuss Elliott’s proposed GCOD MOU. It was a very productive meeting and we are working with ISD & BWSC on finalizing the language of the MOU.
- 11. Porous Alley 543** – We partnered in a demonstration project with Public Works and the Charles River Watershed Association in an effort to use the City’s alleys as a vessel to help capture precipitation to raise local groundwater levels. So far the initial results look very promising. We have been datalogging (using instruments to record a water level every 60 mins.) six wells in the area since August 2013 and levels in these wells are up considerably. We’ll continue to datalog these wells to judge the performance of the Porous Alley.
- 12. Meetings** – I met with the proponents of Copley Tower project to review their plans for the required recharge system. I met with Austin Blackmon, the City’s new Chief of Environment and Energy. I met with Daniel Sieger, the State’s new Assistant Secretary for Environment.
- 13. Website** – I added some new content to our website. The most recent items are posted under our “Newest” tab on our homepage. In addition, I’ve added a new tab “Recharge Projects” to the website which highlights current recharge projects in the City. As always, I would appreciate any feedback you may have.