

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

1. **Readings** – Wrapping up our third set of readings in 2020.

2. **Meetings/Presentations** –

- Met with Giuliana Zelada-Tumialan and Steven Keppel of Simpson, Gumpertz, & Heger to discuss the potential of a wood pile conference and establishment of a universal foundation information database. (1/29)
- Attended the City-State Groundwater Working Group. (1/30)
- Attended a Parcel 13 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. (2/11)
- Along with representatives from Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC), I met with 426 Stuart Street staff and reviewed locations of active sump pumps for dye tests (2/14).
- Met with John Sullivan of the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) to review locations of low groundwater levels and discuss proposed projects throughout our monitoring area. (2/21)
- Attended scoping session (2/10) and wrote a comment letter (3/13) for the Pinnacle at Central Wharf Project.
- Met with Luke Gray, MIT BS '18 MS '20 PhD Candidate, to discuss researching a potential alternative to underpinning. (3/11)
- Met with James Heiss, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences at Umass Lowell to discuss sea level rise and the potential tidal and biological effect on groundwater. (3/12)
- Spoke & met with residents, engineers, & developers throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to provide us to meet the zoning.

3. **Zoning Reform** – Attended and testified at the City Council Meeting on Government Operations Hearing Docket #0233 petition for a special law re: An Act Relative to the Zoning Board of Appeal. (2/25)

4. **BluCloud** – Our automated readings project has hit a bit of a technical snag. A new Board has been designed and is being tested in a controlled environment. I received an update from Blu Cloud when we spoke by phone on 2/19. A unit was scheduled to be deployed, in a well, in the coming weeks.

5. **MBTA** - Approximately 46.7 gpm is being injected into recharge wells in the South End Ellis Neighborhood area along Appleton, Berkeley, Saint Charles, Cazenove, and Clarendon Streets. In addition to our manual monitoring we have 4 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min.



- The MBTA has committed to continue funding the current recharge well solution for the next 10 years and have assured me that funding will be provided beyond the 10 years if this current solution is still in place.
  - In an effort to conserve water and limit operational costs, flow rates are slowly being reduced.
  - MBTA consultant exploring the feasibility of installing a jet grout barrier wall as discussed at the April, 2019 MBTA technical advisory committee meeting.
6. **DCR** – Dataloggers are installed in 3 wells to monitor the levels along the Storrow Drive tunnel pump station groundwater recharge system and assure that they remain in their usual range. The DCR and their consultants continue to work with the DOT on traffic studies in support of a redesign effort for the underpass. Recharge will be part of that redesign and is targeted for upgrade. Potential for a DCR and DOT partnership for repairs. DOT would do construction and then give back to DCR upon completion.
7. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
- In the South End, additional CCTV inspections have shown new areas of infiltration in sewers, manholes, and laterals. They have submitted these findings to their internal engineering design team and to include the repairs in their 2019-2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
  - In the North End, at the corner of Richmond and Commercial Streets, repairs were made to manholes but so far no bump in water levels. Additional CCTV inspections in Richmond & Commercial Streets & Columbus Park are planned.
  - In the Stuart Street area of the Back Bay, between Berkeley and Dartmouth Streets, sewers and manholes indicated areas of infiltration. Repairs were made in mid-June but no change has been observed in the groundwater levels. BWSC to follow-up with additional CCTV inspections. In addition, they will coordinate with building owners in the area to conduct on-site inspections.
  - In the Fenway, at Boylston and Kilmarnock Streets, infiltration was observed. BWSC to has filed change work order to current construction contract to push up the repair and have it included in their 2019-2021 CIP.
8. **MWRA** – CCTV inspections indicated infiltration at the intersection of Breman and Porter streets in East Boston. MWRA is coordinating with BWSC on the next steps to divert flow and inspect the entire regulating structure at this intersection.

