

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 12th, 2016

1. **Readings** – We just wrapped up our 4th set of readings of the year and started our 5th set of readings this past weekend.
2. **Meetings** –
 - I met with Kate Bowditch and Bethany Eisenberg of the Charles River Watershed Association to participate in an interview and review the performance of porous Alley 543. (4/13).
 - I attended the scoping session for the Harrison Albany Block project (4/12), the 370-380 Harrison Avenue project (4/20), and the Back Bay/South End Gateway Project (5/11).
 - I wrote comment letters for The Cosmopolitan @ 771 Harrison Avenue, 88 North Washington Street, Harrison Albany Block, and 370-380 Harrison Avenue projects.
 - I was interviewed by Tanner Stening of the new weekly publication the Boston Guardian. Part of my interview appeared in the inaugural issue of the newspaper.
 - I spoke and met with residents throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to provide us to satisfy the zoning.
3. **MBTA** - Approximately 50.5 gpm is being injected into recharge wells in the area. In addition to our manual monitoring we have 4 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min. Levels in the Appleton & Tremont Street area are lower than what was projected. The MBTA's Engineer is coordinating with BWSC and ISD for entry to buildings in the vicinity. The entities will update us at the July City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting.
4. **Porous Alley 543** - We continue to datalog two wells in Porous Alley No. 543. A summary of the report from CRWA stated the following:
 - Adequate storage has been provided for all storm events
 - Water depth below the porous pavement has not exceeded more than 8"; which is almost a foot below the overflow pipe
 - Other than the need for additional vacuum sweeping the alley is effectively infiltrating stormwater
 - Alley's performance is comparable to other porous asphalt systems in New England
5. **DCR** – The Storrow Drive Tunnel pump station system is operating as anticipated. Discharges in both pumps to the east and west have equal run times and are showing no anomalies. However, there have been low levels to the west of Berkeley Street along the Back Street. DCR is coordinating with BWSC and will inspect the infrastructure in this area. Internally within the next 6 months the DCR will look at underpass repairs and start to form a plan for what's next. Recharge will be part of the plan and will be looked for possible upgrade.

- 6. BWSC** – Investigation into the Callahan Tunnel does not appear to be groundwater related. Entry into the North End buildings along Commercial Street is being coordinated with ISD. BWSC will accompany ISD personnel to inspect buildings and check for sump pumps and laterals. A TV inspection of pipe along Richmond Street revealed a leak by the low well (25L-1586) at the corner of Richmond and Commercial. BWSC will continue to investigate. Pipe in question is at a low level elevation. BWSC noted that nothing was seen in manholes along Clarendon and Gray Streets. However, they still need to access some manholes in Clarendon as they were covered by parked cars. There may be lateral leak at the corner of Gray and Clarendon Street. Alley No. 430 work is setup to design and a contract will be bid in the Autumn of 2016, with construction is anticipated to occur in mid-2017. In the Stuart Street area between Berkeley and Dartmouth Streets steam lines are causing an issue for inspections. BWSC will coordinate with Veolia to help in accessing lines. Manholes along Fairfield Street by Beacon Street were inspected but no infiltration seen. Back Street manholes were also inspected and there may be some infiltration. BWSC will continue to look into manholes in Back Street. DCR recently inspected their storm drain line in Back Street and no infiltration was seen.
- 7. MassDOT** - Additional inspection and repairs of the 30” portion of the Prudential Tunnel drain line is scheduled for later this month. So far wells in the area have shown a slight increase in response to the previous repairs that were made in early January.
- 8. Veolia Energy** - The Copley Square Public Library and other smaller steam customers are still being investigated as possible locations. Veolia submitted data to DEP on discharge content. The permitting process was vetted and will be completed without any issues.
- 9. Eliot Hotel** - The Eliot Hotel on Commonwealth Avenue has had water seeping in through their elevator pits. The problem first sprung up last May and occurred again this past December. BWSC tested the water and the results indicated that it was groundwater. The Hotel is in the process of sealing their elevator pits to avoid additional issues.
- 10. Website** - I have added some new content to our website. The most recent items are posted under our “Newest” tab on our homepage. As always, I would appreciate any feedback you may have.