

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 16, 2014

1. **Transition** – It appears that the team at Energy and Environment will be staying place in the new administration. I look forward to continuing to work with them on groundwater issues.
2. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again next week.
3. **MBTA** – After a delay caused by the snow and extreme cold, the recharge wells are now scheduled to be turned on before the end of the month. We have data loggers in place in four wells in the immediate area, and the MBTA has loggers in several more. We will be closely tracking the results to make sure that they align with projected gains. Based on past experience, it is likely to take several months before groundwater stabilizes at higher levels.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC will be investigating why their recent repairs at Blagden St behind the Boston Public Library raised levels for a short period but have failed to maintain those gains. They continue to monitor the progress at the Benjamin Franklin Institute in the South End, which is under order to eliminate pumping of groundwater into the BWSC system. BWSC will also be investigating another potential location where groundwater may be pumped into their system in the Back bay.
5. **MassDOT** – MassDOT sealed nine additional leaks in the drain line from the Turnpike. They are now focusing on the area between Berkeley and Clarendon Streets, will then move further to the west, although repairs there are complicated by the smaller diameter of the pipe in that area. With the onset of cold weather, these repairs are now likely to take place in the Spring.
6. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. Over 200 recharge systems have now been installed under the GCOD. We are working with ISD to try to streamline the system, without changing the zoning, for projects that need zoning approval only for GCOD and with no below grade construction or building extension.
7. **Porous Alley** – Design work on the project to install a porous surface in Public Alley 543 in the South End is largely complete, and the project should go out for bid next month.
8. **Website** – We continue to have very positive feedback on our revised website, and traffic remains substantial.
9. **Meetings** – I spoke at the Mayor's transition committee hearing on the environment and submitted written testimony, posted on our website. I attended a scoping session for Parcel K in the South Boston Innovation District. Christian and I met with the developer of a project on Massachusetts Avenue in the South End to discuss whether there might be a more economical way for him to meet GCOD requirements.