

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
November 20th, 2014

1. **Readings/Field Engineer** – Wrapping up our last set of readings for the year and should be finished by the first week in December. So far most wells are up and we have bunch of all-time highs. We typically read the 825 network 7-8 times per year. I'm the process of interviewing new field engineer candidates for the Jan-Apr 2015 semester.
2. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met on October 23rd. Reports from individual agencies are described below.
3. **MBTA** – The T is working on a long term monitoring plan agreement with their consultant GZA GeoEnvironmental to continue the monitoring of groundwater levels and the adjustments of the recharge systems in the Ellis Neighborhood area. The flow rate in the Appleton Street Recharge well decreased from 8.8 gpm to 5.2 gpm. It was unclear as to why the flow rate decreased since GZA did not make a change. GZA did recommend that the flow rate be increased with additional monitoring of groundwater levels. I'm follow-up with GZA and find out when they plan to make that change.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC continues to investigate the cause of low groundwater levels near the corner of Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End. Manholes in the area were grouted last December and the lines in Commercial Street were walked last spring by divers with no apparent infiltration observed. They will continue to look at the lines in the area using some new robot technology and dye tests. On Blagden Street, point repairs were made at the corner of Blagden St. and Huntington Ave. No new infiltration points have been discovered.
5. **MassDOT** – MassDOT inspected the drainage station in the Prudential. No major infiltration was observed. Some dry weather flow was observed and it may be coming from the various joints located in the pipe. MassDOT will attempt to measure it using a new device.
6. **DCR** – The DCR is inspecting their pumps and controllers in the area along Back Street in Back Bay. One of the pump controllers that DCR uses to transfer water that drains from the Storrow Drive tunnel to the recharge system under Back Street failed and was replaced. One of their other pumps was tripped out for two weeks and they're looking into why that occurred. In addition, they will be jetting (cleaning out) pipes that carry the water to the recharge galleys in Back Street.
7. **MWRA** – The MWRA will be notifying us 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.

8. **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.
9. **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 Appeal process. I met with ISD Commissioner William Christopher, Gary Moccia, and Harry McGonagle of Inspectional Services to review a draft proposal. I also reviewed the proposal with Elliott and he forwarded his comments to Commissioner Christopher. Elliott has had positive follow-up correspondence with ISD and is continuing to hammer out a proposal in his role as Chief Strategy Officer.
10. **Porous Alley** – I attended a post construction site visit for Porous Alley No. 543 to review our datalogger protocol. Porous Alley No. 543 has been installed with informational plaques at both ends of the Alley detailing the purpose of the Porous Alley. We have had some significant rain and our dataloggers have showed some nice increases. The two wells installed in the Alley are up over foot and have stayed up. The four wells on the perimeter are also up almost a foot and have stayed up. We hope this positive trend continues. We will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony in the Alley with the Mayor, DPW, and the Charles River Watershed Association on Friday November 21st at 11am.
11. **Meetings** – I met with ISD Commissioner Christopher, Gary Moccia, and Harry McGonagle of Inspectional Services to obtain a better handle on gathering information for buildings which have test pits dug or that will be underpinned. It was a productive meeting. I met with Tani Marinovich, the interim Executive Director of the Esplanade Association. We reviewed the efforts to restore the Hatch Shell Oval lawn and to ensure that the Trust's wells in the area are protected during construction. Attended scoping sessions and submitted comment letters on the Garden Garage Project in the West End, Haymarket Parcel 9 Project, and the 135 Breman Street project in East Boston. I met with our newest Trustee Daniel Manning and reviewed the role of the Trust and provided background on the establishment of our organization.
12. **Website** – I 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.
13. **Vacation** – I'll be on Vacation the week of Thanksgiving and the last two weeks in December. I'll be checking email and the office phone for correspondence.