

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

December 17, 2010

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again on January 20.
2. **MBTA** – The MBTA has selected an engineering team led by GZA for their tunnel repair project, which prominently includes the long term solution for the low groundwater levels near Back Bay Station in the South End. Investigation and design work is expected to take 6-8 months after the engineering contract is awarded.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC is conducting further television inspections to attempt to determine the cause of the low groundwater levels along Dartmouth Street. We have installed additional data loggers in that area to help in the effort. In the Newmarket section of the South End we were able to help BWSC solve a high groundwater problem that turned out to be caused by a leaking flood gate.
4. **MWRA** – MWRA has completed their replumbing of the sewer system in East Boston. The pipe along Porter Street was removed from service and filled in during September. We continue to see substantial increases in the very low groundwater levels along Porter Street and Visconti Road, especially west of Breman Street.
5. **MassDOT** – As part of a paving project in the Prudential tunnel on the Turnpike, MassDOT will clean a drain line servicing the tunnel. This will allow inspection of the drain line (which has not been cleaned out since the Turnpike extension was built in the 1960's) to see if there are leaks there that could be contributing to low groundwater levels in the Back Bay and Bay Village near the Turnpike.
6. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD remains excellent. We have now seen over 200 cases go through the Board of Appeals, with only three very justified variances granted. The BRA has made sure that projects in the GCOD area that were approved prior to its adoption but require modified zoning because of project changes in light of the changed economy meet GCOD requirements. The BRA has also made sure that those projects that are part of Institutional Master Plans or Planned Development Areas and don't go before the Board of Appeals still meet all of the requirements of the GCOD.
7. **Research Project** – The Tufts researchers are finalizing their report from our funded research project on recharge related changes in groundwater levels. Professor Vogel will present his findings to the trustees at the January meeting.
8. **Website** – Traffic to the website has been increasing. There have been many hits on our relatively new recharge tab. We continue to receive positive comments on the site.
9. **Meetings** – I attended a scoping session about Northeastern University's upcoming dormitory project that will replace the back part of the YMCA on Huntington Avenue. I then had a productive followup meeting with Northeastern and their consultants to discuss possible locations for the required recharge system.
10. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on the project at 121 Brookline Avenue, as well as on Institutional Master Plan Notification Forms for Northeastern University and Simmons College. As always our comments are posted on [www.bostongroundwater.org](http://www.bostongroundwater.org).
11. **Vacation** – I will be out of the office Dec 24 – Jan 3. Have a great holiday season!