

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
December 17, 2013

1. **Transition** – I will be testifying tonight before Mayor-elect Walsh's transition committee on environmental issues about the importance of the groundwater issue and the work of the Trust. My testimony will be posted tomorrow on www.bostongroundwater.org. As he leaves office, I want to thank Mayor Menino for his support that has been so crucial in getting the groundwater issue on the radar screen of all of the relevant city and state entities that are addressing it. Hopefully, he will see the success that we have had as an example of how to deal with a knotty problem as he moves into his new work on urban issues at Boston University.
2. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in January.
3. **MBTA** – The T installed the recharge wells in the South End near Back Bay Station. After installation of meters by BWSC, the system should be turned on shortly.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC repaired two manholes in the North End on Commercial Street between Richmond and Cross Streets that they had identified as a potential cause of a recent substantial drop in groundwater levels along that block. Christian read the two wells that had shown that drop a few days after repairs were completed. Levels rose by 2-3 feet and were back where they had been previously.
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** – We met with the City, Charles River Watershed Association, and the design consultants to review the latest plans for the porous alley installation set for Public Alley 543 in the South End. Design work is on schedule, and the project should proceed in the Spring.
8. **Website** – We continue to have very positive feedback on our revised website, and traffic remains substantial.
9. **Meetings** – I attended the Boston High Water Seminar which focused on preparations for a situation in which a Sandy type storm would strike Boston at an astronomical high tide. I attended a scoping session for the project at 600 Harrison Ave. Christian and I met with the consultants for the project to build two new high rise buildings adjacent to the Christian Science Center to go over their plans for preventing any reduction groundwater levels due to the project.
10. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on the 600 Harrison Ave project. As always, all comments are posted at www.bostongroundwater.org.
11. **Vacation** – I'll be on vacation starting tomorrow for the rest of the year. I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season, and look forward to continuing our work in the New Year.