

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 15, 2012

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met on January 26. Information from reporting groups is detailed below.
2. **MBTA** – The T and their consultant, GZA, offered an update on the groundwater related aspects of the Tunnel repair project. They have completed an inspection of the Orange Line tunnel that revealed no groundwater leaks; similar inspections of Green Line and Blue Line tunnels are to follow. They have gathered a considerable amount of the data that will allow them to develop a groundwater flow model to be used to design appropriate repairs to raise groundwater levels in the South End near Back Bay Station. As part of that process, they will be shutting down the recharge in that area for about a month so that they can see a detailed picture of how levels drop; a reduction of levels for that short duration is unlikely to cause any damage to pilings. They are also working on a community participation program to provide information on the status of the project. A public meeting is likely in early Fall.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC has received bids for the sewer lining projects on Dartmouth Street in Back Bay and on Richmond Street in the North End, as well as the sewer reconstruction project on Blagdon Street in Back Bay. All three contracts are expected to be awarded in February with work to take place in the Spring. The projects are designed to help raise groundwater levels in three areas where we have measured low levels for some time.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT anticipates that repairs to the leaks recently identified in the Turnpike drain line from the Prudential tunnel will take place starting in late March. Because significant flows were discovered in the drain, we hope that these repairs will lead to higher groundwater levels in areas immediately north of the Turnpike.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. At least 148 recharge systems are in, have been inspected by BWSC, and are operating.
6. **Website** – Traffic to the website remains high, and we continue to receive positive comments on the new upgraded interactive map.
7. **Meetings** – I have attended scoping sessions for new Institutional Master plans for Boston University and Brigham and Women's Hospital, as well as for the Ink Block project planned for the former Boston Herald site in the South End. Christian and I also met with DPW and BTM to discuss plans for a potential green alley project and other possible opportunities to increase recharge on City property.
8. **Comment Letters** – We filed comment letters for Institutional Master Plans for the New England Conservatory, Boston University, and Brigham and Women's Hospital, all of which are posted on our website. I expect to file comments this week on the Ink Block project.
9. **Vacation** – I will be on vacation the week of Feb. 20. I will be checking email during that time, and Christian will be covering the office.