

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 17, 2014

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in July.
2. **MBTA** – The T has completed their system to raise groundwater levels in the section of the South End south of Back Bay Station. Levels have stabilized and are generally in the acceptable range except in the area near the Benjamin Franklin Institute. The school is in the process of completing a system that will recharge groundwater that has been penetrating its lower level and been pumped away. Hopefully, this will lead to an increase in those levels that have remained below target.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC continues to investigate the cause of low groundwater levels near the corner of Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End; inspection of the large sewer pipe by a diver did not reveal any problems. They have plans for future lining of pipes in the area to maintain their system in good repair that may overcome the problem if a source is not found before the work is scheduled. On Blagdon Street, inspections so far do not reveal a likely BWSC related problem; they will look farther if the MassDOT repairs (see below) do not lead to increased water levels on Blagdon Street.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT inspected the rest of the drain line from the MassPike Prudential tunnel and discovered several leaks near Exit 20, very close to a long standing low groundwater zone at the corner of Exeter Street and Huntington Avenue. They have completed repairs. They have also found a leak in a pipe belonging to the Copley Place structure, for which MassDOT is the landlord, that they hope to have repaired. Levels are now at the lowest that we have ever measured; This is probably because of foundation underpinning currently under way at the Copley Square Hotel..
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. I have been approached by City officials to discuss ways in which the system can be streamlined, while maintaining the high rate of compliance, enhancing enforcement, and possibly eliminating the role of the Board of Appeals in some parts of the process. Christian and I are likely to be participating in meetings with the relevant City agencies in the near future. The Mayor has told the agencies that he views streamlining the GCOD process as an important initiative.
6. **Porous Alley** – The contract for the porous alley has been awarded, and a preconstruction meeting is scheduled later this month. Christian will be monitoring construction to make sure the wells that we have installed are properly protected during the process.
7. **New Trustee** – I have been in contact with Fenway CDC about their nomination of a new trustee to replace Galen Gilbert. They had one candidate who discovered a likely conflict of interest, but remain hopeful they will have a new candidate to nominate within a month or so.
8. **Meetings** – Christian and I met with proponents of projects at 45-53 Hereford Street and Copley Place to review their plans for recharge and for preventing reductions in groundwater levels. I met with Mahona Siddique, community aide to Councilor Zakim, and Jordan Deasy, South End ONS coordinator, to explain groundwater issues. I attended the groundbreaking for the Oxford Ping-on project in Chinatown. I attended the City's environmental summit.