

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 21, 2013

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again on July 25.
2. **MBTA** – The T held a public meeting on June 4 to detail its recommended solution to add more recharge wells and increase flows in order to raise groundwater levels in additional portions of the area of the South End near Back Bay Station. They will continue to evaluate potential alternative solutions while the new system is in operation. There was positive reaction at the meeting, and the T has moved the process forward. They expect that the new wells will be in operation this Fall.
3. **BWSC** – Having determined that there are leaks in the 72” diameter combined sewer overflow pipe under Dartmouth Street that could be the cause of persistent low groundwater levels near the intersection with Beacon Street, BWSC has contracted for partial lining of the pipe. Work began this week on what is likely a 3-4 week project. We have data loggers in all of the wells in the area, and will continue to monitor levels there closely.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT has identified several additional leaks in the Turnpike drain line and hopes to make repairs this Spring.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. I met with Brian Swett, Chief of the Mayor’s Office of Energy and Environment, and ISD Commissioner Bryan Glascock to discuss ways that the process can be streamlined without removing the protections in the GCOD or modifying the Zoning Code.
6. **Green Alley** – Next Wednesday, we are scheduled to sign a Memorandum of Agreement among the Trust, the City, and Charles River Watershed Association for the construction of a Green Alley project, likely in the South End. This is a demonstration project, partially funded by the U S EPA through the Commonwealth’s Department of Environmental Protection, aimed at documenting the impact of porous pavement on both increases in groundwater level and improvements in water quality. Our involvement is strictly with changes in water levels. The project will be installed in 2014, but we plan to install the observation wells that are part of our contribution this year so that we can have substantial data on groundwater levels and how they respond to precipitation before installation of the porous pavement to compare with post-construction results.
7. **Recharge from Sidewalks** – The Public Works Department is working on an initiative to develop a standard design for recharge through portions of sidewalks. This will be implemented citywide as sidewalks are upgraded, reducing the load on the BWSC system and, in areas where buildings are supported on wood pilings, helping to raise groundwater levels.
8. **Website** – Our technical and recharge Coordinator, Christian Simonelli, is leading an effort to upgrade and modernize our website. We expect that it will have a fresher look, better arrangement of information, and be easier to use. This should be in place later this year.
9. **Meetings** – In addition to the meetings described above with the T and about GCOD, I attended BRA sessions on the Christian Science Center and Boston University Medical Center. I met with Jay Livingstone, who is unopposed in the special state representative election next week. I met with ISD Commissioner Glascock, Assistant

Commissioner Gary Moccia, and plan examiners for a training session on GCOD issues. We had a kickoff meeting about a presentation that we will be participating in at the ABX conference in November.

- 10. Comment Letters** – I filed comments on the Institutional Master Plan Notification Form/Project Notification Form for Boston University Medical Center. They should be posted on our website shortly.