

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

July 18, 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** – BWSC repaired the observed leak in the 72” combined sewer overflow under Dartmouth Street. Groundwater levels at wells along Dartmouth Street increased to about where they were before the sudden dropoff several years ago. Repairs are scheduled to start soon on the line on Blagdon Street behind the Boston Public Library.
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** – On June 26, I signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Public Works Commissioner Joanne Massaro and Charles River Watershed Association Executive Director Robert Zimmerman to initiate a green alley project in the South End. We will be monitoring groundwater levels before and after installation of the pervious surface to see how much of a benefit there is and how long after rainfall it lasts compared to the existing condition. CRWA will be doing additional studies related to water quality benefits.
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, has developed a new website that will update the look and feel of our existing one while improving the arrangement of material and allowing us to update more quickly. The new site should be operational in the next month or two.
9. **Meetings** – I met with several candidates for City office or their staffs to update them on groundwater issues. I also attended a scoping session on the Boston East project.
10. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on the Fenway Point project, as well as on master plans for Fisher College and Northeastern University. They are posted, as always, on www.bostongroundwater.org.