

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

July 19, 2012

- 1. City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again next week.
- 2. MBTA** – The T plans to turn off the recharge systems near Back Bay Station in the South End for about a month starting shortly as part of their engineer's plan to develop a water flow model for the area. They put out an update last week that was picked up by some local media. They anticipate a public meeting toward the end of the year to describe plans for a long term solution to low groundwater levels in the area.
- 3. BWSC** – BWSC still needs to do more investigative work to determine why the repairs in the North End have had no positive impact on area groundwater levels near the intersection of Commercial and Richmond Streets. While preliminary work has been completed on Dartmouth Streets, the relining work there has yet to take place, and groundwater levels in that stretch of the Back Bay remain very low. According to BWSC, the relining of both stretches of pipe (Beacon St to the Beacon/Marlborough alley and the Marlborough/Commonwealth alley to the Commonwealth /Newbury alley) is now scheduled for next week. Repairs to the sewer line in Blagdon Street behind the Boston Public Library remain scheduled for September.
- 4. East Boston** – We have seen some significant drop back in the increased levels in parts of the Paris Flats section of East Boston, although levels are still generally well above those seen before the MWRA repairs. The geography seems to be a little different than what we had seen previously, and we are trying to determine a potential cause. Further research has indicated that less of the structures in the area than we initially suspected are wood piling supported.
- 5. GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. We continue to work with project proponents to help them develop the most cost effective ways to meet GCOD requirements.
- 6. Website** – Traffic to our website remains solid, and I continue to get compliments on the information on the site. We posted an interesting article from a 1911 Boston Globe, furnished to me by a NABB member, that showed piling problems in a building on Beacon Street at that early date and indicated that it had pilings cut off above the City required maximum elevation of 5 feet.
- 7. Meetings** – Christian and I met with a representative of Veolia Energy Systems, who run the district steam system in Boston, about using condensate from some of their customers as groundwater recharge. We discussed potential locations and some technical issues, and they have shown significant interest in proceeding. I also met with a new staff person for Councilor Arroyo to go over groundwater issues.
- 8. Comment Letters** – I filed a comment letter on the Boston University School of Law expansion project. As always, it will be posted on our website.