

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 18, 2014

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met in July. Reports from individual agencies are included separately below.
2. **MBTA** – The T has cut back somewhat on the amount of recharge in the new injection well on Appleton St because groundwater levels at the well were approaching the surface. They will continue to monitor the performance of the system and make adjustments as necessary.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC continues to look for the cause of low groundwater levels near the corner of Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End; investigations to date have not turned up a cause for the problem. They are coordinating with MassDOT to attempt to understand the cause of low groundwater levels near Blagden St, Exeter St, and Huntington Ave in the Back Bay. In the South End, the Benjamin Franklin Institute has put their recirculation system into operation, but must still complete repairs to reduce infiltration; levels in the well on Berkeley St in front of the Institute have risen significantly, although the effect does not appear to have spread.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT has completed repairs to the identified leaks in the drain line from the Turnpike Prudential tunnel. They continue to work with BWSC to make sure that the work has eliminated the drain line as a problem.
5. **Exeter St/Huntington Ave Area** – Most members of the Working Group believe that the most likely cause of the significant reduction in the generally low groundwater levels in the area is dewatering for underpinning at a nearby project. Levels have risen in the last couple of weeks, so we are hopeful that steps taken by that project may be having a positive impact.
6. **GCOD** – Efforts are being made to streamline the GCOD process and potentially remove compliant projects that only trigger GCOD requirements because of substantial renovations from the Board of Appeal process. I have shared thoughts on ways to accomplish this with multiple City entities and will continue to work with interested parties to see if there are ways that we can reduce delays while preserving the benefits that compliance with GCOD have brought.
7. **Porous Alley** – The project was held up when early construction work uncovered an unanticipated utility interference. Work has now resumed, and we hope that construction will be completed in the next few weeks. We have had data loggers in several observation wells around the site, including two wells in the alley that we installed as part of the project. We will have an excellent basis for comparison of the impact that the porous alley has on groundwater levels after precipitation events.
8. **Meetings** – Christian and I met with the consultants for the project at 361 Newbury Street about the difficulty of installing a recharge system because of existing contamination below the building. We also met with the consultants for 888 Boylston St about a groundwater monitoring plan during construction, expected to begin later this year. We attended scoping sessions at the BRA about projects at 46 Wareham St and at the Boston University Integrated Life Sciences and Engineering Center. I met with Councilors Wu and Zakim about potential changes in the GCOD process.
9. **Comment Letters** – I filed comment letters on the 46 Wareham St and Boston University projects. As always, these are posted on www.bostongroundwater.org.
10. **Vacation** – I'll be on vacation the week of September 1.