

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 20, 2013

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met on July 25. Details from individual reports are below.
2. **MBTA** – The T continues to advance its project to raise groundwater levels in the area of the South End near Back Bay Station. They expect to have permits for the installation of the new recharge wells secured in September, with installation of the wells scheduled for October.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC completed repair work on Dartmouth Street on June 27. We have continued to use data loggers in the wells in that area; groundwater levels have remained at the higher level they reached after completion of the repairs. BWSC expects to begin repairs on the sewer line in Blagdon Street this month. They are doing additional television and dye testing to try to determine the cause of low groundwater levels near the intersection of Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT planned to grout several identified leaks in the Turnpike drain line this month. If the grout repairs are inadequate, they will install bands in the pipe to seal leaks.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. Over 200 recharge systems have now been installed under the GCOD. We worked with the BRA to refine standard language that assures compliance with the GCOD standard for assuring that projects cannot cause a reduction in groundwater language.
6. **Green Alley** – We will be participating in a public meeting tonight with abutters to the alley in the South End that has been tentatively selected to be the site of the porous alley pavement project that we are participating in with the Charles River Watershed Association and the City's Public Works Department. We have installed two new observation wells and will be logging these and four other surrounding wells both before and after installation, planned for next summer, so that we can quantify the benefit of this type of installation.
7. **Well Installation** – We installed seven new wells in July to further enhance our observation well network.
8. **ABX Conference** – Along with Boston Architectural College, Judith Nitsch Associates, and Halvorsen Design Partnership, we will be participating in a panel discussion at the ABX Conference in November to discuss efforts around groundwater with a focus on the Green Alley project installed between the college's buildings on Newbury and Boylston Streets.
9. **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 September.
10. **Meetings** – I attended scoping sessions on projects at 1350 Boylston St, 40 Trinity Place, and Boston University. Christian and I met with the development team for 80 East Berkeley St to discuss groundwater issues. I met with the assistant to newly elected Rep. Jay Livingstone and with a candidate for City Council to give them background on the groundwater problem and what has been done to address it.

11. Comment Letters – I filed comments on the project at 40 Trinity Place and will shortly file comments on the Belvidere/Dalton projects adjacent to the Christian Science Center and at Boston University. All comments are posted at www.bostongroundwater.org.