

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 29, 2011

- 1. City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met on July 28. As always, participation was excellent. Information from individual agencies is summarized below.
- 2. MBTA** – The MBTA has kicked off the design work on the Tunnel Repair contract led by GZA Environmental, with early focus on the project to raise groundwater levels in the section of the South End near Back Bay Station. Along with Peter Shilland, our trustee representing the Ellis Neighborhood Association, and Technical and Recharge Coordinator Christian Simonelli, I met with representatives of the T and GZA to go over previous efforts undertaken to understand and solve the problem. It was a very good session that lasted almost two hours; I'm looking forward to working with them as we all try to overcome this long standing low groundwater problem.
- 3. BWSC** – BWSC has installed two injection wells along Dartmouth Street in the Back Bay to enable them to inject substantial amounts of water and dye as they continue to work to find the cause of low groundwater in the area near Beacon Street; this is now the primary focus of BWSC's investigative efforts related to groundwater. BWSC has isolated a pipe on Commercial Street between Richmond and Cross Streets in the North End as the likely cause of low groundwater in that area and will line the pipe in the Fall. On Blagden Street behind the main building of the Boston Public Library, BWSC has been unable to line a leaking pipe because of an adjacent steam line; they plan to replace the pipe next Spring.
- 4. MassDOT** – MassDOT's contractors have begun the work of cleaning the Turnpike drain pipe from the Prudential Tunnel for the first time since it was constructed almost a half century ago. They hope to have a report within a few weeks of any leaks that may have been obscured by sediment that could be causing reductions in groundwater levels.
- 5. GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD remains excellent. There have been over 130 recharge systems installed to meet GCOD requirements, with over 120 more approved but not yet installed because projects have yet to be completed. The work of ISD, the Board of Appeals, and the BRA has assured that all projects address the GCOD requirements; the very few variances granted have been for very valid technical reasons.
- 6. Technical Advisory Committee** – The Technical Advisory Committee met earlier this month to review a series of as built drawings provided by BWSC for areas where we have had difficulty understanding the potential cause of low groundwater levels. We were able to identify a couple of areas for further review by BWSC and MWRA as resources become available.
- 7. Website** – Our consultant has begun work on an upgrade to our interactive map that will allow it to work better with tablet computers while retaining full existing functionality for computers using a mouse. We are planning to switch to a Google Maps based system that should assure improved functionality and reduce some of the availability issues that we have occasionally had with our existing map.
- 8. Meetings** – In addition to the Working Group and MBTA meetings, I attended a BRA scoping session for a new project at 1282 Boylston St and met twice with the

proponents of a project at 126 Brookline Ave that will likely need a variance from GCOD recharge requirements.

- 9. Comment Letters** – I filed comments on 1282 Boylston St and the Fenway Triangle Mixed Use project. As always, these are posted on our website.