

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
November 21, 2013

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in January.
2. **MBTA** – The T went in front of the Public Improvement Commission this morning for final approval of their plans for the installation of three additional groundwater recharge wells in the South End east of Back Bay Station. If the weather holds, they plan to install the wells early in December.
3. **BWSC** – The recent repairs at Blagden Street do not appear to have solved low groundwater levels in that area; BWSC will be conducting additional investigative work to determine if the repairs have held and what other potential causes for the problem might be. In the North End, they have identified two leaking manholes on Commercial that might be causing low groundwater levels and plan to repair them soon.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT sealed nine additional leaks in the drain line from the Turnpike. They are now focusing on the area between Berkeley and Clarendon Streets, will then move further to the west, although repairs there are complicated by the smaller diameter of the pipe in that area.
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 are working with ISD to try to streamline the system, without changing the zoning, for projects that need zoning approval only for GCOD and with no below grade construction or building extension.
6. **Porous Alley** – Plans are moving ahead for installation of a porous surface in Public Alley 543 in the South End. We have installed two new observation wells in the alley just beyond either end of what will be the porous area and begun data logging in these and four other nearby existing wells. This will give us an excellent basis on which to understand the impact of the porous surface on groundwater levels compared to the existing impervious surface, both adjacent to the surface and in areas as much as a block away. The project, scheduled for installation next Spring, is funded by a grant from DEP with matching contributions from the City, the Charles River Watershed Association, and the Trust.
7. **ABX Conference** – On November 19, I was on a panel with speakers from Boston Architectural College, Halvorson Design Partnership, and Judith Nitsch Associates to discuss the newly installed BAC Green Alley project.
8. **BSCES Geo Institute Technical Group** – I spoke about the efforts to raise groundwater levels at the Boston Society of Civil Engineers educational session on November 9.
9. **Website** – We have had very positive feedback on our revised website, and traffic remains substantial.
10. **Meetings** – Along with our trustee Stephanie Krueel, I met with the Museum of Science to discuss their plans for a major permanent exhibit focusing on the Charles River. As part of that, they plan to tell the story of the transformation that land making caused to the Charles River Basin and to discuss the critical role that maintenance of adequate groundwater levels plays in preserving the many historic structures in the area. The focus is on the intersection of the natural world and technology, and our story fits in very well. I testified before the Zoning Commission

about groundwater issues associated with the 80 East Berkeley Street and Copley Place addition projects. I will be attending the Boston High Water Seminar tomorrow.

11. Comment Letters – I filed comments on the 345 Harrison Ave project. As always, all comments are posted at www.bostongroundwater.org.