

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
December 18th, 2014

1. **Readings/Field Engineer** – We wrapped up our last set of readings (8th set) for the year the first week in December. Most of the wells are up and we have bunch of all-time highs. I have hired a new field engineer for the Jan-Apr 2015 semester. He will begin reading the well network the first week in January.
2. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in January.
3. **MBTA** – The T is working on a long term monitoring plan agreement with their consultant GZA GeoEnvironmental to continue the monitoring of groundwater levels and the adjustments of the recharge systems in the Ellis Neighborhood area. GZA recommended that the flow rate be increased in the Appleton Street wells with additional monitoring of groundwater levels. GZA increased the flow rates in the Appleton Street Recharge wells from 5.2 gpm to 9.1 gpm on December 5th. In addition to our manual monitoring we have 2 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min. Levels are up a bit and we hope this trend continues.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC continues to investigate the cause of low groundwater levels near the corner of Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End. Manholes in the area were grouted last December and the lines in Commercial Street were walked last spring by divers with no apparent infiltration observed. They will continue to look at the lines in the area using some new robot technology and dye tests. On Blagden Street, point repairs were made at the corner of Blagden St. and Huntington Ave. No new infiltration points have been discovered.
5. **MassDOT** – MassDOT inspected the drainage station in the Prudential. No major infiltration was observed. Some dry weather flow was observed and it may be coming from the various joints located in the pipe. MassDOT will attempt to measure it using a new device.
6. **DCR** – The DCR is inspecting their pumps and controllers in the area along Back Street in Back Bay. One of the pump controllers that DCR uses to transfer water that drains from the Storrow Drive tunnel to the recharge system under Back Street failed and was replaced. One of their other pumps was tripped out for two weeks and they're looking into why that occurred. In addition, they will be jetting (cleaning out) pipes that carry the water to the recharge galleys in Back Street.
7. **MWRA** – The MWRA will be notifying us of permits that are submitted for dewatering. This is helpful to us if we see a sudden drop in an area that we cannot explain. I instruct our well readers to make note of construction activities that may have potential negative effects groundwater levels. However, this additional notification will be yet another piece to the puzzle in assisting us in identifying groundwater level trends.

8. **Exeter St/Huntington Ave Area** – Although still very low, levels in this area have rebounded significantly. A nearby underpinning project may have had an effect on levels in the nearby wells since last April. We have three dataloggers in the area and will keep these in place until the nearby underpinning work has been completed.
9. **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. Discussion between ISD and Elliott are ongoing and they will continue to hammer out a proposal. The special session for GCOD only requests that was implemented by the Board of Appeals this past summer has reduced the wait for these projects by as much as two months and has worked very well.
10. **Porous Alley** – Along with Mayor Walsh, Public Works, and the Charles River Watershed Association, I attended and spoke at the Porous Alley 543 ribbon cutting ceremony at the end of November. We partnered in this demonstration project with Public Works and the Charles River Watershed Association in an effort to use the city's alleys as a vessel to help capture precipitation to raise local groundwater levels. So far the initial results look very promising. We have been datalogging (using instruments to record a water level every 60 mins.) six wells in the area since last August and levels in these wells are up considerably. We'll continue to datalog these wells over the next year to judge the performance of the Porous Alley.
11. **Meetings** – I met with John O'Brien from the BRA to review the Article 32 zoning and update him on the current Trust well network locations and levels. I met with Lisa Chow from Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. to review a GCOD compliance plan for a project in the Fenway. I attended the scoping session and submitted comment letter for the Emerson College Little Building Dormitory Project.
12. **Website** – I added some new content to our website. The most recent items are posted under our "Newest" tab on our homepage. In addition, I've added a new tab "Recharge Projects" to the website which highlights current recharge projects in the City. As always, I would appreciate any feedback you may have.
13. **Vacation** – I'll be on vacation starting tomorrow for the rest of the year. I hope you all have a happy, healthy, and safe Holiday!