

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
December 19, 2011

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in January.
2. **MBTA** – Jim Lambrechts of our Technical Advisory Committee, Christian, and I met with the T's consultants to review their progress on studies that are to lead to a long term plan for addressing low groundwater levels in the South End near Back Bay Station. They have developed a lot of information about the likely causes of low groundwater levels and are hoping to add a few more pieces before developing plans to address the problem.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC is continuing to recharge water on Dartmouth Street. We have seen some increases in groundwater levels along the street since the repair to the manhole near the alley between Beacon and Marlborough Streets, with additional increases since the recharge resumed. However, levels close to Beacon Street remain below the point at which concern over the condition of wood pilings would be alleviated. BWSC remains committed to relining of the pipe sections between the alley and the West Side Interceptor under Beacon Street and between the Marlborough/Commonwealth alley and Newbury Street, which are likely to take place in the Spring.
4. **MassDOT** – Rick McCullough of MassDOT personally inspected a long section of the drain pipe from the Prudential tunnel along with one of the MBTA's consultants. They discovered three significant leaks in the pipe and MassDOT has committed to a rapid repair. It is very possible that these leaks influenced the low groundwater levels in sections of Bay Village near the Turnpike.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. At least 148 recharge systems are in, have been inspected by BWSC, and are operating.
6. **Elevation Corrections** – After surveying work for the MBTA led to an indication of inconsistencies, Christian resurveyed several of our wells in the South End near the Turnpike along Shawmut and Harrison Avenues. He discovered a substantial error in the original survey data from 1999. The data has been corrected, showing that these wells actually are at a much higher level than we had thought. A review of the original work done around that time revealed some arithmetic errors that have also led to adjustments upward in the level on two other wells. The correct current and historic levels are now displayed on our website, and the corrections are noted with the map data.
7. **Website** – We are hoping that the new interactive map will be up and operating in early January. The graphics in this GoogleMaps based version are significantly clearer, the information is better displayed and easier to access, and the system is designed to work on a tablet computer as well as on a PC (Christian has accessed the prototype on his smart phone and reports that it works well there also).
8. **Meetings** – In addition to our meeting with the T and its consultants, Christian and I participated in a training session at Haley and Aldrich that included sections on groundwater and the work of the BGwT.
9. **Vacation** – I'll be on vacation the week between Christmas and New Year's. Have a great holiday season!