

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 15, 2013

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met in January. Information from reporting groups is below.
2. **MBTA** – The T presented plans for a long term solution to low groundwater levels in the area of the South End near Back Bay Station to the Working Group. Comments at the meeting are likely to lead to further refinement of the plans. The T will meet later this month with the Technical Advisory Committee to the Working Group and plans to return to the Working Group at its April meeting with updated plans. The planned public meeting will now take place after the April update.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC has just completed repairs to the manholes on Dartmouth Street. While there was some increase in groundwater levels there this week, they may have been attributable to snow melt. We hope to see more improvement when we download our data loggers there next week. Work on Blagden Street will take place in the Spring. BWSC continues to look for the cause of low groundwater levels near the intersection of Richmond and Commercial Streets in the North End.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT has identified several additional leaks in the Turnpike drain line and hopes to make repairs by April 1.
5. **DCR** – Our data loggers showed an unexpected drop in some of the levels along Back Street. After receipt of that data, DCR discovered that one of the pumps that direct water from the Storrow Drive Tunnel to recharge galleys under Back Street was not functioning properly. They are working to repair the situation..
6. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. There have now been 165 recharge systems installed and inspected to meet GCOD standards. We continue to work with project proponents to help them develop the most cost effective ways to meet GCOD requirements.
7. **Green Alley** – We continue to work with the City and the Charles River Watershed Association on plans for a Green Alley with porous pavement. There will be a public meeting before the tentative choice of the alley to be rebuilt is finalized. We will be installing two additional wells for this project and will be providing enhanced monitoring of these and other nearby wells.
8. **Recharge from Sidewalks** – We are participating in planning sessions led by the Public Works Department for an initiative to recharge stormwater from sidewalks city-wide. In addition to providing recharge to preserve wood piling foundations, this initiative will reduce pollution.
9. **Website** – Traffic to our website remains solid, and I continue to get compliments on the information on the site.
10. **Meetings** – I participated in a scoping session on the updated Northeastern University Institutional Master Plan. I met with Jonathan Davis, CFO of the MBTA about the South End project. I took part in BRA planning sessions on sidewalk recharge and on GCOD compliance. Christian and I met with proponents of a project at 315 Dartmouth Street to discuss the best way to install a recharge system. I did a presentation on groundwater issues to a well-attended meeting sponsored by the Beacon Hill Civic Association and Beacon Hill Village. I met with NABB's newly reconstituted Groundwater Committee.

11. Comment Letters –I filed comments on the Northeastern University Institutional Master plan Notification Form. As always, they are posted on www.bostongroundwater.org.

12. Vacation – I'll be on vacation the week of February 18. I will have email and voicemail access.