

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**March 24, 2011**

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again on April 28.
2. **Well Readings** – We had our well reader work extra hours so that we could get back on track as the snow melted. He completed one set of well readings on March 1 and a second, more complete set on March 20. As always, all readings are posted on our site shortly after they are taken.
3. **MBTA** – The MBTA remains in final negotiations with GZA for their tunnel repair design contract that includes the work on the long term solution for the low groundwater levels in the South End near Back Bay Station. They expect to have signed a contract by mid-April.
4. **BWSC** – BWSC repairs continue to be backlogged because of the harsh winter. They are working with us and DCR to try to understand why some of the groundwater levels under the embankment along Back Street have dropped in spite of continued recharge coming from the Storrow Drive Tunnel. They have not yet designed repairs that might address the low levels along Dartmouth Street.
5. **MassDOT** – As part of a paving project in the Prudential tunnel on the Turnpike, MassDOT this summer will clean a drain line servicing the tunnel. This will allow inspection of the drain line (which has not been cleaned out since the Turnpike extension was built in the 1960's) to see if there are leaks there that could be contributing to low groundwater levels in the Back Bay and Bay Village near the Turnpike. MassDOT continues to look at potential recharge applications for storm water from the Central Artery.
6. **East Boston** – Groundwater levels in wells along near Porter Street and Visconti Road have risen as much as six feet since MWRA completed their new sewer system in the area and filled in the old sewer pipe under Porter Street in September.
7. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD remains excellent. We have now seen over 200 cases go through the Board of Appeals, with only three very justified variances granted. The BRA has made sure that projects in the GCOD area that were approved prior to its adoption but require modified zoning because of project changes in light of the changed economy meet GCOD requirements. The BRA has also made sure that those projects that are part of Institutional Master Plans or Planned Development Areas and don't go before the Board of Appeals still meet all of the requirements of the GCOD. Project proponents now understand the importance of compliance and have been generally very cooperative.
8. **Website** – Traffic to the website has remained high. We are investigating ways to make the site more user friendly for those utilizing tablet computers without a mouse.
9. **Meetings** – I attended scoping sessions for the GrandMarc at Northeastern and Berklee College of Music 168 Massachusetts Avenue projects.
10. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on the GrandMarc and Berklee projects. As always, they are posted on our website.
11. **Vacation** – I will be on vacation the week of April 18.