

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 18, 2014

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again on April 29.
2. **MBTA** – Groundwater levels in the section of the South End near Back Bay Station where the T has installed additional continuous recharge systems have continued to rise slowly, although they have not yet reached the levels projected by the system designers. The T continues to monitor and adjust the system as they deem necessary.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC continues to investigate the cause of low groundwater levels near the corner of Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End. They continue to press the Benjamin Franklin Institute to complete their planned repairs so that the Institute will no longer be pumping groundwater.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT inspected the rest of the drain line from the MassPike Prudential tunnel and discovered a leak near Exit 20, very close to a long standing low groundwater zone at the corner of Exeter Street and Huntington Avenue. Levels are now at the lowest that we have ever measured; our Technical Advisory Committee members have speculated that this may be because the cleaning of the line opened the leak wider. Because the grouting repair requires warmer weather, it will likely take place in the spring.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. Over 220 recharge systems have now been installed under the GCOD. The Board of Appeals has put in place a streamlined system that sets up a special portion of Board hearings for those projects that require only a conditional use permit for GCOD; this will take them out of the regular queue, reduce wait time for a hearing on these cases, and also allow the Board to slot additional cases in its regular agenda. The system has begun to get GCOD only cases in front of the Board more quickly.
6. **Porous Alley** – Bids have been received on the porous alley project and were within projected budget costs. The contract should be awarded soon, with construction likely in June.
7. **Website** – We continue to have very positive feedback on our revised website, and traffic remains substantial.
8. **Meetings** – Christian and I met with the board of the Ellis Neighborhood Association to update them on the results of the MBTA's new recharge system. I met with the consultant for 380 Commonwealth Avenue to review plans for the recharge system.
9. **Vacation** – I will be on vacation next week, April 21-25.