

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 16, 2013

- 1. The Marathon** – The terrible events of Patriots Day took place in the heart of the area we work in every day. In fact Christian was scheduled to read the wells in our Back Bay Central zone, which includes the site of the second bomb, the next day. The loss of life and severe injuries that day remind us that, as important as our efforts are, they pale next to those who risked their lives working to save those who were hurt and protect the rest of us.
- 2. City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group met on April 30. This was the last meeting for co-chair Phil Griffiths, who is leaving state government. His guidance and interest have been important to the success of the group. Details of reports from individual agencies are below.
- 3. MBTA** – The T presented its report and recommendations for raising groundwater levels in the area of the South End near Back Bay Station. Based on substantial study, and in agreement with the technical advisory committee to the Working Group, the T is recommending a continuation of the continuous recharge with BWSC water including the addition of more injection wells and more water to expand the area where levels are raised. The T plans a public meeting in late May or early June to explain the plan and the basis for the decision. BGwT will be a participant, as we have been throughout the process.
- 4. BWSC** – Still working to overcome the low groundwater situation near the corner of Dartmouth and Beacon Streets in Back Bay, BWSC is installing a temporary sandbag dam to raise water levels in the 72” combined sewer overflow pipe; if this leads to increased groundwater levels, it will be an indicator that a leak in that pipe may be causing the drawdown, and the pipe will be repaired. Repair work is about to begin on the sewer I Blagdon Street behind the Boston Public Library that may be a cause of low groundwater levels in that area. BWSC will be doing additional television inspection as it tries to find the cause of low groundwater levels in the area near Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End.
- 5. MassDOT** – MassDOT has identified several additional leaks in the Turnpike drain line and hopes to make repairs this Spring.
- 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 182 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 are about to sign a Memorandum of Agreement among the Trust, the City, and Charles River Watershed Association for the construction of a Green Alley project, likely in the South End. This is a demonstration project, partially funded by the U S EPA through the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection, aimed at documenting the impact of porous pavement on both increases in groundwater level and improvements in water quality. Our involvement is strictly with changes in water levels. The project will be installed in 2014, but we plan to install the observation wells that are part of our contribution this year so that we can have substantial data on groundwater levels and how they respond to precipitation before installation of the porous pavement to compare with post-construction results.

- 8. Recharge from Sidewalks** – The Public Works Department is working on an initiative to develop a standard design for recharge through portions of sidewalks. This will be implemented citywide as sidewalks are upgraded, reducing the load on the BWSC system and, in areas where buildings are supported on wood pilings, helping to raise groundwater levels.
- 9. Website** – Traffic to our website remains solid, and I continue to get compliments on the information on the site.
- 10. Meetings** – Christian and I attended two meetings at Public Works about the sidewalk recharge project. We also met with Public Works to discuss best practices when, because of site conditions, portions of the GCOD-mandated recharge system must be under a public sidewalk. I attended an update at the BRA on the project at 399 Summer St in South Boston. Christian and I met with the proponent of a project in the South End to discuss ways to approach recharge requirements for a multi-building project.