

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 24, 2012

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in July.
2. **MBTA** – The T and their consultant GZA have replaced two of the data loggers originally installed by the Columbus Center project which had failed after a few months of operation. They are awaiting permission from AMTRAK to replace two additional data loggers and are also awaiting City permission to install several new observation wells near the Southwest Corridor. After these are installed, they plan to shut down the recharge wells for 30 days to help develop their water flow model. This is all part of their plan to develop a final strategy for raising groundwater levels in the area of the South End near Back Bay Station.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC has completed repairs to the sewer line near Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End. They have signed a contract and scheduled repairs on the line under Blagden Street behind the Boston Public Library for September. They continue to pump water into the recharge well near the corner of Beacon and Dartmouth Streets in Back Bay and will continue to do so until the relining of the sewer, still scheduled to take place soon.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT completed repairs to the drain line from the Turnpike, repairing 10 leaks. Water levels there continued to rise significantly after the recent rains.
5. **East Boston** – We have seen some significant drop back in the increased levels in parts of the Paris Flats section of East Boston, although levels are still generally well above those seen before the MWRA repairs. The geography seems to be a little different than what we had seen previously, and we are trying to determine a potential cause.
6. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. We supported one more well justified variance; there have still been less than five variances in nearly 300 cases before the Board of Appeals.
7. **Website** – Traffic to the website has dropped somewhat so far this month. We continue to get compliments on the usefulness of the information posted.
8. **Meetings** – Christian and I spoke about groundwater issues at a membership meeting of the Pilot Block Neighborhood Association. I spoke about the issue to the student body and faculty of the Commonwealth School and also spoke about groundwater with students at the Career Day of the Boston Green Academy. Christian and I are scheduled to discuss groundwater with the board of the Neighborhood Association of Back Bay in July.
9. **Letters** – I filed a comment letter on the proposed project at 477-481 Harrison Avenue. As always, it is posted on our website.