

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 9th, 2019

1. Readings – Started our third set of readings of the year.

2. Meetings/Presentations –

- Wrote a comment letter for the Massachusetts General Hospital Clinical Building Project in Beacon Hill. (3/21)
- Attended scoping session (3/22) and wrote a comment letter (4/8) for the Taj Hotel renovations.
- Spoke at the 12th annual utility construction kickoff meeting to remind contractors about preserving our observation wells throughout construction. (3/27)
- Updated the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) Condominium Management Group on our efforts. (3/29)
- Along with the MBTA I helped organize a meeting of the City-State Groundwater Working Group Technical Advisory Committee. (4/1)
- Met with Irene McSweeney and Paul Canavan, of the Boston Water & Sewer Commission (BWSC) to review all areas of low groundwater levels throughout our monitoring area. (4/8)
- Attended a ceremony for the retirement of Anthony Pisani from the Zoning Board of Appeals. (4/10)
- Attended the City-State Groundwater Working Group meeting. (4/18)
- Attended Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Smart Utilities Bootcamp. (4/25)
- Presented to the BWSC construction and operation divisions. (4/28)
- Attended the Boston Preservation Month 2019 kickoff celebration. (5/1)
- Spoke & met with residents, engineer, & developers throughout the GCOD to discuss ZBA procedures and advised them on what they need to provide us to meet the zoning.

3. MBTA - Approximately 43 gpm is being injected into recharge wells in the South End Ellis Neighborhood area along Appleton, Berkeley, Saint Charles, Cazenove, and Clarendon Street. In addition to our manual monitoring we have 4 wells in the area with dataloggers recording a water level every 60 min.

- The MBTA has committed to continue funding the current recharge well solution for the next 10 years. I've been assured that funding will be provided beyond the 10 years if this current solution is still in place.
- Along with Greg Thompson of the MBTA I organized a meeting of the Groundwater Working Group Technical Advisory Committee in April. The group reviewed all of the work accomplished so far in addressing the low groundwater levels in affected area, the existing solution in place and explored the potential for a permanent solution.
- The meeting produced a consensus that at this time the existing solution is still the preferred solution. The group will work exploring potential alternatives to aid the existing solution.

4. **DCR** – Dataloggers are installed in 3 wells to monitor the levels along the Storrow Drive tunnel pump station groundwater recharge system have dropped back a bit but the levels are still within their usual range. The DCR and their consultants continue to work with the DOT on traffic studies in support of a redesign effort for the underpass. Recharge will be part of that plan and is targeted for upgrade.
5. **BWSC** – An update on the following:
 - In the South End areas of infiltration were grouted in 12/2018 & 3/2019. No change to GW levels. Additional locations of infiltration discovered. BWSC to follow-up with additional inspections and repairs.
 - Currently investigating if they can implement grout repairs like the ones that have been made along Montgomery Street for repairs along Clarendon & Gray Street in the South End. The primary issue is access since it is a smaller pipe. Contractor currently investigating best options.
 - In the North End, at the corner of Richmond and Commercial Streets, infiltration has been discovered. BWSC is inspecting additional infrastructure and formulating a repair plan.
 - Stuart Street area of the Back Bay between Berkeley and Dartmouth Streets were televised. 2 sewers (North and South side of the street) investigated. Southern sewer fine. Northern sewer and manholes indicated voids and infiltration. BWSC to follow-up with additional inspections and repairs.
 - In the Back Bay, Saint James Avenue and Providence Street inspections of pipe and manholes indicated no infiltration. Providence Street infrastructure above the current groundwater table. Scope along Saint James Avenue will be extended west, towards Clarendon Street.
 - On Blagden Street in the Back Bay infiltration was observed in infrastructure. BWSC to file change work order to current construction contract to repair.
 - In the Fenway, at Boylston and Kilmarnock Streets, infiltration was observed. BWSC to file change work order to current construction contract to repair.
6. **MWRA** – In the spring, the MWRA re-inspected approximately 4,000-ft. of the Boston Marginal Conduit (BMC), which runs along the Storrow Drive embankment. Minor signs of weeping at four locations that were previously discovered during the inspection are still present but have not worsened. No new leaks were observed. Investigations along Maverick Street, between Frankfort and Gove Street's in East Boston, showed no areas of infiltration. Will continue to look at all infrastructure in this area.
7. **MassDOT** - Dry weather inspections of the Pru Tunnel sub-surface stormwater drainage system, which runs parallel along the Turnpike & terminates at the prudential garage, indicated infiltration. Remainder of pipe cleared and inspected. Repairs scheduled for this Spring.
8. **Website** – Traffic on the website remains steady. We continue to average 100 visits/day and around 250 page views/day. In addition, each of our 3 informational videos now has over 600 views.