

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
**September 18, 2014**

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again in October
2. **MBTA** – The T has cut back somewhat on the amount of recharge in the new injection well on Appleton St because groundwater levels at the well were approaching the surface. Unfortunately, the level near the corner of Appleton and Tremont Streets has stabilized at a level significantly below what was projected. They will continue to monitor the performance of the system and make adjustments as necessary.
3. **BWSC** – BWSC continues to look for the cause of low groundwater levels near the corner of Commercial and Richmond Streets in the North End; investigations to date have not turned up a cause for the problem. They are coordinating with MassDOT to attempt to understand the cause of low groundwater levels near Blagdon St, Exeter St, and Huntington Ave in the Back Bay. In the South End, the Benjamin Franklin Institute has put their recirculation system into operation, they have not yet agreed to do repairs to reduce infiltration; levels in the well on Berkeley St in front of the Institute have risen significantly, although the effect does not appear to have spread.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT has completed repairs to the identified leaks in the drain line from the Turnpike Prudential tunnel. They continue to work with BWSC to make sure that the work has eliminated the drain line as a problem.
5. **Exeter St/Huntington Ave Area** – Most members of the Working Group believe that the most likely cause of the significant reduction in the generally low groundwater levels in the area is dewatering for underpinning at a nearby project. The engineer on that project has raised concerns that might point to another, as yet unidentified cause. Our Technical Advisory Committee will spend much of its meeting later this month trying to help identify the problem.
6. **GCOD** – Efforts are being made to streamline the GCOD process and potentially remove compliant projects that only trigger GCOD requirements because of substantial renovations from the Board of Appeal process. I have shared thoughts on ways to accomplish this with multiple City entities and will continue to work with interested parties to see if there are ways that we can reduce delays while preserving the benefits that compliance with GCOD have brought.
7. **Porous Alley** – Work on the porous alley is substantially complete, with some cosmetic work and installation of plaques still to be done. Because there has been so little rain in the last couple of months, we have not yet been able to see how it handles a storm and what the impact is on groundwater levels. We hope to have a dedication ceremony later in the Fall.
8. **Meetings** – I did a training session on groundwater with one of the aides working under the Mayor's Chief of Staff, after meeting briefly with the Chief of Staff when he visited Back Bay. Christian and I met with the owners of a building in Chinatown, along with other Chinatown officials including our trustee Bill Moy, to discuss potential issues with high groundwater under the building which is undergoing renovation. Christian and I met with the developer of a project on Washington St and his engineer to discuss the likely need for a variance from GCOD requirements.

- 9. Comment Letters** – I filed a comment letter on a project at 319 A Street in the Fort Point Channel section of South Boston. As always, this and all comment letters is posted on our website.
- 10. Transition** – This is my last Executive Director’s Report. As of Oct. 13, I’ll be transitioning to a new role as Chief Strategy Officer of the Trust and working on several special projects prior to my retirement in March. I want to thank the trustees, government officials, and all of those who have been so supportive of our work. I look forward to the greater progress that the Trust will make under its new Executive Director, and long-time Technical and Recharge Coordinator, Christian Simonelli. There is no one who could be more prepared and capable to step into this role.