

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
September 19, 2013

1. **City-State Groundwater Working Group** – The Working Group will meet again on October 24.
2. **MBTA** – The T has done some preliminary construction work and has signed a contract for the project to add new recharge wells that will help to raise groundwater levels in the area of the South End near Back Bay Station. They remain on track for the project to be completed by mid-November.
3. **BWSC** – The repair work on Dartmouth Street has restored levels to where they were before the very low groundwater problem occurred several years ago. BWSC has made repairs to a sewer line in Blagden Street that have led to an increase in groundwater levels near Dartmouth Street; however, levels closer to Exeter Street remain low.
4. **MassDOT** – MassDOT planned to grout several identified leaks in the Turnpike drain line soon. If the grout repairs are inadequate, they will install bands in the pipe to seal leaks.
5. **GCOD** – Compliance with GCOD continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of ISD, BWSC, the BRA, and the Board of Appeals. Over 200 recharge systems have now been installed under the GCOD. We worked with the BRA to refine standard language that assures compliance with the GCOD standard for assuring that projects cannot cause a reduction in groundwater language.
6. **Porous Alley** – We will be participating in a second public meeting next week to discuss work planned in the alley in the South End that has been tentatively selected to be the site of the porous alley pavement project that we are participating in with the Charles River Watershed Association and the City's Public Works Department. We have installed two new observation wells and have begun logging these and four other surrounding wells so that we can see the way they respond to rainfall both before and after installation, planned for next summer, so that we can quantify the benefit of this type of installation.
7. **ABX Conference** – Along with Boston Architectural College, Judith Nitsch Associates, and Halvorsen Design Partnership, we will be participating in a panel discussion at the ABX Conference in November to discuss efforts around groundwater with a focus on the Green Alley project installed between the college's buildings on Newbury and Boylston Streets.
8. **Website** – Our Technical and recharge Coordinator, Christian Simonelli, has developed a new website that will update the look and feel of our existing one while improving the arrangement of material and allowing us to update more quickly. The new site became operational this week. Once we've had a few days to make sure there are no quirks, I'll be putting out a notice to my email list and a press release.
9. **Meetings** – I attended scoping sessions on projects at 80 East Berkeley St, 1-3 Boylston Pl, and the Boston Garden site. I met with a candidate for City Council to give him background on the groundwater problem and what has been done to address it.
10. **Comment Letters** – I filed comments on the Belvidere/Dalton projects adjacent to the Christian Science Center and at Boston University, as well as those at 80 East Berkeley St and 1-3 Boylston Pl. All comments are posted at www.bostongroundwater.org.