

**Tri-Town Monthly Report
To Bristol, Barrington & Warren Town Councils**

**Summary of Notable Activities and Reports
from the
June 27, 2024, BCWA Board of Directors Meeting**

For detailed information on any of these subjects presented herein, please go to the BCWA website at www.bcwari.com. Minutes and videos of all Board meetings are archived on the website.

- 1. Connection to the Pawtucket Water Supply System Project:** Substantive progress continues for this project. Preliminary plans on the blending station were received from Beta Engineering for BCWA review. An updated schedule for the project indicates that the project plans will be nearly complete by the end of this year for submittal to permitting agencies in early 2025.

The proposed agreement with the City of Pawtucket is close to being finalized and may be brought before the Board at the next meeting for approval.

- 2. Phase II Water Treatment Plant Demolition:** Work currently underway for this effort includes a topographic survey and architectural analysis of the Old Station Structure and a hazardous materials analysis within the facilities. We will not be finalizing demolition bid documents until the long-term plans for these facilities has been determined.

Members of the BCWA Properties Committee toured the buildings recently to begin assessing BCWA's needs and potential re-use opportunities, if possible.

- 3. Upper and Lower Kickemuit Dams Removal Project:** A presentation was made at the EPA's Southeast New England Program's Symposium held at Roger Williams University. The purpose of this event was to showcase some environmental improvement projects in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Approximately twenty Save The Bay board members and staff toured the dam removal sites. Wenley Ferguson (senior STB staff member) and BCWA Executive Director Steve Coutu provided an overview of the project. Save the Bay has been very supportive of this BCWA project.

- 4. Major Purchases and Contracts:** No action items this month.
- 5. Water Meter Replacement Program:** All 17,392 water meters in operation in the BCWA service area have been replaced! Project complete.

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6. **Lead Service Line Replacement Program:** The first private (non-BCWA) lead-based connection was replaced by the BCWA contractor. The homeowner took advantage of the BCWA loan program to finance the improvement. Other residential users are also interested in having the work done. The purpose of this project is to remove lead-based water lines thereby removing a potential health hazard.
7. **Rhode Island Supreme Court (RISC) Decision on North Farm Home Owners Association, Inc. (NFHOA) vs BCWA** (Appeal SU-2022-167) (This is a generalized non-legal overview not a comprehensive summary of this lawsuit and decision): The North Farm Condominium Complex was developed between approximately 1973 and 1989. From approximately 1975 to 1995 the BCWA measured water service to each condominium unit individually with individual water meters. Each unit owner was a separate customer of the BCWA, and each unit owner received individual water bills. In approximately 1995, the BCWA began measuring water usage at the Complex through a single “master meter.” As a result, individual unit owners no longer received bills. Rather, the NFHOA received a bill for all water supplied to the Complex. In approximately 2014, a dispute arose between the BCWA and NFHOA over which party had responsibility for certain pipe repair at the Complex, and the BCWA eventually sought to return to individual meters at the Complex. In 2017, the NFHOA sued the BCWA. The lawsuit alleged that the NFHOA had a “contract” with the BCWA that prevented the BCWA from ever returning to individual meters or from ever changing the service fee charged for the master meter. The NFHOA claimed this was a never-ending contract that bound the BCWA in perpetuity. In 2022, pursuant to a summary judgment motion filed by the BCWA, the Rhode Island Superior Court ruled that no such contract exists. The NFHOA appealed this judgment to the Rhode Island Supreme Court, and on June 14, 2023, the Supreme Court affirmed that no such contract exists.
8. **Public Information – Hope Street Pump Station - Bristol / Water Pressure improvement:** Letters were sent last month to water customers who will benefit from the water pressure improvement. The upgrade is NOW on-line and functional and BCWA is working with its customers on this phased transition to higher water pressure.

The BCWA Annual (2023) Water Quality Report was prepared and is available for viewing on the BCWA website. Copies are also available at the town halls, local libraries and the BCWA offices. The report basically shows that for the regulated substances required to be monitored, the BCWA public water does not violate any Safe Drinking Water Act Standards.

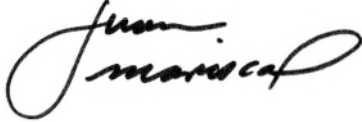
Visitors to the BCWA's Facebook page showed some slight growth this past month. We welcome all comments on our operations and policies. A telephone call to the BCWA, however, is also welcomed and is the quickest way to address concerns and issues.

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9. Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 30, 2024, 5:00pm. BCWA Offices, 450 Child Street, Warren.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan Mariscal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Juan" written above the last name "Mariscal".

Juan Mariscal, Chairman, BCWA