

June 24, 2022

To: Tri-Town Councils
Cc: BCWA Directors, Tri-Town State Senators and Representatives, and Key Staff
Subj: Monthly Report for July Town Council Meetings

2022 JUN 28 AM 8:38
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Council Members,

Following are highlights and actions taken during the June Meeting:

BCWA's Hydrant Hysteria Team Nick Deveau and Trevor Sousa attended the AWWA National Conference in San Antonio, Texas and finished 5th among 30 nationwide entrants in the Hydrant Assembly Speed Contest. Top time finishes were separated by mere seconds. They have won our NEWWA Hydrant Hysteria Contest for 5 years in a row.

The Phase 1 pipeline connection to East Providence Tank Farm is in operation; flowing approximately 1 MGD to keep the water fresh. The contractor still has remaining site repairs as well as some road repaving. Phase 2 design continues; our design firm Beta is investigating substituting a pipe bridge crossing over a railroad line for numerous conflicts on a city street. This change would result in approximately 2000 ft. less pipe. Federal funding for water infrastructure projects will be administered through the RI Infrastructure Bank. All projects must first be placed on a Project Priority List (PPL). Of the 127 listed, we are at number 7th and the RIIB is aware of supporting projects by East Providence and Pawtucket, that combined would constitute the total effort needed.

Directors approved replacement of an aging truck by awarding a not-to-exceed \$30,000 to MHQ for procurement of a Ford Maverick Hybrid Truck. They also approved a Memorandum of Understanding between BCWA and RIDOT for total reimbursement of costs to BCWA for repaving of several stretches of Metacom Ave and Market Street in Bristol; *previously estimated at \$160,000.00.*

Unaccounted for water, i.e., lost and not billable, is a never ending issue for water suppliers. It is typically ascribed to water used during hydrant flushing, via hydrant use for fire suppression, and pipe leakage. With 236 miles of pipe within our combined area of 24.5 square miles, our typical means of identification is surface water bubbling up. Underground leaks are pursued by listening devices employed late at night that "hear" the sound of leaking water below ground. While many of these tiny leaks are small, their combined 24/7 activity significantly adds up in lost revenue. Upon serious investigation by Deputy Director Michael Crawford, Directors received a presentation by ASTERRA - a Satellite Imagery Analysis for Underground Leaks. The company was founded by a NASA team member who developed the process that discovered water under the surface of the planet Mars. The company has been in business for over 6 years and has hundreds of successful contracts thought the country. From 400 miles up, double scans are taken of large areas, and using ground penetrating radar, they are able to pinpoint potential leakage of treated water within areas of 300 ft. radii. Teams with listening devices can thus concentrate efforts to confirm exact locations. Currently North Kingston has contracted with them. Since the satellite scans cover a huge area, BCWA joining would be at a discounted cost. Given the potential time and cost savings by use of this state-of-the-art approach, Directors awarded a contract to ASTERRA for \$40,860.

As usual, please note that this report contains personal views of actions and considerations and is not an official publication of the BCWA.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Klepper

Barrington Director

