

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

Summary of Notable Activities and Reports from the 10/26/2023 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. Pension Status Report: Our Pension Plan financial consultants, Nyhart, provided its annual report presentation to the Board on the status of the BCWA Employee pension. The plan funded status has increased from 80.0% to 88.4%. The plan's investment increased its market value by 11.6%, well above the target of 7.50%.
- 2. Connection to the Pawtucket Water Supply System Project: The design is about 60% complete at this point. A water quality report is under review by the RIDOH. A revised draft contract with the Pawtucket Water Supply Board has been sent to the PaWSB for their review. A meeting was held with the USGS regarding their flow gauge station that is in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline.

Some investigative geotechnical work is planned for late November – early December to support the design of the river crossings. Coordination continues with property owners regarding impacts of the project.

- 3. Demolition of the Treatment Plant: The demolition of the exterior treatment plant structures is complete with minor punch list items to be addressed. Phase II demolition of the buildings is planned for next year. Due to the recent rain, restoration of the site has been delayed.
- 4. Upper and Lower Kickemuit Dams Removal Project: Our contractor, Lucianos Excavation, has mobilized and has started work. There have been quite dramatic changes in the site already. Excavation of the actual dam may have started by the time this report is published.

On October 6, Senators Reed and Whitehouse, along with Congressman Magaziner, announced the EPA Southeast New England Program (SNEP) grant awards in Providence. BCWA was the recipient of a \$600,000 grant from this program for the Dam Removal Project. To date, BCWA has secured over \$3.4 million for this project.

The SNEP program noted above is committed to ensuring that by 2050, our New England region will develop 1) resilient ecosystems of safe and healthy waters, 2) thriving watersheds and natural lands, and 3) sustainable communities that are well-adapted to the anticipated effects of climate change.

TOWN COUNCIL

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- 5. Administration Building Roof: A&M Sheetmetal & Roofing has completed the roofing portions of this project. Only minor metal works (such as gutters and downspouts) remain to be done.
- 6. **Hydrant Flushing:** The fall hydrant flushing program has been completed. Operation staff will now be focused on additional repairs (some of which were identified during the flushing activity).
- 7. Hope Street Pumping Station: "Hope springs eternal." Despite all the equipment and supply delivery issues that has plagued this project, there has been some encouraging information coming from the manufacturers. Progress may be seen soon.
- 8. Distribution System Projects:
 - a. A more detailed description on these projects can be found at <u>bcwari.com/2023-water-distribution-system-improvement-program/</u>
 - b. Work in Bristol is now underway and expected to be completed on schedule in the Monkey Wrench/Low Lane area.
 - c. Once projects underway are completed, BCWA will have replaced 2,100 feet of old water mains and cleaned and cement-lined 9,500 feet of tuberculated cast iron mains for a total of **over two miles of improved infrastructure this year!**
- **9. Water Purchases:** During the month of September, water purchases were lower than last year but close to the seasonal average.
- **10.Cyber-Security:** The BCWA has an active cyber-security program that includes the training of staff. For example, the BCWA has implemented a two-pronged security strategy for e-mail to prevent or minimize phishing schemes and potential data access.
- **11.Next Meeting:** Due to budget preparation and the holiday season, there will be no November meeting of the board. The December meeting will be held early on **Wednesday, December 6.** A Finance Committee meeting will be held on November 15.

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Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Mariscal, Chairman, BCWA