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A Public Agency

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

Summary of Notable Activities and Reports from the December 11, 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 –

- a. **Pawtucket Agreement:** The Water Supply Contract with Pawtucket, which was approved by the BCWA Board on August 29, 2024, was approved by the Pawtucket Water Supply Board at their meeting of November 12th.
- b. **Design and Permitting:** The BCWA received a check from the City of East Providence in the amount for \$302,688.79 for reimbursement of the 60% design costs (per our cost sharing agreement with the City).

2. **Status of Off-Line Water Treatment Plant Buildings:** At a separate meeting of the Properties Committee held on November 6th, the Properties Committee met for additional discussion on the former water treatment facilities and property. There were a number of community members in attendance representing various groups including, the Warren Historic District Committee, the Warren Land Trust, the Warren Conservation Commission, the Warren Preservation Society, the Warren Heritage Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, and Save the Bay. Several individuals expressed interest in repurposing the former water treatment facility and use of the watershed properties for conservation/public/recreational purposes.

Following the discussion, the Committee recommended that the community members return in three months with a proposal for the buildings.

Since that meeting, four separate tours of the facilities have been scheduled and provided to interested parties.

3. Upper and Lower Kickemuit Dams Removal Project

- a. Work on the lower dam is complete.
- b. For the Upper Dam, approvals from the RI DEM and US Army Corp were recently received to remove an additional earthen berm to the west of breach and to restore forested wetland.
- c. The contractor is scheduled to return to the site next week to commence this work.
- d. All contractor work has been paid for with grant funding.

4. **Lead Service Line Replacement Program:** This program is on-going. To date (35) public-side services have been replaced and (10) private-side services have been replaced as customers have utilized BCWA's no interest loan program to replace the service lines on their property. Following the completion and submission of our Lead Service Line Inventory to the State,

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approximately 1,300 customers were notified that they may have a lead, galvanized steel or iron, or an unknown material for their water service line. The notice informs the customer on the relevant lead service line regulations, BCWA's replacement program, provides a link to our survey, the potential health effects of lead, as well as steps that can be taken to reduce the exposure to lead in drinking water.

5. 2024 Water Distribution Projects

- a. All cleaning and lining work under this contract has been completed.
- b. All service renewals in Barrington and Warren have been completed. There remains 19 additional service renewals to be completed on State roadways in Bristol which will likely occur next Spring.
- c. Final curb to curb paving was completed for Rumstick Road and Chachapacasset Road in Barrington and State Street in Bristol.

6. Providence Water Supply Board Rate Filing: Providence Water has recently filed an application to the RI Public Utilities Commission seeking rate schedule changes. For BCWA, the rate proposed by Providence Water is a decrease of approximately 8 percent, as a result of Providence Water proposing a Low Service and High Service wholesale rate.

7. FY 2025/2026 Budget: Discussion on the budget was tabled due to a lack of a sufficient number of members to approve the budget (BCWA's by-laws require six members to be present at the meeting with at least one member from each community to approve the fiscal year budget). A special budget meeting is tentatively set for January 9, 2025.

8. Energy Management Program: The BCWA will be participating in an Energy Management Program offered through the RI Infrastructure Bank (RIIB). This program offers public organizations free technical assistance to manage building energy use and identify areas to reduce costs. Working with an energy management consultant, the program seeks to incorporate energy efficiency measures within facilities, determines if there are renewable energy opportunities, and other areas for emissions reduction such as electric vehicle charging stations. The consultant will review BCWA's energy usage at each facility, conduct facility inspections, and develop an Action Plan. If there are feasible projects to implement, the RIIB provides low-cost, cash-flow positive financing.

9. Next Scheduled Board Meeting and Public Hearing for Rate Amendment: Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 5:00pm, BCWA Offices, 450 Child Street, Warren.

As noted herein, for detailed information on the BCWA activities, please go to the BCWA website at www.bcwari.com. Minutes and videos of all Board meetings are archived on the website.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Kraig, BCWA Vice Chairman (Acting Chair for the December meeting)