

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

### **Summary of Notable Activities and Reports from the October 24, 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](http://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 proposed agreement (approved by BCWA) with the Pawtucket Water Supply Board was on their agenda but unfortunately action was postponed due to an administrative oversight.
- b. Design and Permitting:** Comments were received from the City of East Providence's consultant and are under review by BCWA at present.

#### **2. Status of Off-Line Water Treatment Plant Buildings:** There are two buildings under consideration for demolition and/or reuse. The 100-year-old buildings are functionally obsolete for BCWA purposes.

Interested historic preservationists have approached the BCWA about possible reuse of these two buildings which the BCWA is planning on demolishing.

An architectural analysis of the old Station Structure (small building fronting on Child Street alongside of the Kickemuit River) was subject of a meeting of the BCWA Properties Committee on October 2nd. At that meeting, a presentation was made by BCWA's consultant who evaluated three alternatives: Option 1 – Comprehensive Renovation of the Building (approximate cost \$806,000); Option 2 – Stabilize the building to prevent further deterioration (approximate cost \$330,000); and Option 3 – Demolish the Building (approximate cost less than \$75,000).

The consensus of the BCWA Properties Committee at its meeting was that the BCWA has no planned business use or reuse for this building and that operational cost savings could be realized if it were demolished. For these reasons, the committee's consensus was saving the building could not be justified from a cost viewpoint and that the building should be demolished.

However, it was also recognized that there have been some private and/or public sentiment and interest in preserving this building and the main treatment building. In addition, if community public or private interests could commit to the reuse and a comprehensive renovation of the Old Station building (and/or the main building) in a timely manner that does not interfere with BCWA's operations, some type of accommodation could possibly be made by BCWA.

While no similar analysis was done on the main building, it is in similar condition with no present use by the BCWA. It housed treatment tanks, machinery, pumps, electrical equipment, offices and

## October 24, 2024, BCWA Board of Directors Meeting Summary

a laboratory. Due to the condition of the building, reuse for any purposes is not an easily defined project and most likely cost prohibitive.

Another open public meeting of the Properties Committee will be held in the next few weeks to which previously identified interested parties will be invited.

### 3. Upper and Lower Kickemuit Dams Removal Project:

- a. Work on the lower dam is complete.
- b. For the upper dam, the contractor has completed the final grading of channel breach and embankments. Work on final site restoration and stabilization continues.
- c. An application to RI DEM has been made to remove an additional earthen berm to the west of breach and to restore forested wetland.

### 4. 2024 Water Distribution Projects:

- a. Fall Hydrant flushing has been completed in all three towns.
- b. Modification to 2023 Water Main Rehabilitation Project Budget - Based on the competitive pricing received for this project, BCWA directed the contractor to complete an additional 3,520 feet of water main cleaning and lining and the installation of 100 feet of water main. The Board approved a \$93,131.83 increase in the contract for this work.
- c. In Barrington, the Town's sewer contractor has completed the restoration of BCWA's assets impacted by the emergency sewer work in the vicinity of Middle Highway and Legion Way.
- d. BCWA received a report on the corroded water line in Gooding Avenue, Bristol. The report identified very corrosive soils that are most likely responsible for the premature piping failure. Additional investigations are on-going to determine the extent of the replacement of piping that may be required.

### 5. BCWA Pension Plan Report: A presentation was made by Nyhart (an employee-benefit consulting, actuarial, and administration firm) on their evaluation of the BCWA's Employee Pension Plan. Highlights of the findings of their review include:

- Assets performed better than the 7.50% annual growth assumption (12.2% actual)
- Plan funded status increased from 88.4% to 94.5%
- Recommended contribution decreased
- One lump sum payment made in 2023-2024
- Continue to review interest rate assumptions

### 6. Water Purchases from Providence Water Supply Board: Water purchases for the month of September 2024 ticked up about five percent over that of September 2023 but were typical for the prior five-year average. For the year-to-date, water purchases are still about five percent below the five-year average.

### 7. Lead Service Line Replacement Program: This on-going public health project has two parts: replacement of known BCWA lead-based service connections and replacement of private side lead-based service connections. Over the last month, seven public side services and three private side services were replaced. See item 10 listed below regarding the issuance of a press release.

### 8. FY 2025/2026 Budget: Work is underway in preparations for the next fiscal year budget. It is expected that a proposed budget will be presented at the November 13, 2024 meeting of the BCWA Finance Committee and at the December 11, 2024, BCWA Board meeting.

### 9. Claims Policy Modification: At a separate meeting of the BCWA Policy Committee, a recommendation was approved to change the BCWA Claims Policy. At its meeting, the BCWA

## October 24, 2024, BCWA Board of Directors Meeting Summary

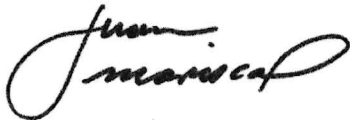
Board approved the recommended change which increased the limit for which damage or other claims against the BCWA can be resolved by the Executive Director. The limit was raised from \$500 to \$2,500. Typically, perhaps one claim a year is received. Claims above \$2,500 will be referred to the BCWA Board of Directors for review and resolution. All other settled claims below \$2,500 will be reported to the Board.

**10. Public Information:** A press release was issued and printed in the local papers and on their website regarding the BCWA's on-going Lead Service Line Inventory Survey.

**11. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 5:00pm at 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](http://www.bcwari.com). Minutes and videos of all Board meetings are archived on the website.

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