

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

**Summary of Notable Activities and Reports  
from the  
1/23/2024 BCWA Board of Directors Meeting**

2024 FEB - 1 AM 8:15

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

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. Rate Increase FY 2025:** A Public Hearing was held at 5:00PM on January 23, 2024, at the offices of the Bristol County Water Authority at 450 Child Street in Warren. A presentation on the need for an adjustment to the existing water rates was made by the Executive Director. While the Public Hearing was properly noticed, no members of the general public were in attendance. A copy of the detailed presentation can be found on the BCWA's website at <https://bcwari.com/jan-23-2024-public-hearing-presentation>.

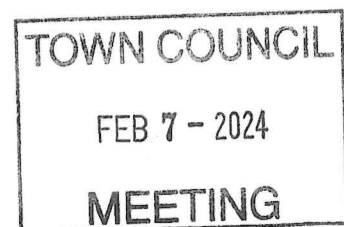
At the January 23, 2024, Board meeting, the BCWA Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the presented rate increase to continue support of the BCWA operations and capital improvement program, including the design of phase 2 of the Pawtucket Pipeline Project, the completion of the new Hope Street Pump Station, lead service line replacements, and the continued upgrading and replacement of the water distribution system.

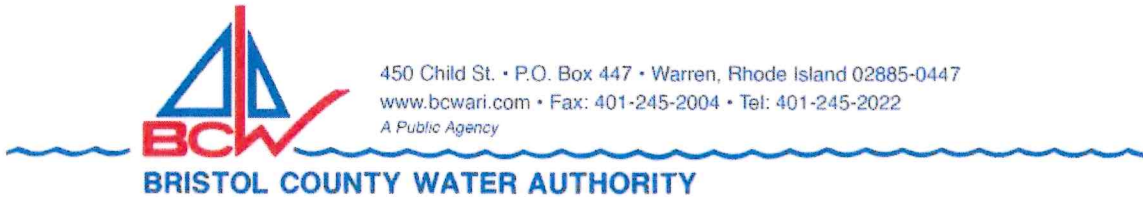
The 5% rate increase will result in an average residential cost increase of \$3.42 per month or about \$41 per year.

This rate increase will support the BCWS Strategic Plan's four major initiatives.

- Continue to maintain high quality water and secure an alternative water supply source;
- Continue to provide exceptional customer service;
- Continue to enhance information management systems to improve operational efficiencies; and
- Continue to ensure financial stability.

- 2. Connection to the Pawtucket Water Supply System Project:** Due to the Washington Bridge situation, the Geotech work scheduled in December was placed on hold at the request of RIDOT. The work required activity along the detour route streets that have been congested with traffic. Staff are working with RIDOT to get the project back on schedule. We are hopeful that the driller will be back on site in early February, depending on weather and schedules.





- 3. Upper and Lower Kickemuit Dams Removal Project:** No further work on the upper dam will be done until Spring in accordance with our permits.

On the Lower Dam, the contractor has removed impacted sediments. Several large storms have delayed work; however the contractor was able to effectively manage the high flows and water levels from the storms.

BCWA staff reached out to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant administrators to inquire if additional funding might be available from them. That request proved to be a positive effort as we learned that the BCWA will receive an additional \$500,000 in addition to the previously awarded grant of \$1,391,000 in 2021. Both grants were from the National Coastal Resilience Fund. Total grant funds received now for this project are about \$4 million. A grant announcement was made through Senator Whitehouse's office. This project will restore salt and brackish marsh habitat in both the lower and upper impoundment areas and will create an area for salt marsh migration.

- 4. Hope Street Pumping Station:** This project's schedule has been severely hampered by supply chain shortages. However, the building is now connected to the public electrical system and other parts of the project are finally moving along.
- 5. Distribution System Projects:** BCWA operators continue to respond to water main and service line breaks as this time of year is known for water pipes freezing.
- 6. Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the BCWA Board of Directors is scheduled for February 22, 2024.

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Respectfully submitted,

Juan Mariscal, Chairman, BCWA  
1/31/2024