

Tri-Town Monthly Report Summary of Notable Activities and Reports from the August 6th & August 28th BCWA Meetings

For detailed information on any of these subjects presented herein, please go to the BCWA website at www.bcwari.com or contact the BCWA. Minutes and videos of all Board meetings are archived on the website.

- 1. August 6, 2025, Special Meeting of the Board: This meeting was limited to one agenda item the Status of the Pawtucket Pipeline Project Phase II Design with a presentation by the Project Manager from BCWA's Engineering Consultant, the Beta Group. A detailed presentation was made which included a defined Project Schedule showing dates for completion of various tasks. Board members expressed considerable concern about meeting the outlined schedule to keep this project moving and into construction as soon as possible.
- 2. BCWA Annual Report Distribution: The report was presented to the Board. The report summarizes the activities of the agency and its staff as well as including the auditor's report for the last Fiscal Year (ending February 28, 2025). Typically, the BCWA uses an outside public relations firm to define the form for the content provided by staff. This year we were informed that these services could cost up to \$20,000. Our versatile and creative administrative assistant, Lauren DeRuisseau, immediately volunteered to do the work. Using software and innate abilities, she was able to produce the report for only \$1,300. Amazing job at a huge savings! Thank you, Lauren!
- **3.** Connection to the Pawtucket Water Supply System Project: As noted above, a special meeting was held on August 6th at which the Beta Group made a detailed presentation on the project and its status and future schedule.

A request from BCWA project consultant, the Beta Group, was received to amend their design of the crossing of the Ten Mile River, the Blending and Control Station and other geotechnical work. The proposed cost would be an additional \$446,723, increasing the total contract to about \$2.4 million. This was approved with conditions set by the BCWA Board and is also listed in the Action Items herein.

The approval included the condition that the plans associated with all aspects of the project (with the exception of the blending and control station) be completed to the 90% design stage and submitted for permitting to the relevant regulatory agencies by December 31, 2025, in accordance with the schedule the Beta Group presented at the August 6, 2025, BCWA Special Board Meeting. This approval followed significant Board discussion and was not unanimous, passing by a vote of 6 to 3, and even members voting for the amendment were very concerned. The Board expressed growing frustration with both the prolonged timeline for completing the design and the escalating costs associated with Beta Group's work. In addition, BCWA has added new monthly reporting requirements on the Beta Group. The Board agreed that the Chairman and the Executive Director send a join letter (after review by Board members) to the Beta Group advising them of the Board's concerns.

4. Lead Service Line Replacement Program: As required by law, the BCWA completed an annual service line report which will be submitted during the first week of September to various government officials and agencies. The BCWA has replaced 59 public lead services and 14 public galvanized services. In addition, on the private services side, the BCWA, working with its contractor and the group

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120Water, has inspected 197 service lines, with 11 being replaced. There are about 285 service lines for which no information is available on the materials used. BCWA continues to work on that situation.

- **5. Hydraulic Modeling:** The modeling has been completed regarding the Fountain Avenue Water Tank. The report should be available for our review in mid-September. The Fountain Avenue Water Tank has been out of service for about a year without any adverse impact on water services in Barrington.
- **6.** Request for Proposals Redevelopment of Former Water Treatment Buildings: No proposals were received for this project. No action has been taken by the Board. The project has been referred to the BCWA Properties Committee for additional discussion and development of a possible course of action for presentation at a later BCWA Board meeting. A meeting of the Committee is being scheduled for early September.
- **7. Billing Write-Offs** A staff report was presented that indicated \$11,795.95 in un-collectible billings is being "written-off." This represents only 0.26% of billings of over \$4.5 million.

8. Board Action Items:

- a. Approval of Purchase of a Ford Explorer as a replacement of an aging vehicle used by O&M staff. Using the State Master Price Agreement, bids were solicited and received from three auto dealers. An award was made to the lowest responsible bidder, Tasca Ford, for \$31,750.
- **b. No Action Improvements to the BCWA Board Room -** This project to update technology, furniture and layout for the room was put on hold. No action taken.
- c. Approval of Phase II Design Services for Pawtucket Pipeline Project Budget Increase (see above details) Item approved with Conditions.
- d. Approval of Project Budget Modifications for 2024 Water Main Rehabilitation Project: Final costs for this project, completed in July 2025, were over budget by about 11% (or \$329,572.88). The project construction costs were within budget, but other costs were above budget. Of note, this was due to cost overruns for Police, Inspections and Contingencies. These categories of costs are typically carried at about 26-32% of total construction costs. For these projects, the services lines were on busy State roads that necessitated considerably more time and effort for police details.

9. Next Meetings:

e. 5:00PM, Thursday, September 28, 2025 – Monthly Meeting BCWA Offices 450 Child Street, Warren.

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Respectfully submitted,

Juan Mariscal, Chairman, BCWA