



450 Child St. • P.O. Box 447 • Warren, Rhode Island 02885-0447
www.bcwari.com • Fax: 401-245-2004 • Tel: 401-245-2022
A Public Agency

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

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

**Summary of Notable Activities and Reports
from the
12/6/2023 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. Public and Private Lead Service Line Replacements

The US EPA's revised Lead and Copper Rule and the State of Rhode Island's lead prevention act legislation, passed earlier this year, requires public water systems to address lead service lines within their respective service areas.

The BCWA has defined this as a priority project to continue to assure our customers of a good and clean water supply. To address this, the BCWA staff are finalizing an inventory of public and private lead service lines. Plans and specifications are also in preparation to go out to bid this winter. The purpose of this project is to remove all identified lead service lines on the "public side" in 2024.

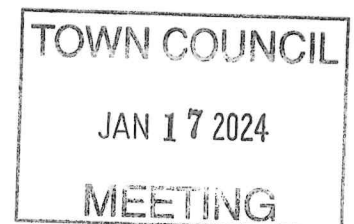
One of the new stipulations requires water utilities to replace the entire line from the main to the meter, if the public side of the service consists of lead, or galvanized iron (GI) pipe with a lead connector. A partial replacement or work to replace the service on the public side only is not permitted. Given this stipulation, the project requires the cooperation and willingness of the property owner to replace their side of the service line. If a property owner does not wish to replace their side of the service and the water utility receives documented confirmation of this, then the water utility is able to perform a partial service line replacement on the public side.

However, so that the BCWA can move forward to ensure the removal of all public lead water service lines including those on the private side, at its December 2023 meeting the BCWA Board approved a staff proposal to establish a finance assistance program for property owners to pay for the cost of the replacement of these internal lead water services. This financial assistance program would allow repayment of the costs (estimated at about \$5,000 each) over a five-year period (about \$85/month). It will be a **no-interest type loan**. For the initial phase of this program, BCWA has identified about 50 potential private side services that could participate in this program.

2. Proposed FY2025 Budgets

- a. O&M Budget**
- b. Capital Budget**

The BCWA Board approved the FY2025 Operation and Maintenance Budget and Capital Budget as presented by the BCWA Finance Committee.





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- 3. Connection to the Pawtucket Water Supply System Project:** RIDOT issued its permit for geotechnical work to take place on Pawtucket Avenue for the Ten Mile River Crossing. Coordination continues with private property owners and agencies that will be impacted by this work.
- 4. Demolition of the Treatment Plant:** The demolition of the exterior treatment plant structures is complete. The building permit was received to install a canopy-covered storage area on-site. Additional demolition of plant buildings is scheduled for 2024.
- 5. Upper and Lower Kickemuit Dams Removal Project:** The Upper Dam has been excavated to a suitable grade for the winter months. No further work will be done until Spring in accordance with the DEM permit. On the Lower Dam, the contractor has installed cofferdams (i.e. very large sandbags, called SuperSacks). The contractor has been working to remove impacted sediments, upstream of the Lower Dam.
- 6. Hope Street Pumping Station:** This project's schedule has been severely hampered by supply chain shortages. However, critical electrical components have finally arrived! The electrical contractor is busy completing wiring. Site work also continues. We are looking forward to the day in 2024 that this much-delayed project will be completed.
- 7. Distribution System Projects:** A detailed description on these projects can be found at bcwari.com/2023-water-distribution-system-improvement-program/
- 8. The Public Hearing on amending the water rate to support the FY 2025 Budget will take place on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 5 pm at our Administration Building located at 450 Child Street, Warren.**

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Happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Mariscal, Chairman, BCWA
1/2/2024