

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

**Notable Activities
from the
BCWA Board of Directors March 23, 2023, Meeting**

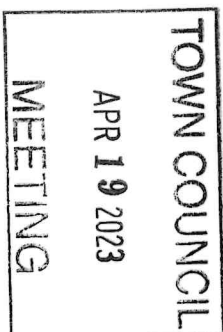
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For detailed information on any of these subjects presented herein, please go to the BCWA website at www.bcwari.com. Minutes and videos of all Board meetings are archived on the website.

1. **Demonstration of Neptune Customer Portal (Currently in Test Phase):** On a routine basis prior to billing, the BCWA produces an internal report to assure that the billing will be accurate. As part of that process, exceptional or unusually high-water consumption for individual customers is compiled. These customers are contacted by the BCWA staff to alert them of a possible water leakage or other water problem at their premises. At the March board meeting staff provided a presentation of an on-line system (still in development) that would provide customer access to their daily water consumption. In addition, alerts could be set by the customer for high daily usage. Settings could be made to alert a customer on vacation when no water usage would be expected and water use is detected. There was active discussion between Board members and staff regarding various modifications or functionalities that might be included. One issue that was mentioned, and alternatives will be assessed, is for those customers who are not computer users or internet savvy. The system is still being developed and tested, but it appeared that what was presented by staff could be a very valuable tool for customers as it functions now.
2. **Water Meter Updates:** The BCWA has been replacing water meters over the last several years to provide more effective, timely and representative water readings for billing purposes. At present, only 38 meters out of the 17,381 water meters in the system have not been updated for various reasons. Notices have been provided to customers regarding the need to update the meters. Over half of the customers who have not had their meter updated have not responded to notices, however. Water shut-off notices will be sent to those customers not responding. Other meters that have not been replaced have unique circumstances for which the BCWA are continuing to work with the customers to resolve.
3. **Kickemuit Dam Removal Project:** Approval of this project by the Coastal Resources Management Council was on September 27, 2022. Formal written notice of this project was received on February 6, 2023. This notice allowed for a 30-day appeal period which expired on March 1, 2023. Approval by the US Army Corps of Engineers has also been received. RIDEM issued a public notice for the project on March 15 that formally notifies the public, affected landowners and local officials that there is a 45-day period for public comment which ends on May 1, 2023. No work can begin until BCWA is notified by RIDEM.

4. Procurement and Bid Awards

- a. **Award of Agricultural Land Lease for Haying Fields:** On an annual basis, the BCWA seeks bids for the "haying" of agricultural land owned by the BCWA in the Town of Warren. Two bids were received recently and the bid was awarded to Paul Brule.
- b. **Purchase of Meters:** The Board approved the purchase of meters from the Neptune Technology Group (supplier of the water meter system used by BCWA) for meters and meter interface units associated with fire service backflow devices.



- c. **Contract Amendment to Pare Corporation for Phase I of the Water Treatment Plant Demolition Project:** The Board approved a contract amended for the completion of work associated with defining asbestos monitoring and abatement activities in accordance with RIDOH regulations.
- d. **Phase II Design Services for the Pawtucket Pipeline Project:** The Board approved an amendment with the Beta Group for this project. The changes are necessary to address water line routing changes which will result in a reduction in the length of pipe of approximately 2,000 feet needed for this project. The routing changes are necessary due to the change in land use that has occurred as well as the determination that the original route had considerable other utilities that would cause conflicts and complicate construction. The new route, however, will require a pipe bridge to be built over an active railroad line in East Providence. Approvals will also be required by the City Council of the City of East Providence.

5. **BCWA annual report** is being prepared and is scheduled to be delivered at the July 2023 Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Juan Mariscal, Acting Chairman, BCWA