



## **Tri-Town Monthly Report Summary of Notable Activities and Reports from the**

### **February 27, 2025, 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) or contact the BCWA. Minutes and videos of all Board meetings are archived on the website.

- 1. Connection to the Pawtucket Water Supply System Project:** Project plans are being revised considering comments made by the City of East Providence's consultants. The plans are approaching the 90% completion stage. It is expected that the plans will be ready for submittal to the regulatory agencies for their review and approval this Summer.
- 2. Upper and Lower Kickemuit Dams Removal Project**
  - a. Work on the lower dam is complete.
  - b. For the upper dam, the work is essentially complete. Plantings and landscaping will be done in the Spring.
  - c. Our staff and local photographers have photographed a bald eagle along the former reservoir.
  - d. This project has been partially funded with Federal grants. The largest grant of \$1.9 million was from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) sent the BCWA Executive Director an e-mail notifying BCWA that a pause had been placed on all federal grant funding just as we were about to submit a reimbursement request for \$304,519. BCWA then received another notice saying that the first notice stopping payment of the federal funds was rescinded. We have submitted the reimbursement request!
- 3. 2025 Water Distribution System Projects**
  - a. Exceptionally cold winter weather has resulted in considerably more water line breakages than previous years (25 incidents through February 12 – only 10 in 2024 and only 7 in 2023). Crews have been very attentive in addressing these issues quickly.
  - b. Bids for water distribution improvement projects for 2025 were requested on February 26<sup>th</sup> and are due on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. Fountain Avenue Water Tank, Barrington: This tank is presently offline. The water system was evaluated while the tank was off line and it appears that the water pressures in the service area have increased. Modeling of the service area indicates that this change has had beneficial water quality impacts. The tank is over 50 years old and a recent inspection of the tank determined that a full rehabilitation of the tank is necessary which would cost approximately \$750,000. BCWA and Pare Corp. are continuing to evaluate this facility and the service area. In addition, the Board discussed requests by the Town of Barrington and Verizon for possible use of the tank for the installation of cellular antennas. A public request for proposals will be prepared to address this possibility.
- 4. Water Purchases from Providence Water Supply Board:** Water purchases for the month of January 2025 were typical for this time of year. For the year, water purchases are still about 2% less than the prior five-year average.
- 5. Lead Service Line Replacement Program –** No activity due to Winter shut down. There are 21 public side services scheduled to be replaced this year. Additional contacts will be made with the customers

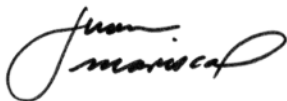
## February 27, 2025, BCWA Board of Directors Meeting Summary

who have lead service lines on their property. BCWA can provide low-cost financing to residential customers to have this work done by BCWA's contractor.

6. **Audit Services Award:** In November, a request for proposals for accounting and audit services was solicited. This would cover the three fiscal years of FY 2025, 2026 and 2027. An award was made to CBIZ CPAs of Providence (Marcum Accountants is now part of CBIZ).
7. **Legal Services Request For Proposals:** In response to a request for proposals issued on January 15th, proposals were reviewed by the staff and Board members. The Board awarded the contract to Keough & Sweeney of Pawtucket.
8. **RI Department of Health:** On November 18, 2024, as required by the RI DOH, eight routine samples were collected in the BCWA water system to be tested for disinfection byproducts. **All samples showed compliance with water quality standards.** One sample was submitted by our contract laboratory to RI DOH with **incorrect labelling of the sample station name.** Despite a timely correction by the BCWA staff, the RI DOH issued a formal notice of violation to the BCWA for this administrative error (mislabeling) that the BCWA corrected. No further corrective action was necessary, no fines assessed and, most importantly, **no water quality standards were violated.**
9. **Staff and Board Member News**
  - a. **Staff and Board Training** – BCWA completed Right to Know training (dealing with hazardous chemicals) and Ethics Training from the State Ethics Commission. Similarly, based on an invitation from the Bristol Town Administrator and Town Clerk, Bristol Board members attended an Ethics training presentation at the Bristol Town Hall. We will be holding another session at the BCWA for all Board members soon.
  - b. **Executive Director Annual Review** – The BCWA Personnel Committee conducted the annual review of Executive Director Stephen Coutu. Input was received from all Board members through a review evaluation form that each Board member completed. Mr. Coutu's performance has been exceptional, scoring high marks for his overall management of the BCWA.
10. **Next Meeting: Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 5:00pm** - BCWA Offices 450 Child Street, Warren.

As noted herein, this is a summary. For detailed information on the BCWA activities, please go to the BCWA website at [www.bcwari.com](http://www.bcwari.com) or contact the BCWA. Minutes and videos of all Board meeting are archived on the BCWA website.

Respectfully submitted,



Juan Mariscal, Chairman, BCWA