



**Tri-Town Monthly Report**  
**Summary of Notable Activities and Reports**  
**from the**  
**January 22, 2026, BCWA Rate Hearing &**  
**the January 22, 2026, BCWA 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.

**January 22, 2026, BCWA Rate Hearing** — A Public Hearing was noticed and held at 5:00PM on January 22, 2026. The Executive Director provided a 29-page PowerPoint presentation at the hearing (copy available at <https://bcwari.com/1-22-26-bcwa-fy2027-public-hearing-presentation/>). Unfortunately, no members of the public attended the hearing. Before the close of the hearing, the Chairman noted that about a week earlier a posting was made on the Facebook discussion group “Around Bristol 02809” by the moderator of the group. The posting alerted on-line visitors that the BCWA was having a public hearing regarding a proposed rate increase. At least 20 persons responded to this on-line notice and provided on-line comments on the Facebook page regarding various water-related concerns including: the rate increase (“why?” and “everything is going up”), dry skin and itchiness after showering, excessive dishwasher suds, occasionally cloudy water, bladder cancer rates, dry hair after showering and excessively hot water. One commenter was from outside of the BCWA service area. Another noted that no one ever shows up for the hearings. Also, the Chairman stated at the hearing that one person had contacted the BCWA offices about a week earlier and wanted to talk to the Bristol board members. The Chairman called the person but unfortunately a game of “telephone tag” ensued. Voice and text message exchanges occurred between the Chairman and the customer. The person indicated she would attend the hearing. She did not.

**January 22, 2026, BCWA Board Meeting**

- 1. BCWA Rate Increase** — Based on an approved operating FY2027 (12-month ending February 28, 2027) operating budget and capital spending plan, the Board approved a **3% rate increase. For residential customers, the average increase will be about \$23 per year or about \$1.92 per month.**
- 2. Connection to the Pawtucket Water Supply System Project** — The design continues. A written scheduling update on all components of the project was submitted by Beta Engineering. The Board is requesting that Beta present and discuss a project schedule update report at the February meeting.
- 3. Water System Improvements**
  - a. Water System Breaks** – Water main break season is here. Over the last few weeks 10 breaks have occurred in service and main lines. Immediate attention is given to these incidents and repairs made regardless of time of day.
  - b. Lead Service Line Replacement Program** — A new project has been initiated as required by regulations. With assistance from the RI DOH and its contractor, “the “120 Water and Rural Water Association (120 Water Association), water utilities are required to validate 20% of the presumed non-lead private service lines. BCWA has 1,902 private lines presumed to be non-lead. Notices are being sent to 400 customers in this category asking the customer to allow an inspection of their services or for them to perform their own inspection.

## Summary – January 22, 2026, BCWA Board of Directors Meeting & Public Hearing

### 4. BCWA Properties

- a. **BCWA Operations Building** — In October, Pare Corporation completed pre-design/concept plans for the proposed Operation Building. These plans were accepted by the BCWA Properties Committee and Board in December. A “Task Order” and contract was approved by the Board for Pare Corp. to complete architectural and engineering design to the “30% Design” level for the 18,400 square foot building and associated site improvements and utilities. The proposed building and site improvements require the demolition of the former water treatment plant as this space is needed.

Given this, the Board also approved proceeding with finalizing the plans and specifications to demolish the former water treatment plant building in order to put this project out for bid.

- b. **BCWA Swansea Properties** — A meeting was held with representatives of the Swansea Water District to discuss BCWA’s properties in the Town of Swansea.
- c. **Shad Factory Pipeline and Dam** — Work continues by Save The Bay (STB) and its consultant, Pare Corp. regarding possible removal of this pipeline from wetlands along the Palmer River. In addition, a meeting was held with representatives of STB and Mass DEP regarding the grant funding of the possible removal of the Shad Factory Dam.

5. **Former Upper Kickemuit Dam Area Well Testing** — Prior to this project being started, BCWA tested the private wells of 12 property owners in the area (with their permission). Additional post-project well testing was recently offered to these property owners. Half of them granted the BCWA permission to do the testing. Additional outreach will be done to those property owners that have not responded.

6. **Fountain Avenue (Barrington) Water Tank** — The completed hydraulic water system modeling regarding this Barrington Water Tank indicates that **without** the tank in service, the Barrington Service Area will function with **improved** system pressures and fire flow through the town.

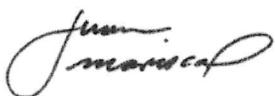
7. **Water Purchases from the Scituate Reservoir** — Water purchases for the month of December 2025 were the highest of the last five years – about 5% higher than the average. However, cumulatively for the year, water purchases are only about 1% greater than last year and remain 2% less than the prior 5-year average.

8. **Financial Management** — December 2026 revenue was 13.6% lower than the previous year. Expenses were also lower by about 15%. Year-To-Date revenue was up from the previous in-line with the previously-approved rate increase.

9. **Next Meeting** — At BCWA Offices 450 Child Street, Warren.
  - 5:00PM, Thursday, February 26, 2026, Monthly Meeting of Board

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 meetings are archived on the BCWA website.

Respectfully submitted,



Juan Mariscal, Chairman, BCWA