



September 2, 2014

Cory Miller, Executive Director
University Area Joint Authority
1576 Spring Valley Road
State College, PA 16801

Dear Mr. Miller:

Recently Tom Songer and Steve Balkey have been in touch with ClearWater Conservancy regarding the issue of water conservation in relation to the University Area Joint Authority's billing structure and have asked us to weigh in.

You may remember that in September 2003, ClearWater offered UAJA a letter outlining our concerns for the water resources of our region and encouraging UAJA to consider a comparative analysis of its equivalent dwelling unit billing structure with a volumetric billing structure. This letter is attached for your reference.

In general, we continue to encourage water conservation by homeowners and businesses. We understand that changing community attitudes and individual actions is an educational effort that can take years to bear fruit. It is also a message that should come from a variety of directions and motivations. Financial incentives are always good to consider as one piece of the puzzle.

We therefore request that UAJA once again consider this type of comparative billing analysis, as well as considering other potential billing structures that may also be viable alternatives for this community if appropriate. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Shuey, Executive Director

Cc: Tom Songer and Steve Balkey
Attachment: September 4, 2003 letter



2555 North Atherton Street ♦ State College, Pennsylvania 16803 ♦ (814) 237-0400
www.clearwaterconservancy.org ♦ contactus@clearwaterconservancy.org



ClearWater Conservancy

*Everyone Working Together to Conserve Natural Beauty
and the Environment in the Heart of Pennsylvania*

September 4, 2003

Cory Miller, Executive Director
University Area Joint Authority
1576 Spring Valley Road
State College, PA 16801

Dear Mr. Miller:

Over the past few months, representatives from the ClearWater Conservancy have been working with representatives of the Heritage I Committee of the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County to develop partnerships on issues of common concern. One such issue, brought forth by Heritage I, has been the issue of water conservation and its relation to the University Area Joint Authority's billing structure.

The ad-hoc committee that has been reviewing this issue made a presentation to the ClearWater Executive Committee and Board of Directors at their August 22 and September 4 meetings, respectively. They summarized the issue of volumetric billing and asked ClearWater Conservancy for a formal endorsement of an analysis of the UAJA billing system to promote water conservation and equitable access to the water resource.

We understand that Heritage I has a strong interest in ensuring equity among the various types of customers in the UAJA billing structure. Heritage I also has a separate but related interest in analyzing the tapping fee structure employed by UAJA. However, we believe that the case for water conservation is equally important. Water conservation is ClearWater's main objective in contributing to this discussion.

With the announcement of stream impairments in the Spring Creek Watershed, additional attention and concern have been focused on the many challenges facing the future of our water resources. UAJA has been a wonderful partner with ClearWater Conservancy and the many other stakeholders of the Spring Creek Watershed Community in seeking proactive solutions to difficult problems.

In addition, UAJA has taken great strides in promoting the Beneficial Reuse of water in the Spring Creek Watershed. As you know, the Beneficial Reuse concept is water conservation on a much larger scale. But changing the water use and conservation attitudes and actions of individual consumers will take much more determination.

2555 N. Atherton Street ♦ State College, Pennsylvania 16803 ♦ (814) 237-0400
www.clearwaterconservancy.org ♦ contactus@clearwaterconservancy.org

Board of Directors

Brian McCullough
PSU, Outreach and Cooperative Extension
President

Ed Dunkelberger
Farmer
First Vice President

Christopher Finton
Meiser & Earl Hydrogeologists, Inc.
Second Vice President

Max Gill
State College Borough Water Authority
Treasurer

Carolyn Mahan
PSU, Biology and Interdisciplinary
Program in Environmental Studies
Secretary

Ellie Beaver
Centre County United Way

Dan Crust
State of the Art

Walter Ebaugh
Retired, USFilter

Barbara Fisher
Community Activist

Kelleann Foster
PSU, Landscape Architecture

Howard Greenberg
PSU, Legal/Environmental Economics

Don Hamer
State of the Art

Neil Korostoff
PSU, Landscape Architecture

Robert McKinstry
PSU, Maurice K. Goddard Professor
Forestry and Environmental Resources
Conservation

Patrick Morse
Seligman Friedman & Company PC

Heidi Nicholas
Fred Nicholas Enterprises

Gene Proch
Mount Nittany Winery

James M. Rayback
Rayback Blararik & Green, Inc.

Tom Songer
Accadia; Torron Group

Ford Stryker
PSU, Office of Physical Plant

Jeff Sturniolo
Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.

Shana Tritsch
USFilter

Dennis Zwigart
StressTel

Coupled with a comprehensive and long-term water conservation educational campaign, we believe that a volumetric billing structure has the potential to provide additional financial incentives for water conservation and reward the behavior that we wish to foster.

Any decision made by the University Area Joint Authority should be based on an analysis of the current system. Since State College Borough, with the assistance of the State College Borough Water Authority, already uses a volumetric billing structure, their input would be valuable to this analysis. In addition, ClearWater Conservancy would be glad to assist by assigning a volunteer to help in the process.

We therefore request that UAJA consider analyzing their current system of billing based on equivalent dwelling units against a volumetric billing system, with the support and assistance of ClearWater Conservancy, Heritage I, and other interested community stakeholders.

This billing system analysis is only one small step towards fostering water conservation in the Spring Creek Watershed, but it is one that we encourage you to take. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Shuey, Executive Director

Cc: Dan Abruzzo, CBICC Heritage I Committee