BEFORE THE
OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

In the Matter of:

Portage County Commissioners
449 South Meridian Street
Ravenna, Ohio 44266

Respondent

Director's Final Findings and Orders

PREAMBLE

It is agreed by the parties hereto as follows:

I. JURISDICTION

These Director's Final Findings and Orders ("Orders") are issued to the Portage County Commissioners ("Respondent"), pursuant to the authority vested in the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency ("Ohio EPA") under Ohio Revised Code ("ORC") §§ 6111.03, 6117.34, and 3745.01.

II. PARTIES BOUND

These Orders shall apply to and be binding upon Respondent and successors in interest liable under Ohio law. No change in the composition of Respondent shall in any way alter Respondent's obligations under these Orders.

III. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise stated, all terms used in these Orders shall have the same meaning as defined in ORC Chapter 6111 and the rules promulgated thereunder.

IV. FINDINGS

The Director of the Ohio EPA has determined the following findings:

1. On September 8, 2015 the Ohio EPA Northeast District Office ("NEDO") received a complaint from a local citizen alleging failing septic systems and raw sewage entering waters of the state in the unincorporated area known as the Chinn Allotment, located in Ravenna Township, Portage County. The Chinn Allotment consists of approximately 297 single family dwellings.

2. On March 3, 2016 NEDO collected bacteria samples that indicated E. Coli levels in exceedance of the public health nuisance standard found in OAC 3745-1-04. The sample E. Coli levels ranged from between 36,000 to 130,000 cfu/100ml. On
November 28, 2016 NEDO conducted additional sampling. The testing found E. Coli levels ranging from 250,000 to 5,800,000 cfu/100ml.

3. On September 14, 2016 NEDO met with the Portage County Combined General Health District and Portage County Water Resources to discuss the complaint.

4. On October 11, 2018, Ohio EPA received the formal complaint pursuant to R.C. 6117.34 from the Portage County Combined General Health District, alleging that unsanitary conditions exist in the Chinn Allotment.

5. Pursuant to ORC § 6117.34, if upon investigation of the complaint, the Director finds that it is necessary to the public health and welfare that sanitary or drainage facilities be acquired or constructed, maintained, and operated to serve any territory outside municipal corporations in any county, the Director shall notify the board of county commissioners of the county of that finding and order that corrective action be taken.

6. Residential lots in the Chinn Allotment exhibit characteristics unsuitable for or detrimental to, new or upgraded on-lot individual sewage disposal systems due to their respective size and soil conditions.

7. It is necessary for the public health and welfare that sewer improvements or sewage treatment or disposal works be constructed, maintained, and operated to service the unincorporated community.

8. The following orders do not constitute authorization or approval of the construction of any physical structure or facilities, or the modification of any existing treatment works or sewer system. Any such construction or modification is subject to the permit to install ("PTI") requirements of ORC § 6111.44 and 6111.45 and OAC Chapter 3745-42.

9. The Director has given consideration to, and based her determination on, evidence relating to the technical feasibility and economic reasonableness of complying with these Orders and to evidence relating to conditions calculated to result from compliance with these Orders, and its relation to the benefits to the people of the state to be derived from such compliance in accomplishing the purposes of ORC Chapter 6111.

V. ORDERS

1. Within six (6) months after the effective date of these Orders, Respondent shall submit a summary report that includes a copy of the financial mechanisms to be used to fund the required improvements, operation and maintenance, and replacement costs, as well as an implementation schedule for awarding bids, starting and completing construction, and all other significant milestones for the Chinn Allotment.
2. As soon as possible, but no later than twelve (12) months from the effective date of these Orders, Respondent shall submit a complete PTI application and approvable detailed plans to sewer the Chinn Allotment.

3. As soon as possible, but no later than eighteen (18) months from the effective date of these Orders, Respondent shall initiate construction of the sanitary sewage system in accordance with the approved PTI.

4. As soon as possible, but no later than forty-two (42) months from the effective date of these Orders, Respondent shall complete the sanitary sewage system installations in accordance with the approved PTI and achieve compliance with Ohio’s water pollution control laws.

5. Respondent shall exercise all authority under ORC § 6117.51 to compel all premises in the Chinn Allotment to connect sewage flows to the public sanitary sewer and cease use of existing sewage disposal systems.

6. Within fourteen (14) days of completing the requirements in Orders 3 and 4, Respondent shall provide notice, in writing, to the Ohio EPA, of the completion of each Order. Notice shall be sent to the address in Section X of these Orders.

VI. TERMINATION

Respondent's obligations under these Orders shall terminate when Respondent certifies in writing and demonstrates to the satisfaction of Ohio EPA that Respondent has performed all obligations under these Orders and Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water acknowledges, in writing, the termination of these Orders. If Ohio EPA does not agree that all obligations have been performed, then Ohio EPA will notify Respondent of the obligations that have not been performed, in which case Respondent shall have an opportunity to address any such deficiencies and seek termination as described above.

The certification shall contain the following attestation: "I certify that the information contained in or accompanying this certification is true, accurate and complete."

This certification shall be submitted by Respondent to Ohio EPA and shall be signed by a responsible official of Respondent.

VII. OTHER CLAIMS

Nothing in these Orders shall constitute or be construed as a release from any claim, cause of action or demand in law or equity against any person, firm, partnership or corporation, not a party to these Orders, for any liability arising from, or related to the Site.
VIII. OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS

All actions required to be taken pursuant to these Orders shall be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations. These Orders do not waive or compromise the applicability and enforcement of any other statutes or regulations applicable to Respondent.

IX. MODIFICATIONS

These Orders may be modified by agreement of the parties hereto. Modifications shall be in writing and shall be effective on the date entered in the journal of the Director of Ohio EPA.

X. NOTICE

Unless otherwise specified, all documents required to be submitted by Respondent pursuant to these Orders shall be addressed to:

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Northeast District Office
2110 East Aurora Road
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087
Attn: Enforcement Supervisor
Division of Surface Water

XI. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

Ohio EPA and Respondent each reserve all rights, privileges and causes of action, except as specifically waived in Section XII of these Orders.

XII. WAIVER

In order to resolve disputed claims, without admission of fact, violation or liability, and in lieu of further enforcement action by Ohio EPA for only the violations specifically cited in these Orders, Respondent consents to the issuance of these Orders and agrees to comply with these Orders. Compliance with these Orders shall be a full accord and satisfaction for Respondent's liability for the violations specifically cited herein.

Respondent hereby waives the right to appeal the issuance, terms and conditions, and service of these Orders, and Respondent hereby waives any and all rights Respondent may have to seek administrative or judicial review of these Orders either in law or equity.

Notwithstanding the preceding, Ohio EPA and Respondent agree that if these Orders are appealed by any other party to the Environmental Review Appeals Commission, or any court, Respondent retains the right to intervene and participate in such appeal. In such
an event, Respondent shall continue to comply with these Orders notwithstanding such appeal and intervention unless these Orders are stayed, vacated or modified.

XIII. EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of these Orders is the date these Orders are entered into the Ohio EPA Director’s journal.

XIV. SIGNATORY AUTHORITY

Each undersigned representative of a party to these Orders certifies that he or she is fully authorized to enter into these Orders and to legally bind such party to these Orders.

IT IS SO ORDERED AND AGREED:
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

[Signature]
Laurie A. Stevenson
Director

8/8/19
Date

IT IS SO AGREED:
Portage County Commissioners

[Signature]
By

[Printed or Typed Name]
Title

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By
Sabrina Christian Bennett
Commissioner

Title

Date
8/1/19

By
Kathleen Clyde
Commissioner

Date
8/1/19

Printed or Typed Name
Kathleen Clyde