



PRESS RELEASE

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Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Awarded \$1 Million Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture

(Fulton, Mich.) The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi announced today that they were awarded a \$1 million grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development 306C Program. The grant will extend the existing community water system to tribal residences on the Pine Creek Reservation, along with government buildings.

“We are honored to be selected by the USDA to receive this grant,” commented Homer A. Mandoka, chairman for the NHBP. “We are always looking ahead to future generations and this will aid in benefiting many generations to come, along with those who currently reside and work on the Pine Creek Reservation.”

In 2011, the NHBP installed a community water system, which provides service to newly constructed single-family houses, managed by the NHBP housing department. This was funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009. The recently awarded \$1 million grant will provide additional water service to 28 single-family homes, along with the Tribe’s community center, health center, government center, public works/environmental center, Head Start facility, and church. The NHBP will also contribute \$1.3 million from general funds for the project, along with a commitment to properly operate and maintain the system, once installed.

The units that will benefit from the project currently utilize individual wells, as the Calhoun County Health Department has designated Athens Township and areas surrounding the Pine Creek Reservation a “wells first” area, due to the limited availability of water and high nitrates throughout the area. The project will reduce nitrates by over 80%, along with providing a water supply and distribution system that can be monitored to provide safe drinking water. The Tribe’s environmental department has determined that there will be minimal disruption to trees and vegetative cover as part of the installation of the sewage treatment plant. The project is set to break ground late this fall.

About Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

There are more than 1,200 enrolled Tribal members. The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi’s primary Indian Health and Bureau of Indian Affairs Service Area covers Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ottawa counties. The Tribe’s administrative office is located at the Pine Creek Reservation in Athens Township, with a satellite office in Wyoming, Mich. to better serve members.