

Contact: Lance Foster
Phone: (785) 595-3258
Email: lfoster@iowas.org

Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2022

Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska awarded USDA grant for the development of the Great Nemaha River Trading Post **Tribe's development to include retail, office, and community gathering space and cultural opportunities**

White Cloud, Kan. - The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska (ITKN) is pleased to announce the awarding of a Rural Business Development Grant for \$855,555 from the USDA Rural Development to begin work on their Great Nemaha River Trading Post project in Rulo, Nebraska. The Great Nemaha River Trading Post will be located in downtown Rulo's oldest remaining commercial block, the Hosford and Gagnon Block, built in 1887. The area's natural, cultural and historical heritage will be featured as an integral part of the project, including the heritage of the French and Indian fur trade and the Nemaha Halfbreed Tract reservation, which existed from 1830 to 1861.

The purpose of the Great Nemaha River Trading Post is to provide an economic anchor and jobs for the Rulo area, where many tribal members are residents. It will provide retail, office and community gathering space and cultural opportunities. The project moves forward the tribe's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), approved in 2020. The tribe's CEDS guides economic development for the tribe as well as cooperative ventures in gateway communities like Rulo, Nebraska, and White Cloud, Kansas.

The tribe will complete the project in stages. The initial stage consists of engineering for the preservation and integrity of the interior and exterior structure, including the roof and brickwork. Some preparatory work will begin this fall and winter, with the exterior work starting in the spring of 2023. Updates will be available as the project progresses. The firms performing the majority of the work are HDR Architecture and Engineering out of Omaha, Nebraska, and Grey Snow Management Solutions, LLC's construction company. Grey Snow Management Solutions is a tribal enterprise wholly owned by the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and will serve as the general contractor for the project.

The Great Nemaha River Trading Post will feature an art gallery, Native American crafts and supplies, tribal and local merchandise and refreshments on the ground floor. The

Contact: Lance Foster

Phone: (785) 595-3258

Email: lfoster@iowas.org

Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

exhibits on tribal and local culture and history will be featured throughout and will significantly interest travelers and heritage tourists. The second floor will contain offices serving as a business incubator for small business enterprises and a community gathering space.

For more information, contact Lance Foster, ITKN Vice Chairman and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, at 785-595-3258 (lfoster@iowas.org) or David Tam, CEO of Grey Snow Management Solutions, LLC., at 541-554-9350 (dtam@iowas.org).