

Press Release

PROPOSAL FOR EXTENSION OF PRRIP

Kearney, NE, July 28, 2016 - The Governance Committee of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) met July 26 and 27 in Denver, Colorado in the first of a series of Special Sessions focused on an extension of the Program's First Increment beyond the current end date of December 31, 2019. The PRRIP is a collaborative program established to assist in the recovery of threatened and endangered species in the Platte River basin, thereby providing Endangered Species Act coverage for that area. The Governance Committee consists of representatives of the states of Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming, the Department of the Interior, water users in all three states, and environmental and conservation organizations. A number of milestones were set to be accomplished in the First Increment and all have been achieved except for two related to supplying additional water to the habitat area in the central Platte in Nebraska. It is clear the water milestone will not be achieved prior to 2019 and thus the reason for the extension discussions.

The Governance Committee provided direction on several water related issues at the conclusion of the meeting. The J2 Regulating Reservoir Project is a proposed water storage project between Lexington and Overton, Nebraska associated with Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District (CNPPID) facilities. PRRIP, the state of Nebraska, and CNPPID are partners in the proposed project. Rising costs resulting in the need to reconfigure the project caused delays with many issues yet to be resolved. Due primarily to institutional and cost issues, the Governance Committee directed the project be put on hold until further notice while the PRRIP pursues other water project opportunities involving groundwater recharge, smaller scale storage projects, and water acquisition and transfer opportunities. As the feasibility of these projects are demonstrated, the PRRIP Water Action Plan will be updated accordingly.

The next meeting of the Governance Committee will be August 17th in Denver, Colorado to further advance the extension proposal.

Contact for more information:

Jerry Kenny, Executive Director, PRRIP Email: kennyj@headwaterscorp.com

Bridget Barron, Director of Outreach & Communications Email: barronb@headwaterscorp.com

Phone: (308) 237-5728