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Governor Abbott appoints Members to the Brazos River Authority Board of Directors

November 6, 2015 -- Waco, TX -- The Brazos River Authority is pleased to announce the reappointment of 2 current members and the appointment of 6 new members to the Board of Directors. The appointments were announced by Governor Greg Abbott's office on November 4. The new Board members are appointed to a six-year term to end in 2021.

Russel "Rusty" Boles of Round Rock has been named to replace Robert E. Tesch of Georgetown whose term has expired. Mr. Boles is the broker for Summit Commercial, a commercial real estate company that serves both private individuals and public entities. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas and The Texas Real Estate Commission. Additionally, he is on the board of directors on the Round Rock YMCA and the Capital Area Council of Governments. Mr. Boles received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas State University and a Juris Doctor from St. Mary's School of Law.

Cynthia Flores of Round Rock replaces Sara L. Mackie of Salado whose term expired. Ms. Flores is a case manager for the Round Rock Area Serving Center. She is an ambassador and Leadership Round Rock Community Day co-chair for the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce, board member and governance committee chair for the Williamson Burnet County Opportunities, Inc., and board member for Footprints Children's Grief Ministry. In addition, she is a member of the Williamson County Nonprofit Networking Group, Catholic Business Networking Group, and Round Rock Ministerial Fellowship. Ms. Flores received a Bachelor of Science from University of North Texas.

Charles Richard "Rick" Huber III of Granbury was named to replace Todd Brashears of Wolfforth whose term has expired. Mr. Huber is a retired American Airlines Captain. He received an honorable discharge from the United States Air Force. Huber is a member of the Fort Worth Air Power Council and the Grey Eagles. Additionally, he serves as chairman of the Hood County Appraisal Review Board, and is a member of the Granbury Regional Airport Advisory Board, Leadership Granbury

Board of Directors, Lakeside Baptist Academy Board of Directors, vice-president of Mesa Grande Water Supply Corporation, and director of finance for Lakeside Baptist Church. He was named Leadership Granbury Board Member of the Year for 2014-2015. Mr. Huber received a Bachelor of Science from Mississippi State University.

John Henry Luton of Granbury replaces Chet Creel of Newcastle whose term has expired. Mr. Luton is chairman of the Board of First National Bank of Granbury. He received an honorable discharge from the United States Air Force. He is member of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. He has served on the boards of the Brazos Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and the Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District. Additionally, he is a member of the Texas Aggie Band Association, Former Students Association, the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Association, and the Champions Council of the 12th Man Foundation. Mr. Luton received a Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University.

W. J. "Bill" Rankin of Brenham was reappointed to the BRA Board for an additional 6-year term. Mr. Rankin is retired Chief Financial Officer of Blue Bell Creameries, a position he served in for more than 30 years. Prior to Blue Bell, he served 6 years as a United States Air Force pilot and was honorably discharged. He is a member and past president of the Brenham Noon Lions Club and the Washington County A&M Club. Previously, he served as a board member and president of the Boys and Girls Club of Washington County, Lutheran Social Services of the South, and Brenham ISD. He is a member of Abiding Word Lutheran Church, where he served on the council and as president, and he is a member of the Gideons. Mr. Rankin received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University and a Master of Business Administration from Sul Ross State University. He is a Texas Certified Public Accountant.

Jarrold D. Smith of Danbury was named to replace Cynthia Bourland of Round Rock who resigned to accept a state appointment. Mr. Smith will serve the remainder of Ms. Bourland's term which expires in 2017. Mr. Smith is the owner of Law Office of Jarrold D. Smith. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas, Brazoria County Bar Association, and Texas Land Title Association. Additionally, he is a board member of the Alvin Community College Foundation. Previously, he was secretary of the Brazoria County ESD #3, secretary of the Angleton Downtown Revitalization Corporation, and member of the Angleton Area Emergency Medical Corporation. Mr. Smith received a bachelor's degree from University of Houston, Clear Lake and a Juris Doctor from Texas Southern University.

Jeffrey "Jeff" Tallas of Sugar Land was reappointed to the BRA Board of Directors for an additional 6-year term. Mr. Tallas is the owner of Tallas Insurance and Financial Services. He is a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and a Chartered Life Underwriter. In addition, he is member of the Sugar Land Rotary Club and a past Rotary District Governor, a board member of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce and board member of the TW Davis YMCA in Richmond. Previously, Mr. Tallas also served on the board of directors of the Literacy Council of Fort Bend County and the Fort Bend Boys Choir. He received a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University.

W. Wintford "Ford" Taylor of Waco replaces Mrs. Kari Belt of Gatesville whose term has expired. Mr. Taylor is president and CEO of Wm. Taylor & Co., a commercial general construction firm. He is a member of the Association of General Contractors – Texas Building Branch Board of Directors, serving as the state director for the Central Texas Associated General Contractors, and a member of Rotary Club of Waco. Additionally, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Waco

Chamber of Commerce, is on the Board of Trustees for Camp Allen – Episcopal Diocese of Texas, past chairman of Waco Junior Chamber of Commerce, member of Keep Waco Beautiful, and a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. Mr. Taylor received a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Texas Tech University.

About the Brazos River Authority

The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the Authority's 42,000 square-mile territory includes all or part of 70 counties; extending from the Texas-New Mexico border west of Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport.

The BRA built, owns, and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone). In addition to these water supply reservoirs, the BRA contracts with the Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space at eight federal multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs (Lakes Whitney, Belton, Proctor, Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, Georgetown and Aquilla).

The Brazos River Authority operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton and the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System for the City of Round Rock. The BRA also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Clute-Richwood, Sugar Land, and Hutto. The BRA owns and operates the East Williamson County Regional Water System for the City of Taylor.

The BRA engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean River Program, the BRA samples and tests water from more than 100 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.