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Governor appoints three directors to Oregon Wine Board

Sweat elected chairman; Pratt appointed new OWB/OWA director

PORTLAND, Jan. 7, 2014 – Gov. John Kitzhaber appointed one new director to the [Oregon Wine Board](#) (OWB) and reappointed two current directors to second terms. John Pratt, owner of Celestina Vineyards in the Rogue Valley, was appointed to a three-year term. Bill Sweat of Winderlea Vineyard and Winery and David Beck of The Crawford Beck Vineyard were re-appointed to three-year terms.

Sweat was elected by the board to succeed Leigh Bartholomew of Dominio IV Winery as chairman. Bartholomew becomes chairwoman emeritus. Ellen Brittan of Brittan Vineyards was elected vice chairwoman and Beck was named treasurer for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

The Oregon Wine Board is a semi-independent Oregon state agency managing marketing, research and education initiatives that support and advance the Oregon wine and wine-grape industry. The board works on behalf of all Oregon wineries and winegrowers throughout the state's diverse winegrowing regions. OWB directors also serve as directors and officers of the Oregon Winegrowers Association, a separate membership organization whose responsibilities include public policy advocacy.

Pratt and his wife Shari Eaton moved to Southern Oregon in 2004 where they started their 24-acre vineyard. Pratt and Eaton grow primarily Italian varieties, including Barbera, Dolcetto, Muscat, Sangiovese, Vermentino and Zinfandel. They have a partnership agreement to provide grapes to TeSoAria Vineyard and Winery in Roseburg. TeSoAria currently has tasting rooms in both Roseburg and Portland.

Pratt has worked closely with the Oregon State University faculty stationed at Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center in Central Point and is the co-chairman of the Oregon Wine Research Institute's research committee and serves as president of the Rogue Valley Winegrowers Association. He is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and earned a master's degree from the University of the Pacific.

Sam Tannahill of A to Z Wineworks and Rex Hill retires from the board after serving two terms, including a year as chairman.

About the Oregon Wine Board:

The Oregon wine-grape and wine industry contributes more than \$2.7 billion in economic activity to the state economy each year, including more than 13,518 wine-related jobs and \$382 million in wages.

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