

Minutes of the Scientific Working Group on Bloodstain Pattern Analysis (SWGSTAIN), Fall Meeting November 1 – 6, 2009

I. **The following minutes** document the biannual meeting that took place in Salt Lake City, Utah November 1-6, 2009.

II. **In attendance:**

Executive Board:

Chair: David Baldwin, Midwest Forensics Resource Center

Vice Chair: Tom Griffin, Colorado Bureau of Investigation

Regular Member: Iris Dalley, Bevel, Gardner & Associates

Martin Eversdijk, Regional Police Amsterdam-Amstelland Forensic Department

Paul Kish, Forensic Consultant & Associates

Pat Laturnus, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Retired

Michael Taylor, Institute of Environmental Science and Research (NZ)

Subcom. Chairs: *Legal-* Jeff Gurvis, Porter Lee Corporation

Quality Assurance- Lee Ann Singley, Grayson Singley Associates

Research and Development - Michael Illes, Ontario Provincial Police

Training and Education- Ken Martin, Massachusetts State Police

Exec. Secretary: Todd Zdorkowski, Midwest Forensics Resource Center

Members: Iris Dalley, Bevel, Gardner & Associates

Philippe Esperança, Institut Genetique-Nantes

Jon Forsythe, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Retired)

Neil Fraser, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Ross Gardner, Bevel, Gardner & Associates

Victor Gorman, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Retired)

Stuart James, James & Associates Forensic Consultants, Inc.

Terry Laber, Laber & Epstein

Tony Larkin, Metropolitan Police Service-London

Gillian Leak, Forensic Science Service Ltd. (UK)

Kevin Maloney, Ottawa Police Service

Paulette Sutton, University of Tennessee (Retired)

Brian Yamashita, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Ex-Officio Members:

IABPA Representative: Kevin Maloney, Ottawa Police Service

Invited Guests

Brian Allen, Ontario Police College

Jim Dougherty, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension/ASCLD-LAB-PRC

Grant Graham, Mississippi Bureau of Investigation/IAI BPECB

Gord Lefebvre, Ontario Provincial Police

Brett McCance, West Australian Police

Jeremiah Morris, Johnson County Sheriff's Office

In Support:

Cindy Eckhart, Midwest Forensics Resource Center

Announced absences

Richard Eikelenboom, Independent Forensic Services (NL)

Mike Van Stratton, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, *ASCLD Representative*

Jon Nordby, Final Analysis Forensics

Mark Reynolds, West Australian Police Service

Tom Bevel, Bevel, Gardner & Associates

Toby Wolson, Miami-Dade Police Dept.

III. **November 2009 Agenda and Minutes**

Sunday, November 1, 2009

9:00 PM Meeting with international travelers.

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Monday, November 2

7:30 AM Chair and Vice Chair Meeting

8:00 AM Subcommittee Chair Meeting

9:00 AM Welcome and Initial Business Matters

- The Chair described bylaw changes that were: drafted, circulated, and approved.
- The Chair requested a volunteer to modify the SWGSTAIN logo, and Iris Dalley accepted
- The Chair described and demonstrated a new SWGSTAIN e-mail system (based on G-Mail)
- The Chair read Bob Spaulding's letter of resignation to SWGSTAIN
- SWGSTAIN members described outreach to BPA communities in: South Korea, Turkey, Israel, and Northern European nations. They suggested inviting representatives to future SWGSTAIN meetings.
- The Chair asked that members consider their calendars, to set the date for next year's Meeting.

10:00 AM Subcommittee Updates

- Training and Education: Ken Martin discussed the direction a draft document on introductory BPA training had taken. He announced his intention to circulate a draft for Subcommittee critique.
- Legal: Jeff Gurvis described a BPA validation document; the discovery of publications on the process of qualitative validation; and expressed hope these would prove useful to BPA.
- QA: LeeAnn Singley welcomed an invited guest (Jim Dougherty ASCLD-LAB-PRC). She said he would assist in drafting the subcommittee's BPA proficiency testing document.
- Research: Mike Illes described success posting new BPA research references to the web, posting to the IABPA website, and completing the first in a series of BPA research review papers.
- Strategic Planning: Ross Gardner described the SWGSTAIN strategic planning process, and previewed a series of baseline strategic planning data-gathering questions he would circulate.
- T2: Vic Gorman described his subcommittee's need for new members, its progress assembling an image atlas corresponding with its terminology document, and potential future documents.

11:00 AM Subcommittee Break-Out Sessions

6:00 PM Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board discussed: subcommittee work product status, SWGSTAIN attendance, reappointments, the subcommittee manpower needs, the date of the Spring 2010 Meeting, present and future guests, new Bylaws updates, and participation at future IABPA meetings.

Tuesday, November 3

8:00 AM Guest Lecture and Discussion:

"Nationally Adopted Training and Education Standards in Australia"

Invited Speaker: Senior Constable Brett McCance

Forensic Investigation Officer, Forensic Division, Western Australia Police, Perth, WA

Guest Lecture and Discussion:

"IAI Bloodstain Pattern Analyst Certification"

Invited Speaker: Grant Graham

Senior Crime Scene Analyst, Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, Crime Scene Unit

Secretary, IAI Bloodstain Pattern Examiner Certification Board, Ocean Springs, MS

9:00 AM Subcommittee Break-Out Sessions and Request for Peer Review

Ken Martin, of the Education and Training Subcommittee, circulated a draft Introductory Training document to the Subcommittees for critique

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6:00 PM Special Topics Discussion:

“BPA Certification”

Discussion leader: Jeff Gurvis

Wednesday, November 4

8:00 AM Guest Lecture and Discussion:

“The ASCLD-LAB PRC Program”

Invited Speaker: Jim Dougherty

Chair, ASCLD/LAB Crime Scene Proficiency Review Committee

Assistant Director, MN-BCA Forensic Science Service, Bemidji, MN

Guest Lecture and Discussion:

“Scientific Methodology in Bloodstain Pattern Analysis”

Invited Speaker: Jeremy Morris

Forensic Chemist, Johnson County Sheriff’s Office Crime Laboratory, Mission, KS

9:00 AM Subcommittee Peer Review Request and Subcommittee Break-Out Sessions

Ken Martin of the Training and Education Subcommittee collected comments on an introduction to bloodstain pattern analysis.

1:30 PM Subcommittee Break-Out Sessions

The Training and Education Subcommittee sought to integrate the collected comments into the draft for re-circulation.

Thursday, November 5

8:00 AM Guest Lecture and Discussion:

“Bloodstain Pattern Analyst Program within the Ontario Provincial Police”

Invited Speaker: Gord Lefebvre

Unit Commander, Ontario Provincial Police, Long Sault, ON

Guest Lecture and Group Discussion:

“Mock Crime Scenes and the Advanced Bloodstain Program at the OPC”

Invited Speaker: Brian Allen

Forensic Instructor, Ontario Police College, Aylmer, ON

9:00 AM Subcommittee Break-Out Sessions

12:00 PM Lunch

1:30 PM Subcommittee Break-Out Sessions and Subcommittee Peer Review

Presentation:

The Training and Education Subcommittee presented its modified draft for critique.

The members were not in favor of releasing the document for public comment at this time. The Executive Board will summarize the discussion and development to this point and return to the group with a recommendation on the future development of the document.

3:00 PM Subcommittee Updates

- Training and Education: Ken Martin summarized two rounds of draft document revisions, the directions for future development suggested during group discussion, and reported that the Subcommittee would wait upon consensus direction for future development.
- Legal: Jeff Gurvis reported that his Subcommittee had circulated a draft of a BPA validation document to the Subcommittees for critique, and had received feedback from all but one. He expected to have a revised draft document ready for group discussion by the next meeting.

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- QA: LeeAnn Singley reported that she expected to have a draft document ready for Subcommittees' critique at the next meeting.
- Research: Mike Illes reported that his Subcommittee had reviewed its expanding library, the list of review articles projected for future development, and the review article recently published in the Canadian Journal of Forensic Science. He noted that his group would have a bibliography ready for posting to the IABPA website, and that Paul Kish would be presenting a description of the Subcommittee's work at the next AAFS meeting. He also reported that the Subcommittee had identified two academic researchers it hoped to invite to future meetings.
- Strategic Planning: Tom Griffin reported that this group had collected its first round of strategic planning data. They would compile the results, and would have them ready for discussion at the next meeting. He hoped to be able to circulate the data-gathering questions to the wider BPA community in order to expand the results.
- T2: Vic Gorman described progress assembling an image atlas corresponding with its terminology document, and requested that SWGSTAIN members share some of their exemplar-images.

4:00 PM Business Meeting

Minutes

- The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed, amended, and accepted as amended.

Guests

- The Chair thanked SWGSTAIN's visitors for attending the meeting, for their presentations, and for participating in the work of the Subcommittees.

Old Business

- The Chair reported that Forensic Science Communications would publish SWGSTAIN's approved QA document in the Spring of 2010
- Ken Martin reported that he had submitted the SWGSTAIN response to the NAS Report to the Intergovernmental Working Group(s) addressing the NAS Report, and that he was engaged in talks with the IWGs to suggest that SWGs serve as advisors to the federal government with respect to federally-funded forensic science research.

New Business

- The Chair reported that the Executive Board would discuss the Training and Education Subcommittee's document, the members' discussion, and seek consensus direction
- Gillian Leak noted that the Training and Education page on the SWGSTAIN site could be updated, and pointed out several potential improvements

Next Meeting(s)

- Location: Salt Lake City
- Dates: April 11-16 2010
- Fall: projected for the 1st week of November

Membership

- Reappointed to 3-years terms: Vic Gorman, Mike Illes, Tony Larkin
- Approved for new membership: Jeremy Morris (with appointment to the T2 Subcommittee)
- Subcommittee appointment: Vic Gorman will serve as the Chair
- Proposed membership: the group voted unanimously to proffer membership to Bart Epstein

Adjournment

- Adjournment was proposed, seconded, and approved