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**Department of Forensic Science  
Electronic Meeting of the Trace Evidence Subcommittee  
of the Scientific Advisory Committee  
July 23, 2024 @ 10 a.m.**

**Minutes**

**Subcommittee Members Present**

Randall Beaty  
Christopher Bommarito, *Chair*  
Erin Forry

**Subcommittee Members Absent**

Kenneth Zercie

**DFS Staff Members Present**

David A. Barron, Ph.D., Deputy Director  
Mason Byrd, Chief Deputy Director  
Brenda Christy, Eastern Laboratory Trace Evidence Section Supervisor  
Linda C. Jackson, Director  
David Koppenhaver, Eastern Laboratory Director  
Alka B. Lohmann, Director of Technical Services  
Elise Stroble, Grants and Administration Program Manager, *SAC Secretary*  
Robyn Weimer, Chemistry Program Manager  
Kelsey Winters, Trace Evidence Forensic Scientist Sr.

**Call to Order by Subcommittee Chair**

Chief Deputy Director Byrd stated for the record that a quorum of the Subcommittee was present and Mr. Bommarito, Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. He advised the Subcommittee that the purpose for calling the meeting was to discuss trace evidence in Virginia and to ensure that the group had reviewed the procedures and materials provided.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Chairman Bommarito advised that the first order of business was the adoption of the draft agenda for the meeting and noted that the agenda was previously shared with the Subcommittee members. Ms. Forry made a motion to adopt the agenda, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee.

**Discussion of the Gasoline Sufficiency Method Validation**

In advance of the meeting, the members of the Subcommittee were provided copies of the validation documents. Chairman Bommarito began by stating that the research is ground-breaking and practical, has been published in various journals and presented at scientific meetings and workshops, and has been incorporated into the DFS Trace Evidence Procedures Manual. He then opened the floor for discussion. A question was raised regarding the degree of impact the method has had on the community and whether validation data is available to the public. Responses were provided by Chairman Bommarito, Director Jackson, Ms. Weimer, and Ms. Christy regarding the

47 benefits of the method for the identification of gasoline and the availability of the data for other  
48 practitioners.

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50 Mr. Bommarito asked the group if there was any other discussion or whether there were any  
51 recommendations. Being none, he called for a motion to close the review. Mr. Beaty made the  
52 motion, which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee.

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54 Ms. Forry raised a further question about sharing validation data through workshops or other  
55 means. Ms. Christy provided information regarding the various workshops and publications where  
56 the data has been/will be shared. Director Jackson mentioned the possibility of publishing the data  
57 to the ASCLD (American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors) validation repository.

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59 **Discussion of Trace Evidence Procedures**  
60 Chairman Bommarito advised that the Trace Evidence procedures are posted on the DFS website,  
61 and that Virginia was one of the first to do so. He stated that he had reviewed the procedures and  
62 that they are well-written and thorough. He asked the Subcommittee if they had any feedback or  
63 recommendations. Ms. Forry mentioned that she was very familiar with the procedures, as she has  
64 borrowed from the Department manuals previously in her work as a quality manager, and  
65 commended the structure and level of detail provided. Mr. Beaty also stated that he was impressed  
66 with the manual and that it was instructive to him as a non-trace evidence practitioner.

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68 Chairman Bommarito advised that the Subcommittee was not asked by the Department to review  
69 the procedures manual, that it is a living document, and that a close of the review would not be  
70 needed.

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72 **Public Comment**  
73 No member of the public was present to provide comment. Director Jackson thanked the Chairman  
74 and the other members of the Subcommittee for their time in reviewing the items presented.

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76 **Adjournment**  
77 Chairman Bommarito asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Forry made the motion,  
78 which was seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the Subcommittee. The meeting adjourned  
79 at 10:31 a.m.