



MINUTES OF THE SANCOLD ANNUAL MEETING 9

16h15 Wednesday 15 November 2017

Royal Elephant Conference Centre, Centurion, Tshwane

1. Welcome and attendance

The Chairperson, Dr Quentin Shaw, welcomed all of the attendees and requested them to sign the attendance register. The meeting was attended by 54 members (15 Corporate Members and 39 Individual Members) and 9 observers. No formal apologies had been received.

2. Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting (Approval and matters arising)

The minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting had been circulated to members and were displayed briefly on the screen. No amendments were proposed. The minutes were approved. No issues were raised under Matters Arising.

3. SANCOLD Chairperson's Annual Report 2017

The Chairperson presented the SANCOLD Annual Report for 2017 (see separate document) and highlighted various topics by way of a PowerPoint presentation. Remarks made by delegates during the presentation are included in the discussion below. The Chairperson had paid tribute to the late Dr Chris Oosthuizen during the Conference Opening Session. He had played an important role in both SANCOLD and ICOLD. Most of the objectives set at the beginning of the year were achieved. The Management Committee had the previous day approved a SANCOLD Constitutional change primarily to accommodate the re-structured Young Persons Forum (previously the Young Engineers Forum). Individual Membership has also been extended to include Retired Members over the age of 65 and Members older than 80 years: concessionary fees will apply to both of these two new categories for both membership and the attendance of SANCOLD Conferences. The next Management Committee election will commence in the week after the Conference and members were urged to participate in the nomination and voting processes. The Management Committee is also exploring linkages with other professional associations.

4. SANCOLD Website

The Webmaster, Mr Henry-John Wright, highlighted progress on the updating of the website via a PowerPoint presentation. The bulk e-mail problem experienced in the previous year had been resolved, although a more permanent solution was being sought. The website now includes a password protected Members Section.

5. Financial Matters

The SANCOLD Treasurer, Mr David Cameron-Ellis gave an overview of the financial situation for 2016. New accounting software had been implemented successfully. It was of concern that membership fees for the current financial year of 14 Corporate Members and 44 Individual Members are still outstanding. ICOLD 2016 had made a modest profit which goes into the activities of SANCOLD. Unfortunately the percentage fee that ICOLD levies on Annual Meetings had doubled in recent years which greatly diminished the SANCOLD surplus. Some of the surplus funding will be used as seed-funding of R600 000 for the National Flood Study Programme (NFSP). SANCOLD also intends to link the SANCOLD scholarship to the NFSP. The Chairperson expressed his appreciation for all the work that the Treasurer had spent on SANCOLD financial matters.

6. Discussion

The following major issues were raised in discussion:

- The Chairperson explained the background as to why ICOLD had raised the fees for Annual Meetings. ICOLD is registered as a Company in terms of French tax laws. These laws have been changed and require accounts on an annual basis. In the past the three-yearly Congress was used to balance the financial position of ICOLD. The Chairperson considered that the current high fee rate of ICOLD is not sustainable;
- The Chairperson indicated that ICOLD had a slow rate of bulletin publications. Access to this information had improved recently due to the availability of draft bulletins prior to translation into French (the other ICOLD language). These drafts are also on the ICOLD website for free downloading by members.
- The Chairperson stressed that the election for three vacant posts on the Management Committee was to be held soon. The call for nominations would go out in the following week and the electoral process should be completed by the end of the year;

- The Chairperson also mentioned that the current Secretary would be retiring from SANCOLD at the end of the year after a ten-year service. A new Secretary would be recruited by the end of the year via an advertising process;
- The Chairperson confirmed that in future members over the age of 65 years would be eligible for reduced membership and Conference fees with a probable discount of 50%. It was important to involve such persons particularly to draw on their experience.
- Mr Alan Chemaly raised the issue of timely SANCOLD publications. He expressed particular concern about the non-publication of the SANCOLD Guideline on Risk Analysis for Dams: A Review, Report No 5, although referenced in other SANCOLD publications. The Chairperson indicated that finalisation is often a problem with such reports, but that use of a disclaimer could be used. Agreement was reached that it was important to disseminate information as quickly as possible.
- Mr David Cameron-Ellis mentioned that he had spoken to Prof Will Alexander about his 2000 flood manual and suggested that SANCOLD consider placing it on the website because it is newer than the current SANCOLD document. It is however not an official SANCOLD publication.
- A proposal was made that the SANRAL Drainage Manual 6th Edition (2013) be placed on the SANCOLD website, but copyright issues were cause for concern. [Post-meeting note: The Drainage Manual is easily accessible on the SANRAL website and a suitable link could be made on the SANCOLD website].

7. SANCOLD Awards

The SANCOLD Award had been made during the Conference Opening Session to Prof Gerrit Basson of the University of Stellenbosch for his valuable contributions to SANCOLD and ICOLD over many years.

8. Closure

The Chairperson in conclusion mentioned that SANCOLD has been active and has just over 200 members. The Chairperson closed the meeting at 17h00.

Chairperson

Secretary